

Resources

Placer County Water Agency
<http://www.pcwa.com>

Water Wise Gardens of California
<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/>

Water Education Foundation
<http://www.water-ed.org>

Water Saver Home
<http://www.h2ouse.org>

Publications

Drip Irrigation in the Home Landscape
UCANR Publication # 21579

Water-Efficient Landscaping: Preventing Pollution/Using Resources Wisely
EPA Publication # EPA-832-F-02-002
<http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency>

More Landscape Water Use Pubs available at the Dept. of Water Resources:
<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/landscape>

For more info. call UCCE at 530-889-7385 or visit <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu>



WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING is a collaborative project of the University of California Cooperative Extension, UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties, Placer County Water Agency, and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

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University of California, United States Department of Agriculture, Placer and Nevada Counties Cooperating

Water-wise Landscaping



Water Efficient Plants for the Sierra Foothills

*Zone 7
(See page 3)*

*University of California Cooperative Extension Placer and Nevada Counties
in cooperation with
Placer County Water Agency and the US Bureau of Reclamation*



About This Brochure

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING is a collaborative project of the University of California Cooperative Extension, UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties, Placer County Water Agency, and the US Bureau of Reclamation. We hope this brochure will provide appropriate information for creating responsible water efficient landscapes. Included in the brochure are: Plant lists for Zone 7, tips on using water efficiently, and additional resources for other questions regarding watering wisely.

Why should you use Water Efficient Plants in your landscape and garden?

Water is a precious resource to be used wisely. In our gardens and landscapes, water is often applied in excess of what is actually needed by the plant. In this way, we not only waste water and money, but we also contribute to poor plant health and environmental pollution. With our population continuing to increase, a clean and sustainable water supply may be the most important issue we face today. We CAN have beautiful lush gardens and landscapes and use water efficiently at the same time!

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Plant photographs in this booklet are used with permission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from the USDA *PLANTS* National Data Base.

GROUND COVER - CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry	Ht to 15 ft.	Y	F to PS	Many varieties
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac	H varies W varies	Y	F	Try 'Julia Phelps'



DWARF COYOTE BUSH

EVENING PRIMROSE



Steps to a BEAUTIFUL and WATER EFFICIENT Garden

1. **Improve the soil.** A soil that is amended with compost and high in organic matter will absorb and hold water better than poor soils. This allows plant roots to penetrate deeper into the soil where they can utilize additional water and nutrients.
2. **Use Mulches.** A 2-4 inch layer of organic mulch can provide many benefits: erosion control, weed reduction, and moisture retention.
3. **Select water-wise plants.** By using plants that have low water requirements, a significant amount of water (and money) can be saved. *REMEMBER*, every plant requires some supplemental water while they are becoming established (one to two years).
4. **Consider reducing lawn areas or lawn alternatives.** Because lawns require large amounts of water, fertilizer, money, and time, try and only plant as much as you need and make sure to plant the appropriate type of turfgrass for your climate.
5. **Use hydrozoning.** Group plants together that have the same exposure and water needs and then place them along the same irrigation lines.

GROUND COVER

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Baccharis pilularis	Dwarf Coyote Bush	Ht 8-24 in. W 6+ ft.	Y	F	Low maintenance ground cover
Calyophus hartwegii	Sierra Sundrop	Ht 1 ft. W 2+ ft.	N	F to PS	Spreads by rhizomes; yellow flowers
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	Dwarf Plumbago	Ht 1 ft. W spreads rapidly	N	F to PS	Shear or mow annually; may be invasive; some water in hottest areas
Cistus spp.	Rockrose	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Pretty foliage and flowers; good erosion control
Convolvulus sabaticus	Ground Morning Glory	Ht 1 ft. W spreads	Y	F	May be invasive; very versatile
Juniperus spp.	Juniper	Ht varies W varies	Y	F to PS	Easy to grow
Mahonia repens	Creeping Mahonia	Ht 1 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F to PS	Spreads by underground stems
Oenothera spp.	Evening Primrose; Sundrops	Ht varies W spreads	Y	F to PS	Can be invasive
Potentilla verna	Potentilla	Ht 6 in. W spreads	Y	PS	Spreads quickly; needs some water
Ribes viburnifolium	Evergreen Currant	Ht 2-3 ft. W 8 ft.	Y	PS	Good under native oaks
Rosmarinus spp.	Rosemary	Ht 1-2 ft. W 8 ft.	Y	F	Look for cold-hardy varieties
Saponaria ocymoides	Rock soapwort	Ht 1 ft. W 3+ ft.	N	F	Small pink flowers; can spread; likes some water
Sedum spp.	Stonecrop	Ht varies W varies	Y	F to PS	S. spathulifolium is California native
Teucrium cossonii	Germander	Ht 8 in. W 1-2 ft.	Y	F	Stands poor soil
Verbena spp.	Verbena	Ht varies W varies	Y	F to PS	Many species

1. DR = Deer Resistant 2. Sun: F = full sun, PS = partial shade

Irrigating the Home Landscape *Some Dos and Don'ts*

- Check your system regularly and carefully and repair broken irrigation lines, sprinklers, or drip emitters.
- Avoid overspray from sprinklers onto sidewalks, patios, or other areas that don't need to be irrigated
- If you use an automatic irrigation timer, reset it 3 or 4 times during the year to adjust for the seasons.
- Do not leave sprinkler or drip systems on so long that water begins to run off into the gutter or away from the landscape.
- Know your plant materials and their water needs: some plants need to be irrigated frequently, while others may not need any irrigation water.
- Use separate irrigation valves and programs for turf areas. Typically, turf requires much more water than woody plants.
- Irrigating shortly before sunrise is best for most plants. Avoid irrigating during windy periods.
- Check the soil moisture often. This will give a good indication when you need to water.
- Monitor your plants regularly for signs of water deficit or excess.

Source: Costello, L.R. and K.S. Jones.2003 *Irrigating the Home Landscape*, University of California Cooperative Extension, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

The following Water-Efficient Plants are only a portion of the many plants that have low water requirements. The *Sunset Western Garden Book* is a great resource for more plants that fit into a water-wise landscape.

Zone 7 - Typical winter lows 23o to 9oF. Record lows 15o to -1oF. Optimal growing season May through the first week of October.

PERENNIALS - CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	Ht 8-24 in.	Y	F	Grown as summer annual; reseeds freely
<i>Dicentra chrysantha</i>	Golden Eardrops	Ht 4-5 ft. W 1-2 ft.	N	PS to Shade	Deep taproot: little water during flowering
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Shrubby Monkey Flower	Ht to 4 ft. W same	Y	F to PS	Woody-based perennial
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote Mint	Ht 1-2 ft. W 1-1½ ft.	N	F	Late spring and summer bloomer; needs very little water
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Foothill Penstemon	Ht 2 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F to PS	Variable appearance; free flowering
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Matilija Poppy	Ht 6-8 ft. W *	Y	F	*spreads indef. by rhizomes. Can be invasive; very large blossoms.
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California Fuchsia	Ht 1-2 ft. W 4+ ft.	Y	F	Attractive to hummingbirds; silvery foliage; scarlet flowers

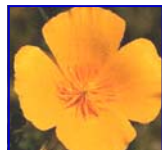


COMMON YARROW



©George F. Russell

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CALIFORNIA POPPY



©St. Mary's College of California

PERENNIALS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	Ht 3 ft. W spreads by runners	Y	F	Many garden varieties with different flower colors

1. DR = Deer Resistant 2. Sun: F = full sun, PS = partial shade

4 Water-wise Landscaping

SHRUBS - CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise	Ht 5-12 ft. W to 10 ft.	N	F	Very low water; highly flammable - plant away from structures
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	Manzanita	Ht 8-10 ft. W 10-12 ft.	Y	F to PS	Many selections incl. California native
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Bush	Ht 3 ft. W 4-5 ft.	Y	F	Low growing; can withstand wind, heat and poor soil
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Bush Anemone	Ht 4-6 ft. W 4-6 ft.	Y	PS	Little water; resistant to oak root fungus
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	Wild Lilac	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Many selections for drought resistance
<i>Cercocarpus</i> spp.	Mountain Mahogany	Ht 6-10 ft. W 6-12 ft.	N	F	Evergreen or deciduous choices; little or no water
<i>Dendromecon</i> spp.	Bush Poppy	Ht varies W varies	Y	F to PS	Little water
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	Flannel Bush	Ht 20 ft. W 12 ft.	Y	F	Rust-colored hairs on plant can irritate skin
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Ht 10-25 ft. W 12-25 ft.	Y	F to PS	Bright red berries November to January
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Mahonia	Ht 3 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F to PS	Good for winter color
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf Cherry	Ht 10-25 ft. W 10-25 ft.	N	F to PS	Red or blue edible fruit in June is messy
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffeeberry	Ht 3-15 ft. W 8 ft.	Y	F to PS	Berries, if not eaten by birds, ripen green to red
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant	Ht 3-6 ft. W 12 ft.	Y	PS	Fragrant evergreen shrub

Got questions? Call the UC Master Gardener HotLine
Placer County 530-889-7388 - Nevada County 530-273-0919

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University of California Cooperative Extension - Placer & Nevada Counties

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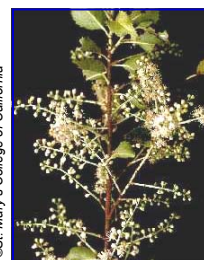


**CREeping
MAHONIA**



SHRUBS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Dodonaea viscosa	Hopseed Bush	Ht 10-15 ft. W 10-15 ft.	N	F to PS	Very tolerant, fast-growing shrub; evergreen
Elaeagnus pungens	Silverberry	Ht 10-15 ft. W 10-15 ft.	Y	F to PS	Can be sheared as hedge
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple guava	Ht 18 ft. W 18 ft.	Y	F	Great flowers; can take training or pruning
Garrya fermontii	Silktassel	Ht 9 ft. W 9 ft.	Y	F to PS	Evergreen; takes heat and cold
Potentilla fruticosa	Shrubby cinquefoil	Ht 3-4 ft. W 3-4 ft.	Y	PS	Very tough shrub
Pyracantha spp.	Firethorn	Ht Varies W Varies	Y	F	Orange-red berries; easy to grow
Rhus spp.	Sumac	Ht Varies W Varies	Y	F	Needs good drainage; fall color (deciduous) or evergreen
Salvia spp.	Sage	Ht Varies W Varies	Y	Varies	Try Salvia apiana, an evergreen



**HOLLYLEAF
CHERRY**



**BUSH
ANEMONE**



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PERENNIALS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Agapanthus spp.	Lily of the Nile	Ht to 4 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F or PS	May need afternoon shade in hottest areas
Agastache rupestris	Licorice Mint	Ht 2½ ft. W 1½ ft.	N	F or PS	Fragrant leaves, orange flower spikes
Artemisia spp.	Wormwood, Angel's Hair, etc.	Ht 2-3 ft. W varies	Y	F	Many species; silvery foliage; fragrant
Centaurea cineraria	Dusty Miller	Ht 1 ft. W 1 ft.	Y	F	Soft, gray foliage; easy to grow
Coreopsis lanceolata	Coreopsis	Ht 2 ft. W 1½ ft.	Y	F	Other species suitable to low water also
Eriogonum spp.	Wild Buckwheat	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Includes native E. fasciculatum
Gaura lindheimeri	Gaura	Ht to 4 ft. W 2-3 ft.	N	F	Long bloomer on flower spikes
Gaillardia grandiflora	Blanket flower	Ht 2-4 ft. W 2 ft.	Y	F	Long bloom period; thrive in hot weather
Iris spp.	Iris	Ht varies W varies	Y	Varies	Water requirements vary.
Oenothera speciosa	Mexican Evening Primrose	H 1 ft. W 3 ft.+	Y	F to PS	Spreads by rhizomes; aggressive
Penstemon spp.	Beard Tongue	Ht varies W varies	Y	F*	*PS in hottest areas Numerous species, some Calif. natives
Perovskia spp.	Russian Sage	Ht 3-4 ft. W same	N	F	Very resistant to heat and drought
Santolina spp.	Lavender Cotton	Ht 2-3 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F	Attractive foliage; aromatic
Sedum spp.	Stone crop	Ht varies W varies	Y	Varies	Succulent, many shapes & sizes
Teucrium spp.	Germander	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Tough plants that can stand poor soils

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TREES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	Ht 8-35 ft. W same	Y	F or PS	Good in a wide range of climates/soils
Acer buergeranum	Trident Maple	Ht. 20-25 ft. W same	N	F or PS	Deciduous, nice fall color
Celtis occidentalis	Common Hackberry	Ht 50 ft., almost as wide	Y	F or PS	Resistant to oak root fungus
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Tree	Ht 20 ft. W same	Y	F	Resistant to oak root fungus; train as tree
Cupressus arizonica	Arizona Cypress	Ht. 40 ft. W 20 ft.	Y	F	Mass for windbreak or screen
Lagerstroemia indica	Grape Myrtle	Ht. 25 ft. Spread varies	Y	F	Excellent decorative tree; many varieties
Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay	Ht. 12-40 ft. W same	Y	F or PS	Traditional bay leaves for cooking
Pinus spp.	Various Pine species	Diverse heights/ widths with pruning	Y	F	Many choices for low water
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	Ht 40-60 ft. W 20-30 ft.	N	F	Resistant to oak root fungus; good fall color
Prunus lusitanica	Portugal Laurel	Ht 10-30 ft. W same	N	F	Evergreen; white flowers; shrub or tree
Quercus spp.	Oak (see natives)	—	—	—	—
Robina x ambigua	Purple Robe	Ht 40 ft. W 20 ft.	N	F	Tolerates poor soil; spreads by suckers
Zelkova serrata	Saw Leaf Zelkova	Ht 60 ft. W same	N	F	Big tree; fairly tolerant of wind and drought

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BUTTERFLY BUSH

©J.S. Peterson



ACACIA

©J.S. Peterson

SHRUBS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Acacia spp.	Acacia	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Choose hardy varieties; attractive to birds
Berberis spp.	Barberry	Ht varies W varies	Y	F to PS	Evergreen or deciduous; some varieties more drought tolerant than others
Buddleia davidii	Butterfly Bush	Ht 4-10 ft. W to 10 ft.	Y	F to PS	May die to ground in freeze, but will re-grow in spring
Calliandra tweedii	Brazilian Flame Bush	Ht 6-8 ft. W 6-8 ft.	Y	F	Attractive to hummingbirds; showy flower clusters
Callistemon citrinus	Lemon Bottlebrush	Ht 10-15 ft. W 10-15 ft.	Y	F	Very tolerant of heat, cold, or poor soils
Cistus spp.	Rockrose	Ht varies W varies	Y	F	Evergreen; white or pink-tinted flowers
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Tree	Ht 12-15 ft. W to 6 ft.	Y	F	Likes poor, rocky soil

Shrubs continued on page 12

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VINES

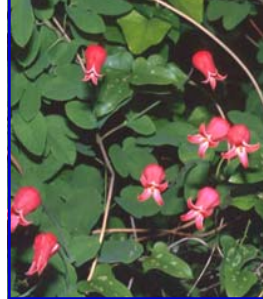
Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Clematis texensis	Scarlet Clematis	6-10 ft fast growing	N	Plant in sun, roots like cool shade	More tolerant of warm summers and low water
Fallopia baldschuanica	Lace Vine	40 ft. can cover large area	N	F	Very vigorous, white flowers
Jasminum officinale	Common White Jasmine	To 30 ft.	Y	F to PS	Very fragrant flowers; blooms all summer
Lonicera periclymenum	Woodbine	10-20 ft.	N	F to PS	Native to Mediterranean region; fragrant flowers
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper	vigorous grower	N	F to PS	Nice crimson fall color
Passiflora spp.	Passion Vine		N		Moderate water
Rosa banksiae	Lady Banks Rose	To 20 ft. +	N	F to PS	Vigorous grower and aphid resistant
Vitis californica	California Wild Grape	To 30 ft.	N	F to PS	Native to California; Nice red and yellow fall color
Wisteria spp.	Wisteria		Y	F	Very adaptable



BEARD TONGUE



COMMON WHITE JASMINE



SCARLET CLEMATIS

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TREES - CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye	Ht 10-20 ft. W 20-30 ft.	Y	F	Shrub or tree
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	Ht 75-90 ft. W 15 ft.	N	F or PS	Can withstand heat and poor soils
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	Ht 75-90 ft. W 10-18 ft.	N	F or PS	All year interest; resistant to oak root fungus
Quercus spp. (many)	Q. kelloggii Q. lobata Q. douglasii				
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	Ht 25+ ft. W 25+ ft.	N	F	Mass for windbreak or screen



INCENSE CEDAR



WESTERN REDBUD

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ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem; Turkey Foot	Ht 3-5 ft. W 3 ft.	N	F to PS	Not fussy as to soil and moisture; effective screen; good accent plant
Bouteloua spp.	Bouteloua	Ht 2 ft. W 2 ft.	Y	F	Tough, heat and drought tolerant
Briza media	Rattlesnake Grass; Quaking Grass	Ht 1-2 in.	Y	F	Clusters of nodding seed-bearing spikelets
Deschampsia flexuosa	Crinkled Hair Grass	Ht 2 ft. W 1 ft.	Y	PS	Excellent in dry, woodland shade
Leymus arenarius	Blue Lyme Grass	Ht 2-3 ft. W 2 ft.	N	F to PS	Low, vigorous clumps of blue-green leaves; good soil binder
Miscanthus sinensis	Maiden Grass	Ht to 6 ft. W to 6 ft.	Y	F to PS	Silvery green foliage turns bronze in fall
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Pink Muhly	Ht 3 ft. W 6 ft.	N	F to PS	Dark green mounded form with feathery reddish flowers
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	Ht 4 ft. W 4 ft.	N	F to PS	Dense clumps of foliage with yellow or purple flower spikes
Nassella cernua	Nodding Needle Grass	Ht 3 ft. W 2 ft.	N	F	Deep green leaves; purple awns to 4½ ft.
Panicum virgatum	Switch Grass	Ht 4-7 ft. W 2-4 ft.	Y	F to PS	Foliage turns yellow in fall, then beige
Pennisetum spp.	Fountain Grass	Ht 3 ft. W 3 ft.	Y	F to PS	"Little Bunny" dwarf 1½ ft. wide and high
Sporobolus airoides	Alkali Sacaton	Ht 3 ft. W 3 ft.	N	F	Tough, deep rooted; can take alkaline conditions
Stipa gigantea	Giant Feather Grass	Ht 2-3 ft. W 2-3 ft.	Y	F	Open, airy flowers can rise to 6 ft.

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HERBS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Size	DR ¹	Sun ²	Remarks
Borago officinalis	Borage	Ht 2-3 ft. W 2 ft.	N	F to PS	Tolerates poor soil; edible flowers
Origanum spp.	Oregano; Marjoram	Ht 2-3 ft. W 2-3 ft.	N	F	Many uses in the kitchen; may need some afternoon shade
Salvia spp.	Sage	Ht varies W varies	N	F	Not all are low water plants or used as herbs
Thymus spp.	Thyme	Ht varies W varies	N	PS	T. vulgaris (common thyme) a good choice
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	Ht varies W varies	N	F	Choose hardiest types; very versatile indoors and out
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	Ht 3-5 ft. W 2 ft.	N	F	Perennial type used for seeds and leaves; annual type for edible leaf bases



GIANT FEATHER GRASS



BLUE LYME GRASS

Remember: All plants need some water to help get established in their new homes. The terms "drought tolerant," "low water," and "water-wise" usually refer to the water requirements of an established plant.

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