This list is only a start. These are plants well-adapted to our local mediterranean climate of dry summers. Check with your local nursery for these plants as well as others that are colorful, water-conservative, and suited to our climate.

For more information on these plants and others, visit the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden website: www.slobg.org.



## **Starter Plant List**

Compiled by Mary Giambalvo and Ron Kindig with special thanks to Joe Seals for his original list.

For more information on Arroyo Grande in Bloom, visit our website: www.arroyograndeinbloom.org

Notes:

**Botanical name:** Use for ordering plants. A plant has only one botanical name.

Type: All plants are evergreen unless marked "deciduous."

**Maximum size:** Use to space plants. Pruning can control this, but space planning is better. **Uses:** "Containers" includes pots, planters.

"Deer, diseases, fire, pests" all mean resistance to these.

**Water:** "Mediterranean" means summerdrought-tolerant. Most like a little. *Use a water probe to avoid over-watering.* 

Soil: "Adapts" means tolerates a variety.

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	lower color	r Soil	<b>Exposure</b>
Acacia covenyi - Coveny's acacia	shrub or tree	20 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Deer, diseases, drought, fire, fragrant, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	yellow	adapts	sun
Acacia iteaphylla - willow wattle	shrub	10 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Deer, drought, fire, hedge/screen, neglect, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	yellow	adapts	sun
Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum'	succulent perennials	3 ft. H	Containers, deer, fire, rock gardens	Moderate	yellow	well- drained	sun/shade
Agapanthus 'Summer Sun' or 'Tinkerbell' - lily of the Nile	perennial	12 in. H	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, hummingbirds, neglect, pests, poor soil and drainage, slopes, wind	mediterranean	blue	adapts	sun/shade
Aloe longistyla x Aloe humilis	succulent shrub	6 in. H Flower: 14 in.	Borders, containers, deer, hummingbirds, fire, rock garden	little to moderate	scarlet, orange, or yellow	well- drained	sun
Alstroemeria hybrid - Peruvian lily	perennial	4 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Borders, containers, hummingbirds, showy	regular when blooming	lavender /yellow	well- drained	sun/part shade
Anagallis monellii - blue pimpernel	perennial	18 in. H & W	Borders, containers, deer, neglect, poor soil	mediterranean	blue	adapts	sun/shade
Anigozanthus flavidus - tall kangaroo plant	perennial	18 in. H, 3 ft. W flowers to 6 ft.	Containers, cut flowers, hummingbirds	mediterranean	yellow, pink, or red	sand or well- drained	sun
Arbutus unedo 'October Festival' - strawberry bush or tree	shrub or tree	6 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Containers, deer, fire, hummingbirds, screen, under oak trees	mediterranean	pink; red fruit	well- drained	sun; some shade in heat

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	Flower colo	r Soil	<b>Exposure</b>
Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn' - vine hill manzanita	shrub	6 ft. H, 7 ft. W	Containers, deer, fire, hummingbirds, screen, slopes, under oak trees	mediterranean	pink/ white; red fruit	well- drained	sun/light shade
Arctotis acaulis 'Magenta' - African daisy	perennial	1 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, groundcover	mediterranean	magenta	light	sun
Artemisia pycnocephala 'David's choice' - beach sanwort	shrub	1 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, diseases, drought, groundcover, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	(foliage)	sand	sun
Asteriscus maritimus - gold chip, gold coin	perennial	1 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, groundcover, hummingbirds, neglect, slopes	mediterranean	yellow	well- drained	sun, some shade in heat
Bracteantha bracteata - golden everlasting daisy	shrubby perennial	4 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Borders, containers	regular	gold to bronze to red	well- drained	sun/part shade
Calandrinia spectabilis - rock purslane	perennial	2 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, showy	Moderate	pink	well- drained	sun
Calothamnus villosus - silky netbush	shrub	7 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Drought, hedge/screen, hummingbirds, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	orange pink	sand	sun
Carissa grandiflora - natal plum	shrub or tree	10 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Drought, hedge/screen, neglect, wind	mediterranean	white	adapts	sun
Carpenteria californica - bush anemone	shrub	8 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Deer, screen, under oaks	little to moderate	white	well- drained	sun/some shade
Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' - wild lilac	shrub	16 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Drought, fire, hedge/screen, neglect, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	blue	adapts	sun
Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay' - Point Reyes Ceanothus	shrub	1.5 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Drought, fire, groundcover, neglect, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	blue	adapts	sun/ part shade
Ceanothus impressus var. nipomensis - Arroyo Grande lilac	shrub	8 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Drought, fire, hedge/screen, neglect, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	dark blue	well- drained/ sandy	sun
Centaurea gymnocarpa - dusty miller	shrub	4 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Container, deer, drought, fragrant, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	lavender	adapts	sun

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	Flower colo	<u>r Soil</u>	<b>Exposure</b>
Chamaemelum nobile - chamomile	perennial	12 in. H, 18 in. W	Borders, containers, deer, groundcover, poor soil	moderate	yellow	well- drained	sun/part shade
Chamelaucium uncinatum 'Purple Pride' - Geraldton waxflower	shrub	7 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Cut flowers, drought, hedge/screen, slopes,	moderate	rose	well- drained	sun/part shade
Cistus x purpureus - orchid rockrose	shrub	4 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Deer, drought, fire, hedge/screen, salt spray, slopes, wind	mediterranean	orchid	adapts/ well- drained	sun
Coleonema pulchrum 'Sunset Gold' - golden breath of Heaven	shrub	4 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, fragrant, groundcover, hedge, pests, slopes	moderate	pink	well- drained	sun/part shade
Coprosma 'Rainbow Surprise' - mirror plant variegated	shrub	5 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Containers, drought, colorful foliage, hedge/screen, neglect, poor soil, shade	medium	(foliage)	sand	sun/shade
Cornus sericea - red-osier dogwood	deciduous shrub	12 ft. H, 12 ft. W	Screen, showy	regular	white	moist	sun/shade
Correa pulchella - Australian fuchsia	shrub	2 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Containers, deer, drought, fire, groundcover, hummingbirds, poor soil, slopes, under oaks	mediterranean	pink	well- drained	sun/part shade
Cotinus coggygria 'Purpureus' - smoke tree	deciduous shrub or tree	15 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Poor soil, near oaks, screen, showy, wind	moderate	(pink stalks)	well- drained	sun
Cotoneaster glaucophyllus - bright bead cotoneaster	shrub	8 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Container, screen/hedge, red fruit	medium	white	adapts	sun/shade
Cotyledon orbiculata var. flanaganii - pig's ear	succulent shrub	3 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, indoors, hummingbirds, rock gardens	mediterranean	orange	well- drained	sun/some shade
Crassula falcata - propeller plant	succulent perennial	4 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, rock garden	little to none	red	well- drained	sun/part shade
Crotalaria agatiflora - canary bird bush	shrub	12 ft. H, 12 ft. W	Diseases, drought, neglect, pests, poor soil, wind	mediterranean	char- treuse	sand	sun
Cynara scolymus - globe artichoke	herb	6 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Showy accent	moderate during growth	bright purple	well- drained	sun

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	Flower colo	<u>r Soil</u>	Exposure
<b>Dioon edule -</b> chestnut dioon	shrub	6 ft. H, 12 ft. W	Edible fruit, drought, neglect, poor soil, seacoast, wind	low	(foliage)	adapts	sun/shade
Epilobium (Zauschneria) canum - California fuchsia	shrub	2 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, groundcover, neglect, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	red/ orange	adapts	sun/shade
Erica cruenta - heath	shrub	3 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, groundcover, hedge, hummingbirds, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	magenta	sand	sun
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens - San Miguel Island buckwheat	shrub	1 ft. H, 1.5 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, groundcover, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	rose pink	adapts	sun
Eschscholzia californica - California poppy	perennial	2 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Deer, fire, groundcover, neglect, slopes	mediterranean	orange	well- drained	sun
Euphorbia rigida - narrow- leaved glaucous spurge	succulent perennial	4 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, neglect, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	lemon yellow	well- drained	sun
Fuchsia magellanica	shrub	5 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Containers, color	mediterranean	red	adapts	sun/shade
Globularia x indubia - globe flower	perennial	2 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Containers, deer, drought, neglect, poor soil	mediterranean	white/ lavender	sand	sun
Gomphostigma virgatum - otterbush	perennial	7 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Showy screen	mediterranean	white	well- drained	sun
Grevillea 'Pink Pearl' - pink pearl hummingbird bush	shrub	8 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Borders, deer, drought, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	deep rose	adapts	sun coast
Hardenbergia violacea - lilac vine	shrub twining vine	10 ft.	Containers, deer, drought, neglect, pests, poor soil, screen, shade, slopes, wind	mediterranean	purple	adapts	shade or sun
Heteromeles arbutifolia - toyon	shrub or tree	20 ft. H, 20 ft. W	Deer, drought, fire, neglect, screen, slopes	mediterranean	white	well- drained	sun/part shade
Hypocalymma angustifolium - white myrtle	shrub	3 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Border, containers, groundcover, showy	mediterranean	white or pink	well- drained	sun/shade

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u> <u>F</u>	lower colo	r Soil	<b>Exposure</b>
Isopogon formosus - rose coneflower	shrub	6 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Light screen, showy	moderate	rose pink	well- drained	sun/some shade
Juncus patens 'Elk Blue' - California gray rush	perennial	2 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, dry or wet streams	ample	gray- green stems	moist	sun/some shade
Juniperus conferta - shore juniper	shrub	1 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Containers, deer, drought, fire, fragrant, groundcover, neglect, poor soil, wind	low	(foliage)	adapts/ sand	sun
Kniphofia thomsonii - alpine poker	perennial	5 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Containers, diseases, drought, hummingbirds, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	mediterranean	coral	adapts	sun
Lachenalia aloides var. quadricolor - Cape cowslip	perennial (from bulb)	1 ft. H, 1 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, hummingbirds, indoors, rock garden, showy	none when dormant, regular in bloom	yellow/ red	well- drained	sun/some shade in heat
Lampranthus aurantiacus - ice plant	succulent perennial	15 in. H, 18 in. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, groundcover, seashore, showy, slopes	little to none	orange or yellow	well- drained	sun
Lavandula angustifolia - English lavender	shrub	2 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, fragrant	mediterranean	white, pink, purple	adapts, well- drained	sun
Leptospermum laevigatum - Australian tea tree	shrub or tree	30 ft. H, 30 ft. W	Deer, drought, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, wind	mediterranean	white	sand	sun
Leptospermum rotundifolium, round leafed tea tree	shrub	6 ft. H, 9 ft. W	Containers, diseases, drought, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	lavender	adapts	sun
Leptosperum scoparium - New Zealand tea tree	shrub	10 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Containers, diseases, drought, heat/cold, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	medium	pink, rose	sand	sun
Leucadendron discolor - Piketberg conebush	shrub	6 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Containers, cut flowers, screen, showy	moderate	red with gold bracts	well- drained, mulch	sun
Lonicera involucrata - twinberry honeysuckle	shrub deciduous	6 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Containers, drought, hedge/screen, poor soil & drainage, shade, slopes	mediterranean	coral/ yellow	adapts	sun/shade
Luma apiculata - arrayan	shrub or tree	8 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Accent shrub/tree, deer, screen, showy	little to regular	white to pink	well- drained	sun

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u> I	Flower colo	r <u>Soil</u>	<b>Exposure</b>
Melaleuca hypericifolia - dotted melaleuca	shrub	10 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Containers, drought, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes	low	red	adapts	sun
<b>Melaleuca incana</b> - gray honey myrtle	shrub or tree	9 ft. H, 9 ft. W	Deer, diseases, drought, hedge/screen, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	cream	sand	sun
Myoporum laetum 'Carsonii' - compact coast myoporum	shrub or tree	30 ft. H, 20 ft. W	Deer, drought, hedge/screen, poor soil & drainage, slopes, wind	mediterranean	white/ purple	adapts	sun/shade
Myoporum parvifolium 'Putah Creek' - creeping myoporum	shrub	1 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Ceer, drought, fire, groundcover, neglect, pests, slopes	mediterranean	white	adapts	sun/shade
<b>Nauplius sericeus</b> - Canary Island daisy	perennial	1 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, groundcover, hummingbirds, neglect, seashore, slopes, wind	mediterranean	yellow	well- drained	sun; avoid extreme heat
Nerine bowdenii	perennial from bulb	1 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Containers, showy	moderate; none when dormant	pink	well- drained	sun/some shade
Orphium frutescens - sea rose	perennial	2 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, hedge, neglect, pests, poor soil, showy, wind	mediterranean	lavender	adapts	sun
Pelargonium sp. 'Brilliant' - pineapple geranium	shrubby perennial	3 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Borders, containers, groundcover, hummingbirds, showy	mediterranean	pink	well- drained	sun, some shade in heat
Phlomis fruticosa 'Grande Verde' - Jerusalem sage	shrub	5 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Containers, deer, diseases, drought, fire, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	yellow	adapts	sun
Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Marjorie Channon' - variegated Kohuhu	shrub	12 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Espalier, hedge/screen, slopes, wind	mediterranean	black- red	adapts	sun/shade
Plumbago auriculata 'Imperial Blue' - Cape plumbago	shrub	8 ft. H, 10 ft. W	Deer, hedge/screen, showy, slopes	deep	blue	well- drained	sun/some shade
Polygala x dalmaisiana - sweet pea shrub	shrub	4 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Borders, hummingbirds, neglect, screen	regular	purple- pink	well- drained	sun/some shade
<b>Psoralea pinnata</b> - grape soda plant	shrub or small tree	15 ft. H, 15 ft. W	Fragrant, hedge/screen, slopes	mediterranean	blue or violet/ white	well- drained	sun

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	Flower colo	r Soil	<b>Exposure</b>
Punica granatum 'Nana' - dwarf pomegranate	shrub	3 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Borders, containers, drought, fire, poor soil	mediterranean	orange- red	adapts	sun
Rhaphiolepis indica 'Pink Dancer' - Indian hawthorn 'Pink Dancer'	shrub	4 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Borders, drought, hedge/screen, pests	mediterranean	dark pink	well- drained	sun/some shade
Rohdea Japonica 'Miyako no jo' - Japanese sacred lily	perennial	18 in. H, 18 in. W	Borders, containers, drought, neglect, pests, poor soil, showy fruit, wind	low	(foliage & red berries)	adapts	shade
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus' - dwarf rosemary	shrub	2 ft. H, 8 ft. W	Containers, deer, drought, groundcover, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean- looks better with some	pale lavender	well- drained	sun/some shade
Salvia chamaedryoides - germander sage	shrub	3 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Colorful rock gardens, deer, drought, fire, fragrant, hedge/screen, hummingbirds, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	low	purple blue	adapts	sun
Santolina chamaecyparissus - lavender cotton	shrub	2 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, hedge, groundcover, slopes	low	yellow	well- drained	sun
Satureja douglasii - yerba buena	perennial	6 in. H, 3 ft. W	Drought, groundcover	regular	small, white or lavender	rich, moist	part shade
Senecio viravira - dusty miller	shrub	4 ft. H, 4 ft. W	Deer, drought, groundcover, seacoast, wind	mediterranean	gold	sand	sun
Sollya heterophylla - Australian bluebell creeper	shrub	3 ft. H, 5 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, groundcover, hedge, slopes	regular	blue	adapts	sun/some shade
Stachys byzantina 'Silver Carpet' - lamb's ears	perennial	1.5 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, deer, groundcover	moderate	(silver foliage)	well- drained	sun/some shade
Strelitzia reginae - bird of paradise	perennial	6 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Containers, drought, neglect, pests, poor soil & drainage	mediterranean	multi	adapts	sun/ part shade
Teucrium chamaedrys - wall germander	shrub	1 ft. H, 2 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, fire, groundcover, hedge, neglect, pests, poor soil, slopes, wind	mediterranean	mauve	adapts	sun
Thymus vulgaris 'French Thyme' - common thyme	shrubby perennial (herb)	1 ft. H, 1.5 ft. W	Borders, containers, deer, drought, hedge	mediterranean	lilac to white	well- drained	sun/some shade

Botanical - common name	<u>Type</u>	Maximum Size	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Water</u>	lower colo	<u>r Soil</u>	<b>Exposure</b>
Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet' - laurustinus	shrub or small tree	6 ft. H, 6 ft. W	Deer, hedge/screen, poor soil	regular	white or pink	adapts	sun/some shade
<b>Woodwardia fimbriata</b> - giant chain fern	fern	5 ft. H, 3 ft. W	Drought, fragrant, neglect, poor soil & drainage	medium	(foliage)	adapts	shade
x Amarcrinum memoria- corsii - crinodonna	perennial	2 ft. H (flowers 4 ft.)	Containers, deer, drought, fragrant, hummingbirds, neglect, poor soil	mediterranean/ low	pink	adapts	sun/shade