

A Guide to Water-conserving plants for the Pajaro Valley

This list is intended as a guide to plants that are commonly used and readily available in the Pajaro Valley area that need minimal irrigation in the dry summer months and are not considered invasive in wildland areas and managed landscapes. The plants listed here have "very low" (<10% reference ET) or "low" (*) water requirements (10 - 30% reference ET) according to the WUCOLS III *Guide to Landscape Plantings in California*. Other literature referenced for this list include: *East Bay MUD Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates*, *Sunset Western Garden Book*, *Firescaping*, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company's *Water-Conserving Plants for North County Landscapes* brochure.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light	CA native	Edible/ Medicinal	Attracts birds or beneficial insects	Fire Resistant
TREES						
Aesculus californica	California buckeye	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	part sun	no	no	yes	yes
*Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	full sun	yes	no	no	yes
Chilopsis linearis	desert willow	full sun	no	no	no	no
Comarostaphylis diversifolia	Summer Holly	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Cupressus forbesii	Tecate Cypress	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey cypress	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Cupressus arizonica var.glabra	Smooth Arizona cypress	full sun	no	no	no	no
*Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat	full/part sun	no	yes	yes	no
*Ficus carica	Edible Fig	full sun	no	yes	no	no
*Juglans hindsii	California Black Walnut	full sun	yes	yes	no	no
*Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay	full/part sun	yes	yes	no	no
*Lithocarpus densiflorus	Tanbark Oak	full/part sun	yes	yes	yes	no
*Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius	Fernleaf Catalina Ironwood	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Melia azedarach	Chinaberry	full sun	no	no	no	no
Olea europaea	Olive	full sun	no	yes	no	yes
Pinus sabiniana	Foothill Pine	full/part sun	yes	no	no	no
*Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	full sun	no	no	no	no
Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Quercus berberidifolia	California scrub oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Quercus chrysolepis	canyon live oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes

Quercus douglasii	blue oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Quercus dumosa	Nuttall's scrub oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Quercus wislizeni	interior live oak	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Quillaja saponaria	soapbark tree	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Sambucus spp.	Elderberry	full/part sun	yes	yes	yes	no
Schinus molle	California pepper tree	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Umbellularia californica	California bay	full/part sun	yes	yes	no	no
*Washingtonia filifera	California Fan Palm	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Washingtonia robusta	Mexican Fan Palm	full sun	no	no	no	no
GROUNDCOVERS						
*Achillea tomentosa	Woolly Yarrow	full sun	yes	yes	yes	yes
*Achillea millefolium and hybrids	Yarrow	full sun	yes	yes	yes	yes
Arctostaphylos spp.	Manzanita	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Artemisia spp.	Sagebrush	full sun	yes	yes	no	yes
Atriplex lentiformis spp. breweri	Quail Bush	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Baccharis 'Centennial'	Centennial Baccharis	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Baccharis pilularis cvs.	Dwarf Coyote Brush	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Bouteloua gracilis	Blue Grama	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Erigeron glaucus	Seaside Daisy	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Festuca californica	California Fescue	full/part sun	yes	no	no	yes
*Festuca ovina 'Glaucua'	Blue Fescue	full/part sun	no	no	no	yes
*Festuca rubra	Creeping Red Fescue	full/part sun	no	no	no	yes
*Galvezia speciosa	Island Bush Snapdragon	part sun	yes	no	no	no
*Grindelia stricta var. platyphylla	Spreading Gum Plant	part sun	yes	no	no	no
Iva hayesiana	Poverty Weed	part sun	yes	no	no	no
*Ribes vibernifolium	Evergreen Currant	full/part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'	Dwarf Rosemary	full sun	no	yes	yes	no
*Salvia 'Bees Bliss'	Bee's Bliss Sage	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Salvia leucophylla 'Point Sal'	Point Sal Sage	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Salvia sonomensis	Creeping Sage	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton	full sun	no	no	no	yes
*Sedum spp.	Stonecrop	part sun	yes	no	no	yes
*Symphoricarpus mollis	Creeping Snowberry	full/part sun	yes	no	yes	no

Teucrium cossonii	Majoricum Germander	full sun	no	no	no	no
VINES						
*Aristolochia californica	California Dutchman's Pipe	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Cissus antarctica	Kangaroo Treebine	full sun	no	no	no	no
*Clematis lasiantha	Pipestem Clematis	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Ipomea indica	Blue Dawn Flower	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Lonicera periclymenum	Woodbine	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Macfadyena unguis-cati	Cat's Claw	part sun	no	no	yes	no
*Polygonum aubertii	Silver Lace Vine	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Rosa banksiae	Lady Banks Rose	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
*Rosa 'Cecile Brunner'	Cecile Brunner Rose	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
*Vitis californica	California Wild Grape	part sun	yes	no	no	yes
*Vitis girdiana	Desert Grape	full sun	yes	no	no	yes
SHRUBS						
Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamise	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Arctostaphylos spp.	Manzanita	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Artemesia spp.	Sagebrush	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Baccharis sarothroides	Desert Broom	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Callistemon citrinus	Bottlebrush	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Ironwood	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Bush	full sun	no	no	no	no
Dasyliirion wheeleri	Desert Spoon	full sun	no	no	no	no
Dendromecon harfordii	Island Bush Poppy	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Dendromecon rigida	Bush Poppy	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Encelia californica	California Sunflower	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	full sun	no	yes	yes	yes
Ferocactus cylindraceus	Compass Barrel Cactus	full sun	no	no	no	no
Fremontodendron spp.	Flannel Bush	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Garrya eliptica	Coast Silktassel	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Grevillea spp.	Grevillea	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Lepechinia fragrans	Pitcher Sage	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Lupinus albifrons	Silver Lupine	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes

*Lupinus arboreus	Coastal Bush Lupine	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Lupinus excubitus	Grape Soda Lupine	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Mahonia nevinii	Nevin Mahonia	part sun	no	no	no	no
Malacothamnus fasciculatus	Bush Mallow	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Malacothamnus fremontii	Fremont's Bush Mallow	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Punica granatum	Pomegranate	full sun	no	yes	yes	no
*Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade Berry	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Rhus ovata	Sugar Bush	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Ribes malvaceum	Chapparral Currant	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	full sun	no	yes	yes	yes
Salvia spp.	Sage - many varieties	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Senna multiglandulosa	Woolly Senna	full sun	no	no	no	no
*Tagetes lemmonii	Mexican Bush Marigold	part sun	no	no	yes	no
Tricostema lanatum	Woolly Blue Curls	full sun	yes	no	yes	no

GRASSES & PERENNIALS

*Agave spp.	Agave	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Amaryllis belladonna	Naked lady	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
Ballota pseudodictamnus	Grecian horehound	full sun	no	no	no	no
*Blechnum spicant	Deer Fern	shade	yes	no	no	yes
Brodiaea spp.	Brodiaea	full sun	no	no	no	no
*Chrysanthemum parthenium	Feverfew	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Coreopsis grandiflora	Coreopsis	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Davallia trichomanoides	Squirrel's foot fern	part shade	no	no	no	yes
*Eriogonum spp.	Buckwheat	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho Fescue	full sun	yes	no	no	yes
*Gaillardia grandiflora	Blanket Flower	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Helianthemum nummularium	Sunrose	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
*Hunnemannia fumarifolia	Mexican Tulip Poppy	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Iris spp.	Douglas Iris varieties	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Lavandula spp.	Lavender	full sun	no	yes	yes	yes
*Leonotis leonurus	Lion's Tail	full sun	no	no	yes	no

*Lepechinia hastata	Mexican Pitcher Sage	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Leymus spp.	Wild Rye	part sun	yes	no	no	yes
*Mimulus aurantiacus	Sticky Monkeyflower	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Mirabilis jalapa	Four O'Clock	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Muscari macrocarpum	Grape Hyacinth	part sun	no	no	no	no
Narcissus spp.	Daffodil	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
Nassella cernua	Nodding Needlegrass	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Nassella lepida	Foothill Needlegrass	full sun	yes	no	no	no
Nassella pulchra	Purple Needlegrass	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Penstemon centranthifolius	Scarlet Bugler	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Penstemon heterophyllus	Foothill Penstemon	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
*Phormium hybrids	Flax	part sun	no	no	yes	yes
*Phormium tenax	New Zealand Flax	part sun	no	no	yes	yes
Polypodium californicum	California Polypody	shade	yes	no	yes	yes
Ranunculus californicus	California Buttercup	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
*Senecio cineraria	Dusty Miller	full sun	no	no	yes	yes
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed Grass	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Verbena bonariensis	Verbena	full sun	no	no	yes	no
*Yucca spp.	Yucca	full sun	yes	no	no	no
*Zauschneria spp.	California Fuchsias	part sun	yes	no	yes	yes

ANNUALS

Clarkia spp.	Clarkia	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Collinsia heterophylla	Chinese Houses	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Dimorphotheca pluvalis	African Daisy	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Dimorphotheca sinuata	African Daisy	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Gilia spp.	Gilia	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Layia platyglossa	Tidytips	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Lupinus nanus	Sky Lupine	full sun	yes	no	yes	yes
Nemophila spp.	Nemophila	part sun	yes	no	yes	no
Nigella damascena	Love-in-a-mist	part sun	no	no	yes	no
Papaver rhoeas	Oriental poppy	full sun	no	no	yes	no
Phacelia campanularia	California Desert bluebells	full sun	yes	no	yes	no
Phacelia grandiflora	Large Flowered Phacelia	full sun	yes	no	yes	no