

# Central Coast Wilds

(831) 459-0656

[www.centralcoastwilds.com](http://www.centralcoastwilds.com)

## **Aster chilensis**

**California Aster** Spreading freely via rhizomes, this adaptable perennial has loads of lavender flowers, after the earlier spring flowers have faded. It's 2-4 ft tall, and a favorite of butterflies and other native pollinators.

## **Calandrinia ciliata**

**Red Maids** With our native wildflower fields overrun by exotic plants, it's hard to imagine that the seeds of this annual used to be a major food source for native peoples! Reseeds in open disturbed ground (if the birds don't eat all the seed).

## **Clarkia amoena**

**Farewell-to-Spring** This annual often has flowers 2" or more across, and thrives in full sun. Bumblebees love them! If you save seeds from the genus Clarkia, be sure to plant them the following spring, as they have a short shelf life.

## **Clarkia unguiculata,**

**Elegant Clarkia** These carefree annuals reseed vigorously, so you'll have more next year. If you want to attract native bumblebees to pollinate your tomatoes, plant these!

## **Clematis lasiantha**

**Virgin's Bower** Like other garden Clematis, this vine likes its feet in the shade, and head in the sun. Originating in the chaparral, this drought-tolerant beauty first shows off creamy white flowers, and then silken feathery tufts of fruits that backlight beautifully.

## **Clintonia andrewsiana**

**Bead Lily** This redwood understory plant bears stalks of small pink lilies, followed by "beads" of dark blue berries. A bit finicky: not too wet, not too dry, and easily over-fertilized!

## **Ericameria ericoides**

**Mock Heather** This dune and sandhills plant produces masses of golden flowers, late summer through fall. This medium-sized shrub needs full sun and excellent drainage.

## **Erigeron glaucus**

**Seaside Daisy** This short-lived low mounding perennial thrives on its native coastal bluffs, but does fairly well inland too, if drainage is provided. If deadheaded, it will bloom for months on end. Enjoyed by butterflies!

## **Eriodictyon californicum**

**Yerba Santa** As its common name suggests, this fire-following shrub has medicinal qualities. Another common name is Five-Flavor Plant, referring to the sensations

experienced when thoroughly chewing a leaf. Bees love the lavender-to-white elongated-bell-shaped flowers.

### **Eriogonum fasciculatum**

**California Buckwheat** A “must-have”! Full sun and no watering required! Creamy flowers bloom for up to several months, then fade to a coppery “buckwheat brown”. Attracts native pollinators by the dozens, including butterflies.

### **Eriogonum giganteum**

**St Catherine’s Lace** This is an amazing plant: fast-growing, silvery foliage becomes nearly buried in some of the biggest flower clusters you have ever seen. Other than its size, up to 6 feet or more, we want to put it in every garden!

### **Eriogonum grande var. rubescens**

**Island Buckwheat** This short-lived perennial forms tidy low mounds of foliage topped with pale to bright pink flowers. It easily interbreeds with *E. latifolium* and *E. nudum*, so use caution if native populations are nearby.

### **Eriogonum latifolium**

**Coast Buckwheat** Fuzzy pale foliage sports long-blooming balls of small flowers, on stalks 1 to 1.5 feet tall. Interbreeds easily with *E. nudum*, so use caution if native populations are nearby. Favored by native pollinators.

### **Eriogonum parvifolium**

**Buckwheat** At home in the coastal sage scrub of Big Sur, this and *E. latifolium*, are host plants for the endangered Smith’s Blue Butterfly. It will attract the native bees and butterflies in your neighborhood, to its late-season flowers.

### **Fragaria chiloensis**

**Beach Strawberry** A great groundcover for sun to light shade, with white flowers in the spring. Although this species is one of the parents of commercial strawberries, the fruit is a bit disappointing. Prefers well-drained soil.

### **Fragaria vesca**

**Woodland Strawberry** This is one of our favorite groundcovers for partial shade. Although it spreads rapidly via runners, it generally won’t overrun other plants, due to its small stature. I hope you can beat the animals to some of the delicious fruit!

### **Festuca californica**

**California Fescue** This large and graceful bunchgrass is typically found growing on steep north-facing slopes, often between oaks. As long as good drainage is provided, it is quite adaptable in the garden, and the 2-3ft long leaves tend to “blue” with maturity.

### **Grindelia species**

**Gumplant** Several species (and confusing hybrids) grow in central California, but all have bright gold flowers that open up through a thick white layer of gum that seals the buds. This traditional medicinal is also a favorite of iridescently colored native bees.

**Heteromeles arbutifolia**

**Toyon, Christmas Berry** Large evergreen shrub 6-12 feet, adaptable to different conditions, but don't over water. Clusters of white flowers in the summer lead to showy red berries that last all winter and spring- unless the birds eat them!

**Heterotheca sessiliflora**

**Golden Aster** This low-growing perennial makes a great ground cover, and produces small golden flowers over a long period. The flowers provide nectar for pollinators, and seeds for birds.

**Lupinus arboreus**

**Yellow Bush Lupine** A great temporary screen, growing 4-5 ft in one season. A short-lived perennial, it typically displays lavish clusters of yellow flowers, although purple, and intermediate colors are rarely seen. Bumblebees love it!

**Lupinus albifrons**

**Silver Bush Lupine** The combination of silvery-white foliage and blue-purple flowers make this 3-4 ft shrub a knockout. It is fussy about being over-watered, so provide good drainage, and water it infrequently. Do not fertilize!

**Lupinus succulentus**

**Arroyo Lupine** Like other nitrogen-fixing plants in the pea family, this one makes its own fertilizer, in symbiotic relationship with bacteria housed in nodules in its roots. This annual produces an abundance of blue-purple and white flowers.

**Madia elegans**

**Elegant Tarweed** This under-utilized annual reaches 4-5 ft before bursting into bloom after most spring flowers have faded. Its pungent foliage may help protect it from herbivores. Its seeds are relished by goldfinches, and were a food for native peoples

**Mimulus aurantiacus**

**Sticky Monkey Flower** A foundation plant for the native garden, these golden-orange flowers will become the center of hummingbird activity in your yard. Have you seen the stigma that closes up when touched?!

**Mimulus cardinalis**

**Scarlet Monkeyflower** At home on stream banks in partial shade, this one will need to be watered in the garden. In reward, you'll get lush growth topped with hummingbird flowers. Cut back hard for repeat performance.

**Mimulus guttatus**

**Seep Monkeyflower** The long blooming period of this moisture-loving plant makes it a good candidate for tumbling out of glazed pots. When it looks ragged, just cut back hard, and fertilize (or re-pot) for repeat performance. Reseeds if moist.

**Monardella villosa**

**Coyote Mint** The refreshingly-scented foliage is enough reason to grow this 1 ft subshrub. But add weeks-months of lavender flowers that attract bees and butterflies, and you've got a real winner! Great on slopes around oaks.

**\*Nemophila menziesii**

**Baby Blue Eyes** The ethereal blue of this cheerful little annual is hard to describe. White centers may sport additional delicate patterns of lines and spots. Great in containers where it will reseed and come up again next spring.

**Penstemon heterophyllus**

**Foothill Penstemon** For good reason that several selections are available, including Blue Bedder, Margarita BOP and Catherine De La Mare. Needing very little water, the bright blue-purple-pink flowers attract hummingbirds and bumblebees.

**\*Phacelia campanularia**

**Desert Bluebells** Very few flowers can match the intensity of color of these desert annuals; photos can't do them justice! Perhaps you've seen them in Joshua Tree State Park? Reseeds if given open sunny ground.

**Phacelia tanacetifolia**

**Tansy Phacelia** Clouds of light blue to lavender flowers, with long-exserted stamens, resembling little fireworks explosions. A great companion plant for your vegetable garden. Reseeds in abundance!

**Rosa californica**

**California Wild Rose** Not for the small manicured garden, unless the roots are contained! Spreads underground, forming spiny thickets that shelter birds. Scented pink flowers ripen into red tasty rosehips that provide late seasonal color.

**\*Salvia 'Bee's Bliss'**

**Bee's Bliss Sage** This hybrid is a real workhorse in sunny, dry, poor soils. Silvery foliage stays less than 2 ft tall and eventually spreads to 8 ft wide. Lots of clear lavender-blue flowers attract butterflies too!

**\*Salvia leucophylla**

**Purple Sage** Very adaptable plant for full sun. The more you dry it out, the more silvery the leaves get. Loads of pink-purple flowers for weeks in the spring. This selection eventually reaches 5 ft tall by 18 ft wide, rooting where the branches touch the ground.

**\*Salvia spathacea**

**Hummingbird Sage** If you have deer, gophers, ground squirrels and rabbits, this is the plant for you! Scented foliage, long blooming period, and happy in dry shade under and around oaks. What's not to love about this creeping groundcover?

**Sidalcea species**

**Wild Hollyhock** The 2-4 ft spires of pink flowers on this upright selection resemble a smaller version of the cottage garden favorite. Bright green foliage and clear pink flowers combine well with many other color schemes. Goes partially dormant in late summer.

**Sisyrinchium bellum**

**Blue-eyed Grass** This diminutive member of the Iris family might be mistaken for grass, until it bursts into bloom. Typically deep blue-purple colored flowers with yellow throats mix well with other colors. Tolerates heavy soils.

**\*Smilacina stellata**

**False Solomon's Seal** Occasional summer water will keep this forest-dweller green for most of the year. Creeping roots will eventually give you a colony of sweetly scented delicate flowers. Hardier than it looks; great under redwoods.

**Solidago californica**

**California goldenrod** The sunny yellow flower clusters of this rhizomatous-spreader light up the garden, summer to fall. Tawny seed heads linger through the winter. Combine with *Aster chilensis* for a butterflies' buffet!

**Symphoricarpos albus**

**Snowberry** Partially deciduous shrub 3-6 ft tall and spreading, does well in dry shade. Small pinkish urn-shaped flowers give way to the highlight- white fruit with the consistency of Styrofoam. Irresistible for "snowball fights"! Stems were used as arrow shafts.

**Vaccinium ovatum**

**Huckleberry** On the coast this medium sized evergreen shrub grows everywhere from chaparral to redwood forest. Inland it will appreciate light shade, although you will get more fruit from plants receiving sunlight. Delicious!

**Vancouveria hexandra**

**Inside-out Flower** Great under redwoods or mixed evergreen forest, this creeping groundcover goes semi-dormant in the winter. Emerging again in early spring, the fern-like foliage is topped with sprays of small white "shooting stars".