



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • YOLO COUNTY
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SOME WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR YOLO COUNTY, CA

<u>Name</u>	<u>CA Native</u>	<u>Approx. Height x Width</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Groundcovers</u>			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> and its hybrids – yarrow	Some	6" x 2'	Flowers on 8" to 18" stalks, white to pink, red, orange or pale yellow depending on cultivar; carefree and generously blooming; can be maintained as turf, mown quarterly or yearly.
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks' & 'Pigeon Point' – dwarf coyote bush	Yes	3' x 5'	Dependable bank and flatland cover for low-maintenance areas in sun.
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> 'Compacta' & var. <i>repens</i> – dwarf Oregon grape	Yes	2' x 4'	Yellow, fragrant flowers in spring; looks best with pm shade. Often listed as <i>Mahonia</i> . Fruit used for jelly.
<i>Bulbine frutescens</i> – Cape balsam	No	1' x 3'	Long-blooming 2' spikes of yellow flowers. Fleshy, bright green foliage; orange flower selections too.
<i>Heuchera maxima</i> – island alumroot & its hybrids – giant coral bells	Yes	2' x 2' or less	Good informal groundcover for dry shade; tolerates heavy clay soils, frilly green leaves look good all year.
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i> – Aaron's beard	No	8" x 2'	Tough and easy, sun or shade; yellow flowers; mow to ground in March every two to three years.
<i>Juniperus sabina</i> 'Arcadia', 'Buffalo', 'Scandia', etc. – dwarf savin juniper	No	1' x 4'	Traditional and unchanging; will develop root rot if soil is too wet.
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i> – evergreen currant	Yes	2' x 4'	Needs shade; fragrant foliage; maroon flowers, fruit and young stems.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus' & 'Renzels' – creeping rosemary & Irene™ rosemary	No	10" x 4'	Blue flowers; needs sunny sites and well-drained soil; leaves used as an herb to flavor food.
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> 'Nanum' – creeping wall germander.	No	5" x 20"	Easy, hardy cover; dark pink flowers in late spring; full sun or part shade.
<u>Grasses</u>			
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> – blue grama grass	Yes	18" x 12"	Green flowers age to tan. Retains tidy, upright shape.
<i>Festuca californica</i> – California fescue	Yes	2' x 2'	Tolerates summer drought and is long-lived. Has graceful, gray-green leaves. Best with part shade.
<i>Muhlenbergia dubia</i> – Mexican deergrass	No	3' x 6'	Requires little maintenance; adds texture and movement to the garden; graceful flower stalks persist year round.
<i>Stipa gigantea</i> – giant feather grass	No	4' x 4'	Dramatic large grass; waving wands of flowers add light and movement to the garden. Looks good all year.
<u>Bulbs, Corms, Tubers</u>			
<i>Muscari armeniaca</i> – grape hyacinth	No.	6" x 6"	Easy care, likes heat. Don't cut back leaves until dead. Blue flowers bloom in spring; summer dormant.
<i>Narcissus</i> , miniature selections – dwarf daffodil and dwarf narcissus	No	8" x 1'	Easy care, likes heat. Don't cut back leaves until dead. Fragrant yellow flowers bloom in spring.
<i>Rhodophiala bifida</i> – red Argentine amaryllis	No	1' x 4"	Showy, easy to grow bulb; dark red trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in late summer, attracts hummingbirds.
<i>Sprekelia formosissima</i> – Aztec lily	No	8" x 1'	Deep-red flowers attract hummingbirds in spring and summer. Low maintenance. Full sun.
<i>Sternbergia lutea</i> – yellow autumn crocus	No	6" x 9"	Goblet-shaped yellow flowers blossom in early fall. Foliage lasts through winter. Full sun, summer dormant.
<i>Triteleia laxa</i> 'Koningin Fabiola' – north coast Ithuriel's spear	Yes	9" x 7"	Easy care, likes heat. Don't cut back leaves until dead. Blue flowers bloom in late spring; summer dormant.
<i>Zephyranthes candida</i> – Argentine rain lily	No	6" x 6"	Grows from bulbs and forms clumps of shiny, grassy leaves; white 2" funnel shaped flowers in early fall.
<u>Perennials</u>			
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i> – false dittany	No	18" x 2'	Soft, gray leaves and whorls of tiny pink flowers in late spring/early summer.
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> – ivy leaf cyclamen	No	6" x 6"	Scented rose-pink or white flowers bloom in late summer/early fall. Silver-marked foliage. Needs shade.

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Perennials, continued			
<i>Echeveria</i> ‘Imbricata’ – hens and chicks	No	3” to 6” × 6”	Edging plant for partial shade; coral flowers in late spring; spreads by plantlets that slowly form a groundcover.
<i>Epilobium canum</i> dwarf forms such as ‘Everett’s Choice’ – California fuchsia	Yes	to 6” × 3’ or less	Scarlet flowers summer and fall; leaves gray or green; dormant in winter; hummingbirds love them; a bit invasive; groundcover. Often listed as <i>Zauschneria</i> .
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> – Santa Barbara daisy	No	9” × 2’	White daisies turn red; blooms for eight months or more; can be used as a groundcover.
<i>Helleborus argutifolius</i> – Corsican hellebore	No	1’ × 2’	Long-lasting, pale-green flowers brighten the winter garden. Best in dry shade. Needs little maintenance
<i>Hemerocallis</i> , hybrids & species – daylily	No	2’ × 2’ or less	Lily-like flowers stand well above the curved leaves. Evergreen low forms are groundcovers.
<i>Sedum palmeri</i> – Palmer’s sedum	No	6-12” × 1’	Golden-yellow, star-shaped flowers in spring; shade tolerant; low growing.
Shrubs			
<i>Callistemon</i> ‘Violaceus’ – purple bottlebrush	No	9’ × 7’	Rosy-purple flowers bloom in winter/spring. Tough and adaptable, grows best in full sun. Attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects.
<i>Ceanothus maritimus</i> ‘Valley Violet’ – valley violet maritime ceanothus	Yes	2’ × 3’	Best small ceanothus for Central Valley gardens; clusters of dark-violet flowers bloom in early spring.
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i> – California redbud	Yes	12’ × 14’	Purple-pink flowers in March; several trunks from base; all year interest.
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i> – pineapple guava (<i>Acca sellowiana</i>)	No	15’ × 12’	Red and white edible flowers in summer; edible fruit in fall; can take almost any amount of pruning to shape; nice hedge or small tree.
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> – coral yucca	No	3’ × 6’ or less	Coral flowers on pink stalks from April to November above narrow evergreen curved leaves with soft points.
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> , <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> dwarf forms – Spanish lavender, dwarf English lavender	No	2’ or less	Fragrant spikes of flowers; needs fast draining soil.
<i>Leucophyllum</i> species – cenizo	No	6’ × 8’	Striking silvery foliage, showy flowers; very heat tolerant; attracts beneficial insects.
<i>Nandina domestica</i> – heavenly bamboo	No	To 7’ × 5’ or less	Size depends on the cultivar; cane-like stems and fine-textured foliage; white flowers, red berries; not a true bamboo.
<i>Phlomis purpurea</i> – pink phlomis	No	3’ × 4’	Showy, lavender-pink flowers bloom in spring and summer. Tolerant of heat; velvety, yellow-green leaves.
<i>Photinia</i> × <i>fraseri</i> – red leaf photinia	No	12’ × 15’	Red new growth turns bronze then green; evergreen; moderate to fast growth; white flowers.
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> – Japanese pittosporum	No	15’ × 20’	Fragrant ivory flowers in spring; clean-looking dense foliage.
<i>Punica granatum</i> ‘Nanum’ – dwarf pomegranate	No	3’ × 4’	Orange-red flowers; small red fruit; yellow fall color; orange new growth in spring.
<i>Salvia greggii</i> and hybrids – autumn sage	No	2’ × 4’	Flowers vary by cultivar: anything but blue, green, and pure yellow; best with afternoon shade.
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i> – bush germander	No	3’ × 6’	Gray leaves; flowers pale to rich blue depending on cultivar; tough plants; need good drainage.

The plants listed here look good in Yolo County landscapes even if they are watered well only once every two weeks. Note that watering requirements will be less with afternoon shade, wind protection, mulch, and water from nearby lawns or a neighboring yard.

Compiled by Warren G. Roberts, Superintendent of the University of California Davis Arboretum, June 2009. Assisted by Christine Joshel, Yolo County Master Gardener. All contents copyright © 2009 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

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