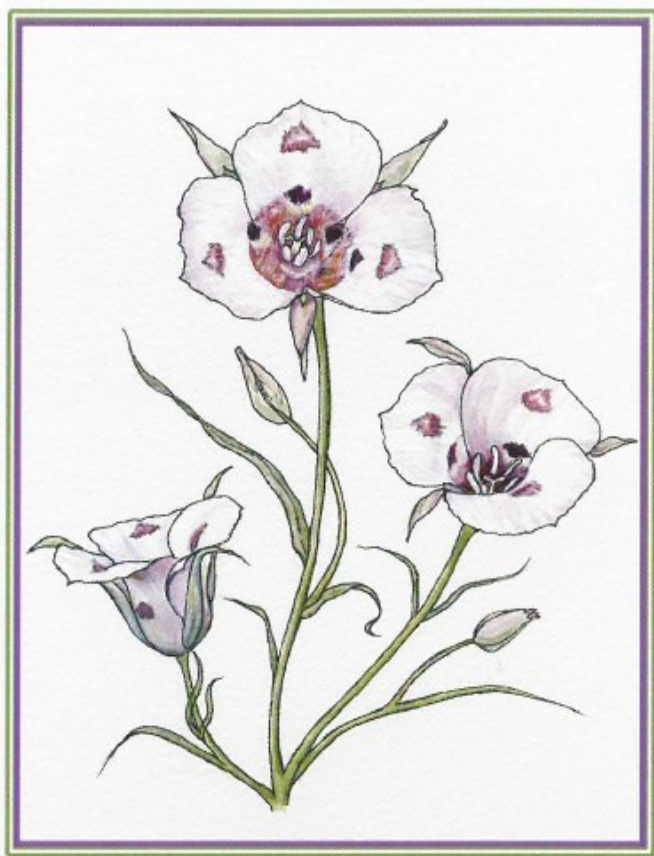


California Native Plant Demonstration Garden Guide

Tenth Anniversary Edition



Mariposa Creek Parkway

Mariposa County Master Gardeners



Cleveland Sage



Matthiola Poppy



Mariposa Lily



Mountain Strawberry



Button Willow



Iris



Flannel Bush



Bush Anemone

What are Master Gardeners?

The garden was created and is maintained by Mariposa County Master Gardeners. We are volunteers under the guidance of the University of California Cooperative Extension program administered by the University of California.

Master Gardeners is an educational program designed to teach and effectively extend information to address home gardening and non-commercial horticulture in California.

We embrace a concept called Integrated Pest Management, which encourages gardeners to solve pest problems by using the least environmentally harmful methods and products. IPM teaches us how to arrive at long-term solutions for the home gardener by managing potential problems before they get out of hand, making choices that rarely require pesticides, and doing good for people and the environment. The UC systems maintains a website to assist the public: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

Mariposa Master Gardeners' role in the community is multifaceted: We offer UC-researched advice for home-gardening problems through our hotlines and community events such as the farmers market in summer and the Agri-Nature Tour in fall; we present public workshops on topics of interest to home gardeners; we have an annual garden tour and an annual plant sale each spring and fall; we are in charge of the Horticultural Building at the county fair each autumn.

To become Master Gardeners, applicants attend a 17-week college-level training class. They become official by passing a test and agreeing to donate 50 volunteer hours in the first year. In subsequent years, certification requires 25 volunteer hours and 12 hours of continuing education.

For more information, contact the Mariposa County Farm Advisor office at (209) 966-2417; go to our website at cemariposa.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener or, in any county in the U.S.A., contact the local Cooperative Extension Office.

Lee Hanna



Marilou Ellis



Dedication

We dedicate this booklet to Lee Hanna and Marilou Ellis, for without their persistence and dedication, there would be no Master Gardeners' demonstration garden along Mariposa Creek Parkway.

They were among the first Master Gardeners. Each brought skills that would prove invaluable to the creation of the garden, which was suggested by Joe Higuera.

In 2000, Hanna applied for and succeeded in winning a grant for the project from the Elvenia J. Slosson Endowment Fund.

At the time, there were five Master Gardeners and the scope of the project soon became apparent. The area for the garden was not developed, it was covered with weeds, had major sections of mine tailings and limited top soil.

It was a back-breaking project. The group spent many hours pulling weeds, moving rocks and enriching the soil. After months of effort and many moments of discouragement, the garden was ready for planting in the fall of 2002. Hanna and Ellis installed the drip watering system. The garden is almost 900 feet long and planning the watering system was a feat in itself.

Ellis gave support to Hanna during times when it appeared that Master Gardeners had taken on more than they could do. She was Hanna's right hand -- and sometimes her left hand.

Like all gardens, this demonstration garden will continue to grow, change and improve. Master Gardeners say thank you, Lee Hanna and Marilou Ellis, for making this possible.

The plant list

Note: Our garden changes with the seasons. Sometimes plants die and sometimes new plants are introduced. Sometimes they're not in bloom. Therefore, you will not see all the plants as we have illustrated them.

ALKALI SACATON *Sporobolus airoides*

This is a clumping grass that has stems laden down with flower plumes that bend gracefully, sway in the breeze, and fade to yellow in early fall, then to straw color. They are attractive in a bare winter garden. Once established, they are dense, tough plants with deep roots. As their name suggests, they do well in alkaline soil. They are prolific seed producers. At their blooming peak, the stems can reach 3 feet tall. They are often used in habitat restoration and re-vegetation projects. Shear seed heads in spring to promote growth. Good in dry flower arrangements.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** To 3 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No.

ALUM ROOT, *Heuchera maxima*

Heuchera maxima is a species of flowering plant known by the common names Island Alum Root and Jill-of-the-Rocks. It is native to California's Channel Islands where it grows wild on the cliffs and canyon walls. This low-growing, low-maintenance, evergreen perennial grows from rhizomes and has large, heart shaped, lobed, green leaves edged with hair. It is a fast grower and benefits from division every two to three years. In late spring, airy spires of numerous, tiny, bell-shaped, whitish-pinkish flowers hang prettily from the ends of thread-like stalks. This species is the largest of the "Coral bells" and a good choice for planting under oaks. It attracts hummingbirds. Plant in spring.

Water: Low, infrequent. **Soil:** Tolerates all except soggy. **Sun:** Shade to light shade. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 2 feet high, 1 to 2 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** Seed, division or leaf cutting.

Drought tolerant: Yes. **Deer resistant:** Generally. **Fire resistant:** Yes.

Blue Elderberry



BLUE ELDERBERRY, *Sambucus mexicana*

This bush or tree is popular for its almost black, half-inch berries, which are made into jams, jellies, pies and wine. The elderberry is early to produce leaves and late to lose them. The grass-green leaves have saw-tooth edges and can be 1 to 6 inches long. The creamy-white flowers bloom profusely in a flat-top cluster from 6 to 10 inches across from May to July. Berries ripen in September and October. Many animals, birds and butterflies use the bush as a source of food and shelter. Good choice when a fast-growing bush is needed.

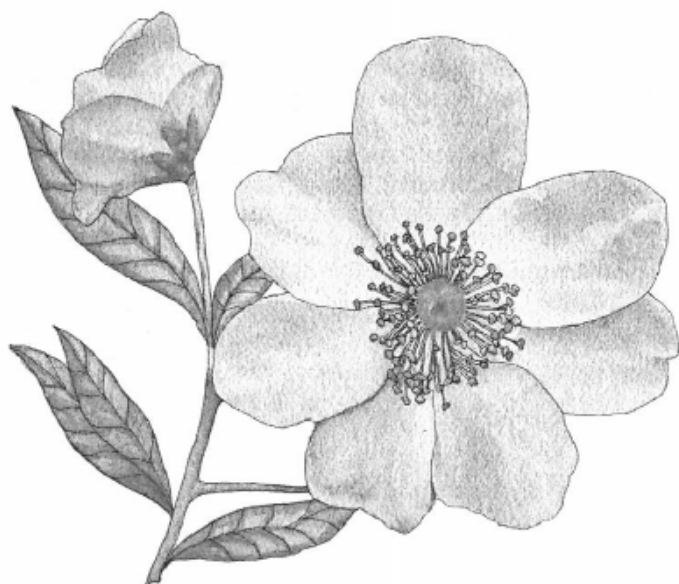
Water: Moderate to little. **Soil:** Adaptable. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 10 to 30 feet tall, 8 to 20 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial, deciduous shrub or tree. **Drought tolerant:** Yes, but looks better with moderate water. **Deer resistant:** No. **Toxic:** Stems, bark, leaves and roots

are toxic when fresh, berries when unripe.

BLUE-EYED GRASS, *Sisyrinchium bellum*

This is a clump grass with narrow, blue-green blades that blooms late winter to early summer. It produces a stalk with clusters of small blue-to-purple flowers with yellow centers. The fruit is dark brown and contains lots of seeds. Plant in sun or part shade in almost any kind of soil, as long as it drains well. It will go dormant in summer. It can stand temperatures down to 0 degrees. For a nicer look, trim it back when it's dormant. It's a good partner for poppies, lupines and other bunch grasses. It self-seeds and can spread. It takes foot traffic. Plant in fall.

Water: Light. **Soil:** Not fussy but needs good drainage. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** About 1 foot tall and 2 feet wide. **Type:** Annual. **Propagation:** Seeds, rhizomes or rooted stems. **Drought tolerant:** Somewhat. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No.



Bush Anemone

BUSH ANEMONE, *Carpenteria californica*

When it's in bloom in the spring and early summer, this is one of the most popular plants in the garden. It is covered by pure-white blossoms with golden centers. The flowers are 1-1/2 to 3 inches across and have

a scent reminiscent of orange blossoms. Butterflies love them. The overall form is formal with dark-green leaves. The old bark looks as if it's peeling. Plants can be sheared to encourage new growth; can be used as a hedge. Does well among oaks and pines and is resistant to oak root fungus.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Partial shade in hot areas. **Size at maturity:** 4 to 6 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Perennial shrub. **Propagation:** Seed, cuttings or suckers. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No, but regenerates after burning. **Deer resistant:** Usually.

BUSH LUPINE (SILVER BUSH LUPINE), *Lupinus albifrons*

The 3- to 5-foot-tall bush lupine has stunning silver-gray stems and foliage year-round. Its numerous spike-like flowers are approximately 3 inches long and range in color from sky blue to deep purple. A change in color in the center of each flower indicates that the bloom has been pollinated. The flowers attract bees and butterflies. Plants are often short-lived, but those planted in gardens with favorable conditions may provide numerous seedlings. Plant seeds in fall or early spring. Seeds can be collected when pods turn brown. Scoring seeds through the seed coat will hasten germination. Plant seeds in porous sandy soil and don't disturb roots when transplanting. Those planted in rich, fertile soil are often rank, short-lived and generally unsatisfactory. As a member of the legume family, it can thrive in dry, poor soil because of its ability to convert atmospheric nitrogen into compounds it can use.

Water: Regular in first few summers. **Soil:** Well drained; accepts poor soil. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 5 feet tall. **Type:** Perennial, ever-green. **Propagation:** Seed. **Drought tolerant:** At maturity. **Deer resistant:** At maturity, but protect young plants. **Toxic:** Yes.

BUTTON WILLOW, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

The Button Willow, also known as Button Bush, grows from 3 to 8 feet tall and equally wide, depending on conditions. It leafs out slowly in the spring. Midsummer blooms are 1 to 2 inches long and look like fuzzy white balls arranged in clusters at the end of each twig. Flowers mature into spherical fruit that turns golden brown in autumn and hangs on through the winter. Leaves, in sets of three, are a rich, glossy green with red veins. It turns bronze-burgundy with yellow tones in the fall. The bark has a shaggy look. The plants attract bees and butterflies and are good along streams. Plant in fall or early spring.

Button Willow



Water: Medium to wet. **Soil:** Tolerates clay; grows best in rich, neutral to acidic soil. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 8 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Perennial, deciduous shrub or tree. **Propagation:** Seed or cuttings. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No. **Toxic:** Yes.

CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL, *Umbellularia californica*

California Bay Laurel

grows best in deep soil with ample water, but it tolerates many conditions and is easy to care for. It can be grown from seed. After starting in sandy soil, keep it moist. When it's large enough, transplant to pots until it's ready to go into the ground. It is slow growing, non-demanding and neat looking, eventually becoming broad and dense. Leaves are shiny, dark green and glossy. Tiny yellow flowers are followed by fruit which are eaten by Stellar jays and small rodents. The lumber is valued for woodworking. Its leaves and twigs are aromatic; leaves can be used in cooking but are more pungent than grocery-store bay. It carries the fungus that causes sudden oak death, so keep it at least 35 feet from oaks. Plant in spring.

Water: Best with regular irrigation. **Soil:** Tolerates many con-



California Bay Laurel

ditions. **Sun:** Full to part-shade. **Size at maturity:** To 80 feet tall, 100 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** By seed in sandy soil. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** No.

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE *Aesculus californica*

This is California's only native buckeye. The leaves start out light green and deepen in color. Superbly adapted to our foothill climate, it produces bunches of cream-colored flowers in early spring, followed by seed pods. It goes dormant when heat hits. Hummingbirds love the flowers but they are toxic to honeybees. The attractive, leathery, pear-shaped fruit puts out seeds that are easily sprouted. Seed pods are popular for dried-flower arrangements. With water, leaves will hold until fall. It is usually multi-trunk and in fall and winter has attractive bark. Plant in spring.

Water: Regular. **Soil:** Tolerates clay. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 8 to 12 feet tall and as wide. **Type:** Deciduous perennial. **Propagation:** Seed. **Drought tolerant:** Somewhat. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Seeds.

CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

This shrub, a representative of classic California chaparral areas, is famous for its profuse flowers that last almost all year long. The white to pinkish clusters bloom from spring into fall, then turn to a brown/rust color and stay on the bush until spring. It is an important source of food and shelter to butterflies, bees and other insects and many birds. The hairy leaves tell us that it is drought tolerant. It is excellent for erosion control.

Water: Little; looks best with deep water in summer. **Soil:** Well-drained, but tolerates sand and clay. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 3 feet tall, 4 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous, perennial shrub. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

CALIFORNIA EVENING PRIMROSE, *Oenothera californica*

The pretty primrose has stunning white, fragrant flowers 2 to 3 inches wide that bloom in the evening and are spent by morning. However, the plants have lots of buds, so expect blooms for a month or more. The foliage is gray-green and low to the ground, so weed control is a must. This is a biennial, which means it takes two years to complete its cycle. One year there is a rosette and the second year, the stalks produce the

flowers. The clump seems to disappear in midsummer and stay dormant until late winter and is long-lived. Unlike other primroses, they are not invasive, but do put out seedlings. Bees love them. Plant in spring.

Water: Infrequent. **Soil:** Adaptable but must be well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** Clumps can be 3 inches high and 2 to 3 feet across. **Type:** Deciduous biennial. **Propagation:** Seedlings. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes.

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA, *Zauschneria californica*

This shrub is also known as the Hummingbird Flower or Hummingbird Trumpet. The birds are its source of pollination. It blooms in summer and fall with red-orange, trumpet-shaped flowers. Some do well in pots. They don't like foot traffic. After first year, cut them back to 1 or 2 inches tall in fall. To keep them bushy, pinch back new growth. Some varieties spread by underground rhizomes and some will re-seed from profuse, hairy seeds. In planting, handle stems carefully.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained but tolerates heavy soil. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** Depending on variety, 6 inches to 4 feet. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Transplant. **Drought tolerant:** Yes, but looks best with water in summer.

California Poppy



CALIFORNIA POPPY *Eschscholzia californica*

This is California's state flower and its image is used on signs to designate scenic highways. It has lacy, blue-green leaves that grow on thin, graceful stems. The blooms are satiny and can range from pale yellow to deep golden-orange. The petals close at night or in low light. It forms a pointy seed pod that splits open to spill tiny, dark, round seeds. Some experts recommend lining a jar with sandpaper and shaking the seeds to scratch them up before

planting. Poppies look best when seeds are cast over a broad swath of ground. Keep seeds moist until they germinate. They don't transplant well. They naturalize well. Plant seeds in fall in mild-winter areas; in spring in cold-winter areas.

Water: Little. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 8 to 24 inches tall, foot-wide clumps. **Type:** Perennial, but most often grown as an annual. **Propagation:** Seed. **Drought tolerant:** Yes, but blooms longer if watered. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Yes.

CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH, *Artemisia californica*

If you have sagebrush, chances are you'll have quail, and other birds as well. This pungent plant has gray foliage that branches from the base. A member of the aster family, its flowers are not impressive. It hates wet soil. It's good for restoration projects and pops right back after a fire. Native people used the leaves for a number of medicinal uses, from easing cold symptoms to soothing aching teeth. In the garden, it needs to be pruned or pinched back every year to retain shape. Plant in fall.

Water: Little to none. **Soil:** Adaptable, but must be well drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 5 feet, depending on type. **Type:** Evergreen shrub. **Propagation:** Seedlings or seeds. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Generally. **Toxic:** Dermatitis to sensitive people.

CHAPPARAL CURRANT, *Ribes malvaceum*

With its dangling clusters of pink flowers October to March, this shrub to small tree is a delight. It's important to wildlife: The blossoms are favored by bees, and many birds relish the fruit. The fragrant leaves can be made into a tea. It can go dormant in prolonged drought but should not be watered; it will revive in spring. For best look, mulch and water lightly in summer. Also known as gooseberry.

Water: Little to none. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** To 5 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Deciduous shrub. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** No. **Toxic:** Host to white pine blister rust.

CLEVELAND SAGE, *Salvia clevelandii*

This small shrub with rounded, wrinkled, oblong, light-green leaves is also called Blue Sage or Fragrant Sage. The last of the sages to bloom (from April to July), it has violet-blue to lavender flowers. The leaves can be used in potpourri and to make tea. The fruit is a light yellow nut.

Cut back every year or two to maintain vigor and compactness. Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. In foothills, plant in fall or winter.

Water: Until well established; doesn't like overwatering. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Size at maturity:** Grows fast and can reach 6 feet tall, 4 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial evergreen shrub. **Propagation:** Seed in early spring or early fall; softwood cuttings mid-summer; division in spring. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.



COFFEEBERRY, *Frangula californica*

A dark evergreen shrub or tree with 1- to 3-inch-long, pointed leaves with reddish tints on red new shoots. The tiny, yellow, star-like flowers are almost unnoticeable in late spring to early summer, forming a dark purple fruit similar in appearance to that of a coffee plant. In California it is planted for bees. Plant in late fall or winter.

Water: Low; no summer soaks after third year. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 15 feet tall, 8 feet wide depending on named selections. **Type:** Evergreen shrub or tree. **Propagation:**



Hardwood cuttings; from seed in fall; layering. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Minor dermatitis. Powerful laxative effect, which could be dangerous.

COLUMBINE, *Aquilegia eximia*

This Columbine is also known as Van Houtte's Columbine. It has beautiful, delicate, yellow spurs at the ends of branches. Hummingbirds are very attracted to the flowers. Plant in spring.

Water: Occasional. **Soil:** Depends on variety; alkaline, clay, well-drained to moist. **Sun:** Morning sun, shade in afternoon. **Size at maturity:** Depending on variety, 1 to 3 feet tall. **Type:** Flowering perennial. **Propagation:** Division in spring, or seed. **Drought tolerant:** Once established. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** May cause minor illnesses such as diarrhea.

COTTONWOOD, *Populus fremontii*

Cottonwoods are related to poplars and aspens, which share the same heart-shaped, shaking, shimmering leaves with warm autumn colors of yellows to oranges. Known to have weak wood and drop branches, especially during windy weather. As tree grows, its roots lift soil surrounding the tree. Trees should be planted at least 15 feet from sidewalks, buildings, and sewer systems. The wind-dispersed seed looks like cotton hanging from the limbs. The "cotton" can be a clean-up problem, so choose a male variety for less mess. Plant in spring.

Water: Typically grows near water. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full. **Size at**

maturity: 39 to 115 feet tall; trunk up to 4.9 feet in diameter; wide crown. **Propagation:** Seed and cuttings. **Drought tolerant:** Some cultivars are. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Male trees produce pollen that is a major source of allergic reactions.

COYOTE BUSH, *Baccharis pilularis*

This ground-hugging bush is in the sunflower family and is notable for its adaptability to a variety of climates and soils. It thrives on the coast with little water but inland, it needs water to look its best. It is an ideal ground cover, especially on slopes and banks. Also known as Dwarf Coyote Bush, it spreads up to 6 feet and tops out at 2 feet. It needs shearing every spring before new growth begins. If you get arching branches, cut them off. It is a good choice for topiary forms. It provides cover for lots of wildlife and is attractive to bees and butterflies when in bloom.

Water: Occasional. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 2 feet tall, 6 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Usually. **Fire resistant:** Yes, if properly watered and maintained.

CREEPING SAGE, *Salvia sonomensis*

Sometimes known as Sonoma Sage, this is a mat-forming, creeping perennial that can spread to 10 feet across. It is a member of the mint family, with blue-violet, fragrant flowers from May to June, appearing in 6-inch spikes above fragrant gray-green leaves that lie on the ground 1 inch or so high. Creeping sage is native to dry hillsides and woodlands of California's coastal ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills below 6,600 feet. It is easy to grow and performs best in shade or semi-shade. It will die back to the crown quickly if subjected to too much heat, sun or soggy or over-dry soil. This groundcover can take light foot traffic. Bees and hummingbirds love the flowers.

Water: Low. **Soil:** Well-drained; tolerates most soils if not too soggy or dry but prefers gritty soil. **Sun:** Shade to part shade. **Size at maturity:** 8 to 10 inches high and up to 10 feet wide; fast grower. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** Seed, cuttings or root division in spring or fall. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** No.

CURLY CUP GUM WEED, *Grindelia squarrosa*

This member of the aster family is a small shrub, found along roadsides

and grasslands. It is also known as rosin weed because it secretes a sticky substance. It has yellow disk-like flowers about an inch wide from June to September. Plant grows from a taproot, branching at the base. Stems are hairless with many upward branches. Native Americans used to Grindelias for many medicinal uses; it is still used for asthma and bronchial disorders. Attracts a wide variety of insects and butterflies. Plant in fall or spring.

Water: Occasional. **Soil:** Favors dry soils. **Sun:** Full sun. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 3 feet. **Type:** Annual, biennial, or perennial. **Propagation:** Division, cuttings, or seeds. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Somewhat. **Toxic:** Unpalatable to livestock.

DEER GRASS, *Muhlenbergia rigens*

Deer Grass is a dense, tufted perennial with narrow, pointed leaves that reach lengths of about 3 feet and range in color from light silver-green to purple. Its blooms often reach to 5 feet and terminate in a single floret. Similar in appearance to pampas grass, but doesn't share pampas' bothersome seed production. Its habitat includes grassland, riparian, chaparral, mixed conifer and oak woodland. Deer grass is easy to grow, tolerates occasional flooding, but cannot tolerate standing water and poorly drained soils. It was cultivated by Native Americans. Its long seed stalks were the principal material used in coiled baskets. Deer grass is often used for erosion prevention and stream bank stabilization. It is also being studied for its ability to remove chemicals from agricultural runoff. Its dense stands and extensive roots act as a bio filter effective for herbicide, pesticide and particulate removal and breakdown. Plant seeds in late spring or early summer; young plants in fall.

Water: Low to unnecessary in normal rainfall years once established. **Soil:** Prefers sandy, gravelly and well drained. **Sun:** Full sun to light shade. **Size at maturity:** 4 feet tall and wide; fast grower. **Type:** A warm-season, evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** Seed and division. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

EVERGREEN CURRANT, *Ribes viburnifolium*

Evergreen Currant, also known as Catalina Perfume, Catalina Currant and Island Gooseberry, is a native of Santa Catalina Island and northern Baja California. It grows low to the ground, extending long, reddish stems horizontally. The 1-inch, roundish leaves are dark green and shiny on their top surfaces with reddish veins and lighter green or yellow

lowish and leathery on the undersides. The leaves have glands that exude a sticky, citrus-scented sap that is fragrant after rain or when crushed. It produces clusters of light pink to purplish flowers that bloom in late winter and into early spring. The plant yields small red fruits later in the spring. Evergreen currant has become a popular plant in drought-tolerant gardens and is an excellent choice for banks or under native oaks where watering is undesirable. A great choice for welcoming birds into your garden.

Water: None to medium. **Soil:** Tolerates clay. **Sun:** Full; shade in hot climates. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 6 feet high, 12 feet wide, but can be maintained to 2 feet. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** Bare root and cuttings; difficult to propagate by seed. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Usually. **Fire resistant:** Moderately. **Toxic:** No.

EYELASH GRASS, *Bouteloua gracilis*

This bunchgrass, also known as Grama grass, carries its blooms on one side of the stem only. It forms a clump and is slow-growing. Stems normally get to 16 inches tall, although they may reach 2 feet when in bloom. The cool-green grass fades to a straw color in the fall and looks like blond eyelashes. It can be mowed and will tolerate foot traffic. In swaths, it creates a lovely, swaying meadow. It makes a nice accent in dry borders and rock gardens. Do not overwater or put it in shade.

Water: Scant. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 4 to 16 inches tall. **Type:** Perennial grass. **Propagation:** Seed or division. **Drought tolerant:** Yes.



Eyelash Grass

FLANNEL BUSH, *Fremontodendron californicum*

An unforgettable sight when in full bloom. This is a relatively fast-growing, evergreen shrub or small tree with springtime bright yellow-orange flowers 1 to 3 inches across. Straggly branches need pruning to stay

dense. Broad, maple-like leaves. Flowers are followed by seed capsules covered with rust-colored hairs. Stake young plants because the root system is shallow. They don't live long. Plant in fall or early spring.

Water: None, once established.

Soil: Needs excellent drainage. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** To 20 feet tall, 12 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial, evergreen.

Propagation: Hardwood cuttings or seed. **Drought tolerant:** Yes.

Fire resistant: No, but re-sprouts quickly. **Toxic:** Stems, leaves and seed pods can irritate skin.



Flannel Bush

IDAHO FESCUE, *Festuca idahoensis*

This grass has a tight, clump-forming habit and reaches 12-18 inches tall. Basal leaves are narrow and blue, green, gray or silver. It flowers in spring on 1-3 feet-tall, arching stems that are occasionally blushed pink or rose. Has a fountain-like effect. Plant seeds in fall, seedlings in spring.

Water: Moderate to occasional. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained soils. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** To 3 feet tall. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Direct seed into container. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

IRIS, *Iridaceae Douglasiana* "Pacific Coast Hybrid"

This plant has grass-like leaves, upright flower stems, flowers with three petals and three sepals (modified leaves), often with intricate markings. Each flower lasts only a few days but another takes its place during a three- to four-week flowering season. Flower color varies from creamy white to blue, lavender, reddish purple to deep purple. Requires no special care, naturalizes over time, and blooms every year. Plant rhizomes in fall or winter; seeds can be started in containers.

Water: Occasional summer water depending on habitat (coastal or inland).

Soil: Best in well-drained soils. **Sun:** Best with full sun in winter, dappled sun in summer.

Size at maturity: Sword-like leaves to 2 feet.

Type: Perennial evergreen.

Propagation: Best by division of rhizomes in fall or winter.

Drought tolerant: Yes. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Yes.



Douglas Iris

IRIS "CANYON SNOW", *Iridaceae douglasiana*

This California native hybrid forms coarse, grass-like clumps with its bright, glossy, green, narrow foliage. In spring its yellow-throated white flowers bloom atop slender stems. It tolerates less-than-perfect conditions and does well under the high shade of native oaks. If soil doesn't drain well, plant in raised beds. It's best to plant rhizomes when new

roots are starting to form. Scrape soil away at plant base to check in early fall to midwinter.

Water: Moderate to scant water in summer. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full to light shade. **Size at maturity:** 1 foot high; slowly spreads to 4 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** By division of rhizomes in autumn. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Parts are poisonous if ingested; possible skin irritation or allergic reaction with direct contact.

JUNE GRASS, *Koeleria macrantha*

This moderately long-lived, cool-season bunchgrass has clusters of narrow, markedly-veined, light-green to bluish-green leaves, above which erect seed heads appear as dense, pale-green to purplish spikes, well above foliage. Inconspicuous yellow flowers emerge from mid-spring to early summer, hence the name. It is useful for revegetation and erosion control over disturbed areas or as an ornamental. It tolerates repeated low mowing and foot traffic better than many other natives. Plant in spring.

Water: Little to moderate in summer; tolerates seasonal flooding. **Soil:** Well-drained; tolerates sand, clay and serpentine. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 6 inches to 2 feet high; 4 to 8 inches wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Seed. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** Fire tolerant with resulting increase in post-fire coverage. **Toxic:** Some people are allergic.

LUPINE, *Lupinus nanus*

Lupine has towering spikes of pea-like flowers that bloom in early spring. Most are blue-purple marked with white. Leaves have up to 15 oblong leaflets that are hairy on the top side, but hairier underneath. Creamy white seeds are 1/4-inch in diameter with an irregular shape. The name *Lupinus* comes from the Latin word for wolf, *lupus*. It was believed the plant "wolfed up" soil nutrients, when in truth, it actually adds nitrogen to the soil. Blue lupine leaves are a necessary food source for caterpillars of the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. Blue Lupine seeds (as many as 20) launch from pods with explosive force and can scatter a few feet.

Water: Medium to dry. **Soil:** Slightly acidic, well-drained. **Sun:** Full to light shade. **Size at maturity:** 12 to 26 inches. **Type:** Perennial or annual. **Propagation:** Seed or cuttings; will also self-sow. **Drought**

tolerant: Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Some species toxic to range animals, especially in fall when animals ingest large amounts of seed pods.

MANZANITA, *Arctostaphylos* "Emerald Carpet"

This evergreen groundcover forms a dense carpet. With fertile, well-drained soil, it lives up to its name. In poor soils, it takes on a yellow cast. Some people call it the "might as well be a lawn" manzanita. It can use some irrigation in the hottest months. It has roundish, oval, half-inch-long leaves. It has small pink flowers that are not showy. Water regularly until it's established. It likes rocky or sandy, acid soil to rich, heavy soil. For quick coverage, plant about 2 feet apart. Its berries attract birds.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Well-drained; can't tolerate alkaline soils. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 8 to 14 inches tall, 5 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Drought tolerant:** No.

MANZANITA, *Arctostaphylos* "Howard McMinn"

This is the manzanita of choice in the garden. It is widely available because it is so dependable, hard to kill and takes garden (as opposed to wild) conditions. It will take watering, but doesn't do well in soggy conditions. Buy it as a started plant as it is difficult to propagate. Like other manzanita, it has the red, twisted, smooth bark that peels off, small green leaves and pretty pinkish flowers in late winter. They form fruits that look like a cluster of little apples (manzanita roughly means little apples in Spanish). Birds like the insects that feed on the nectar during bloom and the fruit that ripens in the fall. They are slow growers. "Howard McMinn" branches may root if they reach the ground.

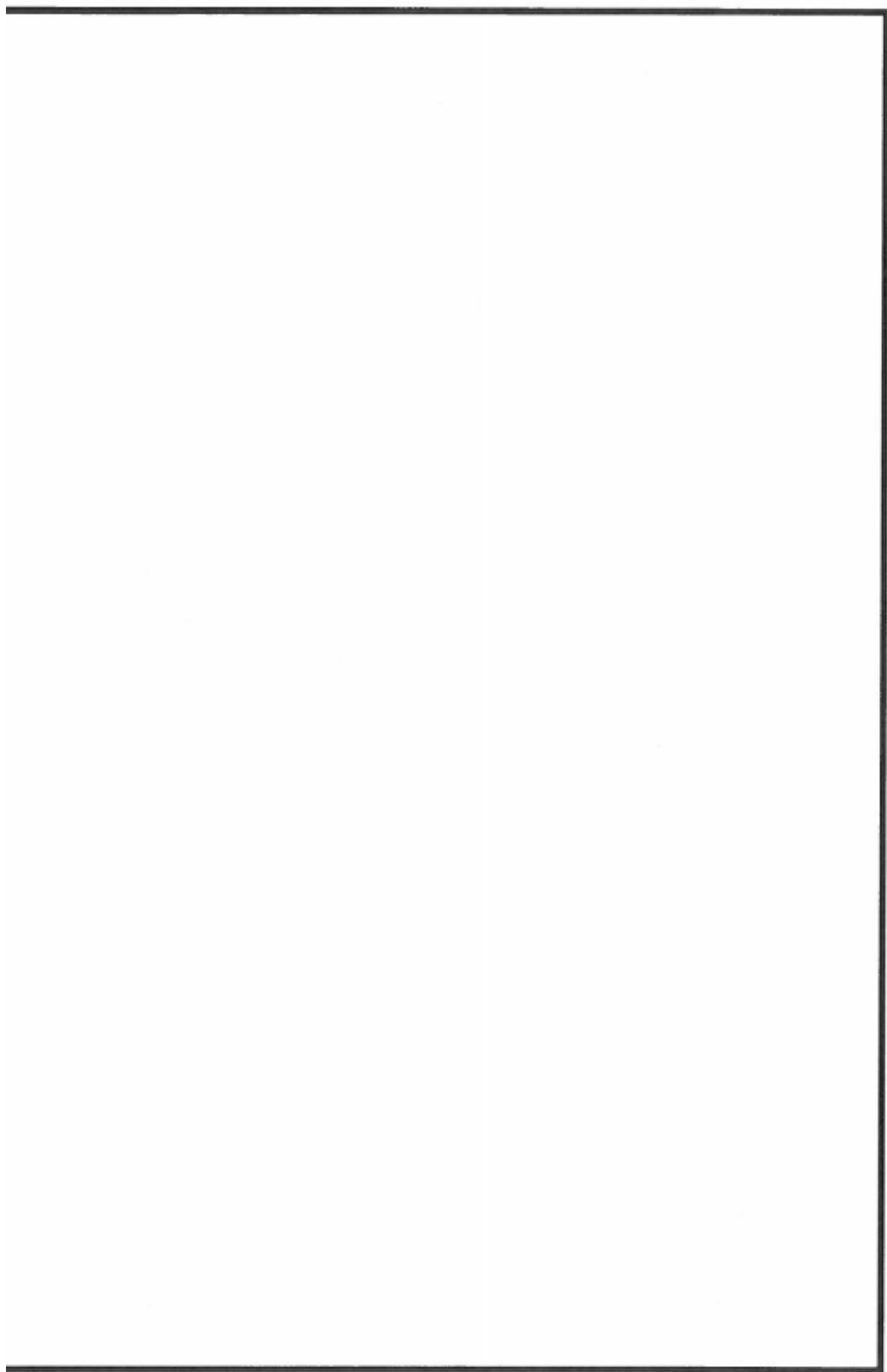
Water: Light, once established. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** Can reach 10 feet tall and wide but more typically 6 feet tall, 7 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial shrub. **Propagation:** Buy plants. **Drought resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No; berries are edible.

MANZANITA, *Arctostaphylos* "Dr. Hurd"

This hybrid was discovered in 1972 in Portola Valley in the garden of

Jump over "Notes "pages

For your notes ...



Dr. Cuthbert Hurd. It is taller than many manzanitas and can be used as a focal point in the garden. It can take more water than most manzanitas, but is still drought tolerant. In ideal conditions it can grow 12 to 24 inches in a season. The red trunk offsets the white flowers that bloom in early spring. The edible, red fruit is good for birds. It attracts bees and humming birds. Plant seeds late winter, cuttings in spring.

Water: Every 4 to 6 weeks once established. **Soil:** Not fussy, but must have good drainage. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** To 15 feet tall and 10 to 15 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen. **Propagation:** Collect seeds in fall for late-winter planting; take cuttings in late spring. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** No.

MARIPOSA LILY, *Calochortus leichtlinii*

The "*Calochortus*" name of this member of the lily family comes from the Greek for beautiful grass. They grow from delicate bulbs. Flowers are short-lived and bloom in spring and early summer. The flowers resemble those of the California poppy, but have interior markings that can look like butterfly wings; *mariposa* means butterfly in Spanish and the flowers also are known as Mariposa tulip or butterfly tulip. Colors range from white to yellow to purple. Native peoples ate the bulbs raw or roasted. Their natural habitat is damp in the winter and dry in the summer. It's best to find plants indigenous to your area. The bulbs are delicate and prone to rot. In very cold and damp winter areas, they do better if they are dug up in fall. An easy way to do this is to plant them

in pots buried in the garden each spring and dig them up in fall. Don't water after the foliage dies; wait for fall to begin irrigation again. Plant bulbs in fall.

Water: Suspend when foliage dies, resume in fall. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained, sandy.

Sun: Full. **Size at maturity:** To 2 feet tall.

Type: Perennial. **Propagation:** By bulb; plant 3 to 4 inches deep and 6 inches apart. **Drought tolerant:** Yes.

Mariposa Lily



MATILJA POPPY, *Romneya coulteri*

Foliage is grayish green with thick stems and irregular leaves, but the glory of this plant is its huge (9 inches) May and June flowers that look like eggs sunny-side-up. The petals are clear white and have a crinkled, crepe-like look and the centers are deep yellow-orange. It travels by rhizomes and has a tendency to spread, so it's good in large gardens, parks and roadsides. It is difficult to propagate, but it can be done by taking cuttings of young lateral roots in November or December. Cut it back to the ground in late fall.

Water: Little to none. **Soil:** Most types. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 6 to 8 feet tall. **Type:** Perennial. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes.



Matilija Poppy

MOCK ORANGE, *Philadelphus lewisii*

The profusion of white, fragrant flowers makes this plant a star in the garden. The scent smells like orange blossoms. The blossoms, 2 to 4 inches wide, cover its tall, arching branches in late spring to early sum-

mer. It makes an ideal background shrub. It is fast growing and needs yearly pruning after bloom to keep its shape. Water in hot summers to keep it looking its best. Bees love it, so keep it away from doors.

Water: Moderate to regular. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 4 to 10 feet; wider than tall. **Type:** Deciduous. **Propagation:** Seedlings. **Drought tolerant:** No.

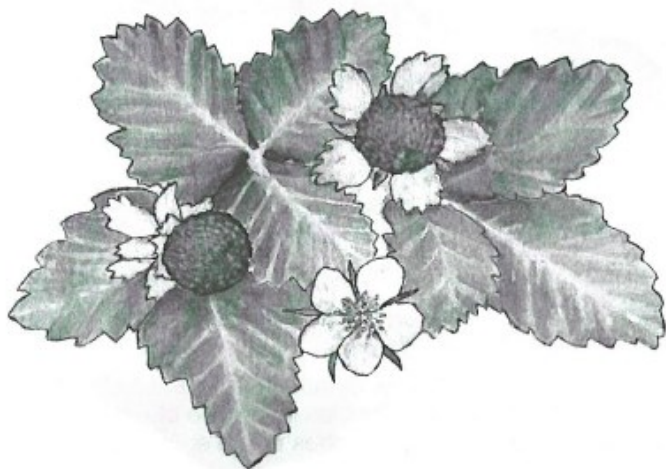
MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY, *Cercocarpus montanus*

This shrub or small tree has an attractive, open structure. It produces clusters of small, creamy, fragrant, saucer-shaped flowers that ripen into featherlike seeds in the fall. When backlit they glow like candles. Its bark is grayish and its leaves are small. There are about 20 kinds in the West, some deciduous, some evergreen. Goes well with redbud, ceanothus, and toyon. It lends itself to pruning for garden use such as topiary or bonsai.

Water: Little to none. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** To 20 feet tall, 10 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** No.

MOUNTAIN STRAWBERRY, *Fragaria virginiana*

This strawberry contributed genes to most commercial varieties, but its fruit is smaller and more flavorful than its offspring. The inch-wide white flowers and light-green leaves are pretty in spring. The leaves are evergreen, but take on a red hue in winter. Divide older plants to increase



Mountain Strawberry

the plant's vigor. It does best in partial shade with regular water and makes an excellent groundcover. Birds love the fruit.

Water: Regular. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Partial. **Size at maturity:** 2 to 3 inches tall, spreads. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Propagation:** Seeds or plants. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No.

OREGON GRAPE, *Berberis aquifolium compacta*

This is a dwarf version of what is the most popular member of the barberry family. It appears in some reference books as *Mahonia aquifolium "compacta."* It is a low, creeping evergreen that grows slowly and forms clumps up to 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Its spring flowers are yellow. New leaves can be a coppery color. Leaves can turn red with sudden chill. It has dark berries that are attractive to birds, bees and small animals.

Water: Low to moderate depending on heat. **Soil:** Adaptable. **Sun:** Full to shade, depending on heat. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 3 feet tall, 3 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen shrub. **Propagation:** Difficult; buy nursery stock. **Drought resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** No.

PENSTEMON, *Penstemon heterophyllus* "Margarita BOP"

This penstemon has an interesting history. It was a "volunteer" hybrid that grew at "the bottom of the porch" at a Santa Margarita nursery, where the owners were delighted and kept it going. Depending on garden conditions, its flowers can range from sky blue to red-

Penstemon



dish and they bloom from late winter through summer. It's a compact, evergreen, perennial that looks a little like a boxwood when not in bloom. It will do well in many soil and water conditions. It tolerates being walked on. It attracts bees, butterflies and birds.

Water: Adaptable to water and drought. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 2 feet wide and tall. **Type:** Evergreen perennial. **Drought tolerant:** Partially.

PURPLE NEEDLE GRASS, *Nassella pulchra*

The official state grass of California, this is a fast-growing, bunchgrass native to western North America growing in coastal areas, valleys and foothills to 4,100 feet. It is both showy (purple seed heads) and tough (deep roots). Once a dominant grass, its spring seed heads were important to Native Americans as a food source. The cool-season grass goes dormant in the dry summer. It plays an important role in grassland restoration. Plant in late fall.

Water: Medium to dry. **Soil:** Adaptable; thrives in clay. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 3 feet tall, up to 2 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Bare-root, container. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No.

RABBITBRUSH, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*

With its yellow cluster flowers at stem ends, this is an eye-catcher that grows from 2 to 4 feet tall and blooms in late summer to early fall. The "nauseosus" part of the name is due to its strong fragrance that some find annoying. It has gray-green, deciduous leaves and looks good planted in swaths. It likes desert-type conditions and thrives in alkaline soils. It is a favorite of butterflies. Cut it back to 4 to 6 inches in spring before growth begins. Near Los Alamos, N.M., there is a stand of it that thrives above a nuclear-waste dump. Plant in fall.

Water: Little to none. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** To 4 feet tall, 3 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous. **Propagation:** Seeds or root sprouts. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No.

ROSADA CORAL BELLS, *Heuchera "rosada"*

This is one of the U.C. Arboretum's All Stars for shade plants. Coral Bells are perfect for massed plantings, borders and in pots. The foliage,

which resembles grape leaves, stays low while the pink flowers grow on thin, graceful stems that tower above the leaves. It blooms in spring and the blossoms can continue into summer. Pick off dead stalks. The foliage can have streaks of silver and sometimes red. It's at its best in dry, shady spots and after it's established, needs occasional water. It attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Plant in spring.

Water: Low. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Shade. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 2 feet tall, 1 to 2 feet wide clumps. **Type:** Perennial, evergreen. **Propagation:** Cuttings or seed. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No.

SAGE, *Salvia chamaedryoides*

Sages, and there are about 900, are in the mint family, so they are fragrant plants. All the California natives are easy to grow and like to be in dry spots. This one is also known as Mexican blue sage and German-der sage. It has blue, 1-inch flowers and silver-green foliage. The splashiest bloom is in the late spring and fall, but it will bloom all during the growing season. While it's drought-tolerant, it blooms better with some irrigation. Pick off the spent blooms. Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees love sage. The low-growing plants spread by underground runners. They need good air circulation. Plant in spring.

Water: Low. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 1 to 2 feet tall, 2 to 3 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Cuttings, seed, root division. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Yes.

SHASTA SULFUR FLOWER, *Eriogonum umbellatum*

This shrubby plant, a buckwheat, has a couple of interesting aspects. Its leaves are green on top and white and cushiony underneath. Its tiny flowers are sulfur yellow, but turn to a rusty red as they wither. They bloom on long stalks in late spring or early summer. This plant forms a silver-green mound and may turn a purplish brown in winter. In swaths, it makes good ground cover. The seeds feed quail and other birds. To harvest seeds, rub the papery seed heads in your hands. Plant seeds in fall after "sanding" them by shaking them in a container with sand. Sow the seedlings in spring. From seed, the plants bloom in the second year. They were used medicinally by Native Americans.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 1-1/2 feet tall, 3 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial; semi-evergreen. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No.

SIERRA CURRANT, *Ribes nevadense*

If you want birds in your garden, you want Sierra currant. Butterflies also adore them. The fast-growing shrub can take drought but also withstand seasonal flooding as long as it has well-drained soil. It produces pretty, pink flowers in hanging clusters from April to July. Then it produces edible blue berries. It will go dormant in the summer without some water. It has some nice fall color. Sierra currant is a long-lived plant and can form thickets. Be sure to cut out suckers.

Water: Prefers moisture. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Dappled light to shade. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Deciduous. **Drought tolerant:** Prefers moisture, but can take dry periods. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** No.

SILK TASSEL, *Garrya elliptica*

The name says it all for this shrub or small tree. Its claim to fame is the long clusters of flowers, called catkins, that hang from branches in winter. The male tree has longer and more decorative catkins that can reach 3 to 12 inches long. The female's catkins, 2 to 4 inches long, when fertilized by a companion male tree, produce grapelike berries that will stay all summer if the birds leave them alone. Its leaves have wavy edges and a leathery texture, but the undersides are furry. It's a good choice for a screen or hedge as a backdrop for a garden. In hotter climates it needs protection from the sun; planting on an east-facing wall in a sheltered spot is recommended. It's a fast grower and can suffer if watered too little. Annual pruning of dead leaves, flowers, and branches keeps it neat. Plant seeds in fall, seedlings in spring.

Water: Infrequent. **Soil:** Prefers well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 10 to 20 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Evergreen shrub or small tree. **Propagation:** Seeds or cuttings. Seeds need winter chill to germinate. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Usually. **Toxic:** Pollen can cause allergic reaction.

SNOWBERRY, *Symphoricarpos rivularis*

A native of the coast ranges from San Luis Obispo to Alaska. Hummingbirds enjoy the pinkish summer flowers, which mature to white, edible-but-bitter berries in the fall. It is an effective large-scale ground cover in snow country. The root system is vigorous and deep enough to be useful as erosion control on slopes. Thrashers and towhees will eat the bitter berries and many creatures use it as cover. Cut stems look good in dry arrangements. For optimum health, keep it from get-

ting too dense.

Water: Medium to moist. **Soil:** Adaptable; prefers well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 2 to 4 feet tall, gradually forming a thicket 4 to 6 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous. **Propagation:** Nursery stock. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Usually. **Toxic:** Can cause vomiting, dizziness in adults and sedation in children.

SOURBERRY, *Rhus trilobata*

This member of the Sumac family has a variety of names including Squawbush and Skunkbush. It's a poison-oak cousin with "leaves of three." When crushed, the leaves have a medicinal or bitter aroma. Foliage has bright fall color. Flowers are white or light yellow and turn into edible fruit. The berries are hairy and slightly sticky and are sour. They can be made into a lemonade-like drink. Native Americans used the flexible branches for basketry and rugs. It works well as a small hedge and for erosion control.

Water: Little to moderate. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 3 to 5 feet tall, 5 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous, perennial shrub. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** No; but it re-sprouts after burning to the ground.

SPICE BUSH, *Calycanthus occidentalis*

This dense, rounded shrub (which can be pruned as a small multi-branched tree) has showy, deep-red flowers that look something like a water lily and have a scent something like red wine, as do the leaves. The flowers bloom in late spring to midsummer. It has true green leaves that turn pale in the autumn. It is easy to grow by seed and is a fast grower, but seeds require 3 weeks to 3 months at 15 degrees F; harvest in fall and plant in containers in spring. Cut suckers in spring for direct planting. Best as a background plant or hedge, but can spread by runners, so needs control.

Water: Occasional to regular. **Soil:** Adaptable. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 4 to 12 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Deciduous, perennial shrub. **Propagation:** Seed or suckers. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Deer resistant:** Usually. **Toxic:** Seeds can cause convulsions. (Illustration on next page.)



**TANSY LEAF
PHACELIA,**
*Phacelia
tanacetifolia*

Though small (about a quarter-inch across), the purple flowers of this plant are abundant. They have an unusual growth pattern. The stems are curled over like that of a fiddle-neck fern and as the flowers bloom, the stem unfurls. They bloom from mid- to late summer. The

stalks can reach 3 feet tall. The large leaves are rounded. Plant seeds about 1 foot apart in fall. The *Phacelia* likes heat and isn't fussy about soil. At one time, it was planted in orchards as a cover crop.

Water: Minimal. **Soil:** Adaptable but prefers well-drained. **Sun:** Full.

Size at maturity: 3 feet tall. **Type:** Annual in areas with hard frost.

Drought tolerant: Semi. **Deer resistant:** Yes. **Toxic:** Can cause rash like poison oak in allergic people.

TOYON, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

This Toyon, also known as Christmas Berry and California Holly, is an evergreen shrub to small tree. It becomes a delightful evergreen multi-stemmed tree with white flowers in summer and red berries in winter. It's a good screen or specimen plant. Toyon is drought tolerant after the first few years, but tolerates some water if drainage is good. It is fire resistant if watered a little every two weeks during the summer. Bees love the white flowers and birds love the bitter red berries. Protect it for the first 3 to 4 years to get it well established. After that the deer won't really hurt it, they eat only the new growth and leaves below 4 feet.

Water: Moderate. **Soil:** Tolerates adobe. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at**

maturity: From 4 to 5 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** After it's established. **Toxic:** Contains a cyanide compound, but not dangerous in small quantities.

WESTERN BLUE FLAX, *Linum lewisii*

Blue Flax attracts butterflies. Under moist and fertile conditions, this wildflower may become invasive. Its native habitat is on dry, open slopes and ridges. It grows to 3 feet tall on upright but slender stems.

The stems are gray-green and hairless. It has a deep taproot. The flower petals are delicate, with darker striping. It blooms profusely from late spring into summer. The short-lived flowers open up during the morning and close by noon. After blooming, the flower is replaced by a seed capsule. This wildflower reseeds itself. Flax species are noted for their erosion control and beautification. Flax

makes desirable forage for deer and birds. It also provides cover for small bird species.

Water: Moderate. **Soil:** Light, well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** Up to 3 feet tall, 1-1/2 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial herb. **Propagation:** Self-seeds. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Fire resistant:** Somewhat. **Deer resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.



Western Blue Flax

WESTERN DOGWOOD, *Cornus nuttallii*

A stunner in the spring. Bare branches produce what many take to be large white flowers. The actual flowers are in the center of growths called bracts, which can be 3 inches long. Dogwood can bloom again later in the year. The flowers produce clusters of red fruit in fall. Birds love the seeds. The large green leaves color to red, yellow and pink in the fall. They don't like to be handled and are not easy to grow. The trunks need to be shaded or they'll get sunburned, so the plant does best under taller trees. Good drainage is a must. They are highly susceptible to a fungus called dogwood anthracnose. They produce a dense, hard wood that is used for tool handles and the like. Native Americans made baskets from the twigs, and bows and arrows from the wood. They need dry summers. Plant seeds in fall, bare-root in spring.

Water: Moderate. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Filtered. **Size at maturity:** 50 feet tall, 20 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous tree. **Propagation:** Seed, bare-root. **Drought tolerant:** No. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

WESTERN REDBUD, *Cercis occidentalis*

This shrub or small tree puts on a glorious display when deep magenta flowers sprout on bare limbs in the early spring. Hummingbirds love them. Trees need winter chill for best bloom. Attractive, blue-green leaves follow. The red flowers produce distinctive, magenta seedpods and the foliage turns yellow to red in fall at higher elevations. The pea-like seedpods hang on through the winter as if they were decorations. Native Americans favored the branches for basket weaving and made a red dye from the bark. Resists oak root fungus.

Water: Very little once established. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full to part. **Size at maturity:** 6 to 10 feet tall, 6 to 8 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Gather seeds in fall, store in dry, cold place and plant in containers in spring. They can be transplanted into the garden the following spring. **Drought tolerant:** Yes, after it's established. **Fire resistant:** No, but re-sprouts after burning. **Deer resistant:** Usually, after it's established. **Toxic:** No.

WILD LILAC *Ceanothus*

Ceanothus has a plethora of varieties of color, size and structure. Its blossoms can range from white to dark violet and most are evergreen. Most of them bloom in spring. Some like it dry while others -- coastal varieties -- like more moisture. Butterflies love them. Here are the *Ceanothus* in our garden:

Ceanothus "Blue Jeans"

Small, dark-green, leathery leaves and profuse pale, powder-blue clustered flowers make this useful as a low-water hedge. Shear after bloom. Tolerates heavy soil and summer water. Plant in autumn while temperatures are still warm, and before winter rains begin. Prune after blooms have faded but restrict to cutting branches less than 1 inch diameter. During growth, pinch back shoot tips to limit size. Plant in fall.

Water: Little or none. **Soil:** Light, well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Type:** Perennial shrub. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Only those with small leaves tend to be deer resistant. **Size at maturity:** 7 to 9 feet high and wide. **Type:** Evergreen shrub. **Propagation:** From softwood, semi-hardwood or hardwood stem cuttings.

Ceanothus, "Concha"

The "Concha" is somewhat more garden tolerant than many other *Ceanothus*. That is, it can take some water every 4 to 6 weeks in the summer once it is established. With good conditions, it can live 20 to 25 years. It's hardy to minus 10 degrees. Do not regularly irrigate or amend the soil before planting. It will take light pruning to shape it. It provides shelter to many small animals and the seeds feed the birds. It has small leaves and deep-blue flowers. Plant in fall.

Water: Infrequent and scant. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 6 to 8 feet tall and 8 to 12 feet wide. **Type:** Evergreen. **Propagation:** Nursery stock. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Generally. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

Ceanothus "Dark Star"

This one has tiny, dark-green leaves with 1 1/2-inch clusters of dark cobalt-blue flowers. It is one of the best bloomers.

Water: Little or none. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full. **Size at maturity:** 5 to 6 feet tall, up to 10 feet wide. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Softwood, semi-hardwood or hardwood stem cuttings. **Drought tolerant:** Yes.

Ceanothus x pallidus "Marie Simon"

"Marie Simon" blooms in early spring to early summer, but unlike most other *Ceanothus*, the fluffy clusters of flowers are pink. It is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. When the smooth-textured leaves are gone, the showy red stems add color in winter. Prune back in spring for maximum flowering. Can sometimes rebloom in autumn if pruned after blooming.

Water: Little. **Soil:** Well-drained. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 2 to 5 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. **Type:** Deciduous perennial.
Drought tolerant: Yes. **Fire resistant:** No. **Deer resistant:** No.

Ceanothus, "Maritimus Valley Violet"

Clusters of dark-violet blooms cover this plant in the winter and spring. It will develop into a mound with no pruning and can be used as a ground cover. It has few pests or diseases. It will tolerate salty soil. It attracts bees, butterflies and beneficial insects. Plant in fall.

Water: Infrequent. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full in cooler areas, part shade in hot inland areas. **Size at maturity:** 3 feet tall and wide. **Type:** Evergreen. **Propagation:** Nursery stock. **Drought tolerant:** Yes. **Deer resistant:** Generally. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

WILD ROSE, *Rosa californica*

Flat, five-petal, pink blossoms with a yellow center and a delicious fragrance and killer thorns distinguish this rose. After the flowers, which bloom from May to August, come the three-quarter-inch, bright-red rose hips that stay all winter and add color to the garden. The hips are edible. This rose forms a thicket that is a home to wildlife -- those that are small enough to get in are safe from predators that fear the thorns. It also attracts many pollinators. It spreads by underground runners, so can become rampant. It is best without pruning, but shaping and thinning are good ideas.

Water: Best near a water source. **Soil:** Not fussy. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 4 to 8 feet tall, spreading horizontally. **Type:** Perennial. **Propagation:** Using offsets from parent root is best choice. Starting from seed collected from hips will work but takes a long time. **Drought tolerant:** Somewhat. **Deer resistant:** Generally. **Fire resistant:** No. **Toxic:** No.

YARROW, *Achillea* "Moonshine"

This plant has lovely, soft, filigreed leaves that have a distinctive fragrance. The bright yellow flowers grow in a flat head at the end of tall, delicate stems. Cutting off dead flowers will make it bloom longer. The blooms are good for cut flowers and can be dried for winter arrangements. Yarrow is easily grown, and in a site it likes, it can be invasive. It spreads by rhizomes to form bunches of plants, and should be divided when the clumps get too big. Division or nursery stock is advised for

planting because seed-started yarrow can take two years to take hold. It is a good choice to anchor soil on slopes. Rabbits, caterpillars and birds like to eat them; bees and butterflies feed on the blooms. Its stems and leaves will stain clothing.

Water: Light to moderate. **Soil:** Adaptable. **Sun:** Full to partial. **Size at maturity:** 2 feet tall. **Type:** Semi-evergreen, herbaceous perennial. **Propagation:** Seed, division. **Drought tolerant:** Once established. **Deer resistant:** Somewhat.

Why we chose to plant natives

The garden along Mariposa Creek has been planted with California natives and hybrids that are particularly suited to the Sierra Nevada foothills.

These plants have spent eons adapting to the chill of winter and the dry, punishing heat of summer that we have in this area. That means they need little care: After they are established, you don't have to bring them in with the first frost or irrigate in a dry spell.

The animals in our area also spent eons adapting to the food and shelter provided by native plants. So in planting natives, gardeners also are helping native animal and insect species survive.

We also plant natives to show off their beauty and variety of size, color, fragrance, blooms, structure, and seed pods. There is something to see in our garden in all seasons. The profuse wild roses lose their blooms in fall, but the huge rose hips add color to the creek-side walkway all winter.

Whether visitors to our garden come from Orange, California or Orange, New Jersey, the same principles are true.

Check with a Master Gardener chapter or agricultural extension office anywhere in the U.S. to learn more about the natives that make your area a special place. Native Plant Societies in each state also can help.

Master Gardeners out and about



Cleanup duty.



Setting up at the
county fair.



Above:
Wheelin' and dealin' at the annual plant sale.

Garden tours in a welcome downpour.



Going native

California native plants are widely available at walk-in and mail-order nurseries. You need to know your USDA or Sunset magazine climate zone to be most successful. To find your USDA zone, go to <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/> and enter your ZIP code. At plantfinder.sunset.com, click on "find my Sunset climate zone." Master Gardeners recommend native-plant enthusiasts consult local experts, for instance, Master Gardeners or local nurseries, about what grows best in their areas. The locals will know what has – and hasn't – worked.

The California Native Plant Society has an extensive list – by region -- of mail-order sources on its website, www.cnps.org.

Here's a short list, starting with nurseries close to Mariposa County.

Mariposa Feed and Supply Co., 5145 Highway 140, Mariposa CA 95338. (209) 966-3326. No Internet.

Western Sierra Nursery, 49266 Golden Oak Drive, Oakhurst CA 93644. (559) 683-8476. www.westernsierranursery.com

Intermountain Nursery, 30443 N. Auberry Road, Prather CA 93651. (559) 855-3113. www.intermountainnursery.com

Columbia Nursery, 22004 Parrotts Ferry Road, Sonora CA 95370. (209) 532-6871. www.columbiaflorist.net

Old Depot Nursery, 19071 Standard Road, Sonora CA 95370. (209) 588-1621. E-mail olddepotnursery@sbcglobal.net

Mountain Sage Nursery, 18653 Main St., Groveland CA 05321. (209) 732-6044. E-mail mountainsagenursery@gmail.com

Central Coast Wilds, 336 Golf Club Drive, Santa Cruz CA 95060. (831) 459-0655. www.centralcoastwilds.com.

Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery, 1957-B Highway 1, Moss Landing CA 95039. (831) 763-1207. www.elkhornnursery.com

Freshwater Farms, 5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka CA 95503. (707) 444-8261. www.freshwaterfarms.com

Manzanita Nursery, 880 Chalk Hill Road, Solvang CA 93464. (805) 688-9692. www.manzanitanursery.com

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara CA 93105. (805) 682-4726. www.sbbg.org

Mostly Natives, 27235 Highway 1, Tomales CA 94971. (707) 878-2009. www.mostlynatives.com.

A bit of explaining

There is no deer-**PROOF** plant. When we write that a plant is deer-resistant, we mean that deer leave the mature plant alone in normal years. If it's a bad year for deer forage or if the plant is not yet established, it may be eaten.

When we write that a plant is drought-tolerant, we mean that it will get that way after it is established; most drought-tolerant plants require a period of irrigation until they take hold.

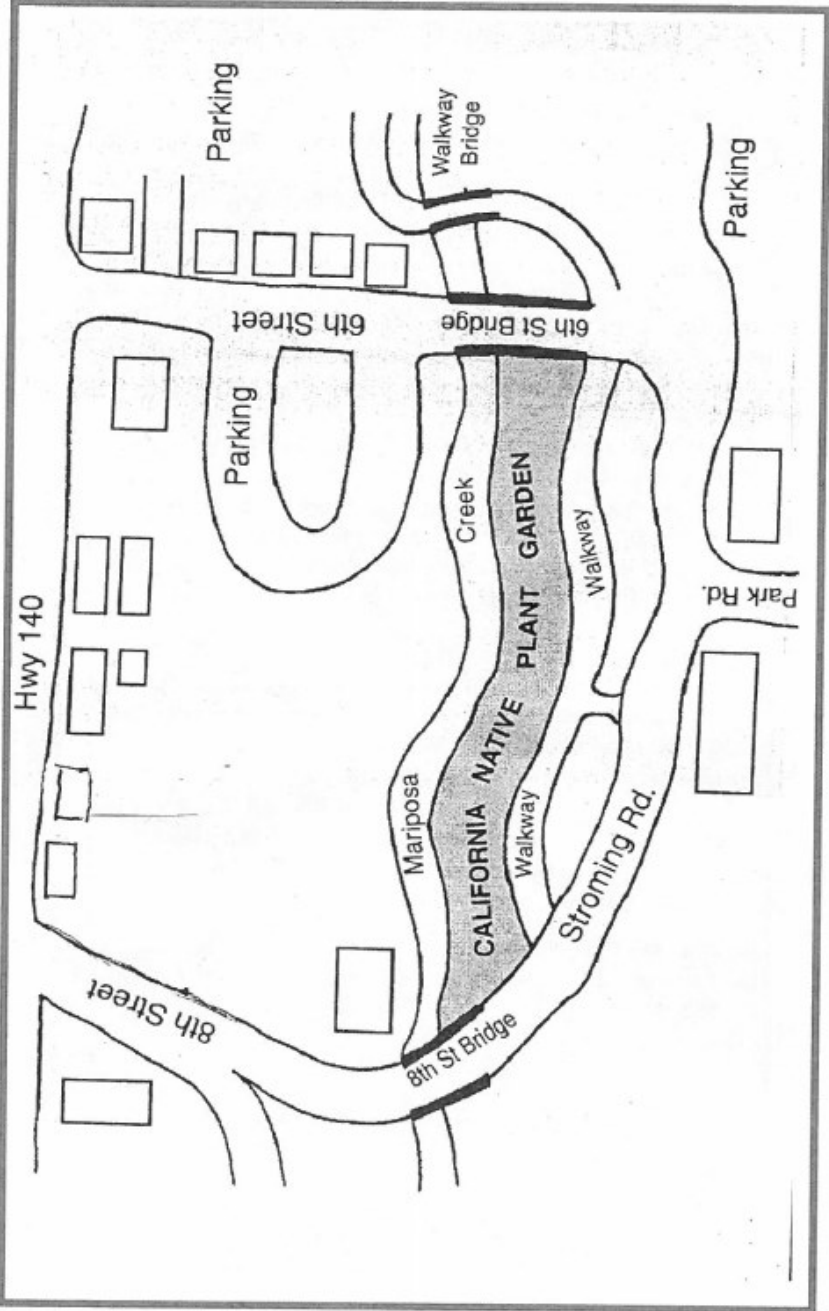
We have listed plants alphabetically by common name. We list the scientific names because it is the most accurate nomenclature. Each plant has at least a two-part name, first the genus then the species. The genus is a large group of related plants and the second is a particular plant within that group.

When buying plants or seeds, always ask for them by the scientific name. Some of them are tongue twisters, but that way, you'll get what you want. Common names change with the territory. For instance, what Californians call Lupine, Texans call Blue Bonnet.

Of course, not all the plants you see in our garden are natives and not all were planted by Master Gardeners. We have bushes and trees — and we readily admit, weeds — that beat us to this lovely spot. We accept, and even make use of some of them; for example, the shade of mature trees.

Our archenemy is the Himalayan blackberry you may see invading our space. Despite its name, it came from Europe in the 1850s and liked what it found here. It has spread throughout the West Coast and is considered a noxious weed because of its ability to smother native plants and take over.

We fight it with cutting tools, and from time to time, county work crews bring in the big machines (for environmental reasons, we don't use herbicide by the creek) to cut, rip and tear. But it always comes back.



Acknowledgments

The work of almost every Mariposa County Master Gardener went into the planning, writing, editing and production of this booklet.

This is the 10th anniversary edition, the first revise since the garden was dedicated in 2003.

The person who took the garden on as her special task was Betty Massey, who served as garden chair for nine years. She organized work parties to keep the garden at its best, researched new plants that would improve the garden, fought the blackberries and worked with UC Davis on testing plants to see what flourished.

Special thanks must go to Doria Fanning for her original illustrations, in living color and black and white.

Hundreds of volunteer hours by dozens of Master Gardeners old and new have gone into making this walkway a place of beauty and learning. We appreciate the efforts of everyone who has made the garden what it is today.

The University of California and Master Gardeners are committed to making sure that all programs designed to benefit the general public are made available to everyone without regard to race, gender, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires that UC take steps to assure that programs using federal funds do not discriminate. For the full policy, go to <http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107778.doc>.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of California Cooperative Extension, Mariposa County, 5009 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa CA 95338-9435; (209) 966-2417; FAX (209) 966-5321; website cemariposa.ucdavis.edu

Penstemon



Eyeshash Grass



California Bay Laurel



California Poppy



Spice Bush



Western Blue Flax



Coffeeberry



Blue Elderberry





Mariposa County Master Gardeners are available to answer questions from home gardeners in several ways:

Call our Mariposa answer line any time and leave a message. Come to the office, 5009 Fairgrounds Road, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, March through October and Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. year-round. Email us at mgmariposa.ucdavis.edu.

In North County, call (209) 852-9711 any time to leave a message. The office, at 9751 Merced Falls Road, Lake Don Pedro, is open Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. April through October. Email at mgmariposa.ucdavis.edu.

Illustrations by Master Gardener Doria Fanning