

Planting a Hedgerow for the SoCal Inland Region

What is a Hedgerow?

A hedgerow is a row of shrubs and/or trees bordering a field, road or as part of a buffer, for a conservation purpose. Hedgerows provide many ecosystem services:

- Filter water and air to improve their quality
- Foster pollinators and pollination
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects that help control pests, thus reducing dependence on pesticides
- Provide habitat for wildlife and the biological control of rodents, rather than using rodenticides
- Reduce noise and improve aesthetic value.

Find inside a list of species for the inland valley areas of western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties for below 3,000 feet elevation. Besides shrubs, the list includes native grasses and herbaceous (non-woody) native plants, which are attractive to a variety of beneficial insects. By planting a variety of flowering plants, a hedgerow will provide flower blooms from late winter through summer. Grassy hedgerows do not need to be mowed, so they are less maintenance and use less water.

Flowering plants provide pollen and nectar to a variety of pollinating insects, primarily bees. For native bees, **leave some area of the hedgerow un-mulched** to provide habitat for ground-nesting bees, important pollinators of many agricultural crops. Providing nesting sites and nourishment for pollinating insects has become crucial due to extensive pollinator decline. Pollinator decline is attributed to a variety of things, especially loss of natural habitat, pesticide use, and disease.

Hedgerows are more likely to provide important conservation services when they are established with native plant species that occur naturally in our dry, inland southern California valleys, where rainfall averages between 10 to 15 inches per year. If the rainy season is very dry, irrigation may be needed to supplement natural rainfall. Plants not native to our region may need more water and may require irrigation outside of the rainy season.



Native California bumblebee (*Bombus californicus*) pollinating a black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).

Native Plants for Hedgerows within the Inland Empire Region

✓	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	LIFE FORM	BLOOM PERIOD	DROUGHT TOLERANCE	SUMMER WATER TOLERANCE*	MINIMUM SPACING (FT)	FLOWERING PERIOD (RIVERSIDE AREA)												
								JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow	perennial	spring-summer	moderate	OK	2													
	<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	bigberry manzanita	shrub, tall	late winter	moderate	OK	12										frt	frt		
	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	narrowleaf milkweed	perennial	late spring-summer	moderate	OK	2										frt	frt		
	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> var. <i>canescens</i>	four wing saltbush, shadscale	shrub	late spring-summer	moderate	OK	6											frt	frt	
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mulefat	shrub	fall, winter, into sp	mod-low	OK	6													
	<i>Ceanothus crassifolius</i>	hoaryleaf ceanothus	shrub	late winter-spring	high-moderate	no	12					frt								
	<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Dark Star' (try cultivar if can't get species)	Dark Star ceanothus	shrub	late winter	high-moderate	no	10													
	<i>Ceanothus leucodermis</i>	chaparral whitethorn	shrub	late winter	high-moderate	no	12													
	<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i>	Jim brush	shrub	late winter	high-moderate	no	12													
	<i>Ceanothus tomentosus</i>	woollyleaf ceanothus	shrub	late winter	high-moderate	no	12													
	<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>	sand aster	perennial	summer-fall	high	OK	3													
	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	brittlebush	shrub	spring	high	OK	4						frt	frt	frt					
	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California fuscia	perennial	fall	moderate	OK	3													
	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>foliolosum</i>	interior California buckwheat	shrub, low	late spring-summer	high	OK	5											frt	frt	frt
	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i>	Mojave California buckwheat	shrub, low	late spring-summer	high	OK	4											frt	frt	frt
	<i>Frangula californica</i> (= <i>Rhamnus calif.</i>)	California coffeeberry	shrub	spring-summer	moderate	OK	12													
	<i>Grenedelia camporum</i> **	Great Valley gumplant	perennial	late spring-summer	moderate	OK	3										frt	frt	frt	
	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	shrub, tall	late spring summer	moderate	OK	12	frt	frt											frt
	<i>Lotus scoparius</i> var. <i>brevialatus</i> (<i>Acmispon glaber</i> var. <i>b.</i>)	inland deerweed	shrub	late winter, spring	high	OK	3							frt	frt					
	<i>Mimulus puniceus</i> (= <i>Diplacus puniceus</i>)	red bush monkeyflower	shrub	late winter-summer	high	OK	3													
	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergrass	per. Grass	summer -fall	moderate	OK	4													
	<i>Nassella pulchra</i> (= <i>Stip pulchra</i>)	purple needlegrass	per. Grass	spring	moderate	OK	1													
	<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	showy penstemon	perennial	spring	high	OK	3										frt	frt		
	<i>Phacelia ramosissima</i>	branching phacelia	perennial	late spring-summer	high	no	3									frt	frt			
	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i>	hollyleaf cherry	shrub, tall	spring	moderate	OK	6												frt	frt
	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	spiny redberry	shrub	late winter	moderate	no	5								frt					
	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugarbush	shrub, tall	winter-early spring	high	OK	12										frt	frt		
	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	white sage	shrub	late spring	high	OK	4											frt		
	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	shrub	spring	high	OK	5										frt			
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>	blue elderberry	shrub, tall	spring-summer	moderate	OK	12											frt	frt	
NATIVE ANNUALS FOR OPEN AREAS																				
	<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>	yellow pincushion	annual	spring	avoider	no	seeded													
	<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> var. <i>quadrivulnera</i>	purple clarkia	annual	late spring-summer	avoider	no	seeded													
	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	elegant clarkia	annual	late spring-summer	avoider	OK, occ.	seeded													
	<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	fascicled tarplant	annual	late spring-summer	avoider	OK, occ.	seeded										frt	frt		
	<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	annual	late spring-summer	avoider	OK, occ.	seeded											frt	frt	
	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	annual	late winter-summer	avoider	OK, occ.	seeded								frt	frt				
	<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	arroyo lupine	annual	late winter-early sp	avoider	no	seeded													
	<i>Phacelia distans</i>	common phacelia	annual	late winter, spring	avoider	no	seeded							frt	frt					
	<i>Phacelia minor</i>	California bells	annual	late winter, spring	avoider	no	seeded							frt	frt					
	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	chia	annual	late winter- early spr	avoider	no	seeded								frt	frt				

**Can become weedy in orchards

*1x to 2x a month, soil should dry out between watering

frt = ripe fruit used by birds and other wildlife



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An effective hedgerow has a variety of plants that support native animals and insects throughout the year.



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Some annuals, such as California poppy (left) and California bells (right), will reseed themselves and come back every spring.

California fuchsia is a perennial with bright red flowers especially attractive to hummingbirds.

Hedgerow Establishment

The plants on the chart inside are known to support a variety of birds, pollinators (including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds), and other beneficial insects. Select a combination of species that provides flowers and cover over the entire year. Native annual wildflowers can be added to empty space between larger plants while the shrubs and perennials are becoming established.

Plant in rows at edges of fields and along fence lines. Include several of each species selected.

The best time to plant most of these species is in November to early January to take advantage of winter rainfall. Plants may need to be watered occasionally through the first summer.

Check the soil type. If the site has been graded, conduct a soil test. A special plant palette is needed for clay or alkaline/salty soils.

For more information:

USDA hedgerow video: <http://plantingseedsblog.cdfa.ca.gov/wordpress/?p=4241>

CALSCAPE: <https://www.calscape.org/>

Establishing Hedgerows on Farms in California:

UCANR Publication Number 8390: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=8390>

