

Achillea tomentosa



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Woolly Yarrow

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Small, spreading plant 6-12" high x 8-24" across with gray-green leaves and yellow flowers in mid-spring to early summer.

Water needs: Moderate moisture for 1-2 years; will withstand periods of dryness once established.

Special Features: Complements fresh and dry flower arrangements. Will attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Arctostaphylos sp.



Photo by: Joann Ordano California Academy of Science

Common Name: Manzanita

Family: Ericaceae

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Characteristics of plant: Grows 6"-3' high and 3'-6' across, depending on variety.

Water needs: Little supplemental water needed with the exception of carpet-like varieties (uva-ursi) that need regular summer water. Let soil dry between waterings.

Special Features: Popular ground cover varieties include 'Emerald Carpet' and 'Monterey Carpet.' Excellent for small to medium size banks and slopes. Slow to achieve full cover.

Baccharis pilularis



Photo by: Lynn Watson 2002

Common Name: Dwarf Coyote Bush

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Characteristics of plant: 2'-3' high and 4'-6' across with insignificant flowers in summer months.

Water needs: Requires supplemental water until fully established.

Special Features: Excellent ground cover for large banks and slopes.

Ceanothus sp.



Photo by: Robert Potts 2002 California Academy of Science

Common Name: California Wild Lilac

Family: Rhamnaceae

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Characteristics of plant: 1'-3' high and 6' across. Small dark green leaves with small clusters of flowers that cover plant in spring. Flowers are usually light to dark purple.

Water needs: Let soil dry out between waterings. Once established, requires little or no supplemental water.

Special Features: Nitrogen fixing species. Provides excellent habitat for wildlife. Popular varieties include 'Anchor Bay', 'Emily Brown', 'Yankee Point' and hearstiorum.

Cerastium tomentosum



Photo by: Missouri Botanical Garden © 2001

Common Name: Snow-In-Summer

Family: Caryophyllaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: A short lived, low growing plant which has greyish foliage that reaches 6" tall and 1' across, with clusters of white flowers.

Water needs: Low supplemental water.

Special Features: Used as a border plant as well as a ground cover in sunny areas. Complements rock gardens and walls.

Cistus sp.



Photo by: Dr. G. Dallas and Margaret Hanna © California Academy of Science

Common Name: Rockrose

Family: Cistaceae

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Characteristics of plant: Grows 12"-18" high and 3'-5' across. Blooms in spring, with bright, colorful flowers varying from white to pink to purple.

Water needs: Low to moderate amounts of supplemental water, but avoid poor drainage and over watering.

Special Features: Complements mixed plant ground covers. Ground-cover varieties include white-flowered *salviifolius* 'Prostratus' and bright pink-flowered 'Warley Rose'.

Cotoneaster dammeri



Photo by: Margaret Hanna © California Academy of Science

Common Name: Bearberry
Cotoneaster

Family: Rosaceae

Light: Partial shade to full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Grows 6"-9" high spreading 6'-10' across, with evergreen leaves and red berry clusters in winter.

Water needs: Little care once established, prefers well-drained soils.

Special Features: Will cascade over walls, borders, works well on banks.

Festuca ovina glauca



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Blue Fescue

Family: Poaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Clumping ornamental grass, grows to 1' high.

Water needs: Low supplemental water once established, prefers well-drained soils.

Special Features: Bluish grey foliage is often used to complement rock placements, pools, and garden art.