

## APLD Bay Area District is proud to promote the watershed approach to landscaping in California

As professional landscape designers we strive to select plants that are adapted to the local climate zone and to use local native plants whenever possible. These low-water workhorses deliver many benefits and when they do require irrigation, they are able to thrive on low water inputs. For more information about APLD and the watershed approach please visit our website at [apldca.org](http://apldca.org).

Below you will find lists of the favorite climate appropriate plants by Bay Area APLD members.

**1. *Melaleuca incana*, HONEY MYRTLE:** The weeping, habit of this Australian shrub or small tree would make a fine specimen plant, but it also shows nicely in front of coarser, darker foliage shrubs, with its fine grey foliage and poofy little yellow bottle brush-shaped flowers. The deer don't touch the plant, and it seems to do fine with little or regular water.

**2. *Westringia 'Wynabbie Highlight'*, VARIEGATED AUSTRALIAN ROSEMARY:** This is a clean, low maintenance 3-4' rounded shrub that lights up the a dark fence, or stands out in front of darker green screening shrubs. It is low water and sports little lavender flowers intermittently all year.

**3. *Dorycnium hirsutum*, HAIRY CANARYFLOWER:** This fuzzy, grey-green groundcover from Portugal is a wonderful foil for brighter colored foliage and grasses, as it mounds and softens the edge of a garden bed or cascades over a wall. The canary flower is in the pea family, so the pink-ish white flowers are like cute little snapdragon clusters.

**4. *Grevillea lanigera 'Mt Tamboritha'*, PROSTRATE WOOLLY GREVILLEA:** I am always looking for tough, clean, green groundcovers that will resist deer and tolerate poor, dry soils. So far, I am loving the way this *Grevillea "Mt Tamboritha"* with its dark green, juniper-like stems and pretty pink flowers performs in coastal and inland settings.

**5. *Lomandra longifolia 'Platinum Beauty'*, VARIEGATED DWARF MAT RUSH:** This is an elegant plant with silvery foliage in a fountain form that looks beautiful massed in a garden bed or solo, foaming from a colorful container.

photo: *Lomandra longifolia 'Platinum Beauty'*, **Sunset Western Garden Collection**, [sunsetwesterngardencollection.com](http://sunsetwesterngardencollection.com)

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**1. *Yucca filamentosa 'Bright Edge'*, ADAMS NEEDLE**

Why you think this is such a great landscape plant (1-2 sentences) One of my favorite structural plants with its variegated grass green and cream striped foliage. I use this plant in a variety of garden themes making it perfect for containers or in beds. Small in stature it can work in any size garden. I love that it has no sharp Pps, is deer resistant, very low water and easy to maintain.

**2. *Helianthum cvs.*, SUN ROSE:** This low growing low water evergreen sub shrub from the cistus family comes in a rainbow of colors. It is great for edging walkways, rock gardens and can be used as a ground cover. Heat tolerant, deer resistant and hardy to zero degrees. Have used in many garden situations and it never fails. Oh and no dead heading!

**3. *Euphorbia 'Deans Hybrid'*, SPURGE:** One of the best looking euphorbias for small spaces At 18 x 24 inches it packs a color punch almost all year round, blooming twice a year. Blooms are lime green turning to orange and really add color to a garden that transitions thru the seasons. It is very low water and deer resistant likes the sun but can tolerate afternoon shade inland.

**4. *Fremontodendron californica 'Dara's Gold'*, FLANNEL BUSH:** Why you think this is such a great landscape plant (1-2 sentences) I love this plant for dry sunny slopes. Low growing and spreading with handsome evergreen foliage. It flowers in late spring with sporadic blooms during the year. Great composition plant with other California native plants that like zero to occasional watering after the first couple of seasons.

**5. *Muhlenbergia dubia*, PINE MUHLY:** This grass has everything for a low water garden. It's evergreen with plant cream flower spikes that will stay on through winter as an architectural element, provides movement, looks great backlight and provides seed for our native birds. I love it's small three foot stature that works in both large and small gardens and naturally summer dry.

photo: *Fremontodendron 'Dara's Gold'* : **San Marcos Growers**, [www.smgrowers.com](http://www.smgrowers.com)

**1. *Lomandra confertiflora 'Finescape'*, FINESCAPE MAT RUSH:** It is a great 'grass', actually a rush, with narrow, fine grey-green blades, 24-30" tall and wide. Does not reseed, and can take sun or shade, little water once established.

**2. *Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'*, MYERS ASPARAGUS OR FOXTAIL FERN:** Wonderful, evergreen fern for shade or part sun. Thrives on little water and adds a sculptural interest to the garden with its 2+' of stiff, upright stems. It is one tough cookie either in the garden or in a container planting.

**3. *Cistus salviifolius 'Prostatus'*, SAGELEAF ROCKROSE:** Dependable wide spreading white flowering shrub, reaching 2' high by 6' wide. Great on slopes or in rough areas. Looks good all year round on very little water, once established.

**4. *Grevillea lanigera 'Coastal Gem'*, COASTAL GEM WOOLLY GREVILLEA:** Another great plant for banks, 1-1 1/2' high with a 4-5' spread. As an Australian native, it blooms in winter providing the hummingbirds with winter nectar.

**5. *Arctotis 'Ruby Creeper'*, RUBY CREEPER AFRICAN DAISY:** This *Arctotis*, with it's magenta/ruby daisy-like flowers, creeps along the ground about 1' high and 2-3' wide. It's evergreen foliage is a grey-green tomentose lobed leaf that looks good year round—great for a parking strip mixed with *Gazania* and grey *festucas*.

photo: *Arctotis 'Ruby Creeper'*, **Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery**, [www.devilmountainnursery.com](http://www.devilmountainnursery.com)

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photo: *Agave x 'Blue Glow'*,  
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**1. *Agave x 'Blue Glow'*, BLUE GLOW AGAVE:** I love this Agave for its compact form, the red edging on its blue-gray leaves, and the fact that it needs almost no water but won't sulk in a garden setting either.

**2. *Anigozanthos x 'Bush Tango'*, BUSH TANGO KANGAROO PAW:** Especially when combined with cool colors such as lavender, the electric orange and yellow flowers of this long-flowering Australian perennial provide a great pop of color, on stalks that rise above most of its companions.

**3. *Euryops pectinatus*, GRAY-LEAVED SHRUB DAISY:** While its green-leaved sibling is more common, I find the gray-green foliage provides a more subtle contrast for the happy yellow flowers and allow this low-water shrub to play more of a starring role rather than being consigned to the back-ground.

**4. *Phormium x 'Doug's Warrior'*, DOUG'S WARRIOR NEW ZEALAND FLAX:** With a consistently dark burgundy leaf and a consistently upright form that rarely flops, this is a great hybrid NZ flax for a punch of color in a compact space. I love to see it surrounded with analogous colors such as purple and pink.

**5. *Lavandula stoechas 'Silver Anouk'*, SILVER ANOUK SPANISH LAVENDER:** With silver, almost white, foliage and delicate pale purple flowers from spring into summer, this lavender is a fantastic filler for small sunny spots that deserve more than just groundcover filler.

**6. *Cotinus coggygria 'Grace'*, GRACE SMOKE BUSH:** With leaves slightly smaller and more luminous than its purple cousins, 'Grace' is an extraordinary specimen when it catches the morning light, and provides a fantastic show of autumn color.

**1. *Calandrinia spectabilis*, ROCK PURSLANE:** This plant has long season of amazingly bright flowers. Easy to deadhead/trim back when needed. Sun and part shade.

**2. *Salvia greggii*, AUTUMN SAGE:** So many different colors of *Salvia greggii*'s – blues, purples, reds, pinks and soft yellow. Long bloom that attracts hummingbirds!

**3. *Phormium 'Platt's Black'*, NEW ZEALAND FLAX:** This is a nice size plant for that tall, spikey look. Not too tall and easy to maintain.

**4. *Lomandra 'Platinum Beauty'*, VARIEGATED MAT RUSH:** Lovely, grass-like plants with white variegation. Full growth and evergreen.

**5. *Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Silver Star'*, EMERALD WAVE KOHUHU:** An evergreen, small leaf hedge plant reaching a manageable height of 10-12' with a width of only 4-5'.

*Salvia greggii*, photo: **Bamboo Pipeline**, [www.bamboopipeline.com](http://www.bamboopipeline.com)

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1. *Grevillea 'Mt Tamboritha'*, **MT TAMBORITHA PROSTRATE GREVILLEA**: This beautiful low water shrub can be massed as a high groundcover and underplanted with California Fescue or myoporum for contrast.

2. *Ceanothus 'Valley Violet'*, **VALLEY VIOLET WILD LILAC**: Ceanothus is often too large for the average garden. This one stays compact at 2'x4', and blooms profusely.

3. *Salvia leucantha 'Danielle's Dream'*, **PINK MEXICAN SAGE**: This flower is fluffy, pink and delicate looking, yet as tough as its more familiar purple cousin.

4. *Dodonaea 'Arizona Green'*, **GREEN HOPSEED**: A reliable screening plant in deer country. Leaf shape and color blends well with California natives.

photo: *Ceanothus 'Valley Violet'*, **Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery**, www.devilmountainnursery.com



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photo: *Cotyledon orbiculata var. oblonga 'Flavida'*, **San Marcos Growers**, www.smgrowers.com

1. *Oscularia deltooides*, **PINK ICEPLANT**: Great trailing plant for planters or for spilling over retaining walls. Tough plant with nice blue succulent leaves and pink stems. Carpet of pink when in bloom.

2. *Grevillea lanigera 'Prostrate'*, **PROSTRATE WOOLLY GREVILLEA**: This is a low growing and dense groundcover that the deer do not touch! Always looks neat & tidy and flowers from winter into spring.

3. *Cotyledon orbiculata var. oblonga 'Flavida'*, **FINGER ALOE**: I like this plant because of its interesting texture (think finger grass) and white chalky leaf color. The coral orange bloom stands out amongst the foliage in spring and so easy to cut off some stems and start in other parts of the garden.

4. *Leucadendron salignum 'Winter Red'*, **CONEBUSH**: Love the colors of this plant - blue, orange, yellow and red. Nice texture, looks good with fine textured grasses and wide leaved succulents. Would also do well on its own in mass or hedgerow.

5. *Graptoveria 'Fred Ives'*: Looks like a flower arrangement of rosettes in the garden year round. Will do either sun or shade but gets more amber, gold & purple hues in sun. Great for planters or rock walls. This is another plant you can take a cutting of and put anywhere in the garden, or give to friends.

1. *Satureja douglasii*, **YERBA BUENA**: This is one of my favorite groundcovers for dry shade. Always looks fresh and green and smells wonderful when you walk on it. Great under oaks, and other trees.

2. *Asparagus virgatus*, **AFRICAN BROOM FERN**: a wonderfully upright, delicate-looking, but really tough perennial. Super versatile in that it can take shade and sun, fit into narrow spaces and needs very little water.

3. *Justicia rizzinii*, **FIRECRACKER FLOWER**: This compact shrub does best with some shade, and flowers like no other in winter and early spring. Hummingbirds love this one.

4. *Prostantera ovalifolia 'Variegata'*, **VARIEGATED MINT BUSH**: A lovely & easy going upright shrub that fits nicely in small gardens and offers a nice pop of cheer with its variegated and scented leaves and long bloom time.

5. *Euphorbia rigida*, **SILVER SPURGE**: The only Euphorbia I use anymore. This one never reseeds, and provides non-stop color and texture year round. Great for small spaces and works really well with succulents.

photo: *Justicia rizzinii*, **San Marcos Growers**, www.smgrowers.com

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photo: *Cupressus arizonica var. glare 'Blue Ice'*, **Village Nurseries**, www.villagenurseries.com

1. *Sedum Sunsparkler 'Dazzleberry'*, **SUNSPARKLER DAZZLEBERRY SEDUM**: This is a workhorse for designers: nice foliage color foil with other greens, evergreen, vibrant flowers, filler and ground cover for the foreground that stays compact, tough, hardy. Yes, I could be accused of over-using this beauty!

2. *Cupressus arizonica var. glare 'Blue Ice'*, **BLUE ICE BLUE ARIZONA CYPRESS**: This is on my radar for a project as it stopped me in my tracks in a neighborhood garden as a stand out small tree. Beautiful evergreen silver color, interesting fine texture, drought tolerant, listed as deer resistant, a moderate grower to 15-25'...what more could a designer ask for?

3. *Correa 'Wyn's Wonder'*, **VARIEGATED AUSTRALIAN FUCHSIA**: Have used this Australian Fuchsia successfully in a few gardens, and it satisfies on many fronts. It has a beautiful foliage variation, stays as a low (2-3') as a compact shrub, beautiful coral dusky rose flowers that attract hummingbirds, takes drought. Especially useful when you need to coordinate both sides of a walk, with different sun and shade.

4. *Nandina domestica 'Seika'* and *'Lemon Lime'*, **NANDINA OBSESSION, NANDINA LEMON LIME, DWARF HEAVENLY BAMBOO**: These two Nandinas are both the same size (3-4') and have great foliage. Obsession can work as a standout alone in a pot, the foliage doesn't get as orange as other varieties. The Lemon Lime is a fresh bright green. Both evergreen, nice texture, low water, hardy, deer resistant, low-maintenance.

5. *Salvia x 'Love and Wishes'*, **LOVE AND WISHES SAGE**: This flowering salvia doesn't get too big, blooms a long time, attracts hummingbirds, and the color of 'Love and Wishes' is a beautiful purple that doesn't overpower, easily blending with bright greens, grasses, other flowers etc. Nice that a portion of the plant price goes to a Make-A-Wish foundation.

1. *Agave 'Blue Glow'*, **BLUE GLOW AGAVE**: This plant is compact and colorful, forming a rosette 1-2' tall by 2-3' wide. Blue green leaves are edged in red and yellow, providing color year round. It is especially useful by itself as an accent, massed in a group, or mixed with other succulents or perennials.

2. *Grevillea lanigera 'Coastal Gem'*, **WOOLLY GREVILLEA**: This evergreen plant has a unique texture and shape, adding interest to the garden year round, but especially in winter/early spring when it blooms its head off with tiny pink curly cue flowers. It can be used to cover open hillsides, or as one -of -a -kind in smaller gardens. Loves sun and very drought tolerant.

3. *Euphorbia hypericifolia 'Diamond Frost'*, **EUPHORBIA 'DIAMOND FROST'**: This plant is a compact (1.5' x 1.5'), evergreen powerhouse that covers itself in masses of delicate white flowers from spring to fall, and often year-round. It is great nestled against rocks or mixed in with other perennials, with the soft white acting as a unifier in the garden.

4. *Sedum rupestre 'Angelina'*, **ANGELINA STONECROP**: This tiny sedum is worthy of being tucked into almost any warm, sunny space in the garden, where it's golden leaves and yellow flowers can bring a surprising pop of color. Try it alone against rocks or walls, or cascading out of a pot at the base of a larger plant.

photo: *Grevillea lanigera 'Coastal Gem'*, **Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery**, www.devilmountainnursery.com

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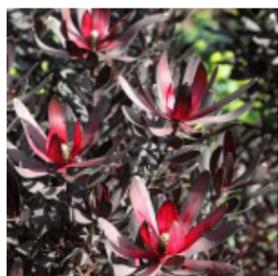


photo: *Leucadendron 'Ebony'*, **San Marcos Growers**, www.smgrowers.com

1. *Leucadendron 'Ebony'*, **EBONY CONEBUSH**: This 4'x5' shrub has beautiful black/burgundy foliage and standout red bracts. It can be used as a specimen or to create a dark background for brighter plants. This should be a go-to plant for all your goth garden designs.

2. *Salvia x jamensis 'Cienega de Oro'*, **YELLOW AUTUMN SAGE**: I just love the delicate pale yellow color of this hybrid sage. It's a sweet, well-behaved little shrub with a long flowering season.

3. *Nandina domestica 'Filamentosa'*, **THREADLEAF HEAVENLY BAMBOO**: This plant has such an interesting soft texture and bright color that changes with the seasons. People always comment on this cool plant! I love to mix it with more architectural plants in containers.

4. *Salvia elegans*, **PINEAPPLE SAGE**: I have one of these 5'x5' shrubs blocking a pathway in my own garden. It's such an awesome plant I can't bear to remove it so we all just carefully edge around it. It has amazing bright yellow-green leaves and scarlet flowers and that amazing pineapple scent. Humming birds are all over this gorgeous shrub!

5. *Ugni molinae 'Flambeau'*, **CHILEAN GUAVA**: This evergreen shrub has green, cream and pink variegated leaves and bright red berries appear in the fall. I like to use this as the 'filler' in large containers.

1. *Dorycnium hirsutum*, **HAIRY CANARY FLOWER**: This plant is pretty, soft, grows fast and with very low water. It grows on a hillside for me that rocky and hard to establish. Love it. Looks just like it's name implies!

2. *Arctostaphylos manzanita*, **'DR. HURD', DR. HURD MANZANITA**: This is the perfect plant for a focal point in a drought tolerant landscape. Beautiful, large, grey-green leaves, gorgeous red bark, and stately growth habit. Can get large but is slow growing.

3. *Chondropetalum tectorum 'El Campo'*, **EL CAMPO CAPE RUSH**: This plant is a smaller cultivar of the hugely popular *Chondropetalum tectorum*. Tidy and smallish, it gives a reed-like look but can survive on low water. It is equally at home in a modern or traditional plant palette.

4. *Cistus 'Little Miss Sunshine'*, **LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE ROCKROSE**: An excellent size for smaller gardens or for repeating in the landscape, with beautiful yellow/chartreuse foliage and a nice, neutral white flower.

photo: *Cistus 'Little Miss Sunshine'*, **Sunset Western Garden Collection**, sunsetwesterngardencollection.com

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