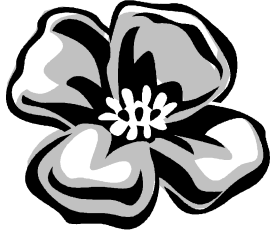


WATER - OUR MOUNTAIN GOLD



Suggestions from the
Central Sierra Watershed Committee

Drought Tolerant Plants

You can appreciate the beauty and utility of drought-tolerant plants even in times when water is plentiful. Saving water saves money whether you're hooked up to a municipal water system or pump your water from a well. Native plants, especially those that are low water users, fit naturally into the mountain and foothills that surround them. And many of the Mediterranean, Australian and African non-native species complement our native plants. Listed below are natives, non-natives, fire- and deer- resistant species, as well as non-invasive plants. In this case, "resistant" means they will not, under the right conditions, burn and/or be eaten by deer. During the late summer and fall deer that are running low on water and forage will eat almost anything, except (as least in this author's experience) lavender, oregano, rosemary, thyme, and the aromatic sages. Regarding grasses, many are drought tolerant, but most are flammable. Used as occasional accent plants (not in groups), provided with irrigation and planted with fire resistant plants, they should be okay.

Trees

Arizona Ash
Black Locust
Buckeye
California Bay Laurel
Catalina Cherry
Cedar
Colorado Blue Spruce
Desert Willow
Engelmann Spruce
Fir
Flowering Ash
Holly-Leaf Cherry
Madrone
Mimosa Tree
Native Oaks
Western Redbud

Vines

Native & Hall's Honeysuckle
Virgin's Bower
Trumpet Vine

Shrubs

Agave
Butterfly Bush
Bush Morning Glory
Ceanothus (some resist deer)
Coffeeberry
Cotoneaster
Coyote Brush
Flannel Bush
Germander
Grevillea (will freeze)
Heavenly Bamboo
Lavender

Matilija Poppy
New Zealand Flax
Oregon Grape
Plumbago
Redberry
Rockrose
Rosemary
Sage (some)
Saltbush
Santolina
Silktassel
Silverberry
Skunkbush
Snowberry
Sugarbush
Westringia
Yucca

Flowering Perennials

Agapanthus
Agastache
Armeria
Aster
Black-Eyed Susan
Blanketflower
Blue-Eyed Grass
Blue Flax
California Fuchsia
California Poppy
Cornflower
Coreopsis
Daylily
Dianthus
Dudleya
Dusty Miller
Euphorbia

Mexican Evening Primrose
Gaura
Goldenrod
Jupiter's Beard
Lambs' Ears
Oregano
Penstemon
Santa Barbara Daisy
Seaside Daisy
Sticky Monkeyflower
Sulfur Flower
Verbena
Yarrow

Flowering Annuals, Bulbs

California Desert Bluebells
Copper Canyon Daisy
Farewell-to-Spring
Iris (some)
Mexican Hat

Groundcovers

Bearberry, Kinnikinnick
Creeping Thyme
Duchesnea
Myoporum
Potentilla
Sedum
Snow-in-Summer

Grasses

Fescue
Feather Grass
Deer Grass
Needle Grass

For more information on drought tolerant plants:

- ✓ Intermountain Nursery: Prather, California 559.855.3113
- ✓ California Native Plant Society: www.cnps.org
- ✓ California Native Plants: www.calflora.org
- ✓ Photo site: www.calphotos.org
- ✓ Others: www.Laspilitas.com; www.cornflowerfarms.com; highcountrygardens.com

Tips for

WATER CONSERVATION: If “gray water” is allowed, use approved systems. Dig basins around plants to avoid runoff. Keep garden free of weeds, which rob water. Put timers on drip systems and sprinklers.

The CSWC meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Sierra Ambulance Office, 40755 Winding Way, Oakhurst, at 9 AM, and is open to the public. For information, please email leavesofgrass@netptc.net

The mission of the Central Sierra Watershed Committee is to promote the quality, quantity, and aesthetic values of our water resources through the conservation and restoration of our watersheds.

CSWC members include: Interested citizens, ranchers, homeowners; local Native American tribes; North Fork Community Development Council; Chowchilla-Redtop and Coarsegold Resource Conservation Districts; Chowchilla City Council; Upper Merced River Watershed Council; California Water Institute; Sierra Foothill Conservancy; Madera Irrigation District; Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council; US Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Water Quality Control Board; Madera County Environmental Health & Engineering; CA Department of Water Resources; Madera County Board of Supervisors; Madera Agriculture Commissioner; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the United States Forest Service.

Note: The contents of this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the State.