



My Top 10 Native Plants for the Garden

All of my favorites need no pruning or care beyond light watering after establishment.



Tree:

Desert Willow, Chilopsis linearis, 10-30 ft, usually multi-stemmed. Fast growing, easy care, tolerates heat and clay, gorgeous pink and white tubular flowers, deciduous.



Shrubs:

Pink Flowering Currant, Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum. 5-6 ft. Gorgeous panicles of white, pink, or red flowers early in February and March, easy care, likes part shade but tolerates full sun, tolerates clay, deciduous.



Howard McMinn Manzanita, Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'. 6-8 ft high and wide, older ones even bigger. Beautiful red bark and stems, gray green leaves are wonderful foil against deeper green evergreens like Ceanothus, tiny urn flowers very early in spring, very drought tolerant and likes full sun or some shade. You see this often for good reason.



Yankee Point Wild Lilac, or Carmel Creeper, Ceanothus g.h. 'Yankee Point'. 3 ft by 6 ft. Old standby spreading evergreen for good reason: tough, dependable, gorgeous shiny very deep green leaves and lavender puffs in spring. Tolerates wide range of soils and

Bush Anemone, Carpenteria californica. 6 ft. by 5 ft. Native answer to the rhododendron, deep green shiny leaves with amazing big white flowers with yellow centers in early spring. Heat, sun and drought tolerant, but likes a bit of shade in the hot afternoon. Some leaves may yellow, just pull them off when they dry.



Perennials/Subshrubs:

Ruby Buckwheat, Eriogonum grande var. rubescens. 2 ft. high, 3' wide. I love this plant. Little pink pompons on tall stems last for months over a grey green fuzzy plant with scalloped leaves. Brittle, but hardy in heat and clay and a nice foil against the evergreen palette. Sun or shade.



Island Alum Root and Coral Bells, Heuchera maxima and others. 2-2.5 ft. Lush shade loving plant with big scalloped leaves and diminutive bell flowers on slender stems in late spring. Easy, tolerant of wide range of conditions, can take a tad of sun and heat.



Lilac Verbena, Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina'. 3x3 ft. Underused gorgeous pale green feathery evergreen with bright lavender flowers that last forever. Nice natural ball shape for those pruning hounds who like their green meatballs. Likes sun or shade.



Grass:

Deer Grass, Muhlenbergia rigens. 3 ft with 5 ft spikes. I can't get enough of this plant. It's big and bold and architectural while still flowy and transparent. Great for a big grassy accent, in threes or a big hillside massing. Tolerates everything. Tiny birds love it. Prefers full sun, very drought tolerant.



Vine:

Roger's Red Grape, Vitex californica. Once established over a season or two, this thing takes off. The most brilliant red fall color you will ever see. Tolerant of heat, clay, hard pruning. Yummy but seedy grapes, good for jelly! Birds love em, toddlers love em.