

The Happy 100 Plant List ~ Brought to you by San Diego County Water Authority

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|-------------------|------------------|
| Plant Type | |
| G = Groundcover | |
| S = Succulent | Appx Size |
| SP =Small Plant | Up to 3' |
| MP =Medium Plant | 3' to 6' |
| LP =Large Plant | 6' to 15' |
| V = Vine | |
| T = Tree | |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| * Sturdy 30 = Stronger, durable plant | SDCWA.org/Conservation |
| N = California Native Plant | Contact: Debby Dunn, SDCWA |
| Sun/Shade | Ddunn@SDCWA.org |
| 1. Full sun | |
| Water = Low & Very Low | |
| 2. Sun/part shade | |
| 3. Shade | |

| Common Name | Botanical Name | Water Needs | Sun / Shade | CA Native | Plant Type | Appx Size | Bloom Color | Bloom Season | Pruning & Maintenance Instructions | Plant Details (Inc. Pollinators) | Sturdy 30 |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---|--|-----------|
| Aeonium | <i>Aeonium</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | | Su | 1-3' h x 1-3' w | Yellow | Winter-Spring | Remove entire stalk after rosette finishes bloom. If stems get too leggy, cut off rosette plus 3-6" of stem and stick back into the ground to root. | Rosettes of leaves. Grows as individual plants and as clusters. Rosettes flower, die, and create new pups. A. 'Sunburst' (variegated green, pink, cream), 'Garnet' and 'Zwarkopf' (red/burgundy), 'Kiwi' (variegated, shrub form). Attracts bees. | |
| Arabian lilac | <i>Vitex trifolia</i> 'Purpurea' | L | 1 | | L | 5-10' h x 10-15' w | Purple | Summer-Fall | Shape when young to either large multi trunk shrub or small tree. Remove dead or damaged branches as needed. Prune in winter. | Evergreen shrub grown for colored foliage, not flowers. Leaves are green on top and curl highlighting their purple underside. Large shrub good for slope, screen or hedge. Flowers attract butterflies and bees. | |
| Baja fairy duster | <i>Calliandra californica</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 3-5' h x 3-5' w | Red | Year-round | Easy, keep its natural loose form. If pruning is needed, trim back by 30% in spring only. | Evergreen shrub with feathery green foliage and tufts of red flowers. Likes well-draining soil. Grow as a background shrub or screen. Combines well with succulents. Attracts birds, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. | * |
| Bee's bliss sage | <i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss' | L | 1 | N | S | 2' h x 6-8' w | Lavender | Spring | Remove spent flower stalks after seeds fall. Remove dead or damaged branches. Cut back annually to refresh-no more than 25%-do not cut into wood. | Evergreen shrub with fragrant gray-green leaves. Tolerates most soils. Plant in sun at the coast, sun/light shade inland. Alternate is <i>S. leucophylla</i> 'Point Sal'. Attracts hummingbirds, birds, bees, and butterflies. | * |
| Bladderpod | <i>Peritoma arborea</i> (Isomeris arborea) | VL, L | 1 & 2 | N | M | 3-6' h x 6' w | Yellow | Year-round | Remove dead or damaged branches. Can cut to the ground to refresh if plant becomes too leggy. | Native shrub with narrow blue green leaves, and sprays of yellow flowers most the year. Aromatic, easy to grow in well-draining soils. Tolerates wind, salt spray, cold. Little to no irrigation once established. Good for slopes. Attracts bees, birds, and butterflies. | |
| Blue chalk sticks | <i>Senecio mandraliscae</i> | L | 1, 2 & 3 | | Gr | 1-2' h x 2-3' w | White | Winter | Remove dead flower stalks after blooming. Trim, don't hedge, areas that grow past | A succulent that forms a spreading ground cover. Upward-pointing, fleshy, finger-like leaves are waxy blue-gray. Off-white disk flowers bloom in winter. Several types of Senecio. Attracts bees and butterflies. | * |
| Blue flax lily | <i>Dianella caerulea</i> Cassa Blue | L | 1 & 2 | | S | 1-2' h x 1-2' w | Blue | Spring-Summer | Clean out dead leaves and spent flower stalks. Do not hedge the plant. | Foliage plant with iris-like leaves, tiny blue flowers, and shiny, purple berries. Some species spread wide and some clump. Good for texture, or accent or understory plant. Clarity Blue (blue leaves), King Alfred (green leaves) and others. Attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| Blue Gem coast rosemary | <i>Westringia</i> 'Blue Gem' | L | 1 & 2 | | M | 4-6' h x 3-4' w | Blue | Year-round | Remove any dead or diseased branches. Cut branches back by 30% in winter if plant becomes leggy or sparse. | Evergreen, upright rounded mounding shrub. Tiny, olive-green needles. Excellent screen and background. Requires virtually no maintenance. Leave unpruned for a natural shape, ongoing flowers, and longer-lived plant. Attracts bees. | * |
| Blue grama grass | <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> | VL | 1 | N | Gr | 6-12" h x 2' w | Yellow | Summer | Can be mowed 2-3x/year, best done when grass is dormant in winter. | Native grass with flag-like pale yellow flower heads. Mow for a turf alternative or natural for meadow. Attracts butterflies, moths, caterpillars. | |

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| Bougainvillea | <i>Bougainvillea</i> many kinds | L | 1 | | V | 10-30' h x w | Many colors | Warm months | Blooms develop at tips of stems so limit pruning. Do not hedge or shear. Remove dead undergrowth anytime. Remove frost damage after last frost. | Many varieties, different colors, some with variegated leaves. Vine whose branches can be trained upright with strong trellis. Very thorny. Attracts bees, butterflies, night moths, and hummingbirds. | ★ |
| Bush germander | <i>Teucrium fruticans</i> | L | 1 | | M | 4-8' h x 4-10' w | Lavender | Winter-Spring | Remove dead stems after flowering by 30% if plants becomes leggy. Always cut back to a node. | Evergreen shrub with silver leaves. Easy to grow and maintain. Tolerates heat, drought, wind, and salt spray. Grow as a hedge or background plant. 'Azureum' (smaller variety). Attracts bees. | ★ |
| California gray rush | <i>Juncus patens</i> , different kinds | L | 1 & 2 | N | S | 1-3' h x 3' w | Red-brown | Year-round | No mowing or trimming. Cut to ground in late winter if foliage looks shabby. | Evergreen looking grass. Tolerates dry conditions. Good in rock gardens. Does well in clay and marshy areas, excellent for bioswales, tolerates. Minimal summer watering. Attracts butterflies. | |
| Cane's Hybrid bottlebrush | <i>Callistemon</i> 'Cane's Hybrid' | L | 1 | | T | 15 - 25' h x 15 - 20' w | Cream to pink | Spring-Summer | Prune initially to shape if needed. Once established, only prune to remove dead, damaged, crossing, or rubbing branches. | Lovely evergreen tree with fine green foliage and pink/cream ombre bottle brush flowers. Periodic heavy leaf and flower litter so plant accordingly. Easy to grow, little to no maintenance. Attracts bees. | |
| Catalina cherry | <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> subsp. <i>lyonii</i> | L | 1 & 2 | N | T | 25-40' h x 20' w | Cream | Spring | Remove dead or damaged branches. If used as a screen, prune to shape as needed | Fast growing evergreen shrub, can be used as an informal screen. Red "cherries" can stain hardscape. Attracts bees, and butterflies. Winter berries attract birds. | ★ |
| Chaparral mallow | <i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 5-15' h x 10' w | Pink | Spring-Summer | Selectively remove branches to shape if desired. Remove dead branches. | Evergreen shrub with lanky branches covered in fuzzy silver/green leaves. Best in a habitat garden or informal landscape. Fast growing, good for erosion control. No water once established. Profuse bloomer. Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and small birds. | |
| Chaparral yucca, Our Lords Candle | <i>Yucca whipplei</i> (<i>Hesperoyucca whipplei</i>) | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 2-3' h x 3-4' w | Cream | Spring | Groom to remove dead blades. | Short trunk topped in a rosette of stiff, gray-green blades with sharp points. 15' tall fragrant flowers after 5 - 10 years.' Beautiful accent plant for a dry garden. Tolerates most soils. Attract birds, bees and moths. | |
| Chitalpa | <i>x Chitalpa tashkentensis</i> | L | 1 | | T | 20-30' h x 30' w | Pink | Spring-Fall | Remove dead or damaged branches as needed. Shape when young to either a single trunk tree with rounded canopy or multi trunk tree with broad canopy. Prune in winter. | Fast growing deciduous tree with clusters of large, gorgeous flowers. Can be a shade tree or multi-trunk for broader effect. Tolerates most soils. Options inc: 'Pink Dawn' and 'Morning Cloud' (different flowers). Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. | ★ |
| Cleveland sage | <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 4-6' h x 4-6' w | Purple | Spring-Summer | Cut back branches annually in winter by half, leaving at least two or three green nodes on the plant. Never cut into the wood. | Evergreen shrub with soft green/gray to silvery fragrant foliage. Prune right for strong spring bloom. Alternative 'Winnifred Gilman' and 'Munz's Sage' are smaller. Flowers and seeds attract birds, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. | ★ |
| Clustered field sedge, California field sedge | <i>Carex praegracilis</i> | L | 1 & 2 | N | Gr | 10-14" h & spreading | Insignificant | Spring-Summer | Mow if desired for a manicured "lawn." Cut back once a year to refresh if desired. | Evergreen, grass-like perennial. Turf alternative if mowed, flowing meadow when not mowed. Works in bioswales. Tolerates some foot traffic. May go semi-dormant in winter (golden) but greens up in spring/warmth. <i>Carex pansa</i> is similar but shorter. Spreads by rhizomes. allow 6" deep edging. Attracts butterflies and moths. | |
| Coast sunflower | <i>Encelia californica</i> | L, VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 2-4' h x 2-3' w | Yellow | Spring-Summer | Optional: Remove spent flowers. Prune to shape one or two times a year. | Evergreen rounded medium sized shrub. Short lived but politely reseeds and replaces itself. Naturalizes readily. Yellow daisy-like flowers. Do not overwater. <i>Encelia farinosa</i> (desert <i>Encelia</i>) better for inland areas. Good for slopes. Attracts bees and other pollinators. | |
| Concha ceanothus | <i>Ceanothus</i> 'Concha' | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 6-8' h x 6-12' w | Dark Blue | Spring | If pruning is required, only remove stems narrower than a pencil thickness. Remove dead or damaged branches. Will not recover from hard pruning. | Evergreen shrub with broad, deep green leaves and clusters of tiny blue flowers. Tolerates garden conditions better than most <i>Ceanothus</i> . Fast growing. Uses: back border, natural screen, barrier, & stabilize slopes. 'Dark Star' is 4-6' h x w with narrow leaves. Attracts bees, butterflies and birds. | |

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| Conebush | <i>Leucadendron</i> , many kinds | L | 1 | | M | 3-12' h x 3-5' w | Many colors | Spring-Winter | After plants are established, cut back by 1/3 after bloom to encourage side branching. No amendments or fertilizers. arrangements. | Evergreen shrubs with spoon-shaped, leathery foliage. Comes in many colors, some striped. Plants can grow narrow and tall, with a "cone" flower tip. Cut stems for flower arrangements. Well-draining soils, full sun. Attracts beetles. | |
| Creeping rosemary | <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus' (<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>) | L | 1 | | S | 1-3' h x 4-8' w | Blue | Fall-Spring | Clip branch tips to harvest. Remove dead or damaged branches. | Dense, aromatic evergreen shrub with narrow, deep green leaves. Grows low and wide, sometimes mounding. Good groundcover, on slopes, cascade over a wall, or in a container. Culinary. Thrives in well-draining soil. Attracts bees and butterflies. | * |
| Crimson bottle brush, lemon bottle brush | <i>Callistemon citrinus</i> (<i>Melaleuca citrina</i>) | L | 1 | | L | 15-25' h x 15-20' w | Red | Year-round | Prune if needed to create initial shape. After that, prune to remove suckers, damaged, or dead branches. | Weeping evergreen tree with narrow green leaves, red "bottle brush" blooms throughout the year. Use as a specimen or tall screen. 'Slim' is a narrow, good for side hedge. Attracts birds, bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. | |
| Deer grass | <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> | L | 1 | N | Gr | 3-5' h x w | Cream | Spring-Summer | Annual refresh in early Spring a few weeks after blooms fade. | Evergreen bunchgrass with narrow green blades and long, graceful flower stalks. Good garden texture and movement. Fast growing. Stabilizes banks and controls erosion. Attracts birds and butterflies | * |
| Desert globemallow | <i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 2-5' h x 2-4' w | Orange or pink | Fall-Spring | Cut stems back by 30 to 50% once flowers finish. Wait until after wildlife have eaten seeds and residual seeds fall. | Evergreen native with upright stems. Can work in an unirrigated garden. Tall flower stalks from fall to spring. Short lived but gently reseeds. Great pollinator that attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| Desert Museum palo verde | <i>Parkinsonia</i> x 'Desert Museum' | VL | 1 | N | T | 15-20' h x 15-25' w | Yellow | Spring, Summer | Prune young plant to establish standard or multi-trunk shape. Shape periodically. Remove suckers, dead, damaged, crossing, or rubbing branches. | Green bark. Tiny leaves provide mild shade for understory plants. Plant 4+ miles from coast to avoid mildew. Mildly winter deciduous. Fast growing. Multi-trunk structure is most attractive. Thornless. Prolific flowers attracts bees. | |
| Desert willow | <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> , many varieties | L | 1 | N | T | 10-20' h x w | Pink, purple or white | Spring-Summer | Remove dead or damaged branches. Natural shape is large weeping shrub or when young shape into a small, single trunk tree. Prune when dormant in winter. | Small tree or large deciduous shrub. Slow grower with little water. Large, fragrant flowers in patterned shades of pink/magenta/white that vary by selection. Blooms in heat. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. | |
| Dwarf carpet of stars | <i>Ruschia lineolata</i> 'Nana' | L | 1 & 2 | | GC | 2" h x 1-2' w | White | Spring-Fall | Edge to contain spreading of the plant. | Tiny green evergreen with succulent leaves on spreading branches create a broad, dense mat. Tolerates light foot traffic. Straight species <i>R. lineolata</i> grows 6" tall. Attracts bees. | |
| Dwarf coyote brush | <i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point' | L | 1 | N | S | 1-3' h x 6-8' w | White | Summer-Fall | Can cut back hard after 10 years to refresh. | Great groundcover for all situations. Excellent for slope stabilization. Tolerates clay soil. 'Twin Peaks' (another good selection). Attracts birds, wasps and butterflies. | * |
| Dwarf mat rush | <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> 'Breeze' | L | 1 & 2 | | Gr | 2-3' h x 2-4' w | Yellow | Summer | Do not cut back. Comb out dead foliage. | Evergreen mounding grass-like perennial Good for borders, slopes, negative green space. Prefers good drainage. Additional varieties include variegated 'Platinum Beauty' and compact 'Shorty'. | |
| Emu bush | <i>Eremophila glabra</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | M | 2'-6- h x 6'-12' w | Yellow | Fall-Spring | Occasionally prune to remove dead or damaged undergrowth that develops over time. | Dense evergreen mounding shrub with soft silver-green foliage. <i>E. glabra</i> is best, other species are unreliable. Covered in flowers that attract hummingbirds. | |
| Engelmann oak | <i>Quercus engelmannii</i> | VL | 1 | N | T | 30-60' h x 70' w | Cream | Winter-Spring | Remove any dead, rubbing, or damaged branches. | Moderate growing evergreen with a very broad and rounded canopy. Spectacular specimen, only for very large spaces. Other large oaks: Live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>) & Valley oak (<i>Quercus tomentella</i>). Attracts insect, birds, and butterflies. | |

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| Eve Case coffeeberry | <i>Frangula californica</i> 'Eve Case' | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 4-6' h x 6-10' w | Insignificant | Spring | No pruning needed. Remove dead or damaged branches. Can be shaped if necessary. | Evergreen shrub makes good informal hedge and stabilizes banks. Part shade inland & full sun coastal. Slow grower with small spring flowers that turn to red berries in winter. Attracts birds, butterflies, and bees. | |
| Foxtail agave | <i>Agave attenuata</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | | Su | 3-6' h x 4-8' w | Yellow | Year-round | Remove dried blades. Remove mother plant after bloom and plant declines. Leave pups behind. | Green succulent rosettes form mounding colonies. Smooth green blades, no sharp edges. Mother plant dies after flowering (takes years to flower) leaving behind pups. Easy to maintain. 'Ray of Light' (variegated), 'Nova' (blue/green & single rosette). Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Frosty blue ceanothus | <i>Ceanothus</i> 'Frosty Blue' | VL | 1 & 2 | N | L | 8-10' h x 10'-12' w | Blue | Spring-Summer | If pruning is required, only remove stems narrower than a pencil thickness. Remove dead or damaged branches. Will not recover from hard pruning. | Evergreen shrub with small deep green leaves. Tolerant of most garden conditions. Fast growing for border/screen and stabilizing slopes. C. 'Ray Hartman' (15' h x w). Attracts bees, butterflies, and birds. | |
| Gray lavender cotton | <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> | L | 1 | | S | 1-2' h x 3-4' w | Yellow | Spring-Summer | Remove spent flowers to encourage new blooms. Cut back every 1-2 years to stop from getting leggy. | Low mounds of dense, gray foliage topped in bright yellow flowers. Fragrant. Uses: border edges, foliage tapestry. <i>Santolina rosmarinifolia</i> (green foliage). Attracts birds and butterflies. | |
| Green carpet natal plum | <i>Carissa macrocarpa</i> 'Green Carpet' | L | 1 | | S | 1-2' h x 4-5' w | White | Spring-Fall | Remove dead or damaged branches as needed in late winter. | Evergreen, low growing shrub with deep green glossy leaves and lightly fragrant white flowers. Use for mass planting, groundcover or in parkway. May have thorns. Small, red, plum-like edible fruits in fall. Attracts bees and butterflies. | * |
| Grey desert spoon, Sotol | <i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i> | L, VL | 1 & 2 | | M | 4-6' h x 4-6' w | Cream | Spring-Summer | Remove any dead leaves that pull away easily. | Low maintenance plant with toothed, gray/green sword-shaped blades in a rosette on a short trunk. Slow-growing. Mature plants give 10'-15' flower stalk. Use for accent, texture, specimen. <i>Dasyllirion longissimum</i> (Mexican grass tree). Attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| Heavenly bamboo | <i>Nandina domestica</i> and cvs. | L | 1 & 2 | | M | 4-6' h x 2'-4' w | White | Spring | No pruning. Sprouts from the base. Will not get thicker with shearing. | Tough and low maintenance. White flower in Spring and red berries in Fall. Dwarf <i>Nandina</i> (3' h x 2' w), <i>Firepower</i> (brilliant fall color). Attracts bees and butterflies. | * |
| Hens-and-chicks | <i>Echeveria</i> , different kinds | VL | 1 & 2 | | Su | 1' h x 1' w | Pink or orange | Depends on species | Pull dead leaves off the outside of rosettes. | Rosette forming succulents that pup over time to make colonies. More than 150 species in different leaf colors and sizes. Stalks of tiny pink, coral, and yellow flowers. Easy to grow and easy to propagate. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. | |
| Indian hawthorne | <i>Raphiolepis indica</i> , different varieties | L | 1 & 2 | | M | 4-12' h x 4-10' w | Pink | Spring | Prune to remove dead or damaged branches. If used as a hedge, avoid shearing to allow for bloom. Prune to shape after berries finish. | Good evergreen background, hedge and for mass planting. Durable. 'Springtime' (smaller variety), 'Majestic Beauty' (larger variety), 'Clara' (smaller, white flower). Berries in fall. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Island snapdragon | <i>Gambelia speciosa</i> (<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>) | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 3-5' h x 4-5' w | Red | Winter-Spring | Cut back branches by no more than 30%, only if needed, after bloom finishes. | Evergreen mounding shrub with soft green foliage and tubular red flowers. Can cut to the ground to refresh/control size. Good for rocky slopes. Minimal summer water. Attracts hummingbirds, birds and butterflies. | |
| Jade plant, many kinds | <i>Crassula</i> , many kinds | VL | 1,2 & 3 | | Su | Varies with species | Many colors | Depends on species | Remove dried out leaves and broken branches as necessary. | Tough plant for landscape or pots. Size varies from inches to a few feet tall. Thick, juicy leaves are green to gold to purple. <i>Crassula ovata</i> 'Gollum' (tubular leaves with red edges), <i>Crassula multicava</i> (groundcover w. purple blades & pink flowers). | * |
| Jerusalem sage | <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> | L | 1 | | M | 3-4' h x 4-5' w | Yellow | Spring-Summer | Once the plant reaches full size, cut back by 1/3 every year, after flowering finishes. | Fuzzy-leaved evergreen perennials with green/silver foliage. Long stalks of fragrant yellow flowers. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | |

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| John Dourley manzanita | <i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'John Dourley' | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 2-4' h x 5-6' w | Pink | Winter - Spring | Prune only after third year and only if necessary. Disinfect tools between cuts. Less is more. | Good understory evergreen shrub for beneath mature trees. Red/bronze new growth. Red berries. Good for slopes. Prefers well-draining soil. Only occasional summer water, or can be fussy. Attracts hummingbirds and birds. | |
| Kurapia® | <i>Lippia nodiflora</i> 'Campagna Verde' | L | 1 & 2 | | GC | 2" h x spreads | Pink or white | Spring-Summer | Trim the edges so plant does not spread too wide. | Low growing, green lawn replacement. Tolerates foot traffic but is not a play surface. Trim to stop spreading into other plants or plant in a space surrounded by concrete to control. Roots grow 5-10' deep. Tiny flowers attract bees. | |
| Lantana hybrids | Hybrid lantanas | L | 1&2 | | S | 3'-5' h & w | Many colors | Summer | Hard prune in the fall. Cut back cold burn after wintertime. Fast grower will come back in Spring. Do not "poodle puff"/round ball cut. | Various varieties including trailing (low growing) and clumping (larger). Can grow very large if not maintained. Fast grower with abundant flowers over a long bloom season. Many flower colors. Best in full sun. Attracts bees, moths and butterflies. | * |
| Lavender | <i>Lavandula</i> , many kinds | L | 1 | | S | 2-3' h x 2-4' w | Purple | Spring-Summer | Cut back by 1/3 after blooming starting in first year. Do not cut into hard wood or it will not regrow. Remove dead undergrowth. | Different varieties have different leaf and flower colors. Highly fragrant foliage and flowers. Lavandula stoechas/Spanish lavender (most reliable), L. 'Meerlo' (variegated), Goodwin Creek (best flower stalks). Plant in well-draining soil. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Lemonade berry | <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> | VL | 1, 2 & 3 | N | L | 6-20' h x 10-15' w | Pink | Spring | Remove any dead or damaged branches. | Tough evergreen shrub with deep green, leathery leaves. Plants grow shorter and wider near the coast, taller inland. Use for informal screen, hedge or to stabilize slopes. Sap may cause skin irritation. Edible fruit. Attracts birds, caterpillars and butterflies. | |
| Lilac vine | <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | V | 12-16' h x w | Purple | Winter-Spring | Prune right after bloom ends. If you miss that window, wait until the next year. Hard prune old vines to reinvigorate growth. | Evergreen vine with deep green leaves. Good for fences, trellises and rambling for slopes. Long clusters of tiny, pea-like flowers. 'Happy Wanderer' (purple variety). <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> 'Alba' (white bloom). Attracts bees. | |
| Lion's tail | <i>Leonotis leonurus</i> | L | 1 | | M | 5-6' h x 4-5' w | Orange | Summer-Fall | Deadhead to promote more flowering, Cut back annually by 1/3 - 1/2 to make more dense. | Evergreen perennial with eye-catching blooms. Hard cut back in late winter. Attracts bees, birds, and hummingbirds. | |
| Little John bottle brush | <i>Callistemon citrinus</i> 'Little John' | L | 1 | | M | 3-6' h x 5' w | Red | Year-round | Remove dead or damaged branches as needed. Little to no maintenance. | Fuzzy green leaves with red "bottle brush" blooms throughout the year. Mass plant for a low, natural border, background, or screen. Attracts birds, bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. | * |
| Long John grevillea | <i>Grevillea</i> 'Long John' | L | 1 | | L | 10-15' h x 12-15' w | Red | Year-round, heaviest Fall & Spring | When young, shape natural or to tree form. Prune to remove dead, damaged, or wayward branches. Optional remove spent flowers. No fertilizers. | Tree or large evergreen shrub with long, narrow green "needles." Fast growing in well-draining soils. Large flower clusters good for cut flowers. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Manzanita Howard McMinn | <i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'Howard McMinn' | | 1 & 2 | N | L | 6-8' h x 8-12' w | Pink | Winter - Spring | Prune only after third year and only if necessary. Disinfect tools between cuts. Less is more. | Bright green foliage, red bark on twisting branches. Can handle year-round irrigation. Prefers well-draining soil but tolerates clay. Grow as an informal hedge, screen, background. A. pajaroensis 'Paradise' (smaller alternative). Attracts birds, bees, moths, and hummingbirds. | |
| Manzanita Little Sur | <i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> | | 1 & 2 | N | S | 6"-4' h x 3-12' w | Pink | Winter - Spring | Prune only after third year and only if necessary. Disinfect tools between cuts. Less is more. | Slow growing, low growing, mounding groundcover. Prefers part-shade inland. Best in well-draining soils. Tolerates clay if not overwatered. Attracts birds, bees, and hummingbirds. | |

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| Marina strawberry tree | <i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i> | L | 1 | | T | 25 - 30' h x 25 - 30' s | Pink | Spring | Prune young plant to establish standard or multi-trunk shape. Shape periodically to maintain shape. Remove dead, damaged, crossing, or rubbing branches. | Rounded canopy, leathery green, leaves, shreddy, red/cinnamon colored bark. Best as a multi-trunk tree. Urn-shaped flowers become marble-sized edible red fruits. Fruits can be messy. Use as background, screen, or shade plant. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies. | ★ |
| Mexican bush sage | <i>Salvia leucantha</i> | L | 1 | | M | 3-4' h x 3-5' w | Purple | Spring-Fall | Deadhead after bloom finishes. Refresh plant by cutting all stems to the ground after flowers finish. Annual cut back to refresh. | Quick growing spreading shrub, grows larger with more water. Long wands of purple flowers. Hard cutback to refresh. Can also divide roots to refresh plants. Some selections stay compact or flower in all purple, pink, or white. Flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. | ★ |
| Mexican flame vine | <i>Senecio confusus (Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides)</i> | L | 1 | | V | 6-12' h x 3-6' w | Orange | Year-round | Train branches to a trellis or support. Remove dead branches. Deadhead to encourage more blooms. | Attractive, easy-to-manage evergreen vine grows best on trellis, walls, arbors. Prolific and striking flowers attract bees, and butterflies. | |
| Mission Manzanita | <i>Xylococcus bicolor</i> | L, VL | 1 & 2 | N | L | 8' h x 6' w | White to pink | Winter-Spring | Prune away dead or damaged branches only when necessary. Best left to natural shape. | Slow-growing evergreen shrub, but may lose leaves briefly in summer. Ideal for north-facing slopes, good for erosion control. Water carefully. Can select single trunk or multitrunk. Red-gray bark. Urn-shaped flowers develop into red glossy berries. Attracts birds and hummingbirds. | |
| Moonlight grevillea | <i>Grevillea 'Moonlight'</i> | L | 1 | | L | 8-12' h x 8-10' w | Cream | Year-round | When young, shape natural or shape to tree form. Prune to remove dead, damaged, or wayward branches. Optional to remove spent flowers. No fertilization. | Large evergreen shrub. Fast growing in well-draining soils. Good for cut flowers, and foliage. Large glowing flower clusters attract hummingbirds, and bees. | |
| Mountain marigold | <i>Tagetes lemmonii</i> | L | 1 | | M | 3-5' h x 4-8' w | Yellow | Year-round, peaks in Fall | Pinch back growing tips early in the season to promote lateral growth. Cut back branches by 1/3 after flowering finishes. Always cut back to a node. | Tall perennial marigold has feathery green foliage with a citrusy fragrance. Bright colored marigold-like flowers. Excellent mid-border plant to add color to the garden. Tolerates many soils, and beach side conditions. Attracts butterflies, and bees. | |
| Mundi coast rosemary | <i>Westringia fruticosa 'Mundi'</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | S | 1-2' h x 4-6' w | White | Year-round, peaks in Spring | Remove any dead, stray, or diseased branches. Cut branches back by 30% in winter if plant becomes leggy or sparse. | Evergreen groundcover, narrow green leaves contrast with bright white flowers. Easy growing, tolerates most soils. Mass plant in garden beds as edging, between stones, as slope understory, parking strips. Visited by bumble bees. | ★ |
| Natal plum | <i>Carissa macrocarpa (Carissa grandiflora)</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | M | 5-8' h x 5-8' w | White | Year-round | Prune if necessary to manage size, remove dead or damaged branches. Tolerates hedging. | Evergreen dense shrub with glossy green leaves. Most varieties have thorns which can make a good barrier hedge. Sun gives flowers. Red, edible fruit in summer. Likes well-draining soil. 'Boxwood Beauty' (thornless groundcover), 'Nana' (dwarf thornless), 'Thompson' (mid-size thornless). Attracts bees and butterflies. | ★ |
| Neon pink bottle pop bottlebrush | Callistemon x 'Neon Pink' | L | Sun | | L | 10'-12' h x 8'-10' w | Neon Pink | Spring-Summer | Only prune to create an initial shape, then to remove suckers and dead branches. | Evergreen, upright shrub; 'Jeffersii' / Pink Dwarf Lemon Bottlebrush (4'-6' h x 3'-4' w). Low maintenance. Attracts bees and birds. | |
| Nuttall's scrub oak | <i>Quercus dumosa</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | N | T | 3-10' h x 8-10' w | Cream | Spring | Remove any dead, rubbing, or damaged branches. | Easy, tough, small tree. Grows better near the coast. Evergreen, Good for erosion control. Attracts bees, birds, and butterflies. | |
| Orange stonecrop | <i>Sedum nussbaumerianum</i> | L | 1 | | Su | 9" h x 2-3' w | White | Winter, Spring | Remove dried out leaves as necessary. | Low mounds of tiny, bright orange, succulent leaves. Grown for foliage. Use as border edging. Attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| Palmer's abutilon, Indian mallow | <i>Abutilon palmeri</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | N | M | 4-5' h x 4-6' w | Gold | Spring | Annual refresh. Can cut back by 30% right after bloom finishes. | Evergreen shrub with soft, felty green leaves and gold, cupped flowers. Full sun near coast, part shade inland. Attracts beetles and butterflies. | |

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| Peruvian lily | <i>Alstroemeria, many cultivars</i> | L | 1 | | S | 1-3' h x 3-5' w | Many colors | Spring-Fall | To encourage ongoing flowering, yank (do not cut) flower stems as flowers begin to fade and to remove all dead flower stalks. | Upright perennial that spreads by rhizomes to form broad mats. Profuse and gorgeous bloomer. Plant for perennial gardens, cut flower gardens. Attracts bumble bees and hummingbirds. | |
| Pig's ear, Flap greens | <i>Cotyledon macrantha</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | Su | 2-3' h x 2-3' w | Coral pink | Winter-Spring | Remove any dry or dead leaves. | Evergreen succulent groundcover. Green leaves with red edges in winter. Tall stalk produces tubular pink flowers. Full sun at the coast, midday shade inland. Attracts bees, birds and hummingbirds. | |
| Pink Melaleuca | <i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> | L | 1 | | L | 10-20' h x 8-12' w | Pink | Spring-Summer | Trim dead and damaged portions. Can cut back up to 1/3 of its height and girth after flowering. | Large shrub or small tree depending on pruning. Pink puffy ball flowers. Moderately fast grower. Bark is twisted and peels off in broad strips. Attracts bees and birds. | |
| Pink muhly grass | <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | Gr | 2-3' h x w | Pink | Summer-Fall | Leave foliage to enjoy for winter texture, then cut back in early spring OR cut back in early winter, right after flowers finish . | Grass with airy clouds of pink flowers top narrow green blades. Stabilize banks, control erosion. Adds movement to the garden. Reseeds somewhat but not problematic. Do not overwater. 'Regal Mist' (pink bloom), 'White Cloud' (white bloom). Attracts birds. | |
| Red bird of paradise | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> | VL | 1 | | M | 5-10' h x 5-10' w | Orange and Red | Spring-Fall | Cut back in late fall to remove spent flower stalks and reduce woodiness. Annual trim to encourage next year's blooms. | Semi-evergreen shrub or small tree, prefers inland heat and loses its leaves briefly in winter. Bright, colorful flowers. <i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i> (yellow flower, 10' h) , <i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i> (yellow flower, 15' h). Attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| Red buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum grande var. rubescens</i> | VL | 1 | N | S | 1-3' h x 2-3' w | Red | Spring-Winter | Leave spent flower heads for wildlife, cut off remnant flower spikes in very early spring, before new buds form. | Low, evergreen mounding plant with green leaves & silver undersides. Showy 12" flower stalk. Front of border or edging plant. Attracts bees, birds, and butterflies. | |
| Red yucca | <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> | VL | 1 | | Su | 3-4' h x 3-4' w | Red | Summer-Fall | Remove spent flower stalks at the base after seeds are gone. | Low maintenance, slender-bladed, upright succulent with thick, leathery blades. No supplemental water once established. Long blooming tall flower stalks. Keep faded flowers for wildlife seed. 'Yellow' flower option. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Rock purslane | <i>Calandrinia grandiflora (Cistanthe grandiflora)</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | Su | 1-3' h x 3-4' w | Hot Pink | Spring-Summer | Optional: Remove stems of spent flowers. Trim to shape as needed. | Blue-green succulent blades with tall, prolific, magenta flowers. Front of border plant. Fast grower, spreads quickly, prefers well-draining soils. Attract bees. | * |
| Roger's red grape | <i>Vitis 'Roger's Red'</i> | L | 1 | N | V | 20-40' h x 20-40' w | Insignificant | Spring | Cut back each cane to two nodes in February. Be aware of dropping grapes and critters. | Fast growing deciduous vine. Foliage turns brilliant red in fall before leaves drop. Insignificant flowers. Fruit and falling leaves are messy. Makes tasty, tiny, purple grapes in summer. Needs strong support - wall, trellis, etc. Attracts birds and butterflies. | |
| Rosemary - upright, many varieties | <i>Rosmarinus officinalis, (Salvia rosmarinus)</i> | L | 1 | | M | 4-6' h x 3-8' w | Blue | Winter | Clip branch tips to harvest. Remove dead, damaged, or wayward branches. | Dense, aromatic evergreen shrub with narrow, deep green leaves. Uses: hedge, screen, slopes, borders, herb gardens, containers. Culinary. 'Barbeque' (smaller 4'h x 3'w). Thrives in well-draining soil. Attracts bees and butterflies. | * |
| San Diego Sunflower/ County viguiera | <i>Bahiopsis laciniata (Viguiera laciniata)</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 2-4' h x 3-5' w | Yellow | Year-round | Deadhead in fall during a break in bloom. If cutting back, remove no more than 30%. | Vigorous blooming evergreen coastal native shrub. Easy to grow, fast growing. Attracts bees, birds and hummingbirds. | |
| Santa Cruz Island buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum arborescens</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 2-7' h x 2-9' h | Pink, copper & white | Spring-Fall | Keep spent flower heads in winter for wildlife. Remove flower spikes in early spring before new buds form. | Mounding evergreen shrub with narrow green leaves. Rounded clusters of tiny flowers age from pink to copper. Plant in well-draining soils as mid-border shrubs. Keep spent flowers that attract birds, bees and butterflies. | |

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| Scrub oak | <i>Quercus berberidifolia</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | N | T | 5-10' h x 10' w | Cream | Winter-Spring | Remove any dead, rubbing, or damaged branches. | Small oak for smaller spaces, can grow larger with inland heat. Fills out with age. Can be trimmed as formal hedge or left as an informal screen, specimen, back of border. Edible acorns. Attracts birds and bees. | |
| Seaside daisy | <i>Erigeron glaucus</i> | L | 1 & 2 | N | S | 6-12" h x 1-3' w | Lavender | Spring-Summer | Pull dead leaves off. Deadhead to extend bloom. Trim to encourage new flowers. | Groundcover with curly, green leaves and daisy-shaped flowers. Use as a border, on slopes, as edging, rock gardens or in containers. Likes clay soil. Attracts butterflies and bees. | |
| Short leaf aloe | <i>Aloe brevifolia</i> | VL | 2 | | Su | 1' h x 1-2' w | Orange | Winter-Spring | Remove spent blades and flower stalks as necessary. | Petite Aloe with softly toothed succulent blades in shades of blue and pink. Slow spreader. Prefers well-draining soil. Use for border edging, groundcover, or in containers. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | |
| Silver carpet | <i>Dymondia margaretae</i> | L | 1 | | S | 1-3" h x 1-2" w | Yellow | Spring-Summer | Maintain and cut back at edges to keep contained. Keep on top of any weed (oxalis or grass) infestation. No | Groundcover that takes foot traffic. Fast spreading, dense mat of leaves green on top, silver underneath. Tiny dandelion type flowers. Prefers full sun and well-draining soils. Attracts bees. | |
| Snake plant | <i>Sansevieria trifasciata (Dracaena trifasciata)</i> | L (VL) | 1,2 & 3 | | S | 6"- 4' h x 2-5' w | White | rarely | Pull out dead leaves. | Tough foliage plant with leathery upright, succulent blades. Plants have variegated leaves, some full sun, some full shade. Rare fragrant bloom. Very low maintenance. Works well in pots. Attracts bees. | |
| Society garlic | <i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | S | 1-2' h x 1-2' w | Purple | Summer | Remove dead leaves and spent flower stalks. Do not cut back or hedge green foliage. | Strong odor. Good for borders, dry shade, and under trees. Also variegated leaf. Likes good drainage. May repel snails, gophers and some people. Attracts bees and butterflies. | |
| South African daisy | <i>Arctotis</i> , many flower colors | L | 1 | | GC | 6-18" h x 2-3' w | Various | Spring-Fall | Deadhead non-self cleaning plants. If plants get leggy, cut plants to 4 - 6" after they finish blooming. Water well after cut back. | Tough, easy to grow, mat-forming with soft gray leaves, and big, colorful, daisy-like flowers. Some varieties self-deadhead. "African daisy" is the common name used for different plants (inc: Gazania and Osteospermum) which can be invasive. Attracts bees, moths, and butterflies. | |
| Squid agave, Spider agave | <i>Agave bracteosa</i> | L | 2 & 3 | | Su | 2-4' h x 2-3' w | White | Spring-Summer | Remove dried blades. Remove mother plant after bloom and plant declines. Leave pups behind. | Rubbery, pliable leaves, no teeth or spines. Slow spreading, making colonies. Full sun coast and shade inland. 'Monterey Frost' (smaller variegated). Great understory plant. Infrequent bloom attracts bees and hummingbirds. | |
| Sunset manzanita | <i>Arctostaphylos 'Sunset'</i> | L | 1 & 2 | N | M | 4-5' h x 4-7' w | White to pink | Winter-Spring | Prune minimally starting after third year to remove dead, damaged, rubbing branches or branches with fireblight. | Red bark with small, deep green leaves. Bark peels on older plants. Use for background, slope or screen. Can take part shade. Easier manzanita to grow, esp good in coastal gardens. Tolerates most soil. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | |
| Superb grevillea | <i>Grevillea 'Superb'</i> | L | 1 | | M | 5-6' h x 6-8' w | Peach to pink to red | Year-round | Remove problem branches. Optional to remove spent flower stalks. Do NOT fertilize. | Great for year-round eye-catching flowers. Lush, evergreen foliage. Fast growing in well-draining soils. 'Peaches and Cream' (yellow blending to orange flowers), 'King's Celebration' (white buds & deep red flowers). Good for cut flowers. Attracts birds, bees and hummingbirds. | * |
| Sweet bay | <i>Laurus nobilis</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | T | 15-25' h x 15-20' w | Yellow | Spring | Can be pruned to a hedge or left unpruned. Remove dead or damaged branches. | Slow growing evergreen tree. Leaves are used in culinary. Plant as a tree, natural screen, or formal hedge. Full sun coastal, tolerates light shade inland. 'Little Ragu' (8' h x w). Insignificant yellow flowers attract bees. | |
| Tecate cypress | <i>Hesperocyparis forbesii (Cupressus forbesii)</i> | VL | 1 | N | T | 20-30' h x 12-15' w | n/a | n/a | Prune off damaged or dead branches | Deep green evergreen conifer. Use to screen or on slopes. Round cones on 10+ year old plants. No supplemental water once established. Attracts birds and butterflies. | |

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| Texas ranger | <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> | L | 1 | | M | 5 - 8' h x 5 - 8' w | Purple or magenta | Summer | Remove dead or damaged branches as needed, after flowering is done. | Evergreen shrubs best for hot inland gardens. Attractive soft silver foliage. Can be trained for informal screen or pruned for a formal hedge. Requires well-draining soil. 'Lynn's Legacy' (ample flowers). Attracts butterflies. | |
| Torch aloe | <i>Aloe arborescens</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | | Su | 6-10' h x 6-10' w | Orange | Winter | Remove spent blades and flower stalks as necessary. | Large mounding Aloe with multiple heads, each of which flowers in winter. Prefers well-draining soil. Good screen, excellent for barriers and slopes. Prolific flowers attract hummingbirds and bees. | * |
| Toyon | <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | N | T | 8-12' h x 8-12' w | White | Spring | Remove diseased branches. Prefers being a multi-branch, but can be shaped into a tree when young. | Large, easy evergreen shrub with red berries in winter and flowers in spring. Can be trained to be a tree. Great for slope stabilization, informal hedge/screen, or background plant. 'Davis Gold' - yellow berries. Berry branches make great winter flower arrangements. Berries attract birds. Flowers attract bees. | * |
| Tree aloe | <i>Aloe barberae (Aloidendron barberae)</i> | L | 1 & 2 | | T | 20-30' h x 10-20' w | Orange | Winter | Remove dried succulent blades and spent flower stalks as necessary. | Takes years to get to tree size. Use for architectural interest or in large containers. 'Hercules' hybrid (20'h fast growing). Attracts hummingbirds and bees. | |
| Tree mallow | <i>Lavatera maritima</i> | L | 1 | | M | 4' - 8' h x w | Purple | Spring-Fall | Prune lightly after first flush to encourage additional flowering. Prune to shape in fall. | Eye catching lavender flowers with purple center. Prefers well draining soil. Prefers inland. Prone to rust. Attracts birds, bees, hummingbirds and butterflies. | |
| Western redbud | <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> | L | 1 & 2 | N | T | 10-20' h x 10-15' w | Pink | Spring | Shape into a small multi-trunk tree or large shrub when young. Prune when dormant in winter. Remove damaged or dead branches. | Large deciduous shrub/small tree. Showy pink flowers form on bare branches in spring. Blooms better in cooler areas. Showy seed pods in summer. Easy to grow. Attracts birds, bees, moths, butterflies and hummingbirds. | * |
| White sage | <i>Salvia apiana</i> | VL | 1 | N | M | 3-6' h x 3-8' w | White | Year-round | Remove spent flower stalks after seeds fall. Seeds attract wildlife. Prune annually to refresh. Remove dead, lanky, or damaged branches as needed. | Soft stemmed evergreen with leaves that start green and turn white. Very fragrant. Do not collect from the wild. Smaller form is <i>Salvia apiana</i> var. <i>compacta</i> . Flower spikes attract native bees, birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds. | |
| Woolly grevillea | <i>Grevillea lanigera</i> 'Coastal Gem' | L | 1 | | S | 1' h x 4-5' w | Pink and white | Year-round | Remove any dead, damaged, or stray branches. No fertilizers. | Evergreen, low growing groundcover. Fast growing in well-draining soils. 'Mt. Tamboritha' (taller with larger flowers). Attracts bees and hummingbirds. | |
| Wynyabbie coast rosemary | <i>Westringia</i> 'Wynyabbie Gem' | L | 1 & 2 | | L | 6-8' h x 4-6' w | Lavender | Year-round | Remove any dead or diseased branches. Cut branches back by 1/3 in winter if plant becomes leggy. | Evergreen shrub with tiny deep green needles that are silvery underneath. Good screen, background, barrier or understory plant. Leave unpruned for a natural shape, ongoing flowers, and longer-lived plant. Attracts bees. | * |
| Yankee Point ceanothus | <i>Ceanothus griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> 'Yankee Point' | VL | 1 & 2 | N | S | 2-3' h x 6-10' w | Blue | Winter-Spring | Remove dead or damaged branches. Only prune pencil thin branches. Will not recover from hard pruning. | Fast growing, mounding groundcover shrub. Good to stabilize slopes. <i>Ceanothus</i> 'Joyce Coulter' (3'h x 12 - 15'w, very heat tolerant). Attracts bees, birds and butterflies. | |
| Yarrow | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | VL | 1 & 2 | N | GC | 1-2' h x 2-3' w | Many colors | Spring-Summer | String trim to deadhead after bloom finishes. Cut plants back to 6" in winter if leggy. | Rosettes of feathery foliage can spread to form a dense mat. Tall stalks of flowers in summer. Prefers full sun. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies. | |
| Yellow mallow | <i>Pavonia praemorsa</i> | L | 1 | | M | 3-6' h x 4 - 6' w | Yellow | Year-round | Remove broken, diseased, branches | Evergreen, easy and fast growing. Small deep green leaves with bright flowers. Tough grower, wants well-draining soils. Use as background or low screen. Attracts bees and butterflies. | |

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