

# *Lagerstroemia indica*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Crape Myrtle

Family: Lythraceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub or small tree; size varies with variety. Dark green leaves are 1"-1 1/2" long. Dense clusters of crinkly, crape-like flowers appear in summer, ranging from white to pink to purple.

Water needs: Moderate water.

Special Features: Leaves are yellow, orange or red in fall. Blooms on new wood, so prune in winter or early spring. Best in areas with hot summers.

# *Mahonia aquifolium*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Oregon Grape

Family: Berberidaceae

Light: Best with shade in hot summer areas.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub 6' tall to 5' wide. Has dense, bushy growth with leaves that resemble holly. Yellow flowers in early spring, followed by edible blue-black fruit.

Water needs: Little to regular water.

Special Features: 'Compacta' grows to 2'-3' high, 5' wide. Resistant to oak root fungus.

## *Myrica californica*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Pacific Wax Myrtle  
Family: Myricaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub or tree, 10'-30' tall and wide, often multi-trunked. Has glossy dark green leaves that are long, narrow and tooth-edged.

Water needs: Moderate supplemental water.

Special Features: Flowers are inconspicuous, but are followed by purplish fruits that attract birds. One of the best-looking native plants for garden use. Good screen or hedge plant.

## *Nandina domestica*



Photo by: Gordon Courtright

Common Name: Heavenly Bamboo  
Family: Berberidaceae

Light: Full sun to shade. Some shade needed in hot summer areas.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub is a slow to moderate grower to 6'-8' high and 2'-4' wide.

Reminiscent of bamboo. Stems are similar to canes and foliage is fine and lacey. Clusters of small white blossoms in late spring followed by red berries in autumn.

Water needs: Little to regular water.

Special Features: Foliage turns bright red in winter with frost, especially in sunnier locations.

## *Nerium oleander*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Oleander

Family: Apocynaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub with moderate to fast growth, 3'-20' tall, 4'-12' wide, depending on variety. Narrow, dark green leaves. Flower colors range from white to pink to red, in single and double forms.

Water needs: Little to moderate water.

Special Features: Tolerates poorly drained and somewhat saline soil. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. Do not burn prunings. Mostly deer resistant.

## *Prunus ilicifolia*



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

Common Name: Hollyleaf Cherry

Family: Rosaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub to 10'-25' tall and wide. Has deep green leaves that are similar to holly. Blooms when leafing out with fragrant white flowers on 3"-6" spikes. Dark red to purple fruit follows.

Water needs: Moderate water.

Special Features: High resistance to oak root fungus. Can take extreme drought. Do not plant near paved areas as fallen fruit will stain.

## *Prunus lyonii*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Catalina Cherry  
 Family: Rosaceae  
 Light: Full sun.  
 Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub to 15'-20' tall and wide. Has deep green leaves similar to holly, but smooth-edged or faintly toothed. Spikes of fragrant white flowers in spring, followed by dark red to almost black fruit.  
 Water needs: Moderate water.  
 Special Features: High resistance to oak root fungus. Can take extreme drought. Do not plant near paved areas as fallen fruit will stain.

## *Punica granatum*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Pomegranate  
 Family: Punicaceae  
 Light: Full sun.  
 Characteristics of plant: Deciduous shrub or tree. Grows 3'-10' tall and wide, depending on variety. Has small, narrow, glossy leaves. Flowers are showy with ruffled petals in both single and double forms. Flower colors range from white, apricot, orange and red to dark red.  
 Water needs: Moderate to regular supplemental water.  
 Special Features: Tolerant of many soil types, including alkaline soil. Leaves turn brilliant yellow in autumn.

## *Pyracantha* sp.



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Firethorn

Family: Rosaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Fast growing evergreen shrubs generally 6'-10' tall and wide. Some hybrids grow 3' tall and wider. Glossy green oval leaves and needle-like thorns.

Sprays of white flowers in spring followed by a profusion of berries in yellow, orange or red.

Water needs: Low to moderate water.

Special Features: Tolerates most soils, but avoid over-watering.

## *Rhamnus alaternus*



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Italian Buckthorn

Family: Rhamnaceae

Light: Full sun or partial shade.

Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub with fast, dense growth to 10'-20' tall and wide. Shiny bright green leaves and small black berries.

Water needs: Little to none.

Special Features: Tolerates heat.

Does well with shaping and shearing.

## *Rhamnus californica*



Photo by: Lynn Watson © 2002

Common Name: Coffeeberry  
 Family: Rhamnaceae  
 Light: Full sun or partial shade.  
 Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub grows to 3'-15' tall, 8' wide. Leaves 1"-3" long, may be dark to yellowish green. Berries turn black as they ripen.  
 Water needs: Little to no water.  
 Special Features: Established plants need no irrigation. Tolerant of pruning and shaping.

## *Rhus ovata*



Photo by: Lynn Watson © 2002

Common Name: Sugar Bush  
 Family: Anacardiaceae  
 Light: Full sun.  
 Characteristics of plant: Evergreen shrub 4'-10' tall and wide. Glossy, leathery leaves and white to pink flowers in spring, followed by small red, hairy fruit covered with a sugary secretion.  
 Water needs: Little to moderate supplemental water.  
 Special Features: Native to non-coastal, dry slopes of Southern California and Arizona. Useful for erosion control.