



Native Plant Picks

California has approximately 6,500 species, subspecies, and varieties of plants that occur naturally in the state, many found nowhere else in the world. We asked Southern California plant experts to share some of their favorites, which are listed here by color:

PINK, ORANGE, RED



**BURGUNDY
DESERT WILLOW**
(Chilopsis linearis 'Burgundy')

Smaller, sometimes multitrunked tree with burgundy flowers.



CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA
(Epilobium canum)

Bright scarlet blooms in late summer and fall. Reseeds readily. Sun lover.



**DESERT
GLOBE MALLOW**
(Sphaeralcea ambigua)

A medium-size shrub that flowers apricot to dark orange red all year. Likes full sun.



ISLAND MALLOW
(Lavatera assurgentiflora)

Grows quickly into a tree/shrub full of magenta flowers.



ISLAND PINK YARROW
*(Achillea millefolium
'Island Pink')*

Large umbels of tightly packed pink flowers on 18-inch-high stalks. Mix into areas as a border or edging plant.



**RED-FLOWERED
BUCKWHEAT**
*(Eriogonum grande
var. rubescens)*

Magenta blooms atop emerald-green foliage in midsummer.



**SPOONER'S MESA
EVERGREEN CURRANT**
*(Ribes viburnifolium
'Spooner's Mesa')*

Aromatic, woody evergreen shrub with deep-red flowers that forms dense thickets over time.



WENDY ALUMROOT
(Heuchera 'Wendy')

Makes a beautiful edging, with a colorful swath of pink flowers in partial shade and bright shade.

WHITE



CENTENNIAL COYOTE BRUSH

(*Baccharis* ‘Centennial’)

Good-looking, reliable evergreen shrub with tiny, cream-colored, female flowers. Excellent as a hedge.



HOWARD McMINN MANZANITA

(*Arctostaphylos densiflora* ‘Howard McMinn’)

Handsome dark-green foliage and dainty white, fragrant flowers. Beautiful burgundy bark.



TOYON

(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

Small tree with beautiful white flowers in summer and bright-red berries in winter.



WHITE SAGE

(*Salvia apiana*)

Silvery hues, striking white flowers, and sublime aroma. Plant in full sun.

BLUE



ALLEN CHICKERING SAGE

(*Salvia* ‘Allen Chickering’)

Aromatic foliage and purple-blue flowers.



CLEVELAND SAGE

(*Salvia clevelandii*)

Robust plant with striking blue-purple flowers.



CONCHA CALIFORNIA LILAC

(*Ceanothus* ‘Concha’)

Masses of blue spring flowers. Neat and compact form.



FOOTHILL BEARDTONGUE

(*Penstemon heterophyllus*)

Graceful accent or border plant with masses of blues, purples, and whites.



WINIFRED GILMAN SAGE

(*Salvia clevelandii* ‘Winifred Gilman’)

Neat, aromatic, bluish flowers.



YANKEE POINT MOUNTAIN LILAC

(*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus* ‘Yankee Point’)

Great for hillsides and as groundcover, with inch-long blue flowers.

TEXT AND IMAGE SOURCES: Tim Becker, director of horticulture at Theodore Payne Foundation; Carol Bornstein, director of Living Collections at Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; David Bryant, director of visitor experience at California Botanic Garden; Mayita Dinos, landscape designer at Arlington Garden; Ken Gilliland, Theodore Payne Foundation; and Joseph Sochor, vice president of the California Native Plant Society’s San Diego chapter.