

# Drought Tolerant/ Low Water California Native Plants

No young plant is drought tolerant. During the first season or two, watering will be necessary to establish the root system. Once established, the plants on this list may be able to tolerate low water conditions without lasting harm. To help ensure the success of California native plants used on very dry sites the following should be done:

- ✓ **Keep the soil free of other competing plants**, including weeds and the other ornamentals within an area equal to twice the dripline area of the native plant.
- ✓ **Mulch with materials such as wood chips, pine needles, or stones**. This practice buffers the soil from temperature extremes, traps moisture, and discourages weeds.
- ✓ **Improve soil conditions**. This may include lowering the pH, improving physical properties by adding organics and gypsum, leaching of salts, and breaking of hardpan.
- ✓ **Make provisions for shade**. Protect plants from full sun, especially in the afternoon, and for shallow-rooted plants, shade the plant's active root zone.
- ✓ **Plant just before or during the rainy season**. This reduces transplant shock and allows the plants' roots to establish greater depths. When planting, soil should be prepared so that water penetrates and is retained at greater depths. Irrigation basins and mulching will help in establishment of the plants, and care should be taken so that soil will never accumulate above the root crown.

## Trees

### Full Sun

California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)  
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*)  
Grey pine (*Pinus sabiniana*)  
Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*)  
Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*)  
Palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*)  
California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)

### Afternoon Shade

Coast or Interior Live Oak (*Quercus* sp.)  
Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*)  
Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*)  
Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)  
Hy. Holly leaf cherry (*Prunus lyonii* x *P. ilicifolia*)  
Sargent cypress (*Cupressus sargentii*)  
Santa Cruz Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* var. *asplenifolius*)

## Shrubs

### Full Sun

Foothill Tasselbush (*Garrya congdonii*)  
Chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*)  
Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*)  
Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*)  
Greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*)  
Bigpod buckbrush (*Ceanothus megocarpus*)  
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*)  
Creosote bush (*Larrea divaricata*)  
Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*)  
Leather oak (*Quercus durata*)  
Bladder pod (*Isomeris arborea*)  
Rabbitbush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)  
Encelia (*encelia californica*)  
Chamise (*Adenostoma* sp.)

### Afternoon Shade

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rudis*, *A. pajaroensis*)  
Fremontia (*Fremontodendron* sp.)  
Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.)  
Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)  
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)  
Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)  
Chaparral Currant (*Ribes malvaceum*)  
Fuchsia gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)  
Tassel bush (*Garrya fremontii*, *G. elliptica*)  
Wild rose (*Rosa californica*)  
Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*)  
Holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*)  
Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)  
Summer holly (*Comarostaphylos diversifolia*)  
Palo blanco (*Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia*)