

35 *low-water plants*

YOU'VE (PROBABLY) NEVER HEARD OF

UCDAVIS



**ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN**

Agave americana 'Mediopicta Alba' white-striped century plant

A smaller and more manageable version of the century plant with beautiful white-striped leaves. The leaves of the plant curve in a very sculptural way and are delightful planted in combination with finer textured plants like grasses and perennials. Plants produce lots of "pups" that your friends will want. Keep away from traffic because it has sharp spines.



Agave vilmoriniana octopus agave

Succulent with narrow green leaves that twist back towards the ground, making it look like an octopus' tentacles. Arching, deeply furrowed leaves lack spines so it is a relatively safe plant although leaf margins do have small serrations and can cut. After bloom young plants form on the stem can be used to replant.



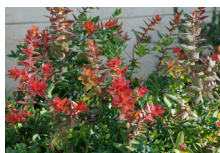
Aloe x spinosissima gold tooth aloe

This succulent hybrid is one of the more manageable-sized aloes useful for winter color and accent in dry gardens. The name *Aloe x spinosissima* suggests something ferociously spiny but the teeth that line the leaf margins are not very large or sharp. New rosettes grow from the base of the old ones forming an attractive clump.



Arctostaphylos pajaroensis 'Paradise' paradise manzanita

'Paradise' Manzanita is a beautiful, large evergreen shrub useful for screening and color in the back of the garden. It has attractive bluish-green leaves with brilliant red new growth in fall and winter. In general manzanitas need reasonable well-drained soil and should not be used anywhere that has periods of standing water. It has large, dense flower clusters that are very attractive with the bluish foliage.



Carpenteria californica 'Elizabeth' Elizabeth bush anemone

A native evergreen shrub with gray stems that peel back annually to reveal new yellowish-tan bark. Dark glossy green leaves frame clusters of fragrant white flowers with a tuft of bright yellow stamens in the center. Preferring some shade in inland gardens it needs good soil drainage and is drought tolerant once established.



Chilopsis linearis desert willow

Desert willow is a small deciduous tree with narrow leaves and large, tropical-looking showy pink flowers from early summer to first frost followed by long, narrow seed pods. Look for "seedless" selections since this wild form will stop blooming when seed pods form. It is a tough plant for low water landscapes and dry, unforgiving locations. It grows to 10 to 14 feet tall and wide.



Coreopsis auriculata 'Nana' mouse-eared tickseed

A low-growing perennial with leathery green leaves and gold daisy flowers useful for edging and the front of the flower border. Plants can be sheared in mid to late summer to promote a fall rebloom and to remove any sprawling or unkempt foliage. Plants will spread in the garden over time by stolons to form an attractive ground cover.



Correa pulchella 'Orange Flame' orange flame correa

A compact mounding selection of Australian fuchsia with small, evergreen leaves and tubular, rusty-orange flowers from December to February, providing a welcome source of color in winter and a source of nectar for resident hummingbirds. Good for slopes and prefers well-drained soil.



Dasyliirion wheeleri desert spoon

Desert spoon has long, gray strap-shaped leaves, blue-gray in color, that form a large, dramatic rosette useful for a spiky accent. Flowers are a tiny pale greenish color on ten foot spikes. Best used in low maintenance landscapes because teeth along the leaf margins are sharp. Needs little to no irrigation.



Dudleya caespitosa coast dudleya

This is a California native succulent that has thick finger-like leaves that form frosty grey-white rosettes. It likes morning sun or high shade and the plant produces rosettes you can root to create new plants. Good to use in containers or hanging baskets and the flowers will attract hummingbirds.



Eremophila maculata 'Aurea' spotted emu bush

A little known Australian evergreen shrub with small dark green leaves, emu bush is well adapted to hot and sunny sites. It will not tolerate wet soils and needs soil with good drainage. This clone has brilliant lemon-yellow flowers, responds nicely to pruning and can be used as a hedge.



Eriogonum fasciculatum 'Theodore Payne' dwarf California buckwheat

Dwarf California buckwheat is prostrate, evergreen, ground cover with needle like foliage that is a light apple green in color. The plant is also a fast growing, deer resistant spreader which will add habitat value to your planting. Flowers attractive to butterflies and other insects and after bloom its seeds will provide a snack for visiting birds.



Eriogonum umbellatum sulphur buckwheat

The sulfur buckwheat is a small evergreen shrub for the front of the native plant Garden with cute spoon-shaped leaves and yellow flowers. Buckwheats are highly recommended for wildlife value, especially butterflies.



Festuca idahoensis 'Clearwater Blue' Clearwater Idaho fescue

Clearwater Idaho fescue is a fine-textured, dwarf, bunchgrass selection that has chalky blue leaves that are only six inches high. In spring the plants produce silvery flower stems to one to two feet. More dwarf than some selections of this species it can be used in small spaces for accent and color contrast with green leaved plants.



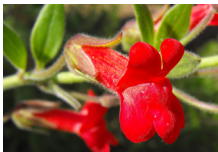
Fremontodendron 'San Gabriel'

This spectacular, fast-growing, large shrub has upward arching branches that are covered in colorful yellow flowers in springtime. Leaves are lobed with attractive maple-leaf shape and have brownish hairs. Needs reasonable drainage (no standing water) and is perfect for the ultra-low water garden.



Gambelia speciosa 'Firecracker' Island snapdragon

This is a medium-sized, fast-growing shrub with fuzzy, lime green foliage and red flowers attractive to hummingbirds. It is amenable to shaping and use as a hedge. In severe frost *Gambelia* 'Firecracker' may be damaged and benefits from some protection but it easily recovers when weather warms.



Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo' Biokovo geranium

Geranium 'Biokovo' is a spreading, rhizomatous plant with attractive, dark-green and shiny foliage with rounded lobes. It features masses of three quarter inch white flowers which are tinged with pink at the base of each petal. The shiny foliage makes an attractive foil in shady areas contrasting with more upright plants and blue or variegated foliage plants.



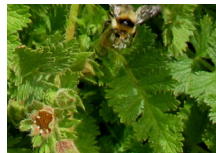
Grindelia camporum Great Valley gum plant

This tough, hardy plant is truly "native here". The perennial rosette of leaves produces attractive yellow daisy flowers loved by butterflies and native bees that produce a sticky white liquid coveted for medicinal uses. It can tolerate deer browsing as well as salty soil. Look for low-growing compact plants, some forms can be gangly.



Horkelia californica California horkelia

A delicate-looking but very tough native perennial, California horkelia has fern-like leaves from five to ten inches in length divided into smaller leaflets that give it a delicate appearance. In summer it produces inconspicuous small flowers with tiny white petals that are a magnet for bumblebees.



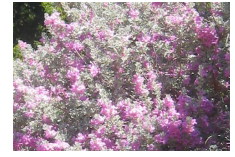
Peritoma arborea bladderpod

Bladderpod is a dense, evergreen shrub native to southern California with unusual yellow flowers and rounded fruits. The blue-gray foliage highlights the omnipresent yellow flowers which are attractive to hummingbirds. It needs little to no summer water and is said to be both deer proof and salt tolerant.



Leucophyllum frutescens cenizo

A sometimes hard to find shrub that deserves more use in low water landscapes. Silvery gray foliage becomes covered by lavender-pink blooms in the hottest summer months. A medium-large evergreen plant it needs reasonably good soil drainage and will tolerate hot exposures with full and reflected sun in summer. White and darker pink flower colors available as well as a compact form.



Othonna cheirifolia Barberry ragweed

Othonna cheirifolia is a hardy, evergreen, perennial with a spreading habit and unusual, spoon-shaped, upright, grey-green leaves with smooth margins. Bright-yellow daisies are produced in spring and early summer and then again in the autumn. This plant is useful for the front of the border or for trailing over walls or containers. Likes good drainage and will grow in gravelly soils.



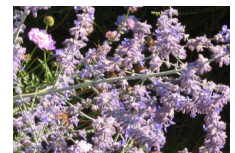
Pelargonium sidoides garnet geranium

An evergreen perennial with velvety-gray leaves and small clusters of dark-burgundy flowers that are dramatic above the silky foliage despite their small size. Useful in the front of the border or as a pot plant it needs protection from any extremely cold weather. Hummingbirds will visit the flowers.



Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Lissvery' ^{PBR} silvery blue Russian sage

A deciduous perennial with erect woody stems and an informal growth habit. Instead of the gray-green foliage of many Russian sages this variety has whitish stems with silver-green foliage. It makes real statement in the summer garden with silver foliage and masses of flowers it also will attract beneficial insects and hummingbirds.



Phlomis 'Edward Bowles' hybrid Jerusalem sage

This hybrid phlomis forms a mound of large spade-like leaves with felt, green tops and silver hairs below. In spring the plant produces yellow flowers in ball-like clusters on tall stems three to four feet high. An attractive and dependable plant it is reported to be deer resistant.



Prunus andersonii desert peach

A deciduous shrub that grows to three to six feet tall, with rose flowers emerging in the spring. A great plant to try in the ultra-low water garden it makes a beautiful flower show. Water it for the first summer and then ignore.



Russelia equisetiformis coral fountain

A large perennial, that behaves as an evergreen in mild winters, coral fountain has arching, bright green stems with tiny leaves that are smothered with bright red flowers in summer. Tolerates wind and reflected heat and is a magnet for bringing hummingbirds to the garden. Great for its mass of red summer color in the sunny gardens, a large pot or used spilling over a wall.



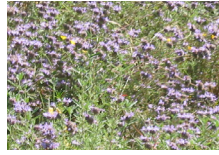
Salvia × *jamensis* 'California Sunset' orange autumn sage

Autumn sage is a small woody perennial especially valued by gardeners for its spring and autumn flower display. Most often seen with red flowers this variety is a unique color. Vibrant orange buds open to reveal a softer peach lined with the narrowest dark-orange edge. Blooms in both fall and spring and is deer resistant.



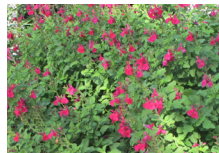
Salvia clevelandii 'Aromas' San Diego sage

Cleveland sage is an aromatic California native with pewter gray leaves and lovely "shish-ka-bob" whorls of flowers described as "dauphine violet". A compact, rounded shrub it has a woody base from which the tall stalks of flowers emerge.



Salvia 'San Carlos Festival' San Carlos hybrid sage

Salvia 'San Carlos Festival' is a compact form of the "microphylla" or little-leaf sages that are unique in their ability to resprout from the ground if cut down. This selection is no different with egg-shaped leaves with wavy margins and net like veins that distinguish it from the autumn sage. Tough and colorful in bloom this adaptable plant can be used even in hot afternoon summer sun.



Sedum stenopetalum worm-leaved stonecrop

Worm-leaved stonecrop is a succulent plant with tiny pointed leaves that produce erect stalks of starchy yellow flowers. A new plant for our area in the northwest it is useful to plant on green roofs. The diminutive mat of leaves makes it useful as a container plant around other succulents or spilling over the edge.



Sophora secundiflora Texas mountain laurel

Grown as a large shrub in western deserts the Texas mountain laurel is useful here as a small evergreen tree for very low water landscapes. Shiny dark-green leaves sprout four to eight inch long, drooping clusters of wisteria-like purple flowers that smell like grape soda. Flowers and seeds can be poisonous so should be kept away from children and pets.



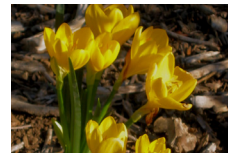
Stachys albotomentosa 'Hidalgo' Hidalgo stachys

Stachys 'Hidalgo' is an evergreen sprawling perennial with felt-textured leaves that are pleasantly aromatic (some say the smell is that of the popular soda 7-Up). The flowers rise above the foliage in summer and attractive to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Reportedly deer resistant.



Sternbergia lutea autumn crocus

For the low water garden *Sternbergia lutea* is a great choice since it has leaves in the winter season (when it is hopefully raining) which it then drops during the dry season. Resting over summer it bursts into bloom in September with much needed golden fall color. A small bulb it can be combined with winter deciduous perennials to make a year-round show.



Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard' color guard yucca

This dramatic architectural plant has sword-shaped leaves with a central stripe of bright canary-yellow with a bright green edge. In winter plants are tinged pink, lasting through early spring. Will add drama and can be used for accent when used with mounding green plants.

