

City of Santa Barbara Addendum to the WUCOLS Plant List

Updated 3/1/2024

Below are plants that have low water needs for the Santa Barbara area but are listed as medium water needs in WUCOLS.

Please contact the City's Water Conservation Program at 564-5460 to discuss adding additional plants.

Note that we accept San Marcos Growers plant database information as a local, authoritative resource on many plant species water needs; referred to below as "SMG"

Type	Botanical Name	Common Name	Region 3	Notes
T	<i>Acacia cognata</i>	River wattle	L	SMG- Low water needs
GC/S	<i>Arctostaphylos "Emerald Carpet"</i>	Emerald Carpet Manzanita	L	Only Manzanita varietal listed in Wucols as M, all others as L. Low water using, per SMG
S	<i>Agapanthus spp.</i>	Lily of the Nile	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Anigozanthos</i>	Kangaroo Paw	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
T	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	King Palm	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established. Commonly lives off irrigation as street tree (Chapala), will need supplm. h2o in foothills
S	<i>Asparagus densiflorus "Myers"</i>	Myers Asparagus	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Azalea chathamica "Silver Spear"</i>	Silver Spear	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Bambusa multiplex "Alphonse Karr" & Golden Goddess</i>	Alphonse Karr Bambusa, Golden Goddess Bambusa	L	Occasional watering - SMG
S	<i>Berberis aquifolium (formerly Mahonia a.)</i>	Oregon grape	L	Occasional watering - SMG
S	<i>Bergenia crassifolia</i>	Winter Blooming Bergenia	L	Low water per SMG
GC	<i>Bidens ferulifolia</i>	Gold Marie, Carpet Tickseed	L	SMG- occasional to infrequent once established
T/S	<i>Bocconia frutescens</i>	Tree Poppy	L	Low water per SMG - can be given no to little water in coastal gardens.
GC	<i>Buchloe dactyloides "UC Verde"</i>	UC Verde Buffalo grass	L	Water wise lawn alternative
S	<i>Buxus japonica</i>	Japanese Boxwood	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
G	<i>Calamagrostis foliosa</i>	Mendocino reed grass / leafy reed grass	L	Occasional watering - SMG
S	<i>Calliandra hemitacephala</i>	Powder Puff	L	Per Wildscaping.com, LA/Santa Monica Mtn area nursery, 1x/week to less
T	<i>Callistemon</i>	Bottle Brush	L	Drought tolerant per USDA plant database
G	<i>Carex glauca (AKA C. flacca)</i>	Blue Sedge	L	Water wise lawn alternative
T	<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>	Gold medalion tree	L	Low water user; SMG and multiple other sources agree. Succeeds as street tree all over Santa Barbara.
S	<i>Coprosma spp</i>	Mirror Bush	L	Low water per SMG, most varietals, Once established... once a week to once every other week" watering.
S	<i>Cordylone spp.</i>	Cordylone	L	Water wise once established
S	<i>Cuphea "David Verity"</i>	Large Firecracker Plant	L	Occasional watering - SMG
T/S	<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	Sago palm AKA King Sago Palm AKA Sago cycad	L	Drought tolerant once established; California Palm Nursery (Costa Mesa), Jungle Music Palms (Encinitas), Daves Garden (L.A.)
P	<i>Dianella caerulea "Casso Blue"</i>	Casso Blue Flax Lily	L	Once established, low water using / drought tolerant, via SMG and other wholesalers
P	<i>Dianella caerulea "King Alfred"</i>	King Alfred Flax Lily	L	Low water using, very tough and forgiving, drought tolerant, via SMG
G	<i>Dianella prunina utopia</i>	Flax Lily	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
V	<i>Distictis buccinatoria</i>	Trumpet vine (red trumpet vine, coral trumpet vine)	L	SB Landscape exp. - many indiv. survive off irrigation around SB/Goleta. SMG "Occasional water in summer."
S	<i>Escallonia spp.</i>	Escallonia	L	Water wise once established- SMG and other sources
T	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Coppertone loquat	L	Water wise once established- SMG and other sources
S	<i>Eugenia</i>	Eugenia hedge	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
V	<i>Ficus pumila</i>	Creeping fig	L	Only requires occasional irrigation once established per SMG and num. local off-irrig specimens. Prefers east and north walls.
T	<i>Handroanthus heptaphyllus</i>	Pink Trumpet Tree	L	Low water use per SB landscape experience and City Urban Forest Superintendent
G	<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue oat grass	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established; Occasional watering - SMG
S	<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Daylilies	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
GC	<i>Heuchera (Specific varietals allowed, see note)</i>	Coral Bells	L	"Wendy", "Santa Ana Cardinal", "Canyon Melody", "Firefly" and "Lillian's Pink" varietals only (SMG)
T	<i>Hymenoporum flavum</i>	Sweet Shade	L	Low per SMG - requires infrequent watering once established
T	<i>Jacaranda spp.</i>	Jacaranda	L	Low water use once established- SB landscape experience, street trees, SMG
S	<i>Jasminum spp.</i>	Jasmine	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Juncus patens</i>	California Gray Rush	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S/T	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	"Skyrocket" Juniper	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established; Monrovia (breeder)- occasional watering once established
T	<i>Lagerstroemia cv.</i>	Crape Myrtle	L	Low water using once established- CalPoly Selectree website, Monrovia Nursery/Nicholas Staddon
S	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	New Zealand Tee Tree	L	Low water and drought tolerant genus per SMG, WUCOLS for other Lepto spp, additional sources online
S	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Privet	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
G/GC	<i>Lomandra confertifolia</i>	Seascape mat rush	L	SMG- occasional to infrequent once established
P/GC	<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	Mat rush	L	Low once established, per SMG
V	<i>Lonicera hildebrandiana</i>	Giant Burmese Honeysuckle	L	SM Growers recommends watering deeply and infrequently (once every 2 weeks)
T/S	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brisbane Box	L	Once established, low water using / very drought tolerant, via SMG
S	<i>Loropetalum chinense</i>	Fringe Flower	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
G	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Silver Grass	L	SB landscape experience - water wise once established
T	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	New Zealand Christmas Tree	L	Low water user- SMG and multiple other sources agree. Succeeds as street tree all over Santa Barbara.
GC	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Awn Muhly	L	Drought tolerant per USDA plant database
V/GC	<i>Parthenocissus "Hacienda Creeper"</i>	Rancho Viejo Creeper, Hacienda Ivy	L	Low water using once established- via SMG. Hacienda Creeper varietal, only
V	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston Ivy	L	Occasional watering - SMG
G	<i>Pennisetum spathiolatum</i>	Slender veldt grass	L	"Requires little, responds well to occasional" - SMG
G	<i>Pennisetum "fairy tails"</i>	Evergreen Fountain Grass	L	Low water needs - SMG
P	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus "Margarita BOP"</i>	Blue Bedder "Margarita BOP"	L	Low water using and drought resistant from SMG (originals excelled off irrigation at Las Pilitas Nursery in Santa Margarita)
S	<i>Phormium spp.</i>	New Zealand Flax	L	All flax species are Water Wise in SB
PS	<i>Philodendron bipinnatifidum (selloum)</i>	Philodendron	L	WW once established when planted in appropriate area (part sun/shade) - SMG
T	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache	L	Low water using - CalPoly Selectree, UC- Sonoma County Master Gardeners
S	<i>Pittosporum spp.</i>	Dwarf Karo, Tawhiwhi, Mock Orange, tenuifolium, spp	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established; Occasional watering - SMG
S	<i>Polygala fruticosa</i>	Swart Pea Bush	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
GC	<i>Potentilla indica</i>	Mock Strawberry	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina laurel cherry	L	SMG: Drought tolerant once established, noted for wind/heat/drought tolerance, water occasionally. SFGate: Drought tolerant.
V	<i>Pyrostegia venusta</i>	Flame vine	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Rhaphelepis spp.</i>	Rhaphelepis	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
S	<i>Rosa Cl. "Cecile Brunner", "Lady Banks", "Iceberg"</i>	Climbing Roses Cecile Brunner/Lady Banks & Iceberg shrub	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
T	<i>Schefflera pueckleri</i>	Schefflera	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established
T	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African Tulip Tree	L	SMG: "Plant in full sun to light shade and give it occasional deep watering." Many street tree specimens exist in Santa Barbara, off or nearly off irrigation entirely.
T	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Firewheel Tree	L	SMG: "Plant in full sun to light shade and give it occasional deep watering." Many street tree specimens exist in Santa Barbara, off or nearly off irrigation entirely.
S	<i>Streitzia spp.</i>	Bird of Paradise	L	However when young, will require some regular help in the summertime. low water use once established
T	<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Queen Palm	L	SB landscape experience-water wise once established. Commonly survives off irrigation as street tree. Per Pittenger et al 2009, 25% ETO results in best visual and productivity
S	<i>Tecoma capensis</i>	Cape honeysuckle	L	Low water per local experience and SMG; S. African; establishes easily with limited water.
V	<i>Thunbergia gregarii</i>	Orange Clock Vine	L	Occasional watering once established- SMG
P	<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i>	Princess Flower	L	Occasional watering once established- SMG
GC/S	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Star Jasmine	L	low water use once established
T	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Chinese windmill palm	L	Requires little water, drought tolerant, per multiple palm nurseries such as Cal Palms, Jungle Music, and Monrovia
T	<i>Tristemonia laurina</i>	Little-leaf Myrtle, AKA water gum	L	Many individuals survive off irrigation as street trees in SB. SMG says occasionally to regularly, other sources confirm drought tolerance and need of 1x weekly or less summertime water and no winter water
T	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	California fan palm	L	As per Pittenger et al 2009. SB experience- can survive off irrigation easily in Santa Barbara; common street tree.
V	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Wisteria	L	Occasional watering - SMG

Symbol	Vegetation Type
G	Grass
GC	Groundcover
P	Perennial
S	Shrub
T	Tree
V	Vine