

LOW-WATER ARBORETUM

All-Stars



OF THE ONE HUNDRED ARBORETUM ALL-STARS, THIS LIST INCLUDES THOSE WITH THE LOWEST WATER NEEDS

Acacia boormanii
Snowy River wattle



Fragrant yellow flowers add color to the winter garden; very adaptable and hardy, grows best in well-drained soils; heat and drought tolerant.

Acca sellowiana
(*Feijoa sellowiana*)
pineapple guava



Attractive spring flowers are edible and sweet; large green berries have a pineapple-like flavor; can be used as hedging or as a screen; attracts hummingbirds.

Arctostaphylos densiflora
'Howard McMinn'
Vine Hill manzanita



California native plant; known for its smooth, wine-red bark; one of the few manzanitas that tolerates our clay-loam soils; attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects.

Aristolochia californica
California pipevine



California native plant; leaves provide food for pipevine swallowtail butterfly larvae; versatile plant that can be used as a climbing vine or a groundcover.

Bulbine frutescens
Cape balsam



Small, evergreen perennial is a wonderful addition to dry perennial borders with its long-blooming spikes of delicate, star-shaped yellow flowers; fleshy, bright green foliage adds a sculptural element to the garden; tolerates drought and poor soils.

Callistemon 'Violaceus'
purple bottlebrush



Rosy-purple "bottlebrush" flowers bloom in early winter and spring, and sporadically year round; medium to large evergreen shrub that is tough and adaptable; grows best in full sun and tolerates infrequent watering; attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects.

Ceanothus maritimus
'Valley Violet'
valley violet maritime ceanothus



California native plant; best small ceanothus for Central Valley gardens; clusters of dark-violet flowers bloom in spring; attracts beneficial insects.

Cercis occidentalis
western redbud



California native plant; early spring bloom before leaves appear; attractive reddish seed pods in summer; new stems, cut in winter, are used to add color to Native American baskets; attracts beneficial insects.

Cercocarpus betuloides
var. *blancheae*
island mountain mahogany



California native plant; thrives in full sun and dry soil; tiny flowers attract pollinating insects; seed pods are curly and fuzzy.

Clytostoma calystegioides
violet trumpet vine



Vigorous climber for covering walls and fences and can also be grown as a groundcover; trumpet-shaped violet flowers with purple veins blossom in late spring to summer; attracts hummingbirds.

Crinodendron patagua
Chilean lily-of-the-valley tree



Drought tolerant; makes a good screen or patio tree with its upright form and narrow profile; attractive, shiny, evergreen leaves; white bell-shaped flowers.

Cyclamen hederifolium
ivy leaf cyclamen



Scented rose-pink or white flowers bloom in late summer and early fall before the leaves emerge; ornamental silver-marked foliage sparkles in dry shady gardens; tolerates a wide variety of soil types and can also grow well in containers.

Dasyliirion wheeleri
desert spoon



Evergreen desert plant with long, narrow, blue-gray leaves; cream-colored flowers emerge in summer on tall spikes; drought tolerant and makes a striking accent plant; attracts beneficial insects.

Epilobium canum
California fuchsia



California native plant; easy to grow and tolerates heat and drought; different varieties can have narrow or broad leaves that range from silver to bright green.

Eriogonum giganteum
Saint Catherine's lace



California native plant; large clusters of white flowers appear in summer and attract beneficial insects; fast growing and quickly develops into a large, rounded shrub with woolly, whitish-gray foliage.

Festuca californica
California fescue



California native plant; tolerates summer drought and various soil types, and is long lived; has graceful, gray-green leaves and airy flowers that mature to a golden yellow color.

Hardenbergia violacea
lilac vine



Vigorous evergreen vine can be used to cover an arbor, pergola or wall; small, purple, pea-like flowers bloom in late winter to early spring; other cultivars have white or pink flowers.

Helleborus argutifolius
Corsican hellebore



Long-lasting, pale-green flowers brighten the winter garden; needs little maintenance and tolerates dry shade; stiff, gray-green foliage adds sculptural interest to the garden year round.

Hesperaloe parviflora
coral yucca



Adds a strong architectural note to the garden with its attractive spiky-looking leaves; very heat and drought tolerant; blooms all summer long; attracts hummingbirds.

Hunnemannia fumariifolia
Mexican tulip poppy



Bright yellow poppy flowers bloom spring through fall; bushy perennial with lacy, gray-green foliage; heat and drought tolerant with seeds that grow to replace the mother plant.

Isomeris arborea
bladderpod



California native plant; one of the only native shrubs that blooms year round; yellow flowers attract beneficial insects and hummingbirds to the garden and then develop into attractive seed pods.

Jasminum nudiflorum
winter jasmine



Bright yellow flowers cheer up the winter garden; use as an arching shrub or can be trained as a cascading vine; glossy, dark-green stems are revealed in winter.

Koelreuteria elegans subsp.
formosana
Formosan flame tree



Tropical-looking shade tree; has broad clusters of bright yellow flowers in fall, followed by coral-red seed pods; adaptable to various soils and watering schedules.

Leucophyllum frutescens
cenizo ("Texas ranger")



Striking silvery foliage; very heat and drought tolerant; requires little pruning as a shrub but can be successful as a hedge if sheared; attracts beneficial insects.

Leucophyllum langmaniae
'Lynn's Legacy'
Lynn's legacy leucophyllum



Showy, bright, lavender-violet flowers bloom through spring and summer; dense-growing, medium-sized shrub has fuzzy, light-green leaves all year; very adaptable plant that tolerates heat, wind, and alkaline soil.

Mandevilla laxa
Chilean jasmine



Attractive, twining vine; clusters of white, funnel-shaped flowers blossom in the summer with a delightful tropical fragrance; tolerant of both full sun and partial shade.

Muhlenbergia rigens
deergrass



California native plant; makes a low informal screen; needs almost no maintenance; remove old leaves at any time; adds texture and movement to the garden.

Neomarica caerulea
walking iris



Accent plant with arching, sword-like leaves; produces clusters of gorgeous, intricately-patterned, violet-blue flowers; blooms repeatedly in partial shade during the hottest part of the summer.

Nepeta x faassenii
hybrid catmint



Lavender-blue flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators; tough, low-growing plant has aromatic, gray-green foliage; tolerates different soil types.

Phlomis purpurea
pink phlomis



Showy, lavender-pink flowers bloom in summer, with scattered blossoms all year long; small shrub that is tolerant of heat and dry soils; velvety, yellow-green leaves stay on the plant all year.

Quercus lobata
valley oak



California native plant; provides shelter and food for many native insects and other animals; tolerates high heat, drought, and alkaline soil; provides refreshing summer shade; attracts beneficial insects and birds.

Rhodophiala bifida
red Argentine amaryllis



Showy, easy-to-grow bulb; dark red, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in late summer; heat and drought tolerant; attracts hummingbirds.

Ribes malvaceum
chaparral currant



California native plant; pale-pink winter flowers attract hummingbirds; drought tolerant with scented leaves.

Ribes viburnifolium
evergreen currant



California native plant; good shade-tolerant groundcover under native oaks and in other dry, shady areas; shiny and fragrant foliage looks attractive all year; attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects.

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Mozart'
Ed Carman's rosemary



Evergreen shrub with dark-green leaves that are rich in aromatic oils and prized for cooking; this variety has one of the darkest blue flowers of any rosemary; blooms from spring through summer and often again in fall; attracts beneficial insects.

Salvia apiana
California white sage



California native plant; spring flowers attract pollinating bees; leaves contain fragrant oils.

Salvia clevelandii
'Winnifred Gilman'
Winnifred Gilman Cleveland sage



California native plant; evergreen shrub produces maroon-stemmed, blue-violet flowers; heat and drought tolerant; attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Sedum palmeri
Palmer's sedum



Deep golden-yellow, star-shaped flowers in spring; drought and shade tolerant; low growing and can be used as a ground cover for small areas; prefers well-drained soils and containers.

Solidago californica
'Cascade Creek'
Cascade Creek California goldenrod



California native plant; bears bright yellow flowers in summer and fall that attract butterflies and beneficial insects; ideal for native grass meadow.

Sprekelia formosissima
Aztec lily



Dramatic, deep-red flowers attract hummingbirds in spring and summer; encourage blooming several times a year by withholding and then applying water; low maintenance.

Sternbergia lutea
yellow autumn crocus



Goblet-shaped yellow flowers blossom in early fall; lustrous, deep-green foliage emerges soon after bloom and lasts through the winter; does well in full sun and is extremely drought tolerant.

Teucrium chamaedrys 'Nanum'
dwarf germander



Low-growing groundcover with dark-pink flowers in early summer; one of the few groundcovers that does well in both full sun or part shade; good for planting under roses and other shrubs; attracts beneficial insects.

Teucrium fruticans
bush germander



Tough, drought-tolerant shrub with no disease problems; makes a low, informal hedge; silvery leaves and stems brighten sunny or shady gardens; attracts beneficial insects.
[More Details](#)

Viguiera parishii
desert goldeneye



California native plant; golden daisies blossom from early spring until mid-fall among triangular-shaped green leaves; tolerates full sun or part shade and is low maintenance.