Conceptual Garden Design for the Pole Line Road Baptist Church

Ying Ying Zhong
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CONCEPTUAL GARDEN DESIGN FOR THE
POLE LINE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Accepted and Approved by:

__________________________
Faculty Senior Project Advisor, Heath Schenker

__________________________
Faculty Committee Member, Elizabeth Boults

__________________________
Committee Member, Dennis Yates

__________________________
Committee Member, Barbara Hammond

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Committee Member, Nancy Yates
Abstract

This senior project consists of background research, site analysis and a conceptual site plan for the landscaping at the Pole Line Road Baptist Church in Davis, California. I had received this project during the Project Match Event held on November 6th, 2011. When I first heard about this site, I was instantly interested because the client wanted a Tuscan-style landscaping and I wanted to find out what that was. The site provided opportunity for drought-tolerant Tuscan styled landscaping, a sense garden, and an outdoors activities area. This document contains background research and Tuscan style gardens, drought-tolerant plants, and “senses” garden. The final conceptual designs is determined from the background research, site analysis, and input from the clients, who are members of the Pole Line Road Baptist Church and the main users of this site.
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Introduction
In California, water resources are becoming finite and very limited, so the best solution to save water is to create landscapes that require little water so that no extra water is needed for maintaining an attractive landscape. By carefully selecting and properly maintaining plants native to or adapted to dry environments, we can conserve water and still have a pleasantly green landscape to enjoy. My purpose is to create a drought tolerant Tuscan-styled landscape and also create an outdoor garden for the Pole Line Baptist Church in Davis, California. Not only will this help save money from limited water usage and limited maintenance needs, but a new garden will make the church more attractive and expose to more people about the positive aspects of a drought-tolerant garden in California. The Tuscan style theme was chosen by the people at the church because it relates to the exterior setting of the church.
The main goal for this project will be to create a water-efficient landscape in the specified areas that is relatively easy to manage and is also aesthetically pleasing. According to the client’s wishes, the designs will follow a Tuscan style to match the existing building. There are five small plots of land located on different areas of the site that need to follow the drought-tolerant Tuscan style design. In addition, there is an approximately 4000sq. feet of empty lawn area towards the back of the church that need to be redesigned to include an outdoor activities area and also an educational garden.

For the lawn area, there will be a new senses garden design which can be educational and fun for the church users to enjoy. It will be aesthetically pleasing and will offer many people the experience to see and learn about different plants. Furthermore, a new design for the outdoor activities area will be a gathering space where the church people can hold events or ceremonies and be able to use the space for a specific purpose. It will also be used by the children from the church’s nursery. In this public outdoor space, the church can hold their annual events such as Parent’s Night Out and the children can safely play and enjoy outdoor activities in the activities area.
Literature Review
The method of approach for this senior project is a combination of Hideo Sasaki’s design process and also of Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack’s site design process. In Sasaki’s process, he applied critical thinking to design by going through three steps: research, analysis and synthesis. (Swaffield, 2002)

The first phase, research, involves three types—verbal, visual, and experimental. Verbal research is the conventional method of research which is to go through books, written materials and other literature sources to gain a basic understanding of the subject. Visual research consists of site visits, photographs and other visual aids to passively inspect the nature of the site. Experimental research is the “manipulative activity used to discover new aesthetic possibilities of materials, construction methods, and spatial relationships.” (Swaffield 2002) In other words, experimental research is about being creative and finding new possibilities for a perfect design solution that is beneficial to the site.

The second phase of design is the analysis process. In the analysis process, the first step is to gather all the existing information of the site and then proceed to making relational diagrams or circulation maps in order to decipher what the inventory means and how it can apply to the design portion. Here, I also incorporated Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack’s site design process to help with the analysis by using the three elements of site design: the pattern of activity, the pattern of circulation,
and the pattern of sensible form that supports them. (Swaffield 2002) The first element is to observe the behavior setting of the site, to see what types of activity goes on. The second element is finding the circulation paths that make activities possible. For this project, I observed the biking, walking and vehicular circulation. The third element is the “human experience of place: what we see, hear, smell, and feel.” (Swaffield 2002) This element include observing the existing vegetation, the surrounding neighborhood, and noise level caused by traffic. This is a very crucial element because the human experience is what attracts a person to a place on their first impression so a good design should appeal to all of the human sense. After gathering all the necessary information and making diagrams, circulation maps and basic analysis maps, then it is possible to consider what types of material, shape, construction system, theme, etc. that can be incorporated on site.

Finally, the third phase of the PLRBC garden design is the synthesis process, which is to articulate the entire analysis and research portion into a functional and aesthetic design form. Here, I will make sketches, renders and drawings of the design ideas that I have in mind for the PLRBC garden design.
Site Context
There are beautiful gardens all around the world, from Japanese gardens in the East to French gardens in the West, each type of garden have their own characteristics that make them unique and distinct from one another. These characteristics were created by their founders who used their culture, philosophical believes, surrounding environment, and climate to establish a landscape that is captivating and enjoyable.

The Tuscan Renaissance gardens were radically and revolutionarily different from the traditional Italian gardens. In the mid-fifteenth century, the Italian gardens were no longer useful, sheltered spaces where culinary and medicinal herbs might grow but instead evolved to be more oriented on the beauty aspect rather than the practical aspect of gardening. (Attlee 2009) The new Italian garden design was to embrace the landscape around it and did not emphasize on the useful aspect. This new style emerged at the villas in Tome and Florence for the enjoyment of sights, sounds and smells of the garden itself. However, these radical changes did not occur overnight but rather was influenced by the Classical culture. In the mid-fourteenth century, Classical scholar Francesco Petrarch made gardens in each house that he lived in after studying and translating Classical text written by Classical scholars, philosophers and poets. The Classical texts were filled with inspiring descriptions of beautiful garden landscapes and the new
translations brought these forgotten texts to a wider audience. Therefore, Europe’s very first Renaissance gardens were created in Tuscany, Italy because the first humanists lived and worked in Florence and its surrounding areas. (Attlee 2009) One of these influential people was Leon Battista Alberti who wrote many treatises on garden making that were different from the accepted ways.

During this era, the Medici family built many splendid gardens in their numerous villas, some of which still exist today. The Medici family was heads of the Florentine Republic and they were garden makers in almost every generation of the family. Due to the Medici’s powerful social status and love for garden making, Tuscany became a center for botanical research and garden making. (Attlee 2009) The two Medici gardens that will be referred to for this project’s site design inspirations are Villa Medici, Fiesole and Villa Medici di Castello. These gardens encompass the elements of a Tuscan style garden which adheres to the rules of classic humanist gardens that made them beautiful and memorable places.
**Villa Medici, Fiesole**

The Villa Medici in Fiesole is surrounded by one of the earliest humanist gardens to have survived in Italy. It was built between 1455 and 1461 and the architect is thought to be Michelozzi Michelozzo for Giovanni de’ Medici. The villa was located in an awkward and challenging position for the 5-acre site was on a steep hillside high above the city of Florence. However, it stood on a sunny and breezy position and because of its elevated height it encompassed a great view of the towers and domes of Florence, the River Arno and the misty hills beyond it. This made it an ideal realization for Alberti’s view of locations for gardens. (Attlee 2009)
In 1537 Cosimo I de’ Medici commissioned Niccolo Tribolo to redesign his grandmother’s villa at Castello. Tribolo used a central axis to divide and created a series of garden rooms using hedges, rows of trees and scented tunnels. Pots of lemons, oranges and citrons were used to decorate paths, staircases and gateways. Grid axis and fragrant plants are some of the important elements that made the Tuscan style garden stand out. Another important element in the gardens at this villa was the fountains and statues that were used to decorate; however for the PLRBC design, these elements will not be required.
The main design elements of a Tuscan Renaissance Garden are:

1. Trees and plants in urns/pots
2. Axially divided into box/square shapes
3. Stone statues
4. Terraces/steps
5. Aromatic plants (citron, cedar, olive trees)
6. Water feature (fountains)

These elements will be incorporated into my design, except the water feature and stone statues which will be unnecessary since the PLRBC design will focus on being drought tolerant and the stone statues are not necessary for this design.
For over the past two or three decades, there has been a nationwide trend to create gardens featuring native and naturalized plants. This may be due to the fact that we are now in a decade where people actually care about nature and its future. Many house owners and gardeners want a beautiful landscape in their backyard that is easy to maintain and most importantly, water conserving. In order to create a successful garden with limited water, the first and foremost important thing is to understand the landscape that you are working with. Temperature, rainfall and wind make the climate; add sunshine to the list and this determines the character of plants of a particular region.

Basic soil structure is also very important since different plants require different soil types. The topsoil is easiest to judge the characteristics since it is easy to see but the subsoils may be harder to judge for its qualities. There are three types of soil: clay, loam and sandy. The easiest way to determine them is by rubbing a pinch of soil between the thumb and forefingers. If it feels smooth, then it is clay; gritty, then it is loam; gritty and harsh, then it is sandy. The most ideal soil is loam because it can absorb soil readily and contains considerable organic matters. (Wheatley, 1978)

When choosing for the aesthetic qualities
of plants, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, concentrate small areas of color where they are likely to be most appreciated; colors next to entryways and along pathways draws attention and can create focal points for users. (Rumary 1995) Erosion control might be of a concern in some landscapes so plants with a binding root system can help with that issue.

All plants require water and their needs vary widely depending on their size, type, and location. It is important to choose water conserving plants for The Pole Line Road Baptist Church garden design because of high water costs and also because Davis receives an annual 19.1in precipitation and has very dry hot summers. Mediterranean-climate plants are appropriate for the Davis landscape because it as a sunset weather zone of 14 which is a perfect condition for these plants to thrive in. (Sunset Western Garden Book 2008) By choosing plants that naturally use less water and also using plants that are suitable for the Davis weather, water costs can go down and less maintenance will be needed once the plants have established themselves. There are many resources to find plants that are suitable for the Davis weather and some of them are the UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars Plant List, ative plants from the California Native Plant Society, and water saving plants from the Regional Water Authority onli-
Before planting, it is best to plan ahead so that plants can healthily survive and flourish. According to the Regional Water Authority website, one of the most important steps to planting is hydrozoning, which is to group plants with similar water needs in the same area to avoid damages caused by over or under watering. Hydrozoning also pertains to identifying microclimate areas in the landscape where it might be consistently dry or we, always shady and cool, or always warm and sunny. Finding the microclimate can help identify which plants can survive in that specified area. A way to reduce water usage in lawn areas is to replace high water use turfgrass with more drought-tolerant plants such as UC Verde Buffalo grass or native grasses or low-water use plants. (Regional Water Authority)

In Northern California, fall is the optimal time for planting because the plants can get into the ground before winter rain starts. Curator Don Mahoney from the San Francisco Botanical Garden says that “by planting in the fall, Mediterranean climate plants are able to become well established before the spring rains end and often can get by with no supplemental water the following summer.”
One of the best things about the site is the nursery in the church. This makes designing the site more fun because children are the users and it is important for them to enjoy the garden. One great activity for children in the garden is to stimulate their five senses because children love to participate and be involved. (Lucy Gardens) Most gardens are created to stimulate our sight and sometimes our smell but adding touch, taste and hearing to the garden can make it more engaging for our sensory perceptions and can also be educational.

Sense gardens are gardens that can stimulate the five senses of human: touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing. Each category of sense garden contains its own plant palate. A touch garden would contain lamb ears that feel just like little lambs ears and silver sage where the leaves has a cotton wool feel. It is also important in the touch garden to place plants near pathways so that visitors can actually reach and feel the plants for themselves. For taste gardens, an edible plant palate containing peppermints, thyme, rosemary and garlic chives would be perfect for consuming and enjoying. Another idea for the taste garden instead of fruit and herb plants is to plant nectar producing plants such as Bottlebrushes that birds and bee pollinate.
Their nectar can be easily shaken onto your hands and be tasted. (Gardening Tips ‘n Ideas) Our sense of smell can also be aroused when aromatic plants such as lavender, sweet pea, honeysuckles, and lily of the Valley are placed. Children are also attracted by sounds which can make them curious to find out where the source is coming from. The hearing garden can contain ornamental grasses and bamboos that make rustling sounds that can help create a sense of excitement and activity. Finally, the sight sense is the garden that is easiest to achieve since it appeals to the sight, any plant that is beautiful and ornamental can go in there. I would suggest putting some unique and brightly colored plants such Red Hot Poker, Butterfly bush, Bearded Iris, and daisies. These along with other plants would appeal to the sight and make a colorful landscape.

The “senses” garden can also be educational for the children in the nursery for there could be signs and information placards that teach them how to grow their favorite plant selections. Also, when they are exposed to the many different types of plants, they would gain more experience and knowledge about those plants. The garden would serve entertaining and educational purposes for the whole family.
The Pole Line Road Baptist Church was founded on June 10th, 1955 by the Sacramento area missionary L.I. Richardson and the Sacramento Southern Baptist Association. PLRBC started out as the First Southern Baptist Church of Davis as a mission of the First Southern Baptist Church of Sacramento and was led by Reverend Sidney Flewellen in the Boy Scout Cabin on First Street. By September 1957, the church had formally organized twenty-nine charter members and after moving to the basement of the City Hall and then to the I.O.O.F. Hall on Second Street, PLRBC found its permanent home at its present location, a 2.6-acre lot located between Pole Line Road and East Eighth Street. The first building, the sanctuary, was financed by a loan from the Home Mission Board and from sacrificial gifts and volunteer work. After that, there were many other remodeling, constructions, and expansions to the sanctuary that
led to the current conditions. As of now, there is the main building which includes the sanctuary, a multi-purpose room, a library and 14 rooms for classroom and other uses. Next to the main building is the office building where the pastor’s office is located and there are also two storage sheds in the back of the office building.

Currently, the church is under a new building initiation that will further expand its size to accommodate the growing ministry of the church.

Above: Layout of Church building.
The Pole Line Road Baptist Church is located on the intersection of Pole Line Road and East Eighth Street in Davis California, adjacent to many residential buildings. Located north of the Pole Line Road Baptist Church is the Davis Cemetery and to the west is the Quick Shop Market. PLRBC is situated next to one of the busiest roads in Davis with many people traveling on Pole Line Road on their way to work or home because it connects South Davis to North Davis.
Community Events

The Pole Line Road Baptist Church holds many community events for everyone to be involved. In September, there is Children’s Day where the church provides a carnival atmosphere for the kids and everyone from the community is invited. Activities include puppet shows, skits, petting zoos, etc. Then there is Parent’s Night which is held four to five times a year where parents can drop their kids off at the church and enjoy their evening out. In the summertime, a weeklong Vacation Bible School is held where children and adults can enjoy outdoor movies and games related to a theme that the church decides upon. Other outdoor events include potlucks and youth nights. These events bring people from the community together to the church and utilize the church’s outdoor areas as a community gathering space.
SITE ANALYSIS
**Site Inventory**

*Existing Conditions*

The Pole Line Road Baptist Church is a peaceful and quaint site with a huge lawn area and mature trees blocking the lawn from the busy roads on the North eastside. The south side of the church has an L-shaped parking lot that is covered in shade by large Hackberry trees. On the north and west side of the lawn, large Japanese Zelkova trees line the perimeter. The majority of the existing landscape contain tree species that were chosen based upon the approval of the City of Davis Tree Commission. The building structures are in good condition although the storage sheds in the back need to be repainted or renovated. The beige brown color of the main sanctuary building gives it a missionary look. Although the existing conditions are fine, there exist issues that needs to be taken care of and has high potentials for creating a more aesthetically pleasing landscape and a vibrant outdoor gathering space.

Above: Site photo of outdoor space by the nursery. Located north of the church building.

Above: Site photo of church facing Pole Line Road.

Above: Site photo of outdoor space facing East Eight Street.
Site Inventory cont.

Users

The main users of the site are the people from church, community members passing and turkeys from the nearby cemetery. The parking lot by Pole Line Road is the most often parking used while the parking by the East Eighth Street is rarely used; however, city regulations require those specified parking spaces and cannot be taken out. There are also many people from the surrounding residential buildings who use the site to get to places as a shortcut without going to the corner of Pole Line Road and East Eighth Street. The types of traffic on site include walking, running, biking and vehicular. Lastly, there are turkeys that migrate to the site every morning and they can sometimes be a hassle as they climb on to the roof of the church and make loud noises and smelly droppings. Overall, the site is a frequently visited place.
Noise becomes an issue when the site is located next to one of the busiest roads in Davis. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, noise pollution adversely affects the health and lives of millions of people. However, the site has a row of vegetation screening of Japanese Zelkovas that blocks out most of the noises that come from the busy roads that surrounds it so the noise pollution is not very apparent on the site. Also, the noise pollution could be improved by creating a larger setback distance for the outdoors activities area that is more away from the road and more towards the inside of the buildings.
**Light**

It is nice to be outside enjoying the view on a nice sunny day but too much sunlight can also become overwhelming without some shade. Currently, the site has a good mixture of shade and sunny areas because of the mature trees that exist in the parking lot and back lawn. The church buildings also provide good shade while the middle of the lawn gets good exposure from the sun. Shade is not an issue at the parking lot because the mature trees cover about forty percent of the granite making it very shady. The parking by the East Eighth Street receives a bit less but as the trees mature more, it will be able to cover more granite and lessen the urban heat island effect. Heat is mostly generated in the middle of the lawn where there is no foliage to provide for shade but that can be ameliorated by placing a gazebo structure there.
This inventory map shows the pedestrian, bike and vehicular circulation of the site. From the patterns, it can be determined that the site is used very often.

By looking at the shade area, it can also be determined that many of the areas to be redesigned will need plants that can tolerate shade.
The only constraints that exist are not to change any of the existing mature trees, the parking lot size, buildings, paths and roads. These are to follow the City of Davis regulations and cannot be changed. However, there is one mature tree that I would highly recommend removing and that is the Chinaberry (Melia azedarach) tree, located by the storage sheds. All parts of the Chinaberry, especially the fruit are very poisonous and since the nursery is located nearby, the children might accidentally put the fallen fruits into their mouths if the fallen fruits are not picked up immediately. Also, my clients had complained about the Common Hackberry trees located in the Southern parking lot. They are very messy and troublesome and my clients wish to remove them. Removing them can be a good option since the Hackberry trees can be used as firewood but I would only recommend removing them if the trees are experiencing severe dieback issues. Tree removal can be quite costly and replacing them means that it would take a long time for the parking to be shaded and without shade urban island heat effect can become an issue.
Opportunity and Constraint cont.

Opportunity

There are many opportunities in to improve the landscaping of the site. First, an opportunity exists in the lawn area to build an educational garden and an outdoors activities area. This can not only make the site a more useful place but it may also provide a solution to deter the turkeys from migrating to the site every day. One reason that the turkeys come to the site is because of the vast empty lawn area that act as habitat for them since they like dry grasslands. If the lawn area becomes filled with pathways and plants instead of being a vast open land then the chances for the turkeys to come will decrease as the area no longer serves as their habitat.

Left: Existing lawn area facing east.

Above: Exisiting lawn area facing south.
Opportunity and Constraint cont.

Opportunity

Second are the island structures in the parking lot because currently the islands are not very attractive and doesn’t tie in with the theme of the building or its surroundings. This can be done by planting some of the drought-tolerant plants chosen in the recommended plants section to make the island structures look more vibrant and full.

Above: Existing island in parking lot.

Above: Existing island in parking lot.
Opportunity and Constraint cont.

Opportunity

A third opportunity is the landscaping around the pathways between the main building and the office building. As of now, that area is covered in grass and bare looking. All of the landscaping will follow the Tuscan style gardening and the plants chosen will be drought tolerant. It is important to create a sense of place and tie in all the elements on site together so that the PLRBC can become a more distinct and attractive place to be.

Above: Site photo of existing pathway.

Above: Site photo of existing pathway.
Conceptual Design
Based upon the research on what makes a Tuscan style garden and the elements present in them, and also by talking to my clients on what their needs are, I have created a conceptual master plan for designing the landscape lots on the site. I focused my efforts on designing a few key aspects that can help make the site more attractive and also better fit the needs of the human users. The key issues were to make the landscaping drought-tolerant. Movements through the site are guided by the paths and gates that can allow human and lawn mower machine to get through.
The master plan shows the addition to the church building that is already in the process of gathering funds to build. It includes the new activities area, pavilion and “senses” garden. One of the storage shed in back of the office is removed.

The activities area is surrounded by a concrete stone seat wall that act as a fence for its perimeter. In middle of the “senses” garden is a pavilion that can be used as a seating area or to hold wedding ceremonies.
The design is developed in three phases because it would be hard to realize all the design concepts at once. Phase I is the most immediate and easiest to realize while Phase III will be the long-term goal that might take the most time and effort to complete.

Phase I: Includes the parking islands and smaller landscaping areas that are empty.

Phase II: Includes the seatwall in the activities area.

Phase III: Includes the “senses” garden with pavilion.
This seating wall will act as a fence for the nursery where the children can safely play outdoors without going out into the street. Also, the seat wall acts as a boundary for the activities area that can serve as an outdoor meeting area and gathering space.

The planter will be placed on the seating wall and also are placed next to the pavilion.
The areas to be redesigned such as the parking islands could use more drought-tolerant plants which are suggested in the recommended plants section in the later portion of this booklet.

By adding more pots in the island, this gives the island more definition and adds to the Tuscan-style theme.

Above: Existing landscape island located in front of parking entrance by Pole Line Road.

Left: Redesigned sketch of pedestrian entrance landscape from Pole Line Road.

Above: Sketch of island redesign.
The pavilion is located in the middle of the “senses” garden and is in the center of the touch garden. It has seating areas where the users can lounge in and can experience the touch garden leisurely.
**Hear Garden Plants**
- Bamboos
- Sweetcorn
- Rattlesnake Grass
- Deer Grass
- Can also use bird baths and birdfeeders to attract birds.

**Taste Garden Plants**
- Berries
- Peppermint
- Spearmint
- Pineapple Sage
- Thyme
- Rosemary
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Curry Plant
- Garlic Chive

**Sight Garden Plants**
- Red Hot Poker
- Purple Sage
- Poppies
- Sea Pink
- Annual Cosmos
- Chinese ground orchid
- Butterfly Bush
- Winter jasmine
- Ballon flowers

**Touch Garden Plants**
- Lamb's Ear
- Silver Sage
- Prickly Bull
- Thistle
- Globe Thistle
- African Sundew
- Gayfeather
- Yarrow
- Scotchbroom
- Soft moss

**Smell Garden Plants**
- Honeysuckle
- Lavender
- Roses
- Clethra
- Sweet pea
- Scented Geranium
- Oriental Lily
- Lemon Balm
- Sages
- Lily of the Valley
The plant list in the conclusion section is compiled from the Sacramento Regional Water Authority’s online plant database. They are all water conserving plants that are suitable for the PLRBC Tuscan style designs. Most of them contain dark foliage while others were chosen because of their fragrance or attractive flowers. In hot summers, the “very low” water need require no more than one watering day every other week; the “low” water need require one watering per week; and the “moderate” water need requires two watering per week. There are also a few special plants that require some more water because they would go in the educational senses garden. However, these plants were chosen from the UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars plant list so they are very suitable for Davis and are easily maintained as well. As for the materials for the pathways and seat wall, I would suggest using painted concrete as it would be most cost efficient but also have aesthetic qualities to it. It would be easy to install and restore if needed.

The recommended plants list is not a comprehensive list but is rather a suggested list of some plants that would be suitable for the site. There are also many other plants that can be chosen and the list contains a limited amount that are good choices.
Conclusion
The Pole Line Road Baptist Church has a rich history and context that made this project fun and exciting. One of the best things about PLRBC are the people that go to church here. Everyone is willing to give their share of help and were all inspiring people that made this project come alive. It was a great experience to design a Tuscan style theme landscape for this church that has given so much to the community. With these conceptual design ideas, I hope this can help the church develop a stronger identity in the community and have people enjoy the landscape on this engaging site.
Hydrozone Report

- **Hydrozone 1** - plants needing Very Low amounts of water
- **Hydrozone 2** - plants needing Low amounts of water
- **Hydrozone 3** - plants needing Medium amounts of water
- **Hydrozone 4** - plants needing High amounts of water

[Diagram showing the layout with different hydrozones marked]
Recommended Plants List

Botanical Name: Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Skylark'
Common Name: Blue Blossom Ceanothus
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Blue
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low

The Blue Blossom Ceanothus is a shrub that has dark blue flower. This shrub attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Evergreen foliage is dark green and shiny, densely covering the plant. It is drought tolerant once it's established. It prefers full sun to partial shade.

Leaf Color: Green, Dark Green
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'
Common Name: Elijah Blue Fescue
Plant Type: Ground cover, Grass
Plant Height: Under 1’
Flower Color: Gold
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low

The 'Elijah Blue' is a lovely ground cover grass with silver blue foliage that quickly reaches 12” tall and wide. Plant in full sun in coastal areas; in warm inland areas, it should receive afternoon shade to prevent it from turning brown. It is drought tolerant once it’s established.

Leaf Color: Blue Green, Silver
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Festuca glauca
Common Name: Blue Fescue, Blue Fescue Grass
Plant Type: Ground cover, Grass
Plant Height: Under 1’
Flower Color: Gold
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low

This ground cover/grass will grow less than 1’ tall. This dependable ground cover prefers full sun in coastal areas and afternoon shade in warm inland areas. It needs well draining soil and is drought tolerant once it's established. Leaves may burn during the summer but trim in winter to keep it looking refreshed.

Leaf Color: Blue Green
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Sporobolus airoides
Common Name: Alkali Sacaton
Plant Type: Perennial, Grass
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Gold, Pink
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low, Low

This winter-dormant drought tolerant grass tolerates a variety of soils including alkaline conditions. Pinkish inflorescence in summer. Best in mass plantings.

Leaf Color: Green, Grey Green
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 1
Recommended Plants List cont.

Botanical Name: Trichostema lanatum
Common Name: Woolly Blue Curls
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Purple
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low, Extra in Summer
The Woolly Blue Curls is an evergreen shrub that reaches 3’-5’ high. It has an open branching habit and has long stalks of brilliant purple woolly flowers in the spring and summer. This shrub is native to California, is drought tolerant, and attracts hummingbirds.
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Salvia leucophylla
Common Name: Purple or Gray Sage
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Lavender
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low
The Purple Sage is an evergreen shrub. This shrub tolerates heat and drought. The purple sage is a CA native, preferring full sun. Do not overwater. This Sage is great for covering difficult slopes. Foliage is aromatic.
Leaf Color: Grey Green, White
Flower Season: Spring
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Arctostaphylos ‘Sunset’
Common Name: Sunset Bush Manzanita
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Pink, White
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low
This manzanita is a mounding shrub 4-5’ high and 4-6’ wide. It has coppery red new growth later turning bright green. It has pinkish-white flowers in winter to early spring. This densely covered shrub prefers full sun and is drought tolerant once it’s established.
Leaf Color: Green, Red
Flower Season: Winter, Spring
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Zauschneria cana
Common Name: California Fuchsia
Plant Type: Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Red
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low, Extra in Summer
The California Fuchsia is a perennial with dense, narrow, silver foliage and orange summer flowers. The growth habit of this plant is sprawling and low. The California Fuchsia is native to CA, is drought tolerant, and attracts hummingbirds.
Leaf Color: Grey
Flower Season: Fall
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Trichostema lanatum
Common Name: Woolly Blue Curls
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Purple
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low
The Woolly Blue Curls is an evergreen shrub that reaches 3’-5’ high. It has an open branching habit and has long stalks of brilliant purple woolly flowers in the spring and summer. This shrub is native to California, is drought tolerant, and attracts hummingbirds.
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Salvia leucophylla
Common Name: Purple or Gray Sage
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Lavender
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low
The Purple Sage is an evergreen shrub. This shrub tolerates heat and drought. The purple sage is a CA native, preferring full sun. Do not overwater. This Sage is great for covering difficult slopes. Foliage is aromatic.
Leaf Color: Grey Green, White
Flower Season: Spring
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Arctostaphylos ‘Sunset’
Common Name: Sunset Bush Manzanita
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Pink, White
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low
This manzanita is a mounding shrub 4-5’ high and 4-6’ wide. It has coppery red new growth later turning bright green. It has pinkish-white flowers in winter to early spring. This densely covered shrub prefers full sun and is drought tolerant once it’s established.
Leaf Color: Green, Red
Flower Season: Winter, Spring
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Zauschneria cana
Common Name: California Fuchsia
Plant Type: Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Red
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low, Extra in Summer
The California Fuchsia is a perennial with dense, narrow, silver foliage and orange summer flowers. The growth habit of this plant is sprawling and low. The California Fuchsia is native to CA, is drought tolerant, and attracts hummingbirds.
Leaf Color: Grey
Flower Season: Fall
Hydrozone: 1
Botanical Name: Echinops ritro
Common Name: Globe Thistle
Plant Type: Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’, 3-6’
Flower Color: Blue
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low, Low
This perennial will grow 1’-4’ tall and produces beautiful, blue/lavender ball-like flowers. It does well in full sun and dry to moist soil.
Leaf Color: Grey Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Thymus praecox arcticus
Common Name: Mother-of-Thyme, Creeping Thyme
Plant Type: Ground cover, Perennial, Herb
Plant Height: Under 1’
Flower Color: Purple
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low
This evergreen groundcover needs full sun to light shade. Creeping Thyme is considered drought tolerant. The foliage is dark green and slightly hairy. It has a pleasant, minty fragrance when crushed, though not considered for culinary uses. It attracts bees and butterflies.
Leaf Color: Dark Green
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Salvia X clevelandii ‘Aromas’
Common Name: Aromas Sage
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Blue, Lavender
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low
The Aromas Sage has distinctively fragrant, gray green foliage and whorls of violet blue flowers in spring and summer. It can withstand strong winds and is deer resistant. It prefers full sun and well draining soil.
Leaf Color: Grey Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Achillea millefolium ‘Terra Cotta’
Common Name: Terra Cotta Yarrow
Plant Type: Perennial
Plant Height: Under 1’, 1-3’
Flower Color: Pink, White
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Very Low, Low
Yarrows propagate easily from rooted cuttings or divisions, which should be performed in the early spring or fall. Following bloom, one should dead head the plant and divide the clumps when it appears crowded.
Leaf Color: Green, Grey Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer, Fall, Inter-mittent
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Echinopt ritro
Common Name: Globe Thistle
Plant Type: Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’, 3-6’
Flower Color: Blue
Sun: Full
Water: Very Low, Low
This perennial will grow 1’-4’ tall and produces beautiful, blue/lavender ball-like flowers. It does well in full sun and dry to moist soil.
Leaf Color: Grey Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 1
Botanical Name: Armeria maritima  
Common Name: Sea Pink, Common Thrift  
Plant Type: Shrub, Ground cover, Perennial  
Plant Height: Under 1’, 1-3’  
Flower Color: Pink  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Very Low, Low  
This clumping, grass-like perennial can be planted in full sun in coastal areas but needs afternoon shade in warm inland areas. This cute flower can be used between pavers as it can tolerate light foot traffic. It is drought tolerant near coastal areas but requires more water in hot summer areas.  
Leaf Color: Green, Dark Green  
Flower Season: Spring, Summer  
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Muhlenbergia rigens  
Common Name: Deer Grass  
Plant Type: Grass  
Plant Height: 1-3’  
Flower Color: n/a  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Low  
The Deer Grass is a warm season perennial that forms dense clumps from the base. The spike-like flower stalks grow 2’-3’ tall. The Deer Grass is native to California and needs watering once or twice a month after it has been established. The more water it has, the greener it is.  
Leaf Color: Green, Grey Green, Light Green  
Flower Season: Summer  
Hydrozone: 2

Botanical Name: Vinca minor  
Common Name: Dwarf Vinca or Periwinkle  
Plant Type: Ground cover  
Plant Height: Under 1’  
Flower Color: Blue, Lavender, Purple, White  
Sun: Half, Shade  
Water: Very Low, Low  
This groundcover will grow less than 1’ tall and has small, glossy, dark green leaves with blue, purple, lavender, or white flowers that bloom in the spring.  
Leaf Color: Dark Green  
Flower Season: Spring  
Hydrozone: 1

Botanical Name: Nemophila menziesii  
Common Name: Baby Blue Eyes  
Plant Type: Ground cover, Annual  
Plant Height: Under 1’  
Flower Color: Blue  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Low, Medium  
Nemophila menziesii is an annual. Trailing plants are 6”-12” high, with bell-shaped flowers to 1” across. Flowers are sky blue with whitish centers. Pale green, hairy, fern-like foliage gives plants a delicate appearance.  
Leaf Color: Green  
Flower Season: Summer  
Hydrozone: 2
Recommended Plants List cont.

Botanical Name: Penstemon heterophyllus
Common Name: Margarita Bop Foothill Penstemon
Plant Type: Shrub, Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Blue, Purple
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Low
This is one of the easiest and most versatile California native plants. This is a hybrid Penstemon, which will produce beautiful, purple blue flowers through much of the year when spent flowers are removed.
Leaf Color: Green, Blue Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 2

Botanical Name: Calycanthus occidentalis
Common Name: Spice Bush
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 6-12’
Flower Color: Red
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Low
A large, fast deciduous shrub growing to 12’ tall and 15’ wide, the Spice Bush bears large green leaves and small, dull red magnolia-like flowers with narrow petals. Its leaves are fragrant when crushed. The plant should be grown in partial sun or shade, with average to little summer watering and good drainage. -Monterey Bay Nursery
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 2

Botanical Name: Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Sentinel'
Common Name: Sentinel Manzanita
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’, 6-12’
Flower Color: Pink, Red
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Low
This Manzanita grows 6’-8’ high and 5’-8’ wide; it has rose/white flowers and is upright. It needs good soil drainage for best performance. It attracts birds.
Leaf Color: Grey Green
Flower Season: Winter, Fall
Hydrozone: 2
**Recommended Plants List cont.**

**Botanical Name:** Ceanothus griseus hor. 'Yankee Point'
**Common Name:** Yankee Point California Lilac
**Plant Type:** Shrub, Ground cover
**Plant Height:** Under 1’
**Flower Color:** Blue
**Sun:** Full, Half
**Water:** Low

Yankee Point is a fast growing shrub. It is great for banks and mass plantings. It does well on the coast and in hot inland areas. It attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

**Leaf Color:** Green, Dark Green
**Flower Season:** Spring
**Hydrozone:** 2

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**Botanical Name:** Salvia buchananii
**Common Name:** Buchanan Sage, Buchanan’s Fuchsia S
**Plant Type:** Perennial
**Plant Height:** 1-3’
**Flower Color:** Purple, Red
**Sun:** Full
**Water:** Medium, Extra in Summer

Salvia buchananii is a beautiful perennial. It does not like frost and will act more like an annual in colder climates. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Leaves are glossy green. This plant tends to be brittle so it’s best to plant in areas with low traffic.

**Leaf Color:** Green
**Flower Season:** Summer
**Hydrozone:** 2

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**Botanical Name:** Perovskia X hybrid
**Common Name:** Azure or Russian Sage
**Plant Type:** Perennial
**Plant Height:** 3-6’
**Flower Color:** Blue, Violet
**Sun:** Full
**Water:** Low

This broad perennial will grow 3’-6’ tall and has small, grey-green leaves with blue-violet flowers that bloom in the summer. Foliage is aromatic if brushed against it. It attracts butterflies.

**Leaf Color:** Grey Green
**Flower Season:** Summer
**Hydrozone:** 2

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**Botanical Name:** Salvia guaranitica
**Common Name:** Anise- Scented Sage
**Plant Type:** Perennial
**Plant Height:** 3-6’
**Flower Color:** Blue
**Sun:** Full
**Water:** Low

This perennial sub-shrub will grow 5’ tall and 2’ wide and has heart-shaped, dark green leaves accented by beautiful blue flowers that bloom from June to November.

**Leaf Color:** Dark Green
**Flower Season:** Spring, Summer
**Hydrozone:** 2
Recommended Plants List cont.

**Botanical Name:** Agapanthus ‘Peter Pan’  
**Common Name:** Dwarf Lily of the Nile  
**Plant Type:** Perennial  
**Plant Height:** 1-3’  
**Flower Color:** Blue  
**Sun:** Full, Half  
**Water:** Low  
This dependable plant can be grown in sun or partial sun. It is drought tolerant in coastal areas but will appreciate occasional watering in inland warm areas, especially during the summer. This perennial attracts butterflies.  
**Leaf Color:** Green  
**Flower Season:** Summer  
**Hydrozone:** 2

**Botanical Name:** Buddleja davidii var. Nanhoensis  
**Common Name:** Butterfly Bush  
**Plant Type:** Shrub  
**Plant Height:** 3-6’  
**Flower Color:** Blue, Lavender, Purple  
**Sun:** Full, Half  
**Water:** Low  
This deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub will grow to 10’ x 15’ and produces pink, lilac, blue, purple, and white blooms. It attracts butterflies and does well in full sun or light shade.  
**Leaf Color:** Dark Green  
**Flower Season:** Summer  
**Hydrozone:** 2

**Botanical Name:** Cosmos bipinnatus  
**Common Name:** Annual Cosmos  
**Plant Type:** Annual  
**Plant Height:** 3-6’  
**Flower Color:** Pink, Red, Yellow, White, Multi-Colored  
**Sun:** Full, Half  
**Water:** Low  
Cosmos bipinnatus is an annual. Blossoms with tufted yellow centers and rays in white and shades of pink, rose, lavender, purple, or crimson, bloom in spring and summer. Deadhead to encourage more blooms. Cosmos will self-sow. It prefers full sun and well-draining soil.  
**Leaf Color:** Green  
**Flower Season:** Summer, Fall  
**Hydrozone:** 2

**Botanical Name:** Ceanothus griseus horizontalis  
**Common Name:** Carmel Creeper  
**Plant Type:** Shrub, Ground cover  
**Plant Height:** 1-3’, 3-6’  
**Flower Color:** Blue  
**Sun:** Full, Half  
**Water:** Low  
Carmel Creeper has glossy oval leaves of 2” that are bright green. The tiny, light blue flowers are abundant and form 1” clusters. This shrub benefits from pruning. It does best in well-drained soil with little to no summer water.  
**Leaf Color:** Green  
**Flower Season:** Spring  
**Hydrozone:** 2
Botanical Name: Salvia leucantha
Common Name: Mexican Bush Sage, Mexican Sage
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 3-6’
Flower Color: Purple
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Low
The Mexican Sage is a bushy shrub that has hairy white stems, grey-green leaves and velvet-like purple flower spikes that bloom summer through fall. This shrub tolerates sun, light shade, little water, and is hardy to 15 degrees F. The Mexican Sage attracts hummingbirds. Be careful not to overwater.

Leaf Color: Grey Green
Flower Season: Summer, Fall
Hydrozone: 2

Botanical Name: Carex pansa
Common Name: California Field Sedge
Plant Type: Perennial, Grass
Plant Height: Under 1’
Flower Color: n/a
Sun: Half
Water: Medium
This native Carex can be successfully used as a lawn substitute but requires significant water to obtain good coverage. Once coverage is reached, water can be reduced and maintenance is close to zero. Unmowed, the plant can be used effectively in a variety of conditions and will reach a height of 6” or under and spreads up to 2’ by rhizomes.

Leaf Color: Green, Dark Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Achillea X kellereri
Common Name: White Daisy Yarrow
Plant Type: Ground cover, Perennial
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Yellow, White
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Low, Extra in Summer
The yarrow propagate easily from rooted cuttings or division, which should be performed in the early spring or fall. Following bloom, one should dead head the plant and divide the clumps when it appears crowded.

Leaf Color: Dark Green, Grey Green, White
Flower Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Hydrozone: 2

Botanical Name: Lavandula angustifolia ‘Lavender Lady’
Common Name: Lavender Lady English Lavender
Plant Type: Perennial, Herb
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Lavender
Sun: Full
Water: Low
A well-developed woody base is apparent with this evergreen subshrub. Its leaves have a gray green color above and a white woolly shade below. It needs little water, full sun, and well drained soils. Strong lavender scent is used for perfumes and sachets.

Leaf Color: Blue Green, Grey Green, White
Flower Season: Summer
Hydrozone: 2
Botanical Name: Sisyrinchium californicum  
Common Name: Yellow-Eyed Grass  
Plant Type: Perennial  
Plant Height: 1-3’  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Medium  
The yellow eyed grass is a grass-like perennial that grows 12" tall. It produces yellow spring flowers and prefers wet soils. This perennial needs afternoon shade in warm inland areas but will tolerate full sun in coastal areas. It is a California native. Foliage is gray green and sword shaped.  
Leaf Color: Grey Green  
Flower Season: Spring  
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Eschscholzia californica  
Common Name: California Poppy, Golden Poppy  
Plant Type: Annual  
Plant Height: Under 1’  
Flower Color: Gold, Orange  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Medium  
This small annual (sometimes acts as a perennial) plant will grow to less than 1’ tall and has light, small blue green leaves with gold and orange flowers that bloom in spring and summer.  
Leaf Color: Blue Green, Grey Green, Light Green  
Flower Season: Spring, Summer  
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Hymenoxys acaulis  
Common Name: Angelita Daisy, Sundancer Daisy  
Plant Type: Perennial  
Plant Height: 1-3’  
Flower Color: Gold, Yellow  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Medium  
Leaf Color: Green  
Flower Season: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, Intermittent, Constant  
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Fragaria chiloensis  
Common Name: Beach Strawberry, Sand Strawberry  
Plant Type: Ground cover, Perennial  
Plant Height: Under 1’  
Flower Color: White  
Sun: Full, Half, Shade  
Water: Medium  
This perennial grows 4”-8” high with toothed leaves and ornamental strawberries during the fall. Cut back or mow in early spring to encourage new growth.  
Leaf Color: Green, Dark Green  
Flower Season: Spring  
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Eschscholzia californica  
Common Name: California Poppy, Golden Poppy  
Plant Type: Annual  
Plant Height: Under 1’  
Flower Color: Gold, Orange  
Sun: Full, Half  
Water: Medium  
This small annual (sometimes acts as a perennial) plant will grow to less than 1’ tall and has light, small blue green leaves with gold and orange flowers that bloom in spring and summer.  
Leaf Color: Blue Green, Grey Green, Light Green  
Flower Season: Spring, Summer  
Hydrozone: 3
Recommended Plants List cont.

Botanical Name: Lantana 'Dwarf Yellow Bush'
Common Name: Dwarf Yellow Lantana
Plant Type: Shrub, Vine
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Yellow
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer
This small shrub will reach 3’ tall at the most and has small, dark green leaves with yellow flowers. It may freeze back in colder climates.
Leaf Color: Dark Green
Flower Season: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, Constant
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Hypericum calycinum
Common Name: Creeping St. Johnswort
Plant Type: Shrub, Ground cover
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Yellow
Sun: Full, Half, Shade
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer
Hypericum calycinum is an evergreen perennial groundcover. It grows 1’ high and 1’-2’ in spread, and spreads by underground runners. Yellow flowers bloom in the summer. Foliage is dark green. In some areas, it is considered invasive.
Leaf Color: Green, Dark Green, Light Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Salvia greggii ‘Rose Pink’
Common Name: Rose Pink Texas or Autumn Sage
Plant Type: Shrub
Plant Height: 1-3’
Flower Color: Pink, Red
Sun: Full, Half
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer
This shrub has glossy green, small, aromatic leaves with rose pink flowers. It will do well with afternoon shade in warm inland valleys. Prune very lightly to encourage more blooming. It needs a medium amount of watering and more in hot summer areas. Salvia attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Hydrozone: 3

Botanical Name: Verbena canadensis
Common Name: Rose Verbena
Plant Type: Ground cover, Perennial, Wildflower
Plant Height: Under 1’
Flower Color: Pink
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium
These plants are highly branched and somewhat prostrate, making them good ground covers. Its 8”-20” long stems produce masses of rosy purple flower clusters in spring and again in late summer or fall. The Verbena will grow in any type of soil. -Holland Wildflower Farm
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: Spring
Hydrozone: 3
**Recommended Plants List cont.**

**Botanical Name:** Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'  
**Common Name:** Hidcote English Lavender  
**Plant Type:** Shrub  
**Plant Height:** 1-3’  
**Flower Color:** Violet  
**Sun:** Full  
**Water:** Very Low  
This is a slow growing lavender that grows to 1’-2’ tall and wide, with violet flowers. It is drought tolerant, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Dried flowers are great in arrangements. This Lavender prefers full sun and is drought tolerant once it’s established. It is also cold tolerant. Flowers are fragrant.  
**Leaf Color:** Grey  
**Flower Season:** Spring, Summer  
**Hydrozone:** 4

**Botanical Name:** Cerastium tomentosum  
**Common Name:** Snow-In-Summer  
**Plant Type:** Ground cover, Perennial  
**Plant Height:** Under 1’  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Sun:** Full, Half  
**Water:** Medium  
This attractive ground cover is a great filler among other plants and rocks. Foliage is silver gray or gray/green and is woolly. This plant tolerates coastal conditions and desert areas. Use in rock settings, in hanging baskets, containers, or as a lawn substitute. Cut back in fall to refresh plant.  
**Leaf Color:** Grey Green, Silver  
**Flower Season:** Summer  
**Hydrozone:** 3

This plant list is compiled from the Regional Water Authority’s online website plant database.

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References


