Moonlight Garden Plants for San Francisco

White flowers, cream flowers, pale flowers, grey foliage and pale foliage shine in moonlight gardens.

Ground covers
Manzanita cultivars Arctostaphylos montana ravenii, uva-ursi, 'San Bruno Mountain', 'Point Reyes', 'Radiant', 'Wood's Red', 'Emerald Carpet', 'Green Supreme' (long bloom Jan-March)
Sagebrush (Artemisia californica 'Canyon Gray') - full sun, gray fragrant foliage, WUCOLS Low
Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks No. 2', 'San Bruno Lady') - full sun, pale yellow flowers (long bloom Sept-Jan), WUCOLS Low
Yerba Buena (Clinopodium douglasii) - pt shade/shade, flat x 3, tiny white flowers, edible leaves, WUCOLS Low

Woodland Strawberry (Fragaria vesca) - shade/part shade, white flowers, edible berries, WUCOLS Medium (Fragaria vesca behaves like WUCOLS Low in North Beach in clay soil).
Beach strawberry (Fragaria chiloensis) - sun/pt shade, white flowers, edible berries, good drainage, WUCOLS Medium
Canyon Snow Douglas Iris (Iris douglasiana 'Canyon Snow') - pt shade/shade, white flowers (other colors available), WUCOLS Low

Creeping Snowberry (Symphoricarpos mollis) - shade/pt shade, pink-white flowers, white berries, deciduous

Miner's Lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata) - annual, shade, tiny white flowers, edible leaves, 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

Shorter flowers
Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) - any sun/shade, white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Pearly Everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea) - white flowers, WUCOLS Low

Dune Sagewort (Artemisia pycnocephala) - full sun, 2x3, gray foliage, WUCOLS Low

Coast Buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium) - full sun, 2x3, cream flowers
Nude Buckwheat (Eriogonum nudum) - full sun, 1x1, cream flowers
San Francisco Wallflower (Erysimum franciscanum) - full sun, creamy white flowers

Coral Bells (Heuchera micrantha) - any sun/shade, 1x1, creamy-pink flowers

Lomatium (Lomatium utriculatum) - sun/pt shade, light yellow-green flowers

Cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum) - full sun, white flowers, WUCOLS Unknown

Shrubs

Angelica (Angelica hendersonii) - full sun, good drainage, white flowers, 7x1,
Elk's Clover (Aralia californica) - shade-part shade, good drainage, white flowers, deciduous, 10x10, WUCOLS Medium-High
Manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea crustacea , crustacea rosei, franciscana; shearable 'Howard McMinn', 'Sunset') - full sun, evergreen, light pink or white flowers, check soil needs for each species considered, WUCOLS Low
California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica) - full sun, 3x4, gray foliage, WUCOLS Low

Mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana) - sun/pt shade, 8x4, gray foliage, WUCOLS Low
Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis) - full sun, pale yellow flowers (long bloom Sept-Jan), WUCOLS Low

Cow Parsnip (Heracleum maximum) - any sun/shade, 5x2, white flowers, evergreen, any soil

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

White Pitcher Sage (Lepechinia calycina) - sun/pt shade, 5x5, white flowers, evergreen, good drainage, WUCOLS Low
Kellogg's Yampah (Perideridia kelloggii) - full sun, 5x1, white flowers
Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) - any sun/shade, needs some sun to fruit, white flowers, delicious red berries, deciduous, 8 ft in sand, 4 ft in clay
Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus) - shade, pink-white flowers, white berries, deciduous, 6x6
Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum) - shade, white flowers, delicious blue berries, evergreen (looks like boxwood), slow growing, 8x15, WUCOLS Medium

Grasses
Giant Wildrye (Elymus condensatus) sun, 3x2, 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 1'x2', WUCOLS Low
Purple Needlegrass (Stipa pulchra, cernu, lepida) - sun, 3'x1.5', WUCOLS Very Low

Vines
Dutchmans Pipevine (Aristolochia californica) - shade, pipe shaped flowers in winter, deciduous, WUCOLS Lows
Morning Glory vine (Calystegia purpurata, purpurata ssp. purpurata, soldanella) - showy pink and white flowers, WUCOLS Low
Clematis (Clematis lasiantha) WUCOLS Low, showy white flowers, deciduous

Trees
Saskatoon Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia) - sun/part shade, sandy/fast draining soil, white flowers, edible berries, 35x20 ft deciduous tree
Manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca, pajaroensis, manzanita, 'Dr Hurd') - full sun, curving red branches, white flowers, 15-20 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low
Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea) - any sun/shade, showy white flowers, white berries, 20x25 ft deciduous tree and it will grow back to full height and width if you cut it back
Coast Silk Tassel (Garrya elliptica) - sun/part shade, fog and wind loving,16 ft evergreen tree, showy pale tassels, WUCOLS Low
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) - full sun, evergreen, showy red berries, white flowers, 30 ft evergreen tree, WUCOLS Low

Osoberry (Oemleria cerasiformis) - part shade, sandy/fast draining soil, white flowers, edible fruit, 20 ft tree

Hollyleaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia) - full sun-part shade, fog loving, showy white flowers, edible fruit, 50 ft evergreen tree, shearable, WUCOLS Low
Western Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana var. demissa) - any sun/shade, fog loving, showy white flowers, 20 ft deciduous tree, good drainage, WUCOLS Low

Blue Elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea) - any sun/shade, showy white flowers, edible blue berries, 30 ft deciduous tree, WUCOLS Medium, behaves like WUCOLS Low

Containers, pots and window boxes - all these plants do well in the ground as well as in containers

Soap Plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum, pomeridianum var. pomeridianum, pomeridianum var. divaricatum) bulb, sun/pt shade, white flowers, WUCOLS Very Low

Miner's Lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata) annual - shade/pt shade, ground cover, annual, tiny white flowers, edible, summer deciduous, shade, WUCOLS Unknown

White Mariposa Lily (Calochortus albus) bulb - any sun/shade, white-pink flower

Dotseed Plantain (Plantago erecta) annual - sun, white flowers, WUCOLS Unknown

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 and moth caterpillar value (chewed leaves are the sign of happily fed butterfly caterpillars and are good!) and nurseries with plant availability.
https://www.calscape.org/

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

Pacific Coast Iris Society has details about Douglas Iris color choices. The Douglas Iris species color is purple.
http://pacificcoastiris.org/

WUCOLS (water use classification of landscape species) is a University of California extension database of native and non-native/introduced plants water use across the state of California. WUCOLS Very Low and WUCOLS Low plants are drought tolerant plants.

https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/

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California native plant leaves feed butterfly caterpillars. Please plant our native plants, avoiding introduced plants and invasive plants, to feed beautiful local butterflies. Chewed leaves are the sign of happily fed butterfly caterpillars and are good! More information about these lovely plants and butterflies is available on butterfly plant lists in CNPS-YB's biodiversity resources website and on Calscape.
http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/biodiversity/biodiversity-resources/
https://www.calscape.org/

Edible plant information is from Daniel Moerman's Native American Ethnobotany book and database which detail how Indian tribes used native plants for food, medicine and tools.
http://naeb.brit.org/

California Native Plant Society - Yerba Buena (San Francisco) chapter offers free plant lists, free hikes and free speaker series
http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/

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