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Ground covers

Sagebrush (Artemisia californica 'Canyon Gray', ‘Montara’) - sun, gray foliage, WUCOLS Low

Seascale (Atriplex leucophylla) - sun, yellow flowers, gray foliage, WUCOLS Very Low

Barberry (Berberis aquifolium var. repens) - any sun/shade, showy yellow flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low

Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks No. 2', 'San Bruno Lady', 'Pigeon Point', 'Santa Ana' ground cover selection ) - sun, males have yellow flowers, females have white flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low

Beach Evening Primrose (Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia, cheiranthifolia ssp. cheiranthifolia, cheiranthifolia ssp. suffruticosa, micrantha) - sun, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low


Yerba buena (Clinopodium douglasii) - shade, loves fog, WUCOLS Low

Sand Pygmy Stonecrop (Crassula connata) succulent - sun, WUCOLS Low

Bluff Lettuce (Dudleya farinosa) succulent - ground cover, sun, yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low

California Fuchsia ground covers (Epilobium 'Everett's Choice', septentrionale ‘Mattole River’) - ground cover, sun, showy red flowers, long summer/fall bloom, WUCOLS Low

Seaside Daisy (Erigeron glaucus) - sun-pt shade, low growing, showy pink-lavender flowers, WUCOLS Low

Red Fescue (Festuca rubra) - sun-part shade, low growing bunch grass, can be mowed, WUCOLS Low

Strawberry (Fragaria vesca, chiloensis) - shade-pt shade, white flowers, red fruit, evergreen, WUCOLS Medium (Fragaria vesca behaves like WUCOLS Low in North Beach in clay soil)

San Bruno Mountain Golden Aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora ssp. bolanderi 'San Bruno Mountain') - sun-part shade, yellow flowers, WUCOLS unknown, probably WUCOLS Low

Douglas Iris (Iris douglasiana) - part shade-shade, species has showy purple flowers (other colors available), WUCOLS Low
Beach Knotweed (Polygonum paronychia) - all sun/shade, sand only, (long bloom March-Sept) WUCOLS unknown, probably WUCOLS Low
Self Heal (Prunella vulgaris var. lanceolata) - sun, showy purple flowers, WUCOLS Medium Sage (Salvia sonomensis, mellifera repens, 'Gracias', 'Point Sal', 'Farmer Bower', 'Fremont's Carpet', Salvia leucophylla 'Tilden Prostrate', 'Jade Carpet' ground cover selections) - sun, showy flowers, scented leaves, WUCOLS Low Yellow Stonecrop (Sedum spathulifolium) succulent - sun, yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low Checker Bloom (Sidalcea malviflora) - part shade, showy pink flowers, summer deciduous/dormant when unirrigated, WUCOLS Medium Creeping Snowberry (Symphoricarpos mollis) - shade, winter deciduous, shade, pink flowers, WUCOLS Low California Aster (Symphyotrichum chilense) - sun-part shade, 3'x spreads, showy lavender flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Medium Dune Tansy (Tanacetum bipinnatum) - sun, showy yellow flowers (long bloom July-Oct), evergreen, loves fog, sand only, WUCOLS Unknown (probably Low) Violets (Viola adunca adunca and pedunculata) - shade, purple or yellow flowers, summer deciduous, WUCOLS Medium Miner's Lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata) - annual, summer deciduous, shade, no WUCOLS available but needs about 8 inches of rain to sprout, flower and go to seed, grows well in Los Angeles, as well as in San Francisco

Grasses
Bent grass (Agrostis pallens) sun- part shade, can be mowed, summer dormant, 2', WUCOLS Unknown (probably Low) Tufted Hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa) sun, 3'x3', WUCOLS Low California Fescue (Festuca californica) sun, 4'x3', WUCOLS Low Blue bunchgrass (Festuca idahoensis) sun, 2'x0.5', WUCOLS Very Low Red Fescue (Festuca rubra) - sun-part shade, low growing bunch grass, can be mowed, summer dormant, 1'x2', WUCOLS Low Purple Needlegrass (Stipa pulchra, cernu, lepida) - sun, 3'x1.5', WUCOLS Very Low Blue Wildrye (Elymus glaucus) - sun-pt shade, 1'x5', WUCOLS Unknown likely Low

Space fillers - the species will expand to fill a space
Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) - any sun/shade, 2'x1.5', white flowers, (long bloom April-Aug), can be mowed, WUCOLS Low California Fuchsia (Epilobium canum) - sun, 2'x spreads, showy red flowers, evergray, long summer/fall bloom, WUCOLS Medium Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) - any sun/shade, 4' in clay, 6' in sand, white flowers, edible red fruit, deciduous, WUCOLS Low Bee Plant (Scrophularia californica) - shade-pt shade, 4'x spreads, small red flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low Hedge Nettle (Stachys ajugoides, bullata, chamissonis) - pink or purple flowers, size depends on species, sun depends on species, (long bloom Apr-Sept), prefers bioswales, WUCOLS Medium California Aster (Symphyotrichum chilense) - sun-part shade, 3'x spreads, showy lavender flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Medium

Shorter flowers - 3 foot and under
Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) - any sun/shade, 2’x1.5’, white flowers, (long bloom April-Aug), can be mowed, WUCOLS Low
Dune Sagewort (Artemisia pycnocephala) - sun, 2’ x 3, gray scented foliage, WUCOLS Low
California Fuchsia (Epilobium canum) - sun, 2’ x spreads, showy red flowers, evergray, long summer/fall bloom, WUCOLS Low
Coast Buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium, nudum) - sun, 2’ x 3, evergray, WUCOLS Low
Goldenaster (Heterotheca sessiliflora, sessiliflora ssp. bolanderi, villosa) - 3’, long bloom, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low
Hummingbird Sage (Salvia spathacea) - part shade-shade, 3x3, evergreen, showy pink flowers, WUCOLS Low
California Aster (Symphyotrichum chilense) - sun-part shade, 3’x spreads, showy lavender flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Medium
Mule Ears (Wyethia angustifolia) sun, 3’x3’, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low

Vines
Dutchmans Pipevine (Aristolochia californica) - part shade-shade, pipe shaped flowers in winter, deciduous, roots must be planted in shade, fall color, WUCOLS Low, needs water for the first 2 years

Morning Glory vine (Calystegia purpurata ssp. purpurata) - sun, showy pink and white flowers, WUCOLS Low

Chaparral Clematis ( Clematis lasiantha) any sun/shade, showy white flowers, deciduous, WUCOLS Low

Pink Honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula) part shade, showy pink flowers, deciduous, WUCOLS Low

Twinberry Honeysuckle (Lonicera involucrata var. ledebourii) - part shade, red flowers, deciduous WUCOLS Low

Pacific Pea (Lathyrus vestitus) - sun-part shade, showy pink flowers, no WUCOLS available, probably Low

Hedges/Shrubberies
Manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea crustacea , crustacea rosei, franciscana; shearable ‘Howard McMinn’, ‘Sunset’) - sun, evergreen, pink or white flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low

Sagebrush (Artemisia californica, douglasiana, dracunculus, pycnocephala) - sun (Artemisia douglasiana is shade tolerant), gray scented foliage, WUCOLS Low

Saltbush (Atriplex lentiformis) - sun, stress deciduous, pink flowers, gray foliage, WUCOLS Very Low

Coast Barberry (Berberis pinnata, pinnata pinnata, aquifolium) - any sun/shade, evergreen, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low

Ceanothus (Frosty blue, Concha, Julia Phelps are shearable) - sun, evergreen, showy blue flowers, WUCOLS Low

Coffeeberry (Frangula californica) - any sun/shade, evergreen, shearable, WUCOLS Low

Coast Silk tassel bush (Garrya elliptica, ‘James Roof’) - sun-part shade, fog loving, evergreen, showy tassels, WUCOLS Low

Ocean Spray (Holodiscus discolor) - shade-part shade, showy white scented flowers, deciduous, WUCOLS Low

Bush Mallow (Malacothamnus fasciculatus and jonesii) - sun, evergreen or gray, showy pink flowers, long summer bloom, WUCOLS Low and Very Low depending on species. Not SF local.
Malva Rosa (Malva assurgentiflora) - any sun/shade, showy pink flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low

California Wax Myrtle (Morella Californica) - sun-part shade, fog loving, 33 ft evergreen tree, shearable to shrub size, WUCOLS Medium

Hooker's Evening Primrose (Oenothera elata) - sun-part shade, showy yellow flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low

Hollyleaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia) - sun-part shade, fog loving, 50 ft evergreen tree, shearable to shrub size, showy white flowers, WUCOLS Low

Scrub Oak (Quercus durata) - sun, 12 ft evergreen shrub, keystone oak woodland & serpentine chaparral species, WUCOLS Very Low

Redberry (Rhamnus crocea) - sun-part shade, 7 ft evergreen, showy red berries, WUCOLS Low

Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum) - part-shade - shade, 8’ evergreen, blue fruit, slow growing, shearable, WUCOLS Low needs extra water for the first 5 years

Ornamental Specimen Trees

Buckeye (Aesculus californica) - sun-part shade, white flowers, 40 ft drought stress deciduous tree, WUCOLS Very Low

Manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca, pajaroensis, manzanita, 'Dr Hurd') - sun, curving red branches, white flowers, 15-20 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low

Ceanothis (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, 'Ray Hartman') - sun, evergreen, showy blue flowers, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low

Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea) - any sun/shade, 13 ft deciduous tree, red branches, white flowers, WUCOLS High, prefers bioswales

California Hazelnut (Corylus cornuta ssp. californica) - shade, 18 ft deciduous tree, fall color, edible nuts, WUCOLS Low but it prefers a damp area

Coast Silk Tassel (Garrya elliptica) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 16 ft evergreen tree, showy tassels on males, WUCOLS Low

Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) - sun, evergreen, showy red berries, fog & wind loving, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low

California Wax Myrtle (Morella californica) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 33 ft evergreen tree, shearable, WUCOLS Medium

Hollyleaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 50 ft evergreen tree, shearable, showy white flowers, red fruit, WUCOLS Low

Red Willow (Salix laevigata) - sun-part shade, 50 ft deciduous tree, keystone riparian species, WUCOLS High, use in creeks and bioswales

Arroyo Willow (Salix lasiolepis) - sun, 35 ft deciduous tree, keystone riparian species, WUCOLS High, use in creeks and bioswales

Shining Willow (Salix lasiandra) - sun-part shade, 30 ft deciduous tree, keystone riparian species, WUCOLS High, use in creeks and bioswales

Scouler's Willow (Salix scouleriana) - sun-part shade, 50 ft deciduous tree, keystone riparian species, WUCOLS High, use in creeks and bioswales

Sitka Willow (Salix sitchensis) - sun-part shade, 23 ft deciduous tree, keystone riparian species, WUCOLS High, use in creeks and bioswales

Blue Elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea) - 30 ft deciduous tree/shrub, can be pruned to tree form, fast growing, edible blue fruit, showy white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Shade Trees
Big Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum) - sun-part shade, 30 ft deciduous tree, fall color, WUCOLS Medium
Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) - sun, 70 ft evergreen tree, keystone oak woodland species, best grown from an acorn, WUCOLS Very Low

Fall Foliage
Big Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum) - sun-part shade, 30 ft deciduous tree, fall color, WUCOLS Medium
Dutchmans Pipevine (Aristolochia californica) - shade, pipe shaped flowers in winter, deciduous, fall color, WUCOLS Low, needs water for the first 2 years
California Hazelnut (Corylus cornuta ssp. californica) - shade, 18 ft deciduous tree, fall color, WUCOLS Low but it prefers a damp area
Roger's Red Grape (Vitis 'Roger's Red') - sun, 40’40’ every year, significant maintenance, deciduous, fall color, WUCOLS Low, not SF local

Gray Foliage
Sagebrush (Artemisia californica, douglasiana, dracunculus, pycnocephala, ‘Canyon Gray’, ‘Montara’) - sun (Artemisia douglasiana is shade tolerant), evergray scented foliage, WUCOLS Low
Seascale (Atriplex leucophylla, lentiformis) - sun, yellow or pink flowers, gray foliage, WUCOLS Very Low
Buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium, nudum) - sun, 2’ x 3, evergray, WUCOLS Low
Lupine (Lupinus albifrons, chamissonis) - purple flowers (long bloom Apr-July), evergray, WUCOLS Low
Bush Mallow (Malacothamnus jonesii) - sun, showy pink flowers, evergray, long summer bloom, WUCOLS Very Low. Not SF local.

Red Bark
Madrone (Arbutus menziesii) - part shade, 100’x25’, WUCOLS Low, not SF local
Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea) - any sun/shade, 13 ft deciduous tree, red branches, white flowers, WUCOLS High, use in bioswales

Colorful Fruit
Coast barberry (Berberis pinnata, pinnata pinnata, aquifolium var. repens) - blue fruit
Beach strawberry (Fragaria chiloensis) & woodland strawberry (Fragaria vesca) - red fruit
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) - red fruit (not edible)
Hollyleaf cherry tree (Prunus ilicifolia) - red fruit
Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) - red fruit
Pink flowering currant (Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum, malvaceum) - blue fruit
Blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea) - blue fruit
Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum) - blue fruit

**Wind screens**
Manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea crustacea, crustacea rosei, franciscana) - sun, evergreen, pink or white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Sagebrush (Artemisia californica, douglasiana, dracunculus, pycnocephala) - sun (Artemisia douglasiana is shade tolerant), gray scented foliage, WUCOLS Low
Saltbush (Atriplex lentiformis) - sun, stress deciduous, gray foliage, pink flowers, WUCOLS Very Low
Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis) - sun, yellow flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low
Coast Barberry (Berberis pinnata pinnata) - any sun/shade, evergreen, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low
Ceanothus (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus) - sun, evergreen, showy blue flowers, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low
Coffeeberry (Frangula californica) - any sun/shade, evergreen, shearable, WUCOLS Low
Coast Silk Tassel (Garrya elliptica) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 16 ft evergreen tree, showy tassels on males, WUCOLS Low
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) - sun, evergreen, showy red berries, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low
Silver Lupine (Lupinus chamissonis) - sun, gray foliage, showy purple flowers, WUCOLS Low
California Wax Myrtle (Morella californica) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 33 ft evergreen tree, shearable, WUCOLS Medium
Hollyleaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia) - sun-part shade, fog & wind loving, 50 ft evergreen tree, shearable, showy white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) - sun, 70 ft evergreen tree, keystone oak woodland species, best grown from an acorn, WUCOLS Very Low

**Erosion control**
Big leaf maple tree (Acer macrophyllum) - sun-part shade, 30 ft deciduous tree, fall color, WUCOLS Medium
Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) - any sun/shade, , 2’x1.5’,white flowers, (long bloom April-Aug), can be mowed,WUCOLS Low
Manzanita (Arctostaphylos any species) - sun, evergreen, pink or white flowers, WUCOLS Low
California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica, douglasiana, dracunculus, pycnocephala) - sun (Artemisia douglasiana is shade tolerant), gray scented foliage, WUCOLS Low
Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis) - sun, yellow flowers, evergreen, WUCOLS Low
Coast Barberry (Berberis pinnata pinnata) - any sun/shade, showy yellow flowers, WUCOLS Low
Ceanothus (any species) - sun, evergreen, showy blue or white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Coffeeberry (Frangula californica) - any sun/shade, evergreen, WUCOLS Low
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) - sun, evergreen, showy red berries, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low
Hollyleaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia) - sun-part shade, fog loving, 50 ft evergreen tree, shearable, showy white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) - sun, 70 ft evergreen tree, keystone oak woodland species, best grown from an acorn, WUCOLS Very Low
Pacific Blackberry (Rubus ursinus) - shade, white flowers, thorny, deciduous ground cover, WUCOLS Very Low
Creeping Snowberry (Symphoricarpos mollis) - pink flowers, deciduous, shade, WUCOLS Low

Calscape is CNPS’s plant selection tool with California native plant pictures, plant size at full growth, soil types, sun/shade needs, water needs, butterfly caterpillar value (chewed leaves are good!) and nurseries with plant availability
https://www.calscape.org/

Calflora has detailed bloom periods for California native plants
https://www.calflora.org/

WUCOLS - California water use classification of landscape species determines water use for plants in California
https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/

California Native Plant Society - Yerba Buena chapter
http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/
http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/biodiversity/biodiversity-resources/