These Nifty 50 plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes and, once established, drought-tolerant. In fact, these plants thrive in San Diego’s semi-arid climate and can help restore regional authenticity to your home. What’s exciting is that authentic also means sustainable. Plants native to Mediterranean climate zones love it here as much as you do. They adapted over thousands of years, and the animal species that depend on them for food and habitat adapted, too. In fact, there are thousands of ground covers, grasses, succulents, perennials, shrubs, vines and trees to choose from.

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Water Like a Pro
10 essential steps to saving water in the garden you have or in the new one you design.

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2. **Inspect Your System**
   Once a month, manually cycle through each irrigation zone. Check, adjust, or replace sprinkler heads and drip emitters that are missing, blocked, broken, or watering hardscape.

3. **Use a Landscape Watering Calculator**
   Use the city of San Diego’s Landscape Watering Calculator http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc/ to produce a watering schedule. The calculator is based on historical weather data for your zip code, along with the water requirements of the plants, the soil, and the sprinkler type in each of your irrigation zones. It’s free, easy to use, and works for any location in San Diego County.

4. **Hydrozone Properly**
   Have one water-use level per irrigation zone. Water-efficient plants react to overwatering and underwatering the same way – they lose their foliage and produce fewer flowers until all you see are branches. To avoid this, limit the plants within each irrigation zone to one water-use level.

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6. **Take Care of Your Trees**
   Water trees less frequently but for longer periods than shrubs and perennials. Give your trees their own irrigation zone, use drip irrigation and water each tree at the dripline – the outside edge of the tree’s canopy. As the tree grows, move irrigation outward to stay at the dripline.

7. **Baby Your New Plants**
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For more information, go to WaterSmartSD.org and check out our eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle, landscape classes, irrigation rebates, other programs and incentives.
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### Shrubs

1. **Manzanita**
   - *Arctostaphylos* species & hybrids, N
2. **California Lilac**
   - *Ceanothus* species and hybrids, N
3. **Western Redbud**
   - *Cercis occidentalis*, N
4. **Geraldton Waxflower**
   - *Chamaelaucium uncinatum*
5. **Rockrose**
   - *Cistus* species
6. **Ceanothus**
   - *Geovillia*
7. **Tayon**
   - *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, N
8. **Texas Ranger**
   - *Leucophyllum species*
9. **Oregon Grape**
   - *Mahonia aquifolium*, N
10. **Dwarf Myrtle**
    - *Myrtus communis* 'Compacta'
11. **Rosemary**
    - *Rosmarinus officinalis*
12. **Coast Rosemary**
    - *Westringia frutescens*
13. **Manzanita**
    - *Huntington Carpet Rosemary*
14. **California Lilac**
    - *Salvia clevelandii*, N
15. **Carmel Creeper**
    - *Dymondia margaretae*
16. **Oregon Grape**
    - *Encina californica*, N
17. **Lime Frost®**
    - *Penstemon heterophyllus*, N
18. **Hens-and-Chicks**
    - *Penstemon parryi*, N
19. **Japanese Winterberry**
    - *Penstemon spectabilis*, N

### Groundcover

22. **Casual Carpet**
   - *Dymondia margaretae* & *Trailing Lantana*
23. **Silver Carpet**
    - *Lampranthus species*
24. **Ice Plant**
    - *Lampranthus montevidensis*
25. **Trailing Lantana**
    - *Lantana* species
26. **ROSEMARY**
    - *Rosmarinus officinalis* ‘Huntington Carpet’
27. **Stonecrop**
    - *Sedum species and hybrids*
28. **Woolly Thyme**
    - *Thymus pseudolongifolius*
29. **New Zealand Cabbage**
    - *Carduus arenaria*
30. **Pink Muhly Grass**
    - *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
31. **Elijah Blue Fescue**
    - *Festuca glauca* x ‘Elijah Blue’
32. **New Zealand Flax**
    - *Phormium tenax* and some hybrids
33. **Kangaroo Paw**
    - *Anigozanthos species and hyrbdids*
34. **California Sunflower**
    - *Encina californica*
35. **Trailing African Daisy**
    - *Encina californica*
36. **Monkey Flower**
    - *Penstemon heterophyllus*, N
37. **Parry’s Beardtongue**
    - *Penstemon parryi*, N
38. **Dune Sage**
    - *Salvia chrysanthoides*
39. **Lawson’s Beach Sage**
    - *Salvia leucantha*, N
40. **Showy Penstemon**
    - *Salvia leucantha*, N
41. **Strawberry Tree**
    - *Arbutus ‘Marina’*
42. **Pride of Taiwan**
    - *Butia capitata*
43. **Christina™**
    - *Cistus laurifolius*, N
44. **Australian Willow**
    - *Geijera parviflora*
45. **Greens Myrtle**
    - *Lagunaria indica*
46. **Sweet Bay**
    - *Laurus nobilis*
47. **Pink Salmonberry**
    - *Thymus pseudolongifolius*‘Swan Hill’
48. **Swart Mountain Palo Verde**
    - *Parkinsonia sp.*
49. **Chinese Pistache**
    - *Pistacia chinensis*
50. **Great Live Oak**
    - *Quercus agrifolia*, N

*Includes Ornamental Grasses & Grass-like Plants*
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**WaterSmart Landscapes**

Plants for WaterSmart Landscapes

Many of the plants in this guide are labeled and on display at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas and the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon. These gardens are excellent places to get ideas for a new or retrofitted landscape that looks beautiful and saves water.

San Diego County Water Authority

and its 24 member agencies

WaterSmartLandscapes.org

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