

# Shade Plants for Your Landscape

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## General information

- Know the sun exposure to your garden area and how it changes with time of day and season
- Place plants with similar water requirements together

## UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars

- [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum\\_all\\_stars.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx)
- 100 “tough, reliable plants that have been tested in the Arboretum, are easy to grow, don’t need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden”
- Search on type, size, sun exposure, CA native

## Small and medium part shade to full shade perennials with low to medium water requirement

- *Bergenia crassifolia* (Pigsqueak) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_4.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_4.aspx)
- *Cyclamen hederifolium* (Ivy Leaf Cyclamen) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_9.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_9.aspx)
- *Echeveria* ‘Imbricata’ (Hen and Chicks) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_11.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_11.aspx)
- *Sedum palmeri* (Palmer’s Sedum) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_34.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_34.aspx)
- *Helleborus x hybridus* (Lenten Rose) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_17.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_17.aspx)
- *Aquilegia eximia* (Serpentine Columbine) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_1.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_1.aspx)
- *Bletilla striata* (Chinese Ground Orchid) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_5.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_5.aspx)
- *Heuchera* (Lillian’s Pink) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_18.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_18.aspx)
- *Heuchera* (‘Rosada’) [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_19.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_19.aspx)
- *Heuchera maxima* [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars\\_detail\\_20.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_20.aspx)

## WUCOLS drought tolerant ornamentals

- WUCOLS IV web site (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species) to get accurate water use information for specific plants for your specific location!!!
- <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>

- Rating on WUCOLS IV is based on amount of water it takes to keep the plant looking satisfactory, not stressed!
- Find scientific name of your plant, many plants have same “common” name.
- Most plants were evaluated for full sun.

### **WUCOLS low or very low water use perennials that tolerate shade**

- *Aquilegia* (Columbine) WUCOLS: low 1-3 ft. Blooms spring, good hummingbird plant, filtered shade
- *Cyclamen* WUCOLS: low. To 8 inches. Blooms late winter. Needs some shade in summer.
- *Dietes bicolor* (Fortnight Lily) WUCOLS: low. To 2 ft., very tough plant. Partial shade-full sun. Narrow, iris like leaves, cream, white, or yellow flower, depending upon cultivar, evergreen
- *Helleborus* spp. Many rated low by WUCOLS, but some hybrids moderate water use. 1-3 ft. Partial sun to deep shade. Deer avoid it.
- *Heuchera* (Coralbells, Alumroot) Most species and cultivars rated medium water use by WUCOLS, however many growers and landscapers still feel it is a good selection for dry shade. 1-2 ft ht., shade or partial shade. Mainly grown for foliage.
- *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas Iris), also Iris (Pacific Coast Hybrids both rated by WUCOLS as low, 1-3 ft. Spring flowers. Tolerates shade
- *Mimulus aurantiacus* and *Mimulus* spp. shrubby hybrids (Sticky Monkeyflower and shrubby Monkeyflowers WUCOLS: low. 1-3 ft. Partial shade to full sun. Deer proof.
- *Monardella villosa* (Coyote Mint) WUCOLS: low, 8” to 1 ½ ft., Minty scent, evergreen foliage, purple flower that attracts pollinators and butterflies. Full sun – partial shade.
- *Penstemon* - California natives WUCOLS: low for Calif. native penstemons. Many varieties & species of native penstemons from 1 ft. to 6 ft, many flower colors from purples and pinks to reds and blues, attract hummingbirds, some are evergreen.
- *Salvia spathacea* (Hummingbird Sage) WUCOLS: low Sun – partial shade. 1 – 3 ft. Grows very well in dry shade. Great plant for bees and hummingbirds, can be invasive
- *Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-eyed Grass) WUCOLS: very low. Low - 12 inches. Sun – partial shade. Narrow leaves, flowers spring, native to Calif.

## WUCOLS shrubs that tolerate shade

- *Ceanothus* (California lilac) Many species, most rated low by WUCOLS. Sun – partial shade. Most native to Calif. Attracts beneficial insects and pollinators, showy blue to white flowers in spring, depending on variety, many heights from groundcovers to 15 ft.
- *Correa spp.* (Australian Fuchsia) WUCOLS: low, 2-8 ft. depending on cultivar. Has spreading habit. Partial sun to deep shade. Hummingbirds attracted to tubular flowers, evergreen.
- *Cotinus coggygria* (Smoke Bush), several cultivars, WUCOLS: low. 8 to 15 ft. can be trained to small tree, better as tall shrub. Reddish to purplish leaves, ornamental looking ‘smokes’ (seed heads) form at end of branches. Beautiful fall color, deciduous. Will tolerate shade.
- *Eriogonum giganteum* (St. Catherine’s Lace Buckwheat) WUCOLS: very low. 4-8 ft. height. Large lacy white flowers that attract beneficial insects and pollinators. Full sun – partial shade. Evergreen.
- *Garrya elliptica* (Silk Tassel) WUCOLS: low. 8-12 ft. Evergreen, ornamental looking long silk tassels on male plants in early spring. Very low maintenance. Can be used as hedge or screen. Sun-partial shade.
- *Loropetalum chinense* (Fringe Flower) WUCOLS: low. Many cultivars. 3-10 ft. depending upon the cultivar. Many have purplish or red leaves with lavender to pink flowers. Evergreen. Partial to heavy shade in inland climates.
- *Nandina domestica* (Heavenly bamboo) WUCOLS: low. 2-6 ft. depending upon cultivar. Evergreen, some have foliage that turns orange to scarlet in fall. Full sun – partial shade.
- *Prunus illicifolia* (Holly Leaf Cherry) ,WUCOLS: low, can be small tree or shrub to 30 ft., but rarely will this slow grower get this tall. Evergreen, Calif. native. Sun – partial shade
- *Myrtus communis* (Myrtle) WUCOLS: low, 3-6 ft. depending on variety. Partial shade to full sun. Deer resistant, evergreen, tolerates pruning well, easy maintenance
- *Pittosporum tobira* (Mock Orange) WUCOLS: low, 3 – 15 ft. depending upon cultivar. Sun to partial shade. Evergreen
- *Plumbago auriculata* (Cape Plumbago) WUCOLS: low. Long spreading branches to 6 ft., intense white to light blue or bright blue flowers in clusters all summer. Evergreen but deciduous and dies to ground in frosty climates. Sun – partial shade
- *Rhamnus californica* (Coffeeberry) WUCOLS: low. 3-15 ft. depending on cultivar. Sun or partial shade. Good wildlife plant, flowers attract beneficial insects, berries are eaten by birds. Evergreen, low maintenance, native to Calif.

- *Raphiolepis* (Indian Hawthorn) WUCOLS: low, 3-6 ft, depending upon species and cultivar. Evergreen, pink flowers in spring. Full sun – partial shade.
- *Rhus ovata* (Sugar Bush) WUCOLS: low, 8-12 ft. evergreen. California native, sun to shade
- *Ribes aereum* (Golden Current) WUCOLS low:4-10 ft. Sun – partial shade, Deciduous
- *Ribes viburnifolium* (Evergreen Current) WUCOLS: low. To 3 ft., sometimes higher. Great shade plant, Calif. native.
- *Sarcococca spp.* (Sarcococca or Sweet Box) WUCOLS: low, 1 ½ - 8 ft. depending on species. Dark green shiny evergreen foliage, white fragrant flowers. Few pests. Partial shade to full shade.

## Resources and references

- Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region, East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Sunset Western Garden Book, Sunset Publishing 2007 (New one published 2012)
- California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien, Cachuma Press June 2006
- Native Treasures by Nevin Smith University of California Press 2006
- Designing California Native Gardens by Glen Keator and Alrie Middlebrook
- Water Use Classification of Landscape Species <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>
- UC Davis Arboretum All-stars [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum\\_all\\_stars.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx)
- California Native Plant Society Santa Clara County <http://www.cnps-scv.org/>
- California Invasive Plant Council <https://plantright.org/about-invasive-plants/plant-list/>

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