



## YEAR-ROUND COLORFUL BLOOMS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

If you are looking to build a landscape that has colorful blooms year-round, we have a list of drought-tolerant native plants for your garden. This list includes plants that bloom at least 10 months of the year (native plants tend to go dormant in the summer) and was developed by Kevin O'Connell, head of the native plant section at Descanso Gardens. Color, texture, form ... all the elements of design are there! (Thank you Long Beach Organic for providing this list.)

Images of these plants and more information about them can usually be found by simply typing the plant name into your internet browser and/or searching [http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/advanced\\_search.aspx](http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/advanced_search.aspx)

<p><b>JANUARY</b></p>	<p><i>Iris douglasiana</i>: Typically, gardeners will be putting bulbs in during autumn and winter, but the earliest native irises can appear in November.</p> <p><i>Ribes speciosum</i> (fuchsia flowered gooseberry): Another bramble, this one thorny, with gray-green leaves, gorgeous red flowers and spring berries.</p> <p><i>Ceanothus 'Gentian Plume'</i> (California lilac): One of the earliest of the hundreds of these glorious natives, with thick mats of glossy, dark-green leaves. Flowers run from white through every shade of blue to indigo. Gentian Plume produces bright-blue flowers. May bloom twice, in sync with roses.</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p>	<p><i>Ceanothus cyaneus</i> (Sierra blue ceanothus or San Diego mountain lilac): Spectacular, tolerant shrub grows to about 15 feet, with enormous bright-blue flowers.</p> <p><i>Salvia spathacea</i> (pitcher sage, hummingbird sage): A foothill native, clumping, low perennial with the palette of a beet, dark-green leaves and spiking dark-red flowers in early winter. Good for under California live oaks. Claret-colored calyces are a handsome feature after the petals drop.</p> <p><i>Salvia brandegei</i> (coastal sage scrub): Long, thin, dark-green leaves and pale lavender flowers. Can reach 4 to 5 feet tall.=</p>
<p><b>MARCH</b></p>	<p><i>Ceanothus 'Concha'</i> (indigo blue): More ceanothus, this time with the deepest of the wide range of blues.</p> <p><i>Salvia leucophylla</i> (purple sage): Slender silver-green leaves with abundant rose-pink flowers from dramatic whorls.</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b></p>	<p><i>Eschscholzia californica</i> (California poppy): The month for all wildflowers, including poppies, lupines, baby-blue eyes, lilies and irises.</p> <p><i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i> (California tree mallow): Large, flowering shrub, native answer to the more common French <i>Lavatera bicolor</i>. Handsome leaves vaguely shaped like a maple leaf. Flowers year-round, heaviest in spring. Tolerates some water.</p> <p><i>Elymus condensatus</i> 'Canyon Prince' (giant wild rye): A blue-green landscaping grass that tufts to about 3 feet and whose colors keep saturating after every rain, then brown out with drought.</p> <p><i>Encelia californica</i>: Sunny, mounding shrub produces a bright spray of yellow blooms like a sunflower. Good for erosion control.</p> <p><i>Achillea millefolium</i> (yarrow): Lacy-leafed, gray-green flowering ground cover with red, pink and white flowers from spring to September. Flowers make good landing pads for butterflies.</p>
<p><b>MAY</b></p>	<p><i>Romneya coulteri</i> (Matilija poppy): Spectacular silver-leafed mounding shrub with exquisite crepe-like white flowers the size of saucers, with bright-yellow stamens. The tram driver at Descanso Gardens calls it "the fried-egg plant."</p> <p><i>Salvia clevelandii</i> (Cleveland sage): Possibly the most bewitchingly aromatic plant of the California garden. Silvery gray foliage on striking brown stems gives way to</p>

	<p>spring and summer purple-blue flowers. Excellent for hummingbirds.</p> <p><i>Salvia apiana</i> (white sage): The name refers to its power as a bee magnet. Foliage is a light gray-green.</p> <p><i>Salvia sonomensis</i> (Sonoma sage, creeping sage): Low-growing with lavender flowers, excellent ground cover.</p>
JUNE	<p><i>Eriogonum giganteum</i> (buckwheat; St. Catherine's lace): A spreading shrub, to perhaps 5 feet, with silvery foliage and white spring flowers. As summer progresses, the blooms slowly turn gold.</p> <p><i>Justica californica</i> (<i>chuparosa</i>, <i>California beloperone</i>): Low shrub with spectacular orange-red tubular flowers in April, May and June. Excellent nectar plant for hummingbirds.</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p><i>Trichostema lanatum</i> (mountain woolly blue curls): Silvery low to medium shrub with arresting chaparral perfume and year-round bright blue flowers.</p> <p><i>Eriogonum cinereum</i> (buckwheat): Silver chaparral plant with white flowers that turn saffron, then burnt red in fall.</p> <p><i>Artemesia tridentata</i> (<i>Great Basin sagebrush</i>): Slow-growing silver aromatic shrub with long yellow flowers in fall.</p>
OCTOBER	<p><i>Berberis aquifolium</i> (Oregon holly grape): Autumn beauty: blue berries ripening, leaves turning gold.</p> <p><i>Sambucas mexicana</i> (blue elderberries): A silver-leafed tree with blue berries that are good for pies. Best in large spaces and very successful with California walnut and coastal live oak trees. Important habitat and food source for birds.</p> <p><i>Arctostaphylos refugioensis</i> (<i>manzanita</i>): One of the earlier bloomers of hundreds of types of manzanitas that come into bloom throughout fall and winter. Fragrant pink blossoms. When buying manzanita from more than 200 cultivars, keep in mind that some can become small trees, while others are almost ground cover.</p>
NOVEMBER	<p><i>Ribes sanguineum</i> var. <i>glutinosum</i> (<i>pink flowering currant</i> or <i>winter currant</i>): A blithely classy bramble with delicate pink blossoms that emerge just as the plant begins to leaf out in early winter. Berries follow shortly.</p>
DECEMBER	<p><i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> (<i>toyon</i>, <i>Christmas berry</i> or <i>holly</i>): The plant that gave Hollywood its name. Can be trained as a small tree or shrub, glossy leaves and bright red berries. Flowers in spring.</p> <p><i>Symphoricarpos microphyllus</i> (<i>creeping snowberry</i>): Deciduous shrub that can form a thicket for a bird habitat.</p> <p><i>Ribes malvaceum</i> (<i>chaparral currant</i>): A late-autumn, early-winter blooming currant dangling white pink flowers. Produces berries in spring, then it loses its leaves in summer.</p>