

2024 Landscaping with Plants Adapted to your Environment

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What is Xeriscaping?

- Definition: “Dry”-scaping
- Planting native or drought-tolerant, non-invasive species to reduce water consumption, ease yard maintenance, and provide habitat for native pollinators and animals
- Making use of rainwater and other runoff to passively irrigate parts of your landscape




Best Practices for Xeriscaping



USE ROCKS OR CONCRETE TO DIVERT RAINWATER AND OTHER RUNOFF TOWARDS YOUR PLANTS

DIVIDE YOUR YARD INTO AN “OASIS”, A TRANSITION ZONE, AND A DESERT AREA

USE A POROUS, ORGANIC MULCH TO HOLD IN MOISTURE MORE EFFICIENTLY – AVOID PLASTIC AND ROCKS ON THE BED



PICK AN APPROPRIATE TURF – CONSIDER NATIVE GROUNDCOVER OR DROUGHT-TOLERANT GRASSES



PREPARE YOUR SOIL – TAKE A SOIL TEST TO DETERMINE WHAT AMENDMENTS YOU MAY NEED

Why Plant Drought-Tolerant Species?



WATER BILL REDUCTION

It is estimated that, in California, 30-60% of household water usage goes towards lawn upkeep



BETTER FOR THE AIR

Gas powered lawn equipment contributes up to 5% of national air pollution



BETTER FOR THE ANIMALS

Planting lawns and other nonnative plants takes habitat away from native animals



EASIER MAINTENANCE

A xeriscape yard requires less watering, no mowing, and often reseeds itself

Red Yucca

Scientific: *Hesperaloe parviflora* (native to Mexico and TX)

Perennial shrub with narrow, blue-grey leaves that can grow up to 2 ft in height and width

Can thrive in intense heat and full sun landscapes, but also tolerate partial shade

Flowers every fall to spring; blooms form on tall stalks and can range from vivid pink to vibrant red, depending on variety

Although it is commonly referred to as a yucca, it is not within the same genus

Bright flowers commonly attract hummingbirds and other pollinators



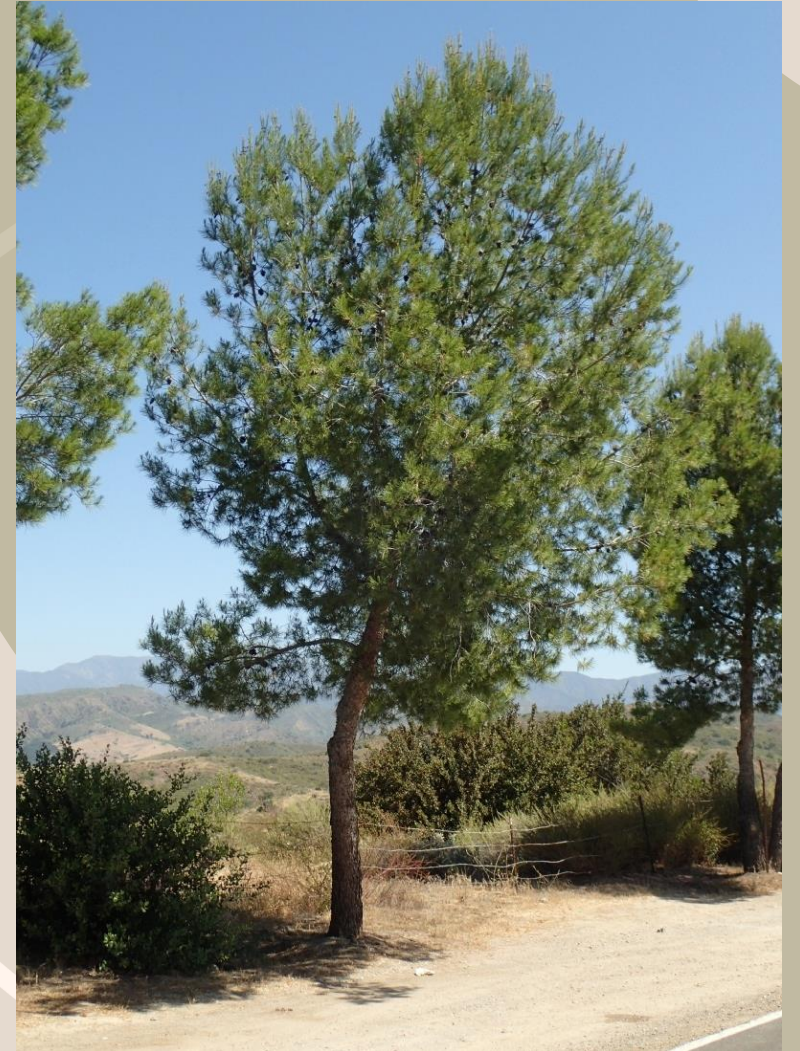
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Aleppo Pine

Scientific: *Pinus halepensis* (native to hotter Mediterranean region and coast)

-is found in a few areas of CA

extensively planted in gardens, parks, and private and agency landscapes in hot dry areas such as Southern California due to its considerable heat and drought tolerance, fast growth, and aesthetic qualities³⁴.



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CA Sagebrush

Scientific: *Artemisia californica*

Native to western CA, more coastal.

Aromatic fragrance, 3' to 4' feet tall but spreads up to 6' feet wide.

Good for dry, sunny, and sloped areas. tolerates nutrient-poor sandy soil, as long as it's well-draining.

Favorite of birds and insects



White Sage

Scientific: *Salvia apia*, native to southern, coastal CA

Typically smaller, perennial flowering shrubs with highly aromatic leaves

Abundance of sizes, Does best with full sun, but having partial afternoon shade can help give reprieve in the hot, summer months

Soil needs to be well-draining, as sage can easily rot

small white flowers are a favorite of carpenter bees, bumble bees, and hummingbirds



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Chaparral/Cleveland Sage

Scientific: *Salvia clevelandii* hybrid

Large, perennial sage native to the chaparral plant community of Southern California; this sage can easily reach 5 to 6 ft and requires ample room to grow

Does best when given partial shade during the hot, summer months

Leaves and flowers are very aromatic and attract plenty of pollinators

Can tolerate temperatures down to 10 degrees

Requires moderate irrigation during the summer



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Autumn Sage/purple mirage

Scientific: *Salvia greggii* var., native to Mexico and TX

Small, perennial sage that can grow up to 3 ft in height and width

Crossbred plant that produces beautiful, bright purple flowers every late spring through fall

Thrives in full sun with fast-draining soil, but can handle partial shade

Does not require frequent watering, but may need supplemental irrigation during the dry, hot summer months



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Common Yarrow

“Sonoma County or Sonoma Coast”

Scientific: *Achillea millefolium*, native to much of CA, but not Mojave Desert

Smaller, perennial that can reach up to 3ft (flower stalk height) and has low growing fern like leaves

Blooms spring to summer;
Partial sun, and needs some irrigation until it is well established

Flowers attract pollinators



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Desert Broom

Prostrate coyote bush, mulefat

Scientific: *Baccharis sp.*, native to CA

Large, evergreen shrub that can reach up to 12 ft tall; will drop leaves in the summer if drought stressed

Blooms late summer to fall, flowers are white or cream and seed out in “puff” balls

Requires well-drained soil, full sun, and some irrigation until it is well established; very drought tolerant

Great for privacy hedges, windbreaks, or erosion control

Attracts butterflies, birds and bees



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Penstemons-Showy and Firecracker

Scientific: *Penstemon spectabilis* and *Penstemon eatonii*

Perennial herb that can grow up to 2 ft in height and width

Can thrive in full sun landscapes, drought tolerant

blooms in spring/summer, vibrant red and vivid blue/purple

Bright flowers a favorite of all pollinators especially hummingbirds



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CA Poppy

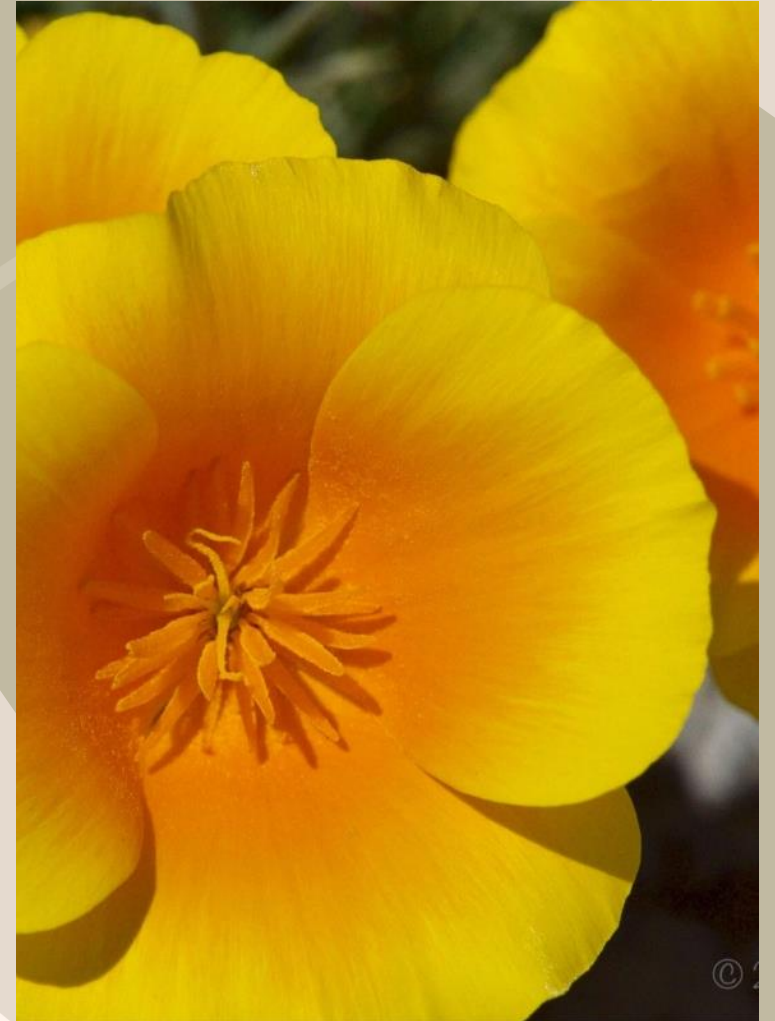
Scientific: *Eschscholzia californica* (native to CA and our S. Sierra Mtns.)

Annual (or perennial) wildflower with gorgeous golden flowers

Drought tolerant and Prefers partial shade

In S. Sierras, flowers in Spring but can flower much long if given the right resources.

Bright flowers



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Fourwing and Big Saltbush

Hoary saltbush, shadscale, chamise, saltsage

Scientific: *Atriplex canescens* and *A. lentiformis*, both native

Moderately-sized, perennial shrub, up to 8ft at maturity

Gray-green foliage with bright yellow “winged” flowers that bloom from the spring – summer

May be necessary to irrigate in harsh conditions, or during initial establishment

Young seedlings cannot tolerate excessive rabbit, insect (typically grasshoppers), or other small mammal damage and may require caging



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California Buckwheat

Scientific: *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (native to our area)

Perennial shrub that can reach up to 3ft in height

Blooms in the late summer; flowers are striking pinkish-white color, turning to red as they dry

Generally, pest and disease free, although susceptible to root rot if overwatered

Prefers full sun in well-draining soil (sandy to clay-loam); avoid summer water when established

Attracts a wonderful assortment of pollinators including various butterflies, bees, and moths



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Flannel Bush Hybrid

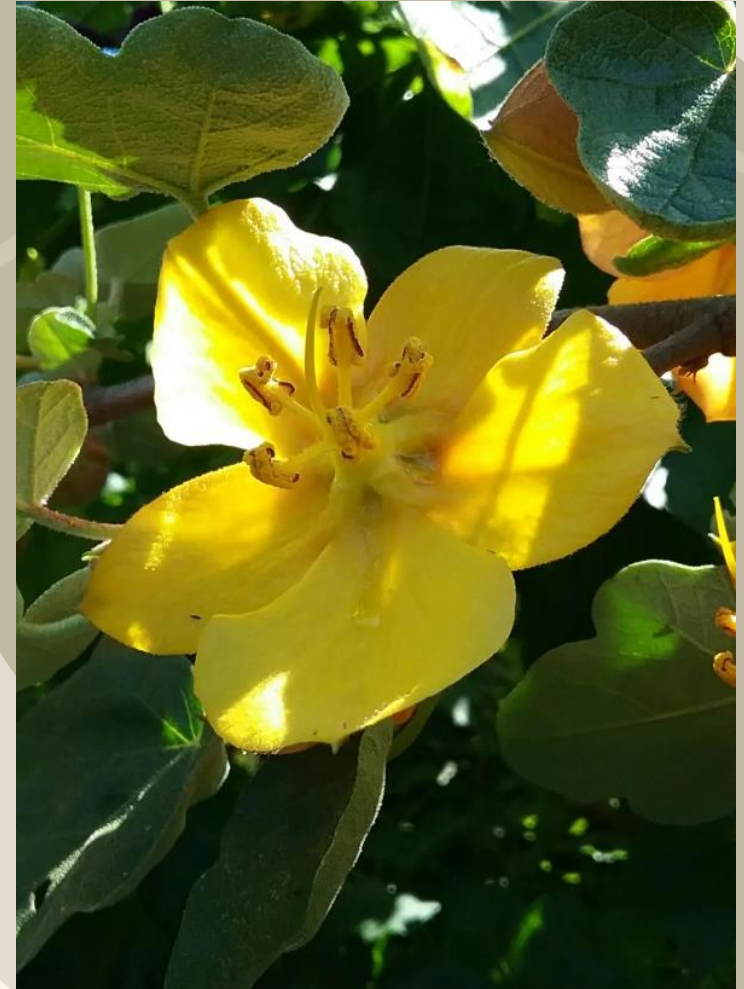
“Ken Taylor”

Scientific: *Fremontodendron* sp., native to CA

All the beauty of Flannel bush but a shorter, mounding form for more compact gardens

Grows up to five feet tall and spreads out to ten feet or more, although it can be pruned to control its spread.

Plant in fall so that it may establish well before the heat of summer.



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Desert Globe Mallow

Scientific: *Sphaeralcea ambigua*, native to our area

Perennial shrub, great addition to any garden

Blooms in spring; flowers are normally apricot to orange but can be pink and attract pollinators

Prefers full sun and tolerates alkaline soils, both sandy and clay



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Yellow Yarrow

Golden yarrow

Scientific: *Epiphyllum confertiflorum*, native to much of CA, including S. Sierras

Asteracea family, smaller plant but very showy flowers,

Flowers attract pollinators



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Helpful websites:

- Calscape.org (CA Native Plant Society)
- Calflora.org
- <https://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/>

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