

*Drought Tolerant
Plants for Mendocino
County*





Xeriscape



-
- Combines the Greek word xeros “dry” with the word landscaping “dry landscaping”
 - a landscaping method developed especially for arid and semiarid climates that utilizes water-conserving techniques such as the use of drought-tolerant plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation.



Drought

Tolerant

Shrubs/Trees



Mugo Pine



*Pinus
mugo*

- ★ Native to Europe and Asia
- ★ Small to medium evergreen shrub
- ★ Many different varieties
- ★ Adapts to different situations
- ★ Will take partial shade
- ★ Good for Japanese gardens
- ★ Used in containers and bonsai



Japanese barberry

Berberis thunbergii



- ★ Native to Japan and eastern Asia
- ★ Compact deciduous shrub. 3-5ft ht x 4 ft wide
- ★ Dense twiggy growth form with thorns
- ★ Good as ornamental hedge or as shrub border
- ★ Small, oval shaped leaves. Purple leafed varieties like “atropurpurea” popular
- ★ Red berries persist through winter



Heavenly Bamboo



Nandina domestica

- ★ Evergreen shrub—not a bamboo
- ★ Foliage resembles bamboo leaves
- ★ White flowers in spring, red berries in fall
- ★ Grown for foliage color...burgundy/bronze
- ★ Tolerates shade
- ★ Great for Japanese gardens





Rockrose

Cistus sp.



- ★ Perennial shrub....needs sun
- ★ Dusty green, round shrub
- ★ White, purple or dark pink flowers are tissue paper like.
- ★ Can get 4ft x 4ft
- ★ Keeps shape without pruning
- ★ Has pleasant smell
- ★ *C. purpureus* is common





Pineapple guava

Feijoa sellowiana



- ★ Native to Brazil and Argentina
- ★ Drought tolerant once established
- ★ Evergreen with oval leaves that are dark green on top and silvery gray underneath. Pale gray bark.
- ★ Good as hedgerow, or small tree to 15 ft.
- ★ Exotic pink flowers with tassel of red stamens. Petals are edible, can be used in salads. Fruit is edible, has minty pineapple flavor and matures in the fall
- ★ Fruits 1-3 inches long, elongate pear shape



Grevillea

'Canberra Gem'



- ★ Medium size shrub 6x8ft tall with equal spread. Arching branches.
- ★ Clusters of rose red flowers winter & spring.
- ★ Deep green needle like leaves
- ★ Named for capital of Australia
- ★ Almost all Grevillea from Australia
- ★ Good barrier plant

Australian Tea Tree

Leptospermum scoparium



- ★ Evergreen shrubs with small, stiff leaves
- ★ Can be trained as small trees
- ★ Can be used as hedge or in bonsai
- ★ Showy rose like flowers, pink red, white
- ★ Myrtle family-85 species
- ★ Used to make tea, prevent scurvy by Captain Cook



Crape Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica



- ★ Native to China
- ★ Deciduous small tree or shrub
- ★ Long flowering period starting in summer
- ★ Available in many colors
- ★ Smooth peeling bark
- ★ Good fall color
- ★ Prune late winter or early spring without loss of flower buds as flowers appear on new growth.





Aucuba

Aucuba japonica

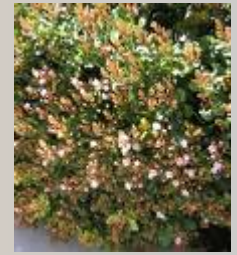


- ★ Japanese Aucuba, “gold dust” plant
- ★ Evergreen shrub, 3-8ft tall 3-4 ft wide
- ★ Shade or afternoon shade
- ★ Gold speckled foliage
- ★ Variegation differs from plant to plant
- ★ Need male and female plants to produce fruit (red berries)
- ★ Cold hardy but protect from frost, slow growing
- ★ Good for foundation plantings, specimen plant



Indian Hawthorn

Raphiolepis indica



- ★ Evergreen shrub native to southeast China
- ★ Compact growth habit 3x5 ft tall by wide
- ★ Decorative pink flowers
- ★ Withstands shaping but best left in natural form
- ★ Use as border, hedge or mass planting
- ★ Easy to grow. In bloom now. Raleys





Drought

Tolerant

Perennials



Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia



- ★ Perennial
- ★ Not a Salvia, and not from Russia.
- ★ Member of the Mint family
- ★ Produces “airy cloud” of smoky purple flowers late in summer.
- ★ Has aromatic leaves
- ★ Good for back of a border
- ★ Pairs well with ornamental grasses, and yellow or white flowered perennials like Rudbeckia and Phlox



Jupiter's Beard (Red Valerian)



- ★ *Centranthus ruber*
- ★ Native to the Mediterranean
- ★ Blue-green lance shaped leaves
- ★ Flowers profusely late spring and summer
- ★ Reddish-purple flowers attract lots of insects
- ★ White flowered cultivar “Albus” also available
- ★ Grows wild in some western states
- ★ Great in borders
- ★ Looks good with yellow/gold yarrow or dark blue salvias
- ★ Self seeds readily
- ★ Can be weedy in the garden





Jerusalem Sage

Phlomis fruticosa



- ★ Native to Mediterranean-Turkey, Syria
- ★ Perennial shrub. Mint family. 3-4 ft x 3-4 ft
- ★ Foliage fuzzy, heart shaped at base. Blue/green
- ★ Bright yellow flowers in whorls with several on one stalk, on top of one another.
- ★ Blooms May & June. Flowers last throughout summer
- ★ Good anchor plant, deer resistant
- ★ Good with Spirea, Abelia, Lavender, blue flowered salvias
- ★ Needs full sun





Purple Wallflower

Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve'



- ★ Evergreen, shrubby short lived perennial

- ★ 2-3 ft tall

- ★ Gray-green narrow lance-shaped leaves

- ★ Purple (mauve) colored flowers from spring through summer

- ★ Adds rich scent to garden

- ★ Attracts bees and butterflies

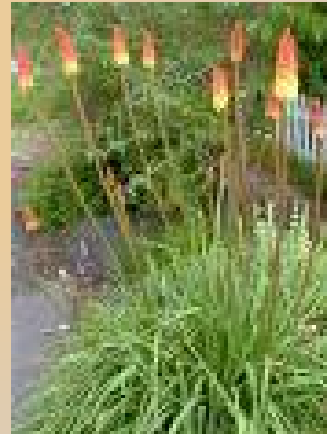
- ★ Susceptible to root rot





Red Hot Poker

Kniphofia uvaria



- ★ Torch Lily
- ★ Perennial
- ★ Foliage is evergreen
- ★ Deer Resistant
- ★ Flower midsummer to fall
- ★ Attractive to bees and hummingbirds
- ★ Can be propagated by collecting seed or dividing rhizomes
- ★ Comes in yellow varieties





Lamb's Ears

Stachys byzantina



- ★ Native to Turkey and Iran
- ★ Velvety silvery gray-green foliage
- ★ Low growing spreader
- ★ Grown for color and texture of foliage
- ★ Can be invasive
- ★ Light purple or pink flowers on 12-18" spikes in late spring / early summer
- ★ Overhead water can cause leaf rot
- ★ Great for borders and rock gardens
- ★ Contrast nicely with white or pink roses and with foliage of Iris





Globe Thistle

Echinops sp.



- ★ Native to southeastern Europe
- ★ *Echinops bannaticus* “Blue Glow”
- ★ Bushy, upright perennial 2-4 ft high
- ★ Stems with globe shaped, steel blue Numerous flowers
- ★ Flowers have spiky appearance in early stages. Plant from seed or rhizome.
- ★ Deer resistant, attractive to bees, butterflies and birds
- ★ Good for cut flowers and dry arrangements
- ★ Looks good with daylilies and Yarrow



New Zealand Flax

Phormium tenax



- ★ Spiky, sword-leaved evergreen perennial
- ★ Great accent plant
- ★ Leaves 3-6 ft. Deer resistant
- ★ Long leaf fibers used in New Zealand culture, history
- ★ Many colorful dwarf and intermediate varieties available
- ★ Background plantings. Look good with ornamental grasses



Lily of the Nile



Agapanthus africanus



- ★ Native to South Africa
- ★ Strap like leaves with blue or white flowers
- ★ Flowers on tall stems
- ★ Great for borders





Sages

Salvia sp.

- ★ Genus of plants in the mint family
- ★ Salvia comes from latin “salvare” to heal or save. Salvia has long history of medicinal uses
- ★ *Salvia officinalis*-Common Sage /culinary use
- ★ Total of 900 species of shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annuals
- ★ 18 species native to CA
- ★ Many native to Mexico, South America
- ★ Commonly cultivated. Many crosses.





Meadow Sage

Salvia nemorosa



- ★ Native to Europe
- ★ Also called *Salvia sylvestris*
- ★ 16-20 inch deep violet blue flower spikes
- ★ Blooms late spring through summer
- ★ “Cardonna Sage” popular cultivar
- ★ Looks good with gold/yellow yarrow or Rudbeckia “Black Eyed Susan”
- ★ White flowered cultivars also available





Mexican Bush Sage

Salvia leucantha



- ★ Downy, bushy lance shaped leaves/flowers
- ★ One of the most ornamental salvias
- ★ 3-5 ft wide and tall
- ★ Blooms late mid summer to fall
- ★ Will die back with hard frost
- ★ Attracts lots of hummingbirds and butterflies





Other trees to consider



★ Large: Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron*), Deodar Cedar, Pines, Ironwood



★ Medium: Raywood Ash, Chinese Pistache, Purple Leaf Plum, Olive



★ Small: Western Redbud, Crape Myrtle, Holly, Pomegranate



Other shrubs to consider



★ Cotoneaster

★ Genista (check for invasiveness)



★ Junipers

★ Oleander

★ Callistemmon



★ Euryops Shrub Daisy

★ Escallonia



Society Garlic

Tulbaghia violacea



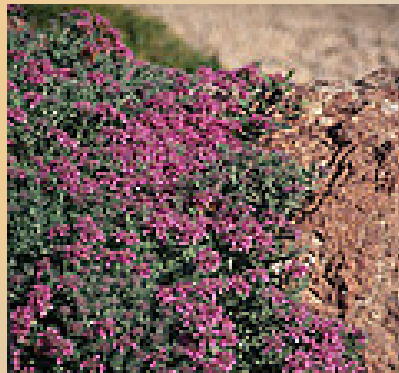
- ★ Clumping herbaceous perennial
- ★ Member of Lily family but not a true garlic
- ★ Narrow gray/green strappy leaves
- ★ Variegated versions available
- ★ Pink/purple flowers on tall stalks over long period starting early spring
- ★ Gives off garlicky aroma
- ★ Divide large clumps or sow by seed





Gray Creeping Germander

Teucrium aroanium



- ★ Gray green honey scented leaves
- ★ Perennial groundcover
- ★ Forms a low mound that spreads out
- ★ Cut back to ground in spring to maintain compact form



California Fuschia



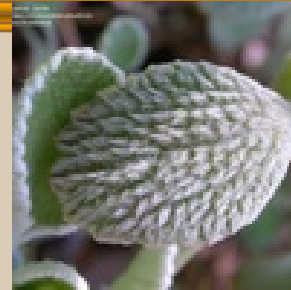
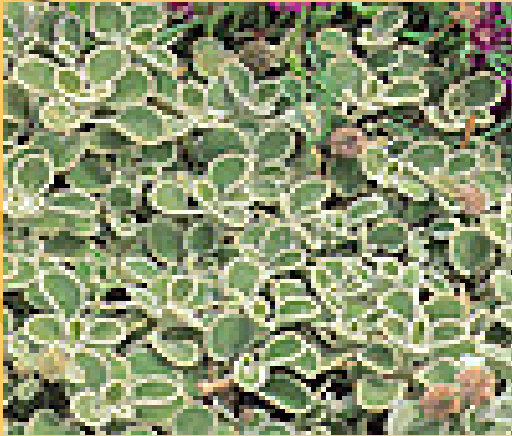
*Epilobium
californica*



- ★ Formerly called *Zauschneria californica*
- ★ Native to California
- ★ Low growing perennial
- ★ Provides late year color
- ★ Mow down at Christmas to keep looking good
- ★ Loved by hummingbirds



Silver Edged Horehound



- ★ *Marrubium rotundifolium*
- ★ Excellent Xeric groundcover
- ★ Native to Turkey
- ★ Soft felted leaves
- ★ Great contrast when grown around taller perennials





Coyote Mint

Monardella villosa



- ★ CA Native
- ★ Perennial herb
- ★ Minty smell
- ★ Attracts butterflies
- ★ Used by Spanish as a cure for sore throat and stomach ache
- ★ Can be made into a tea



Artemesia “Powis Castle”



- ★ Wormwood- Herbaceous Perennial
- ★ Forms mound 3'x3'
- ★ Deer resistant
- ★ Grown for its silvery green feathery foliage
- ★ Fragrant leaves
- ★ Prune for size and shape in spring



Spring flowering bulbs



★ Daffodil-Narcissus sp.

★ Iris sp.



★ Hyacinth spp.

★ Muscari (Grape Hyacinth)

★ Tulips

★ Crocus



★ Iris (rhizome)



Belladonna Lilly

Amaryllis belladonna



- ★ “Naked Ladies”
- ★ Native to South Africa
- ★ Grows in clumps between rocks in its native habitat
- ★ Unusual because it flowers before producing leaves-”hysteranthy”
- ★ Flowers in late summer –July/August
- ★ Inflorescence tends to face direction that receives the most sun



Lavender

Lavendula sp.

- ★ Native to the Mediterranean, Africa, India
- ★ Three basic varieties: English, French, Spanish
- ★ **English:** *Lavendula angustifolia* – “True” Lavender”
Most popular. Strongest fragrance. Used in crafts, dried flowers, essential oils.
- ★ **French:** *Lavendula dentata*- Serrated leaves. Least fragrant.
- ★ **Spanish:** *Lavendula stoechas*- Distinctive for its cone shaped flower. Fragrant. Tends to sprawl over time.





Red Yucca

Hesperaloe parviflora



- ★ Clump forming succulent
- ★ Native to Arizona and Northern Mexico
- ★ Evergreen perennial 3x3 ft, flowers to 6 ft
- ★ Serrated leaves 1 ½-2ft long
- ★ Produces several “pups” each year
- ★ Can be planted from seed
- ★ Blooms April to November
- ★ Attracts butterflies, deer resistant
- ★ Good with Perovskia or Sedum “Autumn Joy”





Penstemons



- ★ Most native to North America/California
- ★ Many cultivars and colors
- ★ Attract lots of bees & hummingbirds.
- ★ Some more drought tolerant than others.
- ★ *Penstemon heterophyllus*-Foothill penstemon
- ★ *Penstemon centranthifolius*- ‘Scarlet Bugler’



Hen and Chicks

Sempervivum tectorum



- ★ Perennial, mat-forming succulent producing clusters of rosettes.
- ★ Twelve inch flower stalk with pink or red flowers
- ★ Full sun to part shade
- ★ Great for rock gardens, edging plants, rock walls, borders, containers
- ★ Hens die after flowering, but chicks take their place
- ★ Looks good with Sedums, Dianthus and Thymus sp.





Stonecrop

Sedum sp.



- ★ Perennial succulent
- ★ Easy to grow, deer resistant
- ★ Flowers turn from a light pink to red as weather gets colder



Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa



- ★ Native to eastern North America
- ★ Lance shaped dark green leaves
- ★ Clusters of dark yellow to orange flowers from early summer to fall
- ★ Long history of medicinal uses
- ★ Produces lots of nectar
- ★ Can be grown from seed
- ★ Mass plantings, borders, rock gardens



Groundcovers



★ Turkish Speedwell- *Veronica liwanensis*

★ Woolly thyme- *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*



★ Sweet Woodruff- *Galium odoratum*





Drought tolerant culinary herbs



★ **Oregano-*Origanum sp.***

* many varieties

★ **Rosemary-*Rosmarinus officinalis***

* upright and prostrate varieties



★ **Garden Sage-*Salvia officinalis***

* many varieties

★ **Thyme-*Thymus vulgaris***

* upright and prostrate





Other Perennials to consider



★ Agastache- Hummingbird Mint

★ Coreopsis- Tickseed

★ Nepeta- Catmint

★ Oenothera- Evening Primrose

★ Hyssopus officinalis- Hyssop

★ Guara

★ Phlox subulata

★ Veronica-Speedwell

★ Daylilies





Water thirsty plants



-
- ★ Hydrangea
 - ★ Gardenia
 - ★ Camelia
 - ★ Azalea
 - ★ Japanese Maple
 - ★ Fatsia
 - ★ Fuschia
 - ★ Podocarpus
 - ★ Rhododendron
 - ★ Roses
 - ★ Star Jasmine
 - ★ Passiflora
 - ★ Ferns
 - ★ Potted plants



WUCOLS

Water Use Classification of Landscape Species

- ★ “A Guide to Estimating Water Needs of Landscape Plantings in California”
- ★ Collaboration of University of California Cooperative Extension and California Department of Water Resources.
- ★ Uses Landscape Coefficient Factor that takes into account species, density, microclimate
- ★ Species Evaluation List of water needs
- ★ Contains guide to invasive species to avoid