DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

for Waterworks District No. 29
Whether you’re a novice gardener with a small flowerbed or an expert whose green thumb fosters a new set of plants each season, incorporating native California plants into your garden can help spruce up your yard and save water. Drought tolerant plants help conserve hundreds of gallons of water each year for a single family home! After California native and drought tolerant plants are established in the soil, they’ll require substantially less water and maintenance than traditional landscaping plants, so you can spend less time watering and more time in the yard enjoying your plants.

Throughout this booklet, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 has provided examples of California native and drought tolerant plants that have been selected specifically for the conditions of the Malibu/Topanga/Marina del Rey area. Pictures and helpful information about each plant are featured to help meet your landscaping needs and make for a quick, easy transition to a native and drought tolerant plant garden.

Special thanks to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for photos and content.
**BEACH SUNCUPS**
Naturally found growing in sand dunes, a good choice for areas with good drainage. Low growing silver foliage with lemon yellow flowers. Thrives in full sun.

**BLUE FLAX**
Small perennial with attractive blue-white flowers in spring. Interesting texture. Cut back after blooming to keep compact. Easy to grow from seed. Full to partial sun.

**CALIFORNIA EVENING PRIMROSE**
A perennial that tolerates rough places with a tendency to invade. Best if kept in contained area with little irrigation. Attractive white to pink blossoms in summer. Likes full sunlight.

**CALIFORNIA FUSCHIA**
Commonly found in dry areas, rocky slopes and cliffs. Abundant, scarlet tubular flowers bloom in summer. Attracts hummingbirds. May be used as a ground cover. Sun to partial sun.
Cleveland’s Beardtongue

Rose pink flowers with gray foliage make this an attractive garden plant. Prefers hot summers and mild winters. Full sun.

California Poppy

Pale yellow to deep orange. Flowers spring to summer and reseeds easily. Blossoms close at night. Plant seeds in fall on well-drained soil. Little irrigation required. Full sun.

Common Yarrow

Spreads by its roots, with clusters of small white flowers above evergreen foliage. Butterflies enjoy this plant. Likes sun. Widely adapted to variety of soil conditions.

Desert / Apricot Mallow

Very hardy evergreen perennial with coral flowers clustered on stems spring to fall, depending on temperatures. Prefers dry winters and benefits from pruning after blooms. Full sun.
**DESERT BEAUTY**
Perennial with purple pea flowers clustered at the ends of silvery green leaf branches in spring. Trim to promote fullness. Infrequent summer watering. Likes sun.

**DESERT MARIGOLD**
Perennial with bright yellow flowers above gray-green foliage spring through fall. Extend blooming with periodic moisture. Attracts butterflies. Requires good drainage. Full sun.

**DOUGLAS IRIS**
Evergreen leaves up to 2’ long, flowers on 1–2’ stems range in color from purple to blue, and white to cream. Tolerates less than ideal garden conditions. Sun to partial sun.

**FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON**
Bright red blossoms, from spring to summer, on long evergreen stalks. Prefers full sun and good drainage. Attracts hummingbirds. Some water in the summer.
**GLOBE GILIA**

Clusters of spring blue flowers. Used by many butterflies. Plant in fall or early spring in well-drained soil. Likes rocky areas with lots of sun. Little to moderate water.

**HARVEST BRODIAEA**

Loves sun and heat and requires no summer water. Dark violet to blue flowers in late spring to mid summer. Mulch to protect corms from freezing.

**ISLAND BUSH SNAPDRAGON**

Bright red tubular flowers bloom from spring to summer. Tolerates shade. Attracts hummingbirds.

**LEOPARD LILY**

Perennial bulb likes moist shaded areas. In spring and summer, clusters of large orange or red flowers with brown to maroon spots appear on tall flowering spikes.
**MILKWEED**
Greenish white or purple flowers June-September. Seed pods open and spill out hundreds of fine white hairs. Food source for Monarch butterflies. Sun to partial sun. Narrow leaf is one variety.

**ONELEAF ONION**
Lavender to pink flowers that appear in June on tall stems. A good cut flower either fresh or dried. Likes deep, rich, sandy loam soil and full sun.

**PALMER’S PENSTEMON**
Large, fragrant pale pink blossoms with gray foliage. Grows with a very erect form, attractive to hummingbirds, and appropriate for areas with cold winters. Thrives in full sun.

**PANAMINT BEARD PENSTEMON**
Large showy perennial. Coarsely serrated to smooth leaves with hot pink flowers atop tall spikes. Prefers hot, dry summers with full sun and cold winters.
**SCARLET BUGLER**
Scarlet red blossoms with blue-gray foliage and a long bloom season. Very drought tolerant. Prefers full sun, hot, dry summers and mild winters.

**SCARLET COLUMBINE**
This perennial has beautiful orange-red flowers. Attracts hummingbirds. Likes shade. Moderately drought tolerant. Benefits from annual pruning of spent flower stalks.

**SCARLET LARKSPUR**
Native to coastal mountains, this perennial rootstock has wide lobed leaves, erect stems and large deep red blossoms that attract butterflies. Likes sun.

**SHOWY PENSTEMON**
Lavender-pink-purple flowers, April-June found on two-foot spikes above coarse textured leaves. Attracts hummingbirds. Sun to partial sun exposure.
**SOCIETY GARLIC**
Perennial with bluish green long leaves. Clusters of lavender flowers bloom in spring and summer. Prefers well drained soils. Divide clumps to increase plantings. Full sun.

**ST. CATHERINE’S LACE**
Branching stems, silver to grayish-white oval leaves, white blooms throughout summer. Attracts butterflies. Sun exposure, well-drained, loose soil. Useful to cover dry banks.

**STICKY MONKEYFLOWER**
Spring apricot-colored blossoms attract hummingbirds. Light summer watering extends blooming period. Thrives in full to partial sunlight.

**SULPHUR BUCKWHEAT**
Brilliant yellow flowers bloom in the spring on stems above mounds of pretty oval foliage. Very drought tolerant, prefers full to part sun. Attracts hummingbirds.
**WHITE MARIPOSA LILY**
Bulb blooms May-July. Colors range from white, yellow, purple, to dark red, all with “peacock eye” at base of petals. Full sun to partial shade.

**WOOLLY BLUE CURLS**

**TIDY TIPS**
Prefers clay to loam soil. Plant seeds in fall or early spring in full sun. Yellow-white blooms spring through early summer. Self-seeds.

**WESTERN BLUE FLAX**
Small perennial. Many blue to white flowers cover the plant in early spring. Keeps shape better if trimmed back after blooming. Prefers full sun.
**Apache Plume**
Semi-evergreen shrub with flowers resembling single white roses, followed by large, feathery seedheads that change from green to red. Requires well-drained soil and full sunlight.

**Bush Anemone**
Evergreen shrub. Shiny dark leaves, fragrant white flowers with golden stamens May to August. Resistant to oak root fungus, does well in dry, shady conditions.

**Bush Poppy**
Catalina variety has linear gray foliage, bright yellow, poppy-like flowers February-June. Thrives in dry, well-drained soil. Good for banks, roadsides. Sun to partial sun exposure.

**Bush Sunflower**
Small deciduous shrub with loose clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers. Light summer water will extend blooming. Cut back every two years to maintain shape. Sun to partial sun.
**BUTTERFLY BUSH**
Semi-evergreen shrub with tall branches, arching in mid-summer with dense small, fragrant spike-like clusters. Full sun.

**CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT**

**CALIFORNIA FLANNELBUSH**
Yellow flowers in May and June. Dark green and fuzzy leathery leaves. Needs good drainage. Hillside planting is best with staking when young. No dry-season watering. Full sun.

**CALIFORNIA HONEYSUCKLE**
Climbing shrub with deciduous foliage and large pink flowers. The edible fruit is bitter but attracts birds. Handles cold temperatures and is not favored by deer. Part sun to shade.
**CALIFORNIA LILAC**
Dark wrinkled green leaves covered, deep blue to white flower clusters in early spring. Good drainage, little to no summer watering. Sun to partial sun. Creeping variety good for groundcover.

**CHAPARRAL CURRANT**
Medium-sized deciduous shrub with clusters of fragrant pink flowers most of the year. Prefers shade, little maintenance required.

**COAST SILKTASSEL**

**FAIRY DUSTER**
This deciduous shrub is native to desert areas. Once established, it does not require water and produces beautiful clusters of pinkish fluffy flowers in the spring. Full sun.
GOLDEN CURRANT
Semi-deciduous shrub produces bright yellow flowers winter through spring, followed by yellow, orange, and red currants. Sun to partial sun.

GOLDEN YARROW

HEART-LEAF PENSTEMON
Spiked clusters of orange-red tubular flowers on arching branches March–August. Attracts hummingbirds. Sun to partial sun exposure. Remains evergreen with summer irrigation.

LEMONADE BERRY
Dark, leathery leaves, delicate pink flowers. Berries can be used to make lemonade. Fairly tolerant to cold temperatures. Monthly watering improves fire resistance. Full to partial sun.
LUPINES
Colors will delight any gardener. Attracts butterflies. Trimming keeps plants sturdy and compact. Perennial varieties include Bush and Big-leaf. Sun to partial sun.

MANZANITA
Red bark, urn-shaped flowers. Very water-efficient. Varieties range from groundcover to large shrubs and small trees including Bigberry, Island, and Common. Sun to partial sun.

MATILJIA POPPY
Hardy perennial with large fragrant blossoms, up to 9” wide. Root structure helps reduce erosion. Spreads by underground runners; prefers loose, gravelly soil and full sun.

RED HOT POKER
Shrub-size clump of grass-like foliage requires moderate water to bloom and good drainage in winter. Dramatic red-orange to yellow blossoms. Full sun to light shade.
SHRUBS, HEDGES

SPICE BUSH
Deciduous shrub with green leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Blossoms resemble brownish-red water lilies. Both foliage and flowers are fragrant. Full to partial sun.

WESTERN AZALEA
Prefers shade and an acid soil. Fragrant funnel-shaped flower clusters May–June with colors varying from white to pinkish white to carmine rose markings.

WESTERN PENNYROYAL
White to purple pincushion flowers, evergreen leaves, strong mint-like fragrance. Attracts bees and butterflies. Thrives in shade with fairly rich soil and garden watering.

WHITE MOCK ORANGE
DEERGRASS
Provides interesting texture contrast, with many erect narrow blades that fan out in vase-shaped foliage, in dense clumps. Stays evergreen without summer water. Full sun.

GIANT WILD RYE
Tall, erect clumping perennial. Good in back of a border garden or slope stabilization. Shorter Canyon Prince variety has silver blue-gray foliage, bluish flower plumes in summer. Full sun.

PURPLE NEEDLE GRASS
Bunch grass with purplish flowers. Matures in summer to golden yellow, remains dormant until winter rains. Likes full sunlight.

SHEEP FESCUE
Clumping grass with soft, tough leaves form blue-gray tufts. Useful groundcover in sunny to partially shaded area, on slopes. Needs little water. Clip to enhance appearance.
COTONEASTER
Arching branches, fall color, red or orange berries in winter. Little to moderate water, full sunlight. Thrives with little to no maintenance. Does well on dry slopes, poor soil.

COYOTE BRUSH

CREEPING MAHONIA
Groundcover for partial sun to full shade (under oaks). Requires little irrigation. Colorful winter foliage. Yellow spring flowers followed by berries that attract birds.

CREEPING MANZANITA
Evergreen mat, light pink flowers winter-spring. Leaves turn a reddish tint in winter. Useful on slopes, along retaining walls. Regular water the first summer after planting. Sun to partial sun.
DYMONDIA SILVER CARPET
Light gray foliage, yellow summer blooms. Deep rooted, grows close to ground. Plant in areas of light foot traffic. Full sun to partial shade.

HEN AND CHICKENS
Clusters spread to form clumps up to 2-feet wide. Red or reddish brown blossoms on erect stems. Full sun to partial shade. A variety of colored leafed plants are available.

PARRY’S NOLINA
Long grass-like leaves form a nice mound and spring flowers are creamy white. Very drought tolerant, likes full sun.

ROCKROSE
Hardy plant with spring flowers. Accepts poor, dry soil. Tolerates cold ocean winds, salt spray or desert heat. Prefers full sun.
**SAND STRAWBERRY**
Perennial with white blossoms in spring and occasional fruit. Shiny green foliage turns red in the fall. Full sun.

**SEASIDE DAISY**
Forms clump of stout stems topped by lavender flowers. Some summer irrigation best. Tolerant of hot inland conditions. Likes full sun to partial shade.

**SPRING CINQUEFOIL**
Clusters of butter yellow flowers in spring and summer. Will smother out weeds. Good lawn substitute in areas of no-traffic. Well used as a cover for bulbs. Full to partial sunlight.

**WOOLLY YARROW**
Groundcover with flat golden flowerheads atop a spreading flat mat of fernlike gray-green, hairy leaves. Full sun to high shade.
CORAL BELLS

HOLLYLEAF CHERRY

PINK FLOWERED CURRANT

TOYON
COYOTE MINT
A plant with light purple flowers in June – August. Foliage is furry gray-green. Attracts butterflies. Likes sun to part shade.

ENGLISH THYME
Small, gray-green pungent leaves with white lilac flowers in late spring. Useful as a border edging or in a container with good drainage. Full sun. Another variety is Red Creeping Thyme.

GREEK OREGANO
Shrubby plant with slightly fuzzy gray-green leaves and tiny clusters of small flowers. Needs good drainage. Full sun.

LAVENDER
Requires drainage, sun and air space for circulation, some irrigation. Full size in three years. Prune after blooming season. Varieties include English, French, Sea, Spanish and Sweet.
**MOUNTAIN PENNYROYAL**
Beautiful purple flowers attract butterflies and bees; very minty fragrance. Cut back regularly to maintain shape. Full to partial sun.

**ROSEMARY**
Short, narrow green leaves on woody stems with delicate blue flowers. Tough plant, requires good drainage. Pruning encourages new growth. Full sun to partial shade.

**SAGE**

**SERPENTINE MONARDELLA**
Dark green, blunt-tipped leaves are up to 1” long. Flowers are reddish purple and bloom from mid-summer to early fall. Full to partial sun.
BLUE-EYED GRASS
Delicate flowers, abundant from February to May, with grass-like leaves. Does well in containers with well-draining soil. Sun to partial sun exposure.

CALIFORNIA REDBUD
Pea-shaped magenta flowers on leafless stems in the spring, followed by seedpods and heart-shaped blue-green leaves. Yellow or red fall foliage on multi-branching stems. Prefers sun.

QUAIL BUSH
Evergreen shrub with gray-green leaves that is able to tolerate hot, dry climates. Thrives in full sun, with well-drained soil. Produces yellow flowers during the summer.

TWINBERRY HONEYSUCKLE
Prefers moist areas. Pruning will control size. Dense foliage with unique orange-red flowers produce berries. Attractive to birds. Blooms in the spring. Sun to partial shade.
Your yard and garden account for up to 70 percent of your home’s water usage. By planting California native plants and cutting down on water use, you’re not only saving yourself time and money, but you’re creating a habitat for birds and butterflies and helping reduce the strain on the environment as well! It’s easy to conserve water by taking a few simple steps this planting season:

**PLANTING TIPS:**
- Water your yard between midnight and 8 a.m. and save up to 700 gallons of water each month by reducing evaporation and wind interference.
- Use organic mulch to keep plants cool and nourished in the heat and save up to 750 gallons of water each month.
- Choose a drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers and save up to 375 gallons of water each month.

**WATER SAVING TIPS:**
- Water your yard, not the sidewalk or street and save 500 gallons of water each month.
- Plant species native to California or drought tolerant and save 750 gallons of water each month.
- Fix leaks around the yard (and in the house!) and save 600 gallons each month.
SAVE WATER, PROTECT THE OCEAN

Using water responsibly can also prevent pollution of the ocean. Did you know that water that runs off your yard into the street picks up pollutants like trash, bacteria, and motor oil on its way through the storm drain system and eventually ends up in the ocean without any kind of treatment?

There are simple things you can do to make a big difference. Make sure your sprinkler heads are not tilted, clogged or broken. Check to see that the system doesn’t leak and that the water is directed to your lawn and plants and not running off onto the streets and sidewalks. Ensure you are only watering for the appropriate amount of time. These easy tips will save water and help protect the beautiful Pacific Ocean, our creeks and our unique beach communities.

So please, take a few minutes a week to check your sprinkler system and prevent runoff. If someone maintains your yard for you, ask that they do a weekly check and let you know if anything needs to be fixed.