

Markham Arboretum
Native Plants as Problem Solvers
Patrice Hanlon & Arti Kirch

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

- **Habitat** - Grows throughout CA in most plant communities, full sun to partial shade. rhizomes
- **Companion Plants** - In partial shade: Lonicera, Coffeeberry. In sun, Grindellia, Salvia's of all types, Verbena de la Mina, Foothill Penstemon
- **Mature Size/Flower Color** - Size can vary, 1-4' when in flower, otherwise a low grower. Good in mid- border, Flowers 3-4" across
- **Wildlife** - Ladybugs overwinter, beneficials and pollinators love. Each flower head is made up of tiny minuscule flowers - a pollinators heaven. Gophers love!
- **Ethnobotany** - Ancient plant used by all cultures for wounds to stop bleeding. Tea from roots and leaves help with toothaches. Poultice helps with bruises and burns. Makes a golden brown dye

Nevin's Barberry *Mahonia nevenii* (*Berberis nevenii*) - 13 species are native to CA

- **Habitat** - Endemic, (native or restricted to an area), to Southern CA in chaparral, inland canyons and foothills. Listed as endangered
- **Form** - Shrub,
- **Companion Plants** - Matillija poppy, Salvia's
- **Mature Size/flower color** - 7-10' high and wide, yellow flower with stems that can reach up to 2", red fruit,
- **Wildlife** - Good source of nectar for native bees, (especially because it blooms in winter) birds, deer don't like!
- **Ethnobotany** - Roots and stem for green dye, antibacterial, bitter tonic made from stems. fruit edible.

'Bon Bon' Sage Salvia 'Bon Bon' (*S. clevelandii* 'Aromas' x *S. leucophylla* 'Point Sal')

- **Habitat** - Similar to *S. clevelandii*: component of mixed chaparral or coastal sage scrub
- **Form** - Flowering ground cover
- **Companion Plants** - Chamise, Woolly Blue curls, White Sage, California Buckwheat, California Coffeeberry, Toyon, Lemonade Berry, Coastal Prickly Pear Cactus, Manzanita, Yucca spp
- **Mature Size and Flower Color** - 2 H x 2.5' w, Purple-violet, Bright green
- **Wildlife value** - Nectar and pollen as a food source for bees, hummingbirds, butterflies and songbirds
- **Landscape** - Fast-draining soil but clay tolerant, Very low water, full sun, Great for borders or even containers, fragrant

Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp)

- **Habitat** - slopes, often south facing as a common component of Coastal Sage Scrub; inland in Valley Grassland; high desert in Sagebrush Scrub and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland
- **Form** - shrub
- **Companion Plants** - various
- **Mature Size/flower color** - depends on species 1'-6' H x 1'-6' W - Flower colors from pink, red, soft-to-neon bright yellow, white/cream. Foliage varies from pine-green to silver-gray
- **Wildlife** - Considered one of the best for pollinators, birds love seed
- **Landscape uses** - Low water, full sun Various soil types from rock gardens to clay, borders or foundation plants, depending on species, ground cover, deer resistant

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****Mountain Lilac or Ray Hartman Ceanothus** (*Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman') Named after botanist and founder of Sartatoga Horticultural Foundation. 50-60 different species of Ceanothus in CA

- **Habitat** - Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub. Low fertility, on hillsides and slopes
- **Form** - Shrub, can be pruned into a single stem for a small tree Can tolerate clay soils. NO SUMMER WATER ONCE ESTABLISHED
- **Companion Plants** - Carex, Coffeeberry, Manzanite, Rhus, Deergrass
- **Mature Size/flower color** 15 x 15' Lavender flowers with lovely creamy yellow stamens
- **Wildlife** - Native bee and pollinator magnet! Early bloomer, important hedgerow plant used in habitat gardening for birds like rufous towhee, bluebirds
- **Ethnobotanical** - soap from flowers, tea from leaves and flowers. All parts produce dyes; flowers make green, leaves & shoots produce tan, and roots create a red-brown. Deer like to nibble on **Fixes Nitrogen to the Soil

Salvia apiana 'compacta' (*White Sage*) "*Apiana*" is latin meaning ("of belonging to bees) . There are over 900 species of salvia's worldwide, 17 are native to California (This does not include cultivated varieties)

- **Habitat** - Found in many plant communities, but mainly in the coastal Sage Scrub habitat of Southern California and Baja California, on the western edges of the Mojave and Sonoran deserts.
- **Form** - Woody Perennial/shrub
- **Companion Plants** - Plants that love hot, dry sunny spots like Eriogonum, Flannel Bush, Ceanothus, Asters, Solidago, Penstemons (Plants that are dark green look great with the gray foliage)
- **Mature Size/Flower color** - 3' x 3' , lavender/white flowers
- **Wildlife** - BEE MAGNET, hawk moths, hummingbirds, pollinating wasps
- **Ethnobotanical Uses** - Considered a sacred plant in many cultures for cleansing areas of bad spirits. Used as far back as Greeks and Egyptians Used for ceremonial before hunting both in a sweat lodge and rubbed on to mask human scent. Anti fungal and bacterial properties, infusions and steams for colds, excess sweating, sinus infections.

Rock Lettuce (*Dudleya sp.*)

- **Habitat** - Typically found in rock outcroppings, cliff faces, or road cuts. *D. cymosa* found in Mitchell Canyon - goes dormant in summer
- **Form** - Succulent, sunburst
- **Companion Plants** - Think small Yarrow, Sea Pink, Sulphur Buckwheat , Wild Strawberry, Sisyrinchium species,
- **Mature Size/flower color** - typically 0.5' H x 0.75' W; flower stalks can reach another 1' beyond the bluish-gray leaves. Flowers yellow held by bluish or green bracts on bright pink stems
- **Wildlife** - hummingbirds and butterflies, Deer resistant
- **Landscape uses** - Very low to almost dry summer water. Rock gardens: full sun if on north but partial shade if on south; esp. good at bringing illusion of light to dark spots. Good architectural plant

California Fescue (*Festuca californica*)

- **Habitat** - Mixed Evergreen Forest, Douglas-Fir Forest, Yellow Pine Forest, Chaparral
- **Form** - Arching, "fountain" shaped grass
- **Companion Plants** - Toyon, Lemonade Berry , larger Ceanothus, Manzanita species, or scrub oaks
- **Mature Size/flower Color** -1' - 4' H - 3' W, Blue-gray to blue-green leaves
- **Wildlife** - Ladybugs love to overwinter in grasses, Nest building material, Food source (seeds), Shelter for small reptiles
- **Landscape uses** - Preference for clay or loamy soil, Low water, esp. in shade. Great for borders or as "filler" and Erosion control

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