

Shade Plants for San Francisco Gardens

Deep shade/thrives without any sun ever

Groundcover

Woodland Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) sand, clay, loam

Creeping Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*) sand, clay, loam

Hookedspur Violet (*Viola adunca* ssp. *adunca*) sand, clay, loam

Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) - clay, loam, damp year around - must have full shade, no sun tolerance

Yerba Buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*) sand, clay, loam, loves fog

Pacific Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) - clay, loam, damp year around - thorns

Ferns

Coastal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris arguta*) clay, loam

Coffee Fern (*Pellaea andromedifolia*) sand, serpentine

California Polypody (*Polypodium californicum*) - clay, sand, serpentine, damp

Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) - clay, sand, loam, damp

Grasses

Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) sand, clay, loam, damp

Scouringrush Horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale* ssp. *affine*) sand, clay, loam, damp

Western Rye Grass (*Elymus glaucus* ssp. *glaucus*)

Blue Wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) sand, clay, serpentine

Creeping Wild Rye (*Elymus triticoides*) - damp

Perennial Herbs/shorter flowers

Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) sand, loam

Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*) - sand, clay, loam, serpentine, damp

Western Houndstongue (*Adelinia grande*) loam, damp

Tellima (*Tellima grandiflora*) loam, damp

Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum fendleri* var. *fendleri*) loam, clay, damp

Pacific Sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*) - clay, damp

Shrubs

Pink Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*) - sand, clay

Canyon Gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*) loam, clay

Coffee Berry (*Frangula californica*) sand, clay, loam, serpentine

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*) - sand, clay, loam

Medium shade/deep shade OK but needs some sun sometime during the year to flower or fruit

Perennial Herbs

Monkey Flower Savory (*Clinopodium mimuloides*) sand, clay, damp

Coral Bells (*Heuchera micrantha*) clay, serpentine

Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*) sand, clay, loam, serpentine

California Bee Plant (*Scrophularia californica*) sand, clay, loam, serpentine

Ajuga Hedge Nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*) clay, loam, serpentine, damp

Giant Wakerobin (*Trillium chloropetalum*) clay, loam, damp preferred

Shrubs

Coast Barberry (*Berberis pinnata* var *pinnata*) - clay, loam, serpentine
Cream Bush (*Holodiscus discolor*) sand, clay, loam, serpentine
Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) sand, clay, loam
Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) sand, clay, damp - thorns
Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) - sand, clay
Douglas's Spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*) - sand, clay

Small trees

California Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* ssp. *californica*) - clay, loam, damp preferred
Coast Silktassel (*Garrya elliptica*) clay, sand, serpentine, loves fog and wind
Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *cerulea*) sand, clay, loam

Vines

Dutchman's Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) sand, clay, loam
California Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*) clay, sand, serpentine

Light shade/regular small amounts of sun/part shade/high shade

Grasses

Blue Wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*)
California Fescue (*Festuca californica*) serpentine
Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*)
Melica (*Melica imperfecta*)

Perennial Herbs/shorter flowers

Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*)
Seep Monkey Flower (*Erythranthe guttata*)
Scarlet Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe cardinalis*)
Oregon Gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*)
Bush Monkey Flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) clay, sand, serpentine
California Aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) clay, loam
Johnny Jump Up (*Viola pedunculata*) clay, loam

Shrubs

Douglas' Sagewort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) sand, clay, serpentine
Coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis consanguinea*) seaside conditions, alkaline soil, sand, clay and seasonal flooding
Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) sand, clay,
White Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia calycina*) - sand
Malva Rosa (*Malva assurgentiflora*) - clay, sand, loam, serpentine

Trees

Dogwood (*Cornus glabrata*, *sericea sericea*, *nuttallii*)
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) - sand, clay, serpentine
California Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*) - serpentine
Hollyleaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) - loves fog and wind

Pots/containers shade tolerant annuals and bulbs

Annuals

Miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*, *sibirica*) clay, sand, loam
Serpentine Springbeauty (*Claytonia exigua* ssp. *exigua*) serpentine
Purple Chinese Houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) sand, loam
Phacelia (*Phacelia ciliata*, *distans*, *douglasii*, *malvifolia*, *nemoralis* and *ramosissima*)
Farewell To Spring (*Clarkia unguiculata*)
Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)

Bulbs

Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*) clay, loam, serpentine
Brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans elegans*, *terrestris*) clay, loam, serpentine
Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus albus*) clay, sand - not all Mariposa Lilies are shade tolerant, so check sun/shade tolerance when you select your lily
Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) sand, clay, serpentine
Blue Dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum capitatum*) sand, clay, serpentine
Soap Plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum pomeridianum*) - clay, sand, loam, serpentine

Calscape is CNPS's plant selection tool with native plant pictures, sizes, soil types, sun/shade, water needs and butterfly caterpillar value.

<https://www.calscape.org/>

California Native Plant Society - Yerba Buena chapter

<http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/>