

OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN PLANT LIST

We hope you have completed reading our “Ocean Friendly Gardens: A How-To Gardening Guide to Help Restore a Healthy Coast and Ocean.” The recommended planning and pre-planting preparation are critical to a healthy and beautiful garden that meets the goals of Conservation, Permeability and Retention (CPR). Please visit www.surfrider.org/ofg for much more information on Ocean Friendly Gardens.

With partial design in hand, you are now ready to start selecting plants that are appropriate for the “blueprint” you have created.

Below are six plant lists, each serving some unique aspect of CPR:

1. [Alternatives to lawns](#)
2. [Plants that can help reduce certain pests](#)
3. [Nitrogen-fixing plants that help reduce the need for fertilizers](#)
4. [Effective hill-holding plants](#)
5. [Water-wicking plants for infiltration areas](#)
6. [Plants to avoid: aquatic and terrestrial invaders](#)

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE TABLES

The tables below have four columns: The botanical name, common name, the type of plant, and caring for the plant.

The type of plant category explains its general characteristics, sun requirements, and any unique aspect (aggressive and invading, hill holding, and water thrifty).

The care category provides the zones the plant can be grown in, its water requirement, and any notable traits.

Importantly, the amount of water recommended for the plants is relative to the category that it is in. A low water perennial ground cover is a lot different than a low water nitrogen-fixing tree, as some cannot tolerate water.

Symbols

A = Aggressive: Can and has migrated to nearby landscapes.

E = Erosion controlling and could be used to help topsoil loss.

W = Water conserving. Relative to other plants in the same category, these plants do not demand as much water.

Zones

The “Zones” in the plant lists below are a reference to the weather zones identified in a map created by the United States Department of Agriculture. You can download and print that map from: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>

1) LAWN ALTERNATIVES

There are many practical benefits to growing lawns, and as a consequence, they are pervasive. Lawns are notoriously good at stopping topsoil loss, they tolerate a lot of foot traffic, many people find them visually appealing, and lawns are easy to grow. But for all their benefits, lawns come at a large ecological cost. Of all the ground covers, they are by far the costliest to maintain; costliest in terms of consuming fossil fuels, fertilizers, water, pesticides, and human labor. In a residential landscape, lawns are typically the largest source of water pollution.

But, because of lawns' many benefits, completely getting rid of them may not be ideal for your garden. The sizes of lawns can change, though. So can the strategies involved with growing them. Less-polluting maintenance strategies for lawns can be found in the Manual.

The plants recommended as lawn substitutes share many of the same attributes as lawns. They are aggressive enough to cover the entire ground and choke out unwanted weeds; they can tolerate some foot traffic; and they do not require special knowledge or skills to maintain. And importantly, these lawn substitutes are also resource conserving. Low-growing shrubs can also replace lawns; for a list of aggressive, prostrate shrubs, refer to the "hill-holding" plant list.

A word of caution though: Many of the plants recommended as lawn substitutes are highly aggressive in the right environment (this is why they were recommended), and if your residential landscape borders open space, many should not be used because they may migrate to the natural areas. Notoriously aggressive plants are noted in red.

And lastly, the plants capable of rapidly wicking water from soil, helping to dry a perpetually moist area (such as a retention basin), are noted.

Trailing, Rooting, and Perennial Ground Covers

There are many plants listed below that can tolerate shade, but not heavy shade.

The plants better suited for light/heavy shade are listed in the Shade Tolerant table below.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Abronia</i> spp.	Sand verbena	Spreading perennial. Sun. E W	Zone 5-10. Moderate water, give space and won't need biannual or annual pruning.
<i>Achillea</i> <i>ageratifolia</i> , <i>A.</i> <i>clavennae</i> , <i>A.</i> <i>tomentosa</i>	Greek Yarrow, Silvery Yarrow, Woolly Yarrow	Spreading perennial. <i>A. clavennae</i> is lowest growing. Sun. W	Zones. 3-10. Moderate water. Does not like nitrogen rich soil. Divide every 3 to 4 years.
<i>Alyssum</i> spp.	Alyssum	Sprawling perennial. Not sweet alyssum (<i>Lobularia</i> <i>maritima</i>). Sun to some shade. W	Zones 4-9. Moderate water. Prefers well draining soil, but not finicky about type.
<i>Aster</i> spp.	Aster	Perennials. Sun. W	Zones 4-8. Many varieties. Care depends on specie.

<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Basket-of-Gold	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 4-10. Moderate water. OK with poor soil. If needs control, gently cut back after bloom.
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-In-Summer	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 3-10. Moderate to regular water. Sometimes short-lived and may need replanting every couple of years. Does best in dry environments.
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Dwarf Plumbago	Sprawling perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 5-9. Moderate to regular water. Cut annually in early spring. Stems will root if pushed in.
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chamomile	Mounding, spreading perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 6-9. Moderate water. Plant 1 foot apart for complete coverage. Can be mowed or pruned biannually. Not the herb chamomile (<i>Matricaria recuitita</i>).
<i>Convolvulus</i>	Ground Morning	Spreading perennial.	Zones 7-10.

<i>mauritanicus</i>	Glory	Sun.	Low to moderate water. Cut back if it gets woody.
<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i> 'Nana'	Tickseed	Perennial that spreads by runners. Sun. W	Zones 4-10. Low to moderate water. Can be pruned if it gets rangy.
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp. (prostrate varieties)	Cotoneaster	Sprawling, deciduous and evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade. E, W	Zones 4-10. Low to moderate water. Prefer dry conditions with poor soil.
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Indian Mock Strawberry	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 6-10. Moderate water. Can be invasive if well watered and fed.
<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>	Dymondia	Spreading, low perennials. Sun to some shade. W	Zones (9-10). Can tolerate infrequent water. Tolerates traffic.
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	Fleabane	Spreading, rooting, seeding perennials. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 5-10. Moderate water, but some, like <i>E. karvinskianus</i> , are drought adapted.
<i>Erodium reichardii</i>	Cranesbill	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 8-10. Moderate water. Plant 1 foot apart for coverage. Can

			prune back once established.
<i>Festuca californica</i> , <i>F. rubra</i>	California Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue	Perennial grass. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones <i>F. c.</i> = 7-11; <i>F. r.</i> = 4-10. Although some varieties are drought adapted, all look best with moderate water. Divide and thin to control over-growth.
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> , <i>F. californica</i>	Wild Strawberry, Sand Strawberry	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 8-11. Moderate water. Mow or prune annually.
<i>Gazania</i> hybrids	Trailing and Clumping Gazania	Spreading and clumping perennials. Sun. W	Zones 4-10. Moderate to regular water. Occasionally dies back and may need to be replanted. Water Wicking
<i>Geranium</i> spp.	Cranesbill	Spreading, rooting, and seeding perennials. Sun to some shade. A, W (some)	Zones 4-10. Moderate water, but some can tolerate drought. Some may need annual, biannual pruning to control.
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Rupture Wort	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to	Zones (7-11). Regular water. An

		shade.	annual in colder winter climates. Water Wicking
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Creeping St. Johnswort	Evergreen to semi-evergreen, spreading and rooting shrub. Sun to some shade. A, E, W	Zones 6-9. Tolerates a wide range of water, from moist to dry. Cut back every 2-3 years to maintain appearance. Water Wicking
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Candytuft	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 5-10. Regular water. Plan on replacing some plants every three years. Plant 1 foot apart.
<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.	Sweet Pea, Maritime Pea	Spreading, reseeding annuals and perennials. Sun. Some varieties are A, E, W	Zones 3-10. Prefers moderate water. Let the plant reseed for complete cover. Cut out dead stems.
<i>Lotus</i> spp.	Parrot's Beak, Bird's Foot Trefoil	Spreading, seeding perennials. Sun to some shade. A (<i>L. cordniculatus</i>)	Zones 6-15. Moderate water, but not soggy. Plan on replanting some plants every three years.
<i>Lychnis</i> spp.	Crown-Pink, Dusty Miller	Sprawling, seeding perennials. Sun to	Zones 3-9. Water needs vary

		some shade. A (some) , W (some)	with species, adapted from dry to moist conditions. Will grow back after pruning to control growth.
<i>Lysimachia</i> spp.	Loosestrife, Creeping Jenny, Moneywort	Spreading rooting perennials. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 5-11. Moderate to regular water. Can become a pest if well watered. Water Wicking
<i>Oenothera</i> spp.	Evening Primrose	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones 3-10. Can tolerate both drought and moist conditions. Can be difficult to get rid of once established. Water Wicking
<i>Osteospermum</i> spp.	African Daisy, Freeway Daisy	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun. E	Zones 9-11. Moderate water. Cut back if it gets rangy.
<i>Pelargonium</i> <i>peltatum</i>	Ivy Geranium	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 9-15. Low to moderate water. Cut back if they get rangy.
<i>Persicaria</i> spp.	Knotweed	Spreading, mounding perennials. <i>P.</i> <i>capitata</i> roots and seeds, and can be	Zones 3-10. Regular to low water, depending on specie. Prune if the plant gets rangy.

		invasive. Sun to some shade. <i>A (P.c.)</i>	
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Lippia, Frogfruit	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade. <i>A</i>	<i>Zones 8-11.</i> Moderate to regular water. Can tolerate mowing and some foot traffic (preferably after bloom). Can be invasive.
<i>Potentilla</i> spp.	Cinquefoil	Spreading, sprawling, and some rooting, perennials. Sun to some shade.	<i>Zones 2-10.</i> Moderate to regular water. Can be mowed if it gets rangy; mow in winter, early spring.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'prostratus'	Rosemary	Spreading, rooting evergreen shrub. Sun. <i>W</i>	<i>Zones 8-11.</i> Little to moderate water. Needs well draining soil. Pinch new growth to encourage new shoots.
<i>Sagina subulta</i>	Irish Moss, Scotch Moss	Mounding, dense spreading perennial. Sun to some shade.	<i>Zone 5-10.</i> Regular water. Can be aerated and mulched with humus to reinvigorate. Water Wicking

<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's Ears	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-11. Moderate water. Aggressive plant in ideal conditions of strong filtered sun and good drainage.
<i>Thymus spp.</i>	Thyme	Spreading, rooting perennials and evergreen shrubs. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-10. Woolly thyme can tolerate foot traffic. Cut off dead stems and branches to maintain look.
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 4-11. Regular water. If rangy, mow and mulch.
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zone 4-11. Moderate water. Can be aggressive in ideal conditions. Mow and mulch if it gets rangy. Able to fixate nitrogen.
<i>Tropaeolum spp.</i>	Nasturtium	Spreading, sprawling seeding annual and perennial. Sun to some shade. A (near coast),	Zones 9-12, but an annual everywhere else. Moderate to regular water. After letting the plant go to seed, prune dead runners. Water Wicking

<i>Verbena lilacina</i> , <i>V. peruviana</i> , <i>V. pulchella gracilior</i> , <i>V. tenuisecta</i>	Island Verbena, Verbena, Moss Verbena	Spreading, and some rooting perennials and annuals. Sun.	Zones 9-11. Low to regular water, depending on specie. Can be Water Wicking
<i>Veronica</i> spp.	Veronica, Speedwell	Spreading and some rooting perennials. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 3-10. Low to moderate water, depending on specie. Luckily, there is a veronica for almost every garden. Cut back rangy growth every 2 to 3 years.
<i>Zauschneria</i> spp.	California Fuchsia	Mounding, spreading, rooting and seeding perennial. Sun to some shade (in hot summers). E, W	Zones 8-11. Low to moderate water. Good for mild slopes. Cut back rangy growth.
<i>Zoysia</i> spp.	Zoysia	Mounding, spreading dense perennial. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 6-10. Low to moderate water. Can be mowed to keep down. Aerate and mulch to reinvigorate.

Succulents: Granted, succulents only grow in certain areas and they are not tolerant to foot traffic like some of the other plants recommended. But in the ideal locations they can aggressively push out weeds and take over an area. Succulents are durable plants and are relatively maintenance free and water conserving.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Aeonium simsii</i>	Aeonium	Spreading, succulent perennial. Sun. W	Zones 9-11. Moderate water.
<i>Aloe aristata</i> , <i>A. ciliaris</i> , <i>A. distans</i> , <i>A. saponaria</i>	Aloe	Spreading, some rooting succulent perennial. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 9-11. Low to moderate water. Fairly maintenance free: Protect from frost and pull dead stuff.
<i>Carpobrotus</i> spp.	Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting succulent perennial. Sun. A, E (low slopes), W	Zones 6-10. Low to moderate water. <i>C chilensis</i> can be invasive along the coast. Good for low slopes, but not steep. Too much water can cause rot.
<i>Crassula corymbulosa</i> , <i>C. lactea</i> , <i>C. lycopodioides</i> , <i>C. multicava</i> , <i>C.</i>	Crassula	Spreading succulent, semi-shrub and perennials. Sun to some shade.	Zones 10-15. No to low water, especially in shade. Not picky about soil conditions, just

<i>schmidtii</i>		W	temperatures.
<i>Delosperma</i> spp.	Trailing Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 8-11. Low to moderate water. Can be mowed to promote new, lush growth. Good for low slopes.
<i>Drosanthemum</i> spp.	Trailing Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun. E, W	Zones 10-15. Low to moderate water. Very low maintenance. Prune, remove and replant dead portions.
<i>Echeveria elegans</i> , <i>E. x imbricata</i> , <i>E. secunda</i>	Hens and Chicks	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun to some shade, depending on specie. W?	Zones 10-15. Moderate water. Very low maintenance, in mild, sunny environments.
<i>Lampranthus</i> spp.	Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun. W	Zones 10-15. No to low water. Mow or prune to encourage new, lush growth.
<i>Malephora</i> spp.	Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun. E, W	Zones 10-15. No to low water. Very maintenance free. Good for moderately steep

			slopes.
<i>Sedum acre</i> , <i>S. album</i> , <i>S. anglicum</i> , <i>S. confusum</i> , <i>S. lineare</i> , <i>S. spathulifolium</i>	Stonecrop	Spreading, rooting succulent perennials. Sun to some shade. A, E, W (depending on specie)	Zones 4-12 (depending on specie). Low to moderate water. Remove dead or dying stems. One of the easiest succulents to grow.
<i>Senecio mandraliscae</i> , <i>S. serpens</i>	Senecio	Spreading, rooting succulent perennial. Sun. W	Zones 9-10. Low to moderate water. Easy to grow; just remove the dead stuff.

Shade Tolerant: Trailing, Rooting, and/or Perennial

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Ajuga</i> spp.	Carpet Bugle	Spreading, rooting perennials. Shade, but not deep shade.	Zones 3-10. Regular water. Likes it moist, but with good drainage and air circulation. Can become a weed. Water Wicking
<i>Asarum</i> spp.	Wild Ginger	Spreading rooting perennial. Shade to full shade.	Zones 4-10. Regular to a lot of water. Attracts snails. Water Wicking
<i>Bergenia</i> spp.	Bergenia	Spreading, rooting	Zones 3-10.

		perennial. Shade to full shade.	Moderate to regular water. While taller than any other lawn substitute, it can successfully consume large areas. Remove dead stuff and regularly mulch. Water Wicking
<i>Campanula</i> spp.	Bellflower	Spreading, rooting perennial. Shade to full shade. A	Zones 5-10. Moderate to regular water. Good draining soil and moist conditions are ideal. Can become a pest. Water Wicking
<i>Crassula lacteal</i>	Crassula	Succulent, semi-shrub. Shade to full shade. W	Zones 9-15. No to low water. Ideal plant for dry shade.
<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i>	Pothos	Perennial vine. Shade to full shade.	Zones 10-15. Regular water. Good for areas that are indoor-like.
<i>Festuca</i> spp.	Fescue	Perennial grasses. Sun to shade, but not full shade. E, W (some species)	Zones 3-11, depending on specie. Low to regular water, depending on specie. Good on low

			slopes. Can be Water Wicking
<i>Gaultheria</i> spp.	Gaultheria, Salal	Sprawling evergreen shrub. Shade, but not full shade.	Zones 4, 6-9. Regular water. Ideal plant for protected, woodland environment. Remove dead stuff and regularly mulch with humus. Water Wicking
<i>Hedera</i> spp.	Algerian and English Ivy, including Hahn's and smaller-leaved varieties	Evergreen, spreading, sprawling and rooting vines. Shade to full shade. A, E, W (depending on specie)	Zones 7-10. Low to regular water (depending on environment). Algerian ivy is considered a pest and should not be plant near natural areas. Severely prune when the plant looks rangy. Water Wicking
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Rupture Wort	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to full shade.	Zones 3-11. Moderate water. Prune or mow to keep trim. Can tolerate foot traffic is healthy.
<i>Lamium</i> spp.	Dead Nettle	Clumping, trailing rooting perennials.	Zones 4-8, 10. Moderate to regular

		Shade to full shade.	water. Cut back dead and dying stems. Water Wicking
<i>Liriope</i> spp. and <i>Ophiopogon</i> spp.	Lily Turf, Mondo Grass	Clumping perennials. Sun to full shade.	Zones 6-11. Moderate to regular water. Prefers good drainage. Divide and replant clumps. Mulch with humus.
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	Creeping, rooting perennial. Shade, but not full shade.	Zones: 6-10. Regular water. Cut out dead growth. Can tolerate aeration and mulch (humus). Water Wicking
<i>Muehlenbeckia</i> spp.	Wire Vine, Mattress vine	Spreading rooting perennial vine. Sun to shade, but not full shade. A, E	Zones 8-10. Moderate to regular water. Cut back vigorously to control growth. Water Wicking
<i>Nepeta racemosa</i> , <i>N. reichenbachiana</i>	Nepeta	Spreading seeding perennials. Sun to shade, but not full shade.	Zones 4-10. Moderate to regular water. Cut back after flowering to maintain lush look. Prefers rich soil. Water Wicking
<i>Pratia pedunculata</i> ,	Blue Star Creeper	Spreading rooting	Zones 5-10.

<i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i> , or more commonly, <i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>		perennial. Shade, but not full shade.	Regular water, in well draining soil. Can tolerate aeration and mulch (humus).
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Baby's Tears	Spreading rooting perennial. Shade to full shade.	Zones 9-15. Regular to ample water. Ideal plant for shady, moist environments. Prefers rich, well draining soil. Water Wicking
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower	Spreading and rooting perennials. Shade to full shade.	Zones 4-10. Regular water. It dislikes dry, harsh summers. Not a good cover to walk on.
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Wandering Jew	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to shade, but not full shade. A	Zones 10-15. Regular to ample water. Can be a pest in moist, rich conditions. Water Wicking.
<i>Vinca</i> spp.	Periwinkle	Sprawling rooting perennials. Shade to almost full shade. A, E	Zones 4-10. Low to moderate water. V. major is considered a pest in some places and avoid its use near

			wooded, open spaces. Prefers rich soil. Water Wicking
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet violet	Spreading, rooting perennials. Shade to full shade.	Zones 6-11. Regular water. Can become a pest. Prefers rich soil, sheltered environments. Water Wicking

2. PLANTING FOR PESTS

There are a variety of plants that can either help repel unwanted pests or provide habitat for beneficial insects (those that eat the unwanted ones, such as ladybugs and parasitic wasps). These plants can be casually thrown into almost any type of landscape design.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care & Uses
<i>Achillea</i> spp.	Yarrow	Perennials. Sun. W (some)	Zones 3-10. Low to moderate water. Attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Allium</i> spp.	Ornamental Allium, Chives	Perennial bulbs. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 4-10. Moderate to regular water. Good protection against slugs and ants. Used in spray to control aphids.
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Garlic	Clumping perennial. Sun. W	Zones 3-10. Moderate water. Helps repel aphids. Good general repellent.
<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Angelica	Biennial, fleshy. Sun to shade.	Zones 4-9. Regular water. Good for attracting lacy wings, lady beetles, and parasitic wasps. Edible too.

<i>Artemisia abrotanum</i>	Southernwood	Shrubby perennial. Sun. W	Zones 5-10. No to low water. Good for repelling ants and aphids.
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	Shrubby perennial. Sun. W	Zones 5-11. No to low water. Helps keep animals out of a garden.
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Seeding annual. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 4-15. Moderate water. Deters tomato worms. An edible that tolerates poor soils.
<i>Coreopsis</i> spp.	Coreopsis	Annuals and perennials. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 4-10. Low to moderate water. Good bloomer. Attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Cilantro	Annual. Sun to shade. W	Zones, all. Moderate water. Attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.	Buckwheat	Shrubby perennial. Sun. W	Zones 4-15. Low to moderate water (depending on specie). Attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Common Fennel	Perennial. Sun. A, W	Zones 6-10. Low to moderate water. A weed in

			many places, particularly in disturbed areas. Attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Lavandula</i> spp.	Lavender	Perennial. Sun. W	Zones 5-10. Low to moderate water. The fragrant varieties help repel moths.
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon balm	Spreading, rooting, seeding perennial. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 4-10. Moderate water. A good general repellent for shady spots.
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	Creeping, rooting perennial. Sun to shade, but not full shade.	Zones 6-10. Regular water. Helps control ants.
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Spearmint	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-10. Moderate to regular water. Helps repel ants and aphids.
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree Tobacco	Seeding, shrubby perennial. Sun. A, W	Zones 9-11. Low to moderate water. Helps control whiteflies. Poisonous. Can naturalize.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Spreading, evergreen shrub.	Zones 8-11. Low to moderate

		Sun. W	water. Good all-around repellent. Effective barrier against snails and slugs.
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry	Deciduous shrub or tree. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 5-10. Low to moderate water. The leaves and branches can be stuck down mole and gopher holes and runs.
<i>Santolina</i> spp.	Santolina	Evergreen shrubs. Sun. W	Zones 6-11. No to moderate water, depending on specie and location. Helps repel moths.
<i>Tagetes lucida</i>	Mexican Marigold	Perennials, but annual in coldest climates. Sun. W	Zones 8-10, but annual in all zones. Moderate water. Particularly good at controlling nematodes.
<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	Marigold	Annuals and perennials. Sun. W	Zones, all. Moderate water. Helps repel whiteflies and nematodes.
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Sprawling perennial. Sun. A, W	Zones 4-10. Moderate water. Thin out clumps

			annually. Helps repel ants and flying insects.
<i>Tropaeolum</i> spp.	Nasturtium	Sprawling, seeding annuals and perennials. Sun to some shade. A, E, W	Zones 9-12, but annual everywhere else. Low to moderate water. Aphids are attracted to it, and it can be used as a trap if cut and thrown out. It repels whitefly.

3. NITROGEN-FIXING PLANTS

Nitrogen is the nutrient most needed by plants, and yet it is typically the most polluting nutrient running off our landscapes.

You can help reduce the amount of nitrogen physically hauled into a landscape by planting plants that can fixate it. In a mutually beneficial relationship with bacteria called *Rhizobium*, many plants (most from the pea family, *Fabaceae*) are able to harvest nitrogen from the atmosphere and attach a hydrogen or oxygen molecule to it, turning it into something that the plants can use to help them grow. The leaf litter these nitrogen-fixing plants produce should be composted and returned to the garden.

The pea family is huge, and the list of plants that can fixate nitrogen large. Below is a list of easily found plants that are capable of fixating nitrogen:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Acacia</i> spp	Acacia, Wattle	Deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees. Sun. A , E , W (all depending on specie)	Zones 9-15. No to moderate water. Prune to maintain open, airy interiors.
<i>Albizia</i> spp.	Silk Tree, Mimosa	Deciduous and semi-evergreen trees. Sun to some shade. A (in some areas) , W	Zones 6-10. Low to moderate water. <i>A. distachya</i> can survive without irrigation and can naturalize in mild coastal areas.
<i>Alnus</i> spp.	Alder	Deciduous trees. Sun to much shade.	Zones 3-10. Regular to ample water. Easy tree to

			maintain.
<i>Bauhinia</i> spp.	Orchid Tree	Deciduous to evergreen shrubs and trees. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-15. Moderate to regular water. Prune overcrowding branches after bloom.
<i>Calliandra</i> spp.	Power Puff, Flame bush	Deciduous and evergreen shrubs. Sun to some shade. W (some species)	Zones 9-15. Low to regular water. Some can be espaliered.
<i>Cassia</i> spp.	Shower Tree	Deciduous to evergreen trees. Sun. W (depending on specie)	Zones 9-12. Low to regular water. Plants prefer well draining soil. They produce a lot of litter.
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	Ceanothus	Evergreen shrubs. Sun. E, W	Zones 7-11. No to moderate water. Give room to grow and they will not require pruning.
<i>Ceratonia</i> spp.	Carob	Evergreen shrubs and trees. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 8-10. Low to moderate water. Prefers well draining soil.
<i>Cercis</i> spp.	Redbud	Deciduous shrubs and trees. Sun to some shade. W (some Western species)	Zones 6-10. Low to regular water. Prune to remove twiggy interior after bloom

			or when dormant.
<i>Elaeagnus</i> spp.	Silverberry	Deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees. Sun to some shade. W (depending on specie)	Zones 4-9. Low to regular water, depending on specie. Will make attractive hedge or screen.
<i>Erythrina</i> spp.	Wallflower	Perennials, but many grown as annuals. Sun to some shade. W (depending on specie)	Zones 5-10. Low to regular water, depending on species. Many are short lived.
<i>Gleditsia</i> spp.	Honey Locust	Deciduous tree. Sun. W	Zones 3-10. Moderate water. Easy tree to grow. Give plenty room to grow and it will not require pruning.
<i>Hardenbergia</i> spp.	Lilac Vine	Evergreen vine. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-15. Moderate water. Prefers well draining soil. Prune to control growth after bloom.
<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.	Sweet Pea, Maritime Pea	Sprawling annuals and perennials. Sun to some shade. A, E, W (depending on specie)	Zones 3-11. No to moderate water, depending on species. Cut back after plant has produced seed.

<i>Lotus</i> spp.	Parrot's Beak, Bird's Foot Trefoil	Sprawling, spreading perennials. Sun to some shade. A (in northwest).	Zones 6-15. Moderate water. Prefers well draining soil. Easy to maintain.
<i>Lupinus</i> spp.	Lupine	Annuals, perennials and shrubs. Sun. W	Zones 4-10. Low to regular water. Sometimes difficult to start from seed. Also attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Wax Myrtle	Evergreen shrub or small tree. Sun. W	Zones 6-10. Moderate water. Easy to grow. Attracts birds.
<i>Parkinsonia aculeate</i>	Mexican Palo Verde	Deciduous tree. Sun. W	Zones 8-11. Low to moderate water. Tolerates desert soil and conditions. Little maintenance once established.
<i>Prosopis</i> spp.	Mesquite	Deciduous to evergreen shrubs and trees. Sun. W	Zones 8-10. Low to moderate water. Easy to grow in desert, requiring almost no pruning.
<i>Robinia</i> spp.	Locust	Deciduous shrubs and trees. Sun. A (some), W	Zones 4-11. No to moderate water. Fast grower,

			prune to control growth.
<i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Clover	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones 4-11. Regular water. Easy to grow and can become a weed in nearby beds.
<i>Vigna caracalla</i>	Snail Vine	Evergreen vine. Sun. E	Zones 6-10. Moderate water. Cut back dead stalks killed by freeze. Can be grown as an annual.
<i>Wisteria</i> spp.	Wisteria	Deciduous vine. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 5-10. Little to moderate water. A colorful vine that rarely, if ever, needs fertilizers. Expect to prune twice a year, once in winter and then again in summer to guide growth.

4. HILL-HOLDING PLANTS

The possibility of water runoff and topsoil loss on slopes can be as much as 200 times the rate when compared to flat ground. Naturally, slopes deserve extra attention. The plants used to protect a hillside from erosion share similar characteristics. These plants are able to blanket the ground with stems and leaves, holding the soil in place; they can withstand shallow soils and drought conditions; and they should all be low maintenance, because human activity dislodges soil particles and increases erosion. Many of the plants that are capable of slowing water runoff can also be used in flat areas as lawn substitutes. For more information on managing slopes, please refer to the Manual.

[Safely managing slopes may require some professional guidance.](#)

Trailing, Rooting, and Perennial Ground Covers

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Abronia</i> spp.	Sand Verbena	Spreading perennial. Sun W	Zones 5-10. Moderate water, give space and won't need biannual or annual pruning.
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun. A, W	Zones 8-15. No to moderate water. Aggressive plant that can tolerate tough conditions and poor soil. Will escape if not contained.

<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California Brome	Perennial grass. Sun to some shade. A, W (depending on specie)	Zones 6-10. Durable plant with wildlife providing attributes. Cut 1/3 every 2-3 years.
<i>Drosanthemum</i> spp.	Trailing Ice Plant	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun. W	Zones 10-15. Low to moderate water. <i>D. floribundum</i> is the best for erosion control.
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Indian Mock Strawberry	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 6-10. Moderate water. Can be invasive if well watered and fed.
<i>Eschscholzia</i> spp.	California Poppy	Seeding annuals and perennials. Sun. W	Zones 8-11. Low to moderate water. Deep rooting helps to hold hills.
<i>Festuca californica</i> , <i>F. rubra</i> , <i>F. trachypylla</i>	California Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue, Sheep's Fescue	Perennial grasses. Sun to some shade. A, W	Zones 3-11. Moderate to regular water, depending on specie.
<i>Hedera</i> spp.	Algerian and English Ivy, including Hahn's and smaller-leaved varieties	Evergreen vines. Sun to much shade. A, W	Zones 5-11. Moderate to regular water. Easy to grow, but sometimes difficult to contain. Can escape to natural areas.

<i>Leymus glaucus</i>	Blue Wild Rye	Perennial grass. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 4-10. Little to moderate water. Divide and plant clumps.
<i>Muehlenbeckia</i> spp.	Wire Vine, Mattress Vine	Evergreen vines and shrubs. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 8-10. Regular water. Can be invasive. Good in shade. Cut back to control growth.
<i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i>	African Daisy, Freeway Daisy	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun. A, W	Zones 9-11. Moderate water. Cut or mow the plant if it gets leggy.
<i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Clover	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 4-11. Regular water. Easy to grow and can become a weed in nearby beds. Nitrogen fixing.
<i>Tropaeolum</i> spp.	Nasturtium	Sprawling, seeding annuals and perennials. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 9-12. Low to moderate water.
<i>Verbena peruvina</i>	Verbena	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun. W	Zones 9-11. Moderate water. Brilliant color.
<i>Vinca</i> spp.	Periwinkle	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun to much shade. A	Zones 4-10. Little to regular water. Prune to control growth and

			reinvigorate. Can become invasive.
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Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Acacia redolens</i>	Desert Carpet	Sprawling evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 6-10. Low to moderate water. Ensure the plant has the room to grow and there will not be much pruning.
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp. (prostrate varieties)	Manzanita, Bearberry	Sprawling, rooting (some) evergreen shrubs. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 2-10. Low to moderate water. These shrubs demand well draining soil.
<i>Artemisia caucasica</i> , <i>A. schmidtiana</i>	Silver Spreader, Angel's Hair	Spreading evergreen shrubs. Sun. W	Zones 5-10. Low to moderate water. Over watering will shorten its life.
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Dwarf Coyote Brush	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun. A, W	Zones 6-10. No to moderate water. Tolerate poor soils and tough conditions.
<i>Carissa prostrates</i> 'Green Carpet'	Natal Plum	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun and some shade.	Zones 9-11. Low to moderate water. Prune growth

		W	that shoots upward.
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp. (prostrate varieties)	Ceanothus	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun and some shade. W	Zones 7-11. No to moderate water. Provide enough room to grow.
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sageleaf Rockrose	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 8-11. No to moderate water. Too much water will dramatically shorten this plant's life.
<i>Coprosma x kirkii</i> , <i>C. pumila</i>	Coprosma	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade.	Zones 8-11. Low to regular water, depending on location. Prune shoots growing upwards.
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp. (prostrate varieties)	Cotoneaster	Sprawling, deciduous and evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 5-10. Low to moderate water. Prefer dry conditions with poor soil.
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Prostrate Mirror Plant	Sprawling rooting evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade.	Zones 5-10. Moderate water. Many varieties to choose from. Give plenty of room to grow.
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Creeping St. Johnswort	Evergreen to semi-evergreen,	Zones 6-9. Tolerates a wide

		spreading and rooting shrub. Sun to some shade. A, E, W	range of water, from moist to dry. Cut back every 2-3 years to maintain appearance.
<i>Juniperus</i> spp. (prostrate varieties)	Creeping Juniper, Prostrate juniper	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 3-10. Low to moderate water. Low maintenance if provided with an area to grow. Can get excessively woody with pruning.
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i> , L. hybrids	Trailing Lantana	Spreading, rooting evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 9-15. Low to moderate water. Does not like too much water or fertilizer.
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Prostrate Myoporum	Spreading rooting evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 10-15. Low to moderate water. Can tolerate some foot traffic. Stems root when soil is moist.
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Cape Plumbago	Evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 10-15. Little to moderate water, but looks best if moderately watered. Prune out frost damaged

			stems.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'prostratus'	Rosemary	Spreading, rooting evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 8-11. Little to moderate water. Needs well draining soil. Pinch new growth to encourage new shoots.
<i>Sollya parviflora</i>	Australian Bluebell Creeper	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-11. Moderate to regular water. Needs well draining soil, yet can tolerate moist conditions.
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys, T. cossonii majoricum</i>	Germander	Spreading evergreen shrub. Sun. W	Zones 7-10. Low to moderate water. Good performer in poor soils. Prune to encourage lush new growth.

Vines

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Bougainvillea</i> spp.	Bougainvillea	Evergreen vine, shrub. Sun. W	Zones 9-13. Low to regular water. Can only tolerate a slight frost. With thorns, it is good at stopping

			traffic.
<i>Campsis</i> spp.	Trumpet Vine	Evergreen and deciduous rooting vines. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 7-11. Moderate to regular water. With water it can be aggressive. Water Wicking
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Carolina Jessamine	Evergreen vine. Sun to some shade.	Zones 7-10. Regular water.
<i>Jasminum polyanthum</i>	Pink Jasmine	Evergreen vine. Sun to some shade.	Zones 8-10. Moderate water. Profuse white, fragrant blooms attracts bees.
<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	Honeysuckle	Evergreen to deciduous vines and shrubs. Sun to some shade. A (some), W (some)	Zones 2-11. Low to regular water, depending on specie. <i>L japonica</i> can be invasive.
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Yellow Trumpet Vine	Evergreen to deciduous rooting vine. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 9-15. Moderate water. Tough plant in light frost. Cut back vigorously to retain healthy lush growth.
<i>Passiflora</i> spp.	Passion Vine	Evergreen to deciduous, rooting (some) vine. Some to some shade. A	Zones 6-13. Moderate to regular water. Some varieties have become an invasive pest. Cut back vigorously.

<i>Rosa banksiae</i>	Lady Banks' Rose	Evergreen sprawling vine. Sun.	Zones 8-10. Moderate to regular water. Thorn-less and easy to work with. Profuse bloomers.
<i>Senecio confusus</i>	Mexican Flame Vine	Evergreen to deciduous vine. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-13. Moderate to regular water. The longer the growing season, the bigger it gets. Cut back vigorously.
<i>Solanum</i> spp.	Potato Vine, Nightshade	Evergreen to deciduous vine. Sun to some shade. W	Zones 9-15. Low to moderate water. Poisonous fruit.
<i>Tecoma (Tecomaria) capensis</i>	Cape Honeysuckle	Evergreen vine and sometimes shrub. Sun to a little shade. W	Zones 10-15. Low to moderate water. Beautiful orange blooms.

5. WATER-WICKING PLANTS

Whether through design, maintenance practices, or natural occurrence, there are usually places within a garden that are perpetually wet: The north side of coastal homes, beds next to a neighbor that waters too much, and a swale designed to capture rainwater are all examples of places that may be perpetually moist. Wicking plants can help dry the soil, and dry soil helps improve the health of the landscape. Dry soil allows a landscape to handle more water before producing runoff and erosion; it helps increase levels of oxygen in the soil; and drying the soil around homes helps reduce the chances of water damage. Water-wicking plants can also improve the performance of infiltration basins.

The plant list of water-wicking plants below represents just a portion of the plants capable of the rapid uptake of water. However, water-wicking plants share certain characteristics. These plants will have leaves that are large, moist, supple, and easily bent. Typically, water-wicking plants come from the tropics, but there are also many native plants, found along your local streams and lakes. Naturally, the bigger the plant, the greater its demand for water and the better job it will do at wicking.

Water-wicking ground covers can be found in the Lawn Alternatives plant list, and are noted as “Water Wicking” at the end of the “Care” category.

Perennials and Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Acorus</i> spp.	Sweet Flag	Perennials. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-11. Iris-looking plant with no bloom. Can sit in water.

<i>Alocasia</i> spp.	Elephant Ear	Perennials. Shade to full shade.	Zones 10-15. Looks like Taro. Likes rich soil.
Annual Vegetables	Sunflower, Lettuce, Spinach, Peas, Beans, etc.	Edible annuals. Sun to some shade, depending on variety.	All Zones. Fun plants that can survive with plenty of moisture.
Bamboo	Bamboo	Large, spreading rooting grasses. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 5-13. A useful plant that can become a problem.
<i>Carex elata</i> , <i>C. spissa</i>	Sedge	Clumping perennials. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 5-11. These are the bog sedges, and not drought adapted.
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Spider Plant	Spreading, rooting perennial. Shade to full shade.	Zones 10-15. Roots from offsets and is a good ground cover in shade.
<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i>	Cape Rush	Clumping perennial. Sun to some shade. ?	Zones 6-10. Can tolerate poor soils.
<i>Claytonia</i> spp.	Miner's Lettuce	Seeding perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-10. Some edible varieties.
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Taro, Elephant Ear	Perennial. Shade to sun.	Zones 9-11. The root is edible. Easy to grow in frost free

			environments.
<i>Cyperus</i> spp.	Papyrus	Clumping, tall perennials. Sun to full shade. A	Zones 6-10. Some varieties can be invasive.
<i>Darmera peltata</i>	Umbrella Plant	Spreading perennial. Filtered shade.	Zones 5-10. Can tolerate poor soils.
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Horsetail	Spreading perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 3-11. Easy plant to grow in moist conditions. Needs containment as it is invasive.
<i>Farfugium japonicum</i>	Ligularia (not true one)	Perennial. Shade to full shade.	Zones 7-10. Can be used as a tall ground cover.
Ferns	Ferns	Spreading, clumping perennials. Sun to full shade. A	Zones, All. There is a variety suited to almost any spot in a garden.
<i>Gardenia</i> spp.	Gardenia	Evergreen shrubs. Sun to some shade.	Zones 8-11. Prefers rich soil.
<i>Gunnera</i> spp.	Gunnera	Perennial. Filtered shade.	Zones 8-10. Prefers rich soil.
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Scarlet Bush	Evergreen to deciduous shrub. Sun.	Zones 23-24. Tolerates salt and heat, not cold. Pretty bloom.
<i>Iris</i> spp.	Japanese, Louisiana, and Siberian Irises	Bulbs and rhizomes, perennials. Sun to	Zones, All. There's an iris for

		some shade.	every garden.
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	Rush	Clumping perennials. Sun to shade. A	Zones 6-10. Some varieties can take interesting forms.
<i>Ligularia</i> spp.	Ligularia	Clumping perennials. Shade to full shade.	Zones 4-10. Beautiful yellow blooms. Likes humidity.
<i>Lobellia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 1-7, 14-17. An incredible red flower when its feet are kept moist.
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	Perennial. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-9. Low maintenance and good bloomer.
<i>Mentha</i> spp.	Mint	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 3-10. There is a variety for almost every garden. Can become a weed.
<i>Mimulus californica</i> , <i>M. cardinalis</i> , <i>M. guttatus</i> , <i>M. moschatus</i>	Monkey Flower	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun to full shade, depending on specie. E	Zones 7-10. Evolved along streams, they prefer rich soil.
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia Grass	Clumping Perennial grasses. Sun to full shade.	All Zones. Not picky about soil, but needs water.

<i>Monstera delicosa</i>	Split-Leafed philodendron	Spreading, rooting perennials vine. Shade to full shade. A	Zones 10-15. In frost free areas this plant can suck up a lot of moisture.
<i>Nepeta racemosa</i> , <i>N. reichenbachiana</i>	Nepeta, Catnip	Spreading seeding perennials. Sun to shade, but not full shade. A	Zones 3-9. Cut back after flowering to maintain lush look. Prefers rich soil.
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	Perennial grass. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones 4-9. Blooms can grow to 7 feet tall. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions. Can get aggressive.
<i>Passiflora alata</i> , <i>P. edulis</i>	Passion Vine	Evergreen to semi-evergreen vines. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones 6-15. Vigorous grower with water. <i>P. edulis</i> prefers full sun.
<i>Philodendron</i> spp	Philodendron	Evergreen vine and shrubs. Sun to full shade, depending on specie. A (some)	Zones 9-15. Many durable varieties.
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Wild Rose	Evergreen to semi-evergreen vine. Sun to some shade. E	Zones 9-10. A beautiful Rambler that prefers life streamside.
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Sugar Cane	Clumping perennial grass. Sun.	Zones 10-13. A large grass that happens to produce

			sweet liquids.
<i>Scirpus cernuus</i>	Fiber Optics Plant	Grass-like perennial. Shade.	Zones 6-10. Low growing, non-aggressive moisture lover.
<i>Scirpus californicus</i>	California Bulrush	Clumping, spreading perennial grass. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 8-10. Found in riparian habitats. Can get aggressive.
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	Perennial. Sun to some shade. A	Zones 5-10. Colorful perennial that tolerates full sun if constantly moist.
<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>	Yellow-Eyed Grass	Perennial grass. Sun to some shade.	Zones 8-10. Good plant for a wet meadow.
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cord Grass	Clumping, rooting perennial grass. Sun. A, E	Zones 8-11. Beautiful and aggressive plant if kept moist.
<i>Tradescantia</i> spp.	Wandering Jew, Purple Heart, Spidewort	Spreading, rooting perennials. Sun to full shade, depending on specie.	Zones 9-12. One is a wonderful purple ground cover, and all are effective and durable.
<i>Watercress</i>	Watercress	Spreading, rooting perennial. Sun to partial shade.	All Zones. Grows naturally in and along streams.

		E	Can hold moist hills.
<i>Zantedeschia</i> spp.	Calla Lily	Rooting perennials. Sun to full shade. A	Zones 8-12. Can become a weed in a moist garden. Beautiful cut flower.
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	True Ginger	Rooting perennial. Shade.	Zones 9-11. Beautiful plant that produces a delightful treat.

Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	Care
<i>Alnus</i> spp.	Alder	Deciduous tree. Sun to shade.	Zones 2-10. A beautiful riparian, but attacked by a variety of pests, especially if soil is dry.
<i>Catalpa</i> spp.	Catalpa	Deciduous tree. Sun to some shade.	Zones 4-9. Easy plant to grow, but may get fungus.
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	Ficus	Evergreen to deciduous trees. Sun to some shade.	Zones 9-15 (depending on specie). The <i>Ficus</i> trees and vines are notoriously vigorous and need ample space to grow.
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Evergreen Ash	Evergreen to	Zones 5-

		deciduous trees. Sun to some shade, depending on specie. A	10 (depending on specie). <i>F. uhdei</i> is one of the few evergreen varieties.
<i>Musa</i> spp.	Banana	Evergreen perennial trees. Sun to some shade.	Zones 10-12. Loves the water and nutrients from runoff. Aggressive.
<i>Platanus</i> spp.	Sycamore	Deciduous trees. Sun. W	Zones 5-10. Prefers rich soil and fungus can become a problem.
<i>Populus</i> spp.	Cottonwood, Poplar	Deciduous trees. Sun. A, E	Zones 3-9. Fast growers and needs plenty of room. Attacked by a variety of pests.
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willow	Evergreen to deciduous tree and shrubs. Sun to some shade. A, E	Zones 3-10. Excellent tree on large lots. Attacked by a variety of pests.
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coast Redwood	Evergreen tree. Sun to some shade. E	Zones 8-10. Although it can tolerate some dry spells, it performs well in perpetually moist conditions. Give it room to grow.

6. AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL INVADERS

The plants listed below can and have escaped and invaded natural areas, undermining native biodiversity. If you live in a community that borders natural areas, you should choose a plant that does not pose a threat to the neighboring habitat.

However, there are times when using one of the plants listed below may make sense. An example of the “good” and the “bad” is *Vinca* (periwinkle). *Vinca major* has escaped into natural riparian habitats throughout California’s coastal communities, and in some cases (especially in Northern California), it has overrun the environment. However, the characteristics that make periwinkle such an enormous threat in some natural landscapes also make it successful in domestic landscapes. *Vinca major* has done an outstanding job of holding the north side of hills throughout California, especially Southern California.

Use common sense and extra caution: If a landscape even remotely borders open space, avoid invasive non-native plants. If not, pick the best plant for the job.

Terrestrial Invaders

Ground Covers

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Bromus rubens</i>	Foxtail, Red Brome
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Ice Plant, sea Fig
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	Hare Barley, Foxtail Barley, Annual Barley
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian Ryegrass, Annual Ryegrass

<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle, Hall's Honeysuckle
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Crystalline Ice Plant
<i>Senecio mikanioides</i>	Cape Ivy, German Ivy
<i>Vinca</i> spp.	Periwinkle

Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Cortaderia jubata, C. selloana</i>	Jubata Grass, Pampas Grass,
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Common Fennel
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Water Iris
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass

Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush
<i>Cytisus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Broom
<i>Cytisus monspessulanus</i>	French Broom
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Hopseed Bush
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Myoporum
<i>Pickeringia montana</i>	Chaparral Pea
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	Bramble
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom

Trees

<i>Eucalyptus globules</i>	Tasmanian Blue Gum
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Edible Fig
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive
<i>Schinus molle</i>	California Pepper
<i>Tamarix</i> spp.	Tamarisk, Salt Cedar

Aquatic Invaders

<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth
<i>Lysimachia</i> spp.	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Bottlebrush
<i>Phalaris australis</i>	Reed Canary Grass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Giant Reed
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willow
<i>Tamarix</i> spp.	Tamarisk, Salt Cedar
<i>Typha latifolia</i> , <i>T. angustifolia</i>	Cattail