

Easiest Native Plant Species for the Central Coast – Groundcovers



Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. *griseus* – Carmel Creeper

Fast and easy. One of the most commonly planted groundcovers in California. Can also spread up to 15'.



Fragaria chiloensis – Beach strawberry, *Fragaria vesca* – Wood strawberry

Beautiful dark glossy leaves, it is the parent of commercial strawberries whose genes provide vigor. Prefers sandy soils. Wood strawberry is great in shade and under trees. Has tasty fruit.



Baccharis pilularis – Coyote Brush

The prostrate forms of coyote brush make an excellent groundcover that stays bright green all year. It is also highly beneficial to wildlife and some forms can even be mowed.



Erigeron glaucus – Seaside daisy

Loves our coastal climate, very showy, in bloom almost all year, deer resistant. Up to 2' spread.



Carex pragraecilis – Clustered Field Sedge

This sedge has a soft texture and is often used to replace turf as it can be mowed and uses significantly less water.



Grindelia stricta – Gumplant

Long-flowering, can spread 6-10', takes salt spray and supports a wide diversity of bees. Deer resistant. Used to treat poison oak and as an adhesive.



Corethrogyne filangifolia – California aster

Formerly called *Lessingia filangifolia*, a long-flowering butterfly plant that prefers well-drained soils. Silvery foliage, light purple to pink flowers.



Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. *hearstiorum* and Monterey Carpet – Hooker's manzanita

Rare, threatened or endangered in the wild. These 2 subspecies are very low growing approx. 1 ft tall X 6 ft wide



Salvia species – Sage

Our native sages, largely like dry conditions and tend to thrive on neglect. Many forms are prostrate creepers. Extremely fragrant, beneficial to wildlife, medicinal.



Symphoricarpos mollis – Creeping Snowberry Works especially well under coast live oaks. It can withstand heavy root competition. It will spread by rhizomes and layering stems.



Easy Native Plant Species for the Central Coast – Shrubs



Heteromeles arbutifolia – Toyon (named by the Ohlone)

Beautiful, easy, adaptable, deer resistant, erosion control, bright red berries. 8-15' or more. Can be pruned even coppiced to rejuvenate or control size. Long-lived.



Artemisia californica – California sagebrush

One of our most aromatic shrubs nicknamed “Cowboy cologne”. Soft silvery foliage. Deer resistant. Additional local artemisias: *Artemisia pycnocephala* – Coastal Sagewort * and *Artemisia douglasiana* –

Mugwort.



Mimulus aurantiacus – Bush monkeyflower

Thrives in many soils, hummingbird favorite as well as bees and butterflies. Can grow up to 5' but can be pinched back to maintain a compact form.



Salvia mellifera – Black sage

The most common sage of California. Can get large. One of the best for supporting wildlife.



Ribes sanguineum var. *glutinosum* – Blood currant

Pendulous clusters of flowers. Benefits from more sun in our coastal area but a shade lover. Will grow 5-12' high.



Ceanothus thyrsiflorus – Blueblossom ceanothus

Blueblossoms vary throughout the state so it is best to choose a local variety. After 2 years you should not need to water it at all. Comes in many varieties.



Frangula californica – Coffeeberry

Easy to grow in a wide range of soils and conditions. Fire and deer resistant, attractive berries, leaves, stems. Erosion control, up to 15', takes pruning well. A good choice for a hedge.



Eriophyllum stachaedifolium – Seaside woolly sunflower, Lizard-tail

Showy yellow flower clusters are a great nectar source for native insects. This species prefers sand. Use *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*- Golden Yarrow, similar for inland locations.



Symphoricarpos albus var. *laevigatus* – Snowberry

A beautiful shrub 4-6' high with lovely white berries loved by birds. Prefers woody locations.

