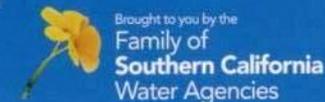


**Authentic California is hard to find outside these days.** That's because we've filled our landscapes with palm trees and showy tropical flowers and manicured lawns to create the look of an island paradise or English garden. In doing so, we have changed the look, the feel, the smell and even the sound of our landscape.

A heritage garden is filled with **native and California Friendly** plants perfectly suited to our mild winters and warm, dry summers. These plants thrive because they live here too. They are low maintenance, use little to no water, don't need soil preparation or fertilizing, and even attract native wildlife like birds and butterflies. Here are some favorites to start with. There are thousands more to choose from. Visit [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) for a more complete catalogue of plant possibilities.



**1) Deer Grass**  
*Muhlenbergia rigens*

This native California grass is narrow-leaved and forms a dense clump up to 4 feet high and wide. The bright green leaves are joined by spiky yellow or purple flowers in autumn that stand tall at first, and lean a little later, rising two feet above the leaves. The deer grass is drought tolerant and does best with little to moderate water in full sun or light shade. An added bonus: deer grass attracts helpful garden bugs like spiders and ladybugs.



**4) Tree Mallow**  
*Lavatera bicolor*

Easy-to-grow, year-round flowering shrub with abundant beautiful lavender/pink blooms highlighted in maroon. This variety grows to 6 feet tall and others can grow as high as 12 feet tall and wide. An evergreen, the tree mallow requires full sun and little to moderate water. It is a very fast grower, reaching 5 to 10 feet in its first year from seed.



**2) Coral Bells or Alum Root**  
*Heuchera*

Slender, spiky stems of loose, small bell-shaped flowers grow from clumps of round scalloped leaves. The delicate blossoms come in shades of red, coral, rose pink, greenish and white. Most varieties bloom between early spring and late summer, with some lasting until fall. They work great in cut arrangements and are long-lasting. In warmer areas, they do best with afternoon shade and moderate to regular water. And, hummingbirds like them.



**5) Douglas Iris**  
*Iris douglasiana*

This easygoing and easy-growing iris is native to the California coast from Santa Barbara to Oregon. A spring bloomer, the Douglas Iris has evergreen leaves and long stems up to 2 feet tall that are sometimes branched and crowned with purple and blue shaded flowers. They like sun to light shade and moderate to little water in summer with well-drained soil. There are as many as 300 species of irises, with varying water needs, appearances and blooming times.



**3) Baby Blue-Eyes**  
*Nemophila hydrophyllaceae*

With a charming name and abundant blossoms, the "Pennie Black" variety produces blackish purple flowers rimmed in white. Other varieties, more true to their name, are sky-blue blossoms. The plants grow in full sun or partial shade, require moderate water, and grow 6 to 12 inches high with a trail to 1 foot wide. The bell-shaped flowers bloom in spring and the ferny leaves give the plants a delicate look.



**6. Emerald Carpet Manzanita**  
*Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'*

This native Californian provides a dense green carpet of groundcover between 8 and 14 inches high, spreading out about 5 feet. Leaves keep their bright green hue even in the hottest, driest weather. Small pink or white flowers bloom in the late winter and spring, followed by berrylike red or brown fruits that attract birds. There are many different varieties of manzanita; all are evergreen, take full sun or light shade and require little to moderate water.

## 7) Concha California Lilac

Ceanothus 'Concha'

The concha is a lilac that blooms in spring with clusters of flowers in white and every shade of blue from very light to deep violet. Generally an evergreen, the concha comes in all shapes and sizes including low and spreading, tightly grouped and bushy, and standing-up and angular. Only a few varieties lose their leaves in cold weather. They require full sun and little or no water.



## 8) Toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon is also known as Christmasberry or California Holly for its brilliant red berry clusters from November through January. It's a large evergreen shrub, with thick, leathery, glossy green leaves 2-4 inches long. It has small white flowers in flattish clusters, which bloom June through July. Toyon requires moderate water and full sun or partial shade. It attracts birds.



## 9) Seaside Daisy, Beach Fleabane

Erigeron glaucus

Another native Californian, this free-blooming plant has daisy-like flowers in white, pink, lavender or violet with blue-green foliage and stems. It flowers in the spring and summer and grows in clumps about 1 foot high and 1 foot wide. It likes full sun or light shade and takes moderate water.



## 10) Hummingbird Sage

Salvia spathacea

This hardy, small clumping sage is a magnet for hummingbirds because of its light, fruity aroma. It attracts the eye too with its scalloped, wrinkled leaves and flower stems that rise 2-3 feet above the leaves. In spring, spiked flowers bloom in red and pink, and turn deep fuchsia. This sage prefers shade to partial sun and requires moderate water.

