

Ribes aureum



Photo by: Br. Alfred Brousseau © St. Mary's College

Common Name: Golden Currant
Family: Grossulariaceae
Light: Full sun or partial shade.
Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub with erect growth to 3'-6' tall and wide. Light green lobed leaves, bright yellow flower clusters in spring. Berries turn from yellow to red to black.
Water needs: Moderate to regular water.

Ribes sanguineum

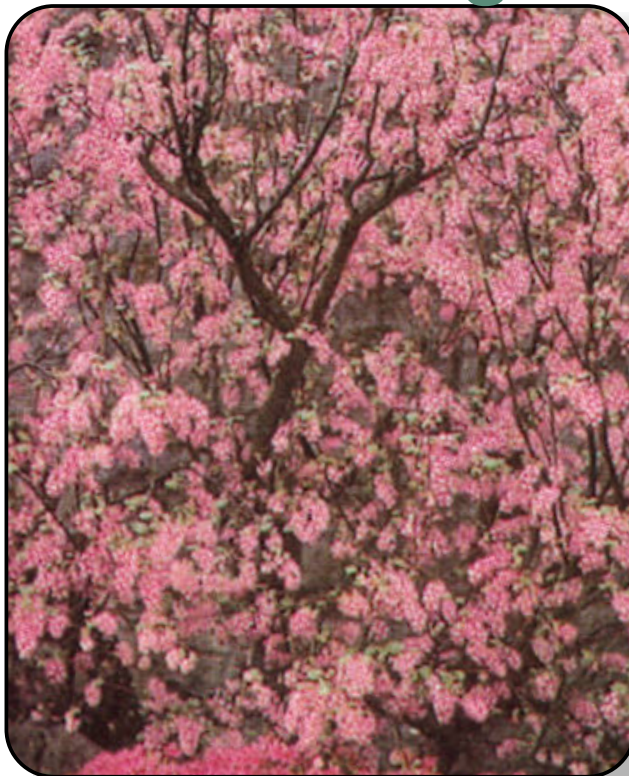


Photo by: Gordon Courtright

Common Name: Pink Winter Currant
Family: Grossulariaceae
Light: Full sun or partial shade.
Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub grows to 5'-12' tall and wide. Dark green maple-like leaves, clusters of deep pink flowers in spring. Berries are blue-black.
Water needs: Little to moderate supplemental water.

Ribes speciosum



Photo by: Bonterra Consulting © 2003

Common Name: Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry
Family: Grossulariaceae
Light: Full sun or partial shade.
Characteristics of plant: Nearly evergreen shrub with erect growth to 4'-8' tall and 6'-10' wide. Glossy dark green, maple-like leaves. Fuchsia-like red flowers appear winter through spring. Red berries.
Water needs: Little to none.
Special Features: Needs no irrigation, but will stay green in summer with moderate water. Makes an excellent barrier plant.

Romneya coulteri



Photo by: Br. Alfred Brousseau © St. Mary's College

Common Name: Matilija Poppy
Family: Papaveraceae
Light: Full sun.
Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub, 6'-8' tall with equal or greater width. Can spread indefinitely. Grey-green stems and foliage are topped with huge white flowers with a cluster of golden stamens.
Water needs: Little to no water.
Special Features: Difficult to establish and propagate, but worth the effort. Very easy to grow once established, and spectacular in bloom. Can be invasive.

Rosa californica



Photo by: Beatrice F. Howitt, © California Academy of Sciences

Common Name: California Wild Rose
Family: Rosaceae
Light: Full sun to light shade.
Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub or vine that grows to 3'-6' tall and wide. Single pink flowers are followed by edible fruit.
Water needs: Drought tolerant, but prefers some moisture.

Rosmarinus officinalis



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Rosemary
Family: Lamiaceae
Light: Full sun.
Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrubs vary from 1'-6' tall. Growth habits can be upright or flat and sprawling, depending on variety. Narrow aromatic leaves and profuse small blue flowers in winter and spring.
Water needs: Little to moderate water.
Special Features: Blossoms attract birds, butterflies and bees. Flowers and leaves are edible. Needs good drainage. Deer resistant.

Salvia sp.



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: A diverse group of perennials and shrubs.

Many have aromatic foliage and some are drought tolerant. Flower colors range from white to purple with nearly all colors in between.

Water needs: Low to regular water.

Special Features: Sages attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Sambucus mexicana



Photo by: Jed & Bonnie McClellan © California Academy of Sciences

Common Name: Blue Elderberry

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Light: Full sun or light shade.

Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub or tree grows 10'-30' tall and 8'-20' wide. Divided leaves, flat clusters of white flowers in spring and summer, followed by blue to black berries. Often used for jams, pies and wine.

Water needs: Moderate water.

Special Features: Drought tolerant, but looks better with moderate water.

Symphoricarpos albus



Photo by: Br. Alfred Brousseau © St. Mary's College

Common Name: Snowberry
Family: Caprifoliaceae
Light: Full sun or partial shade.
Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub grows to 2'-6' tall and wide. Has roundish dull green leaves. Pink flowers are followed by white fruit from late summer to winter. Produces most fruit in full sun.
Water needs: Little to moderate supplemental water.
Special Features: Tolerant of poor soil, low light and neglect.

Teucrium fruticans



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Bush Germander
Family: Lamiaceae
Light: Full sun.
Characteristics of plant: Perennial with loose growth to 4'-8' tall and wide. Has overall silvery appearance; lavender-blue flower spikes appear almost year-round.
Water needs: Moderate water.
Special Features: Tough plants that can take poor, rocky soil. Cannot tolerate wet soil or poor drainage.