



Nifty



Plants for
Water Smart
Landscapes





Enhance your garden with water smart plants that exemplify the San Diego region at its best!

These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non invasive, easy to maintain, long term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant.

The Nifty-50 plants thrive in California's semiarid climate. Become environmentally aware of what makes our region distinctly beautiful!

The Nifty-50 plants are labeled and on display at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College. The five acre public garden is an excellent place to get ideas for a new or retrofitted landscape that looks beautiful and saves water, time, and money.

The Garden is open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Call for summer hours.) Tours are offered each Saturday morning and by appointment. There are classes, workshops, and gardening festivals for the entire family.

Go to www.thegarden.org or call 619-660-0614 x10 for further information.

10 Water-Saving Tips for your Garden



1

Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass, and 1 to 2 days per week for other plants.

2

In winter, irrigate only if needed, to maintain some moisture in the soil.



3

Check soil moisture using your finger or shovel and wait until the soil is dry 2 or 3 inches deep before watering.

4

Create a schedule of how much and how often to water with the landscape watering calculator at www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html



5

Water only before dawn and after dusk to reduce water loss due to evaporation and wind.



6

Fix leaking sprinklers, valves and pipes. A broken spray sprinkler wastes 10 gallons per minute or 100 gallons in a typical 10 minute watering cycle.

7

Place a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch over bare dirt to reduce water evaporation, improve the soil, and help control weeds.



8

Replace lawn areas with water smart groundcovers, trees and shrubs whenever possible.

9

Check with your water agency for water use surveys and rebates on irrigation equipment.



10

Attend classes on water smart landscaping. Visit the Water Conservation Garden or contact your local water agency.

Nifty 50 Plants for Water Smart Landscapes



San Diego County Water Authority

These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in retail nurseries, non invasive, easy to maintain, long term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant. In some cases, there are so many excellent water smart plants in a particular group, like salvias, that we chose the group, and gave several examples.

and N = Native Plant

Shrubs

- 1 **Manzanita**

Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N
- 2 **California Lilac**

Ceanothus species and hybrids, N
- 3 **Western Redbud**

Cercis occidentalis, N
- 4 **Geraldton Waxflower**

Chamelaucium uncinatum
- 5 **Rockrose**

Cistus species
- 6 **Grevillea**

Grevillea species and hybrids
- 7 **Toyon**

Heteromeles arbutifolia, N
- 8 **Texas Ranger**

Leucophyllum species
- 9 **Oregon Grape**

Mahonia aquifolium, N
- 10 **Common Myrtle**

Myrtus communis
- 11 **Rosemary**

Rosmarinus officinalis
- 12 **Coast Rosemary**

Westringia fruticosa

Succulents

- 13 **Aeonium**

Aeonium species
- 14 **Agave**

Agave species and hybrids
- 15 **Aloe**

Aloe species and hybrids
- 16 **Rock Purslane**

Calandrinia grandiflora
- 17 **Live Forever**

Dudleya species and hybrids, N
- 18 **Hens-and-Chickens**

Echeveria species and hybrids

Vines

- 19 **Bougainvillea**

Bougainvillea
- 20 **Yellow Orchid Vine**

Mascagnia macroptera
- 21 **California Wild Grape**

Vitis californica, N

Groundcover

- 22 **Carmel Creeper**

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis species and hybrids, N
- 23 **Silver Carpet**

Dymondia margaretae
- 24 **Ice Plant**

Lampranthus species
- 25 **Trailing Lantana**

Lantana montevidensis
- 26 **Huntington Carpet Rosemary**

ROSEMARY
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Huntington Carpet'
- Prostrate Rosemary**

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostrata'
- Lockwood de Forest**

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Lockwood de Forest'
- 27 **Stoncrop**

Sedum species and hybrids
- 28 **Woolly Thyme**

Thymus pseudolanuginosus

Grass*

- 29 
Pink Muhly Grass
Muhlenbergia capillaris
- Red Fountain Grass**

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'
- 32 
species and hybrids

Perennials

- 33 **Kangaroo Paws**

Anigozanthos species and hybrids
- 34 **California Sunflower**

Encelia californica, N
- 35 **Lavender**

Lavandula species and hybrids
- 36 **Monkey flower**

Mimulus, Native species and hybrids
- 37 **PENSTEMON, Native species**

Penstemon heterophyllus, N
- Foothill Penstemon**

Penstemon parryi, N
- Parry's Beardtongue**

Penstemon spectabilis, N
- 38 **SALVIA SPECIES**

Dune Sage
Salvia africana lutea
- Gernander Sage**

Salvia chamaedryoides
- Cleveland Sage**

Salvia clevelandii, N
- Mexican Bush Sage**

Salvia leucantha
- Autumn Sage**

Salvia greggii
- 39 **TAGETES PERENNIAL**

Copper Canyon Daisy
Tagetes lemmonii
- Peruvian Verbena**

Verbena peruviana
- Mexican Tarragon**

Tagetes lucida

- 44 **Australian Willow**

Geijera parviflora
- 45 **Crape Myrtle**

- 46 **Sweet Bay**

- 47 **Fruitless Olive**

Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'
- 48 **Desert Museum Palo Verde**

Parkinsonia (Cercidium) x 'Desert Museum'
- 49 **Chinese Pistache**

Pistacia chinensis
- 50 **Coast Live Oak**

Quercus agrifolia, N

Trees

* Includes Ornamental Grasses & Grass-like Plants



San Diego County Water Authority

and member agencies

THE
WATER CONSERVATION

Garden

AT CUYAMACA COLLEGE

619-660-0614 x10 • www.thegarden.org