

Achillea sp.



Photo by: Las Pilitas © 2000

Common Name: Yarrow

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: A clumping plant 18"-30" high with flowers in white, pink, red or yellow.

Water needs: Low to moderate supplemental water.

Special Features: Varieties of millifolium with their fern-like foliage can be used as a lawn substitute or meadow and are available from seed in some colors. They need trimming and mowing several times a year. Upright varieties such as 'Moonshine' can be used as cut flowers.

Artemisia sp.



Photo by: Professor R.P. Olowin © St. Mary's College

Common Name: Wormwood

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Greyish-green foliage on a 1'-3' high plant that grows 2'-6' across. Flowers are insignificant.

Water needs: Low supplemental water.

Special Features: Plants are most vigorous in the first three years.

Beautiful silvery gray, finely cut foliage provides good contrast to both pastels and bright colors.

Variety 'Powis Castle' grows quickly to 6' wide.

Centranthus ruber



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

Common Name: Jupiter's Beard

Family: Valerianaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: A 2'-3' high perennial with blue-green foliage and showy flowers throughout the summer. Variety of colors in red, pink and white.

Water needs: Low to moderate supplemental water.

Special Features: Heat and drought tolerant. Highly adaptable to a variety of soils, can be used on banks and slopes.

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides



Photo by: Debra Teachout-Teashon © 1998

Common Name: Dwarf Plumbago

Family: Plumbaginaceae

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Characteristics of plant: Grows 12"-18" high and 1' across, with showy clusters of white to light blue and purple flowers from late summer through fall. Red fall foliage.

Water needs: Moderate supplemental water.

Special Features: Heat and drought tolerant. Can be used on dry slopes.

Coreopsis grandiflora



Photo by: John Game

Common Name: Coreopsis

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Grows from 1'-3' high by up to 3' across, depending on variety. Showy display of yellow to orange flowers through summer.

Water needs: Low supplemental water.

Special Features: Bright color in perennial gardens and as a border plant. Drought tolerant. Cut back dead flowers for repeat bloom.

Echinaceae purpurea



Photo by: Martin Fletcher © 2000

Common Name: Purple Coneflower

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full to partial sun.

Characteristics of plant: Grows to 4' high and 2' across, with pinkish-purple flowers that bloom summer through fall.

Water needs: Low supplemental water.

Special Features: Used as a border plant, in cut and dry flower arrangements and in teas and medicines. Also attracts butterflies.

Eriogonum sp.



Photo by: Charles Webber © California Academy of Science

Common Name: Buckwheat

Family: Polygonaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: A dense shrub-like plant growing 1'-3' high and wide, with flowers in white, pink or yellow.

Water needs: Low to no supplemental water once established.

Special Features: Heat and wind tolerant. Attracts bees and birds, has slope stabilization properties and is adaptable to many types of soils.

Erigeron



Photo by: Charles Webber © California Academy of Science

Common Name: Fleabane

Family: Asteraceae

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Characteristics of plant: Grows 10"-18" high by 10"-18" across, with reddish-green leaves and colorful flowers in white, pink and purple from spring to summer.

Water needs: Low supplemental water in well-drained soil.

Special Features: Showy color displays. Variety 'Wayne Roderick' has long blooming season, with lavender flowers.