

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 28, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

FALL 2014



Daphne odora Aureomarginata



Daphne Eternal Fragrance



Gelsemium sempervirens
 (Carolina Jessamine)

MONROVIA
MONROVIA LOCAL TRANSPLANTERS, 2012



Daphne odora Maejima



Sarcococca ruscifolia
 Fragrant Sweet Box

MONROVIA
MONROVIA LOCAL TRANSPLANTERS, 2012



Pink-A-Boo Camellia

MONROVIA
MONROVIA LOCAL TRANSPLANTERS, 2012

Six beautiful shrubs for delightful fragrance & year-round interest

Fragrant, aromatic, perfumed, sweet-smelling, delightful. These words describe our six featured fall and winter shrubs. Daphne blooms in winter and signals the promise of spring. The always dependable Sarcococca can handle a variety of growing situations, and fragrant Camellia Pink-A-Boo is a rare, unique, fragrant shrub. From lovely yellow primrose, to cyclamen, to these six shrubs, we are fortunate that there's always a sweet-smelling plant available during the cooler months.

Daphne odora Aureomarginata

This evergreen shrub is prized for rosy-pink flower buds that open to white, sweetly fragrant flowers in winter and early spring. The foliage is attractively variegated with a yellow margin. This is a great foundation plant for the dappled shade garden. We recommend planting it near a patio or deck so that its fragrance can be appreciated.

Daphne odora Maejima

A semi-dwarf selection with exceptional foliage, this Daphne features profuse, fragrant dark, pink blooms and rich green and yellow variegated leaves. It is a deer-resistant winter bloomer that is drought-tolerant when established.

Daphne Eternal Fragrance

A profusion of blush pink blossoms in clusters adorn its compact form over many months, providing long-lasting beauty and fragrance. It is a tidy landscape shrub for group plantings or containers.

Sarcococca ruscifolia (Sweet Box)

What a beautiful shrub for shady areas! White flowers are small, but very fragrant, and they are followed by bright red fruit. This Sarcococca forms a natural espalier against walls. An outstanding choice for dry shade gardens where other plants won't grow!

Gelsemium sempervirens (Carolina Jessamine)

Prized for its spectacular display of fragrant, bright yellow flowers. This well-mannered vine climbs beautifully on a trellis, arbor or over fences and walls without smothering surrounding trees and shrubs. Useful as a mounding groundcover.

Camellia Pink-A-Boo

This camellia was bred from the popular red Yuletide camellia and can be used similarly in the landscape. It's rare and usual to find a camellia with a sweet fragrance. Unique not just in color; the large, deep, pink blooms are larger and showier, featuring seven petals rather than five. Float the lovely blossoms in a bowl to enjoy the fragrance indoors.

Landscape uses: An excellent choice for a colorful hedge, privacy screen, espalier, or border shrub.



Visit our stores: Nine Locations in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa

Richmond District
3rd Avenue between
Geary & Clement
(415) 752-1614

Sunset District
2700 Sloat Blvd.
46th & Sloat Blvd.
(415) 566-4415

Marina District
3237 Pierce Street
Chestnut & Lombard
(415) 440-1000
9am to 6:30pm

Novato
2000 Novato Blvd.
at Wilson
(415) 897-2169

San Rafael
1580 Lincoln Ave.
just off Hwy. 101
(415) 453-3977

Mill Valley
657 E. Blithedale at Lomita
(415) 388-0102 (near 101)
401 Miller Ave. at La Goma
(415) 388-0365 (near dwnntn)

Kentfield
700 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
at Wolfe Grade
(415) 454-0262

Danville
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 743-0288
M-Sat hours: 8am to 6:30pm
Sun hours: 8am to 5pm

Garden Design Department
401 Miller Ave., Mill Valley
(415) 388-3754

Bulk Soils
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 820-1273
(East Bay delivery only)
M-Sat 8am-4pm

www.sloatgardens.com

Sloat



Garden Center
420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

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owned since
1958!



We'll help you grow the plants you love!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK Fall 2014

Open 7 days per week 8:30am to 6:30pm

(or as noted above in Danville & SF Marina)

Fall/Winter hours begin Sunday, November 2nd

8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week

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On LOCATION in Mill Valley with East Blithedale Sloat Garden Center Manager Molly Congdon

Molly has worked at Sloat Garden Center for the last decade in our Mill Valley and Sloat Blvd locations. She manages the Mill Valley (E. Blithedale) location and loves working with her staff and local gardening community.

Q: What makes the Mill Valley E. Blithedale location special?

Mill Valley has so many unique and beautiful places to live and garden. Even at the store, we have an amazing view from the parking lot where nature puts on a show every day via the estuary, the hills, the light and some days, the fog. Magical.

Q: What do you love about gardening?

I love the connection to nature you get from gardening. My Gram taught me that a garden can be a sanctuary and is the place to be with friends and family. She also grew a lot of food in a small space with tons of beds of color, cool shrubs and trees.

Q: What is your favorite plant?

I love my dendrobium orchid. It sits in my sunroom and surprises me when it blooms. I also love Redwood trees. I love the ecosystem around them and how they clean the air. I love that there are flora and fauna that live in the tops. I am always grateful when I get to walk in Muir Woods after work.

Q: Please tell us about your staff...

We are so fortunate to have a group with diverse interests. Jenni has a great collection of house plants. Mike is our go-to on growing food.

Leo can makes customized containers special. Duras is into bonsai and sustainable food gardening. Suzan is studying landscape architecture and has traveled extensively. Charlie is familiar with the challenges of our unique ecosystem.

Nick is our tree enthusiast. Garden Divas Alexis and Brenda are long time

residents of Mill Valley and bring so much local pride to our team. Gracie is our advocate for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and the plants that attract them. Shaun is one of the greatest plant geeks I've ever meet. He has a passion for plants. We all love to have a plant party every day. To help folks create a sanctuary is a joy. It is also a gift to learn so much every day from my staff, guests and the amazing professional gardeners that shop our store.

Q: Are there any interesting stories about the store?

This story sums up the magic of our little space: We recently had a "pop-up wedding" at our store. Two gentlemen who met looking at plants many years ago, came back to be married here.



Mike, Molly, Charlie, Leo & Shaun

About this Newsletter: The Gardener's Notebook is published three times a year by Sloat Garden Center for the education and enjoyment of Bay Area gardeners. Information is collected from Sloat's expert staff, current horticultural publications and Sunset's Western Garden Book. Send address corrections to: 420 Coloma Street, Sausalito, CA 94965 or via email to sloat@sloatgardens.com

Fall planting with Camellias

We have a lovely, new Camellia variety from Monrovia Growers this fall: Camellia Jury's Pearl, a Sloat Exclusive! We chose this camellia for its winter vigor, gorgeous flowers and color, and its ability to flourish in Bay Area gardens.



Jury's Pearl Camellia

Jury's Pearl has an exceptional peony form with large, nearly luminous pearl-white flowers that have a pale pink blush and yellow center stamens. The prolific blooms nearly glow over an extended season; from December to late March.

Landscape uses: Plant as a backdrop in mixed beds, or as a foundation plant. Dress up a wall as a shrub, or train as an espalier. A must for Asian or woodland gardens under shade trees with filtered canopies.

Camellia care tips: Plant camellias now while our soil is still warm and roots have time to develop. Use E.B. Stone Azalea, Camellia and Gardenia Mix straight from the bag if you're planting in containers, or use it to amend your garden soil to provide the acid conditions that camellias thrive in. Keep roots cool with a thick layer of mulch. For larger, more successful blooms, pinch off at least every other bud that forms on branch tips to concentrate the plant's energy into opening the remaining buds. After flowering, prune to shape and feed monthly with E.B. Stone Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia Food starting in the spring, all the way through summer.

Fall Supplement: Use F.S.T. (iron and sulfur) in fall and spring to improve growth, fruiting, and flowering. F.S.T. helps plants overcome yellowing leaves. It's especially helpful for acid loving plants such as azalea, rhododendron, camellia, gardenia, plus citrus and blueberries.



Encourage Better Blooms: Use E.B. Stone Ultra Bloom in the fall and winter to support bigger and better buds, and promote disease resistance as well as cold hardiness.



E.B. Stone Azalea Camellia and Gardenia Mix is a versatile mix that can be used both as a soil amendment, or as a ready-to-use potting soil designed to meet the unique growing needs of most acid-loving plants. It can be used on most evergreens, ferns, rhododendrons and begonias.

Entertaining? We have fabulous plants & pottery to brighten up your home and welcome guests



Each fall we focus on some of our favorite houseplants. This year's top picks: **Pothos, Anthurium, ZZ plant, Sansevieria** and **Spathiphyllum** will look gorgeous in the colorful, new, indoor pottery that just arrived in our stores. Available in a range of colors, this pottery will match any entertaining theme you can imagine. Stop by!

New pottery!



Pothos



Spathiphyllum



Sansevieria



ZZ plant



Anthurium

Bay Area Gardening Guide: Fall



Plant

☞ Fall is the best time to plant **foxglove**, **canterbury bells** and other biennials. Look to plant **cyclamen** once the weather cools. Now is a great time to plant California poppies, wildflowers, groundcovers & sweet peas.

☞ Plant **ornamental grasses**. Grasses require little upkeep and create a beautiful screening effect against the house or fence.

☞ Fall is for planting! Get shrubs, perennials, vines and trees into the ground this month while the soil is still warm. Winter rains will help establish your plants.

☞ Don't forget to chill spring bulbs that need an artificial winter: **Tulips**, **freesia**, **crocus** and **hyacinth** need 4–6 weeks of refrigeration before planting. Violas and pansies make perfect ground covers for blooming spring bulbs.

☞ **Decorate for fall:** We have ornamental kale, mums, iceland poppies, snapdragons, stock and ornamental grasses for waves of autumnal color. Also, stop by for pumpkins, then carve something goulish.

☞ Sow fall vegetables: radishes, beets, carrots, peas and lettuce.

Fertilize

☞ Top-dress perennial beds, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus**.

☞ Feed spring blooming shrubs with 0-10-10 fertilizer. Feed citrus with **Maxsea**.

Prune/Maintain

☞ Prepare planting beds for winter. Clear weeds and rocks. Add soil amendments.

☞ Divide the roots and rhizomes of perennials such as agapanthus, yarrow and iris.

☞ Lightly prune Japanese maples while still in leaf.

☞ Feed the birds! Don't cut back dead flower stalks; allow rudbeckia, sunflowers, and other flowers with seeds and berries to feed the birds in your neighborhood all winter. It's also time to fill your bird feeders for winter. Try a suet feeder.

Spring bulbs are ready for planting!

Plant it now: This is the time to plan next spring's colorful **bulb display**. Plant amaryllis, daffodils, iris, tulips, crocus and hyacinth in flower beds and containers to have a vibrant garden next spring. Garlic and onion bulbs can be planted now, too. For detailed bulb planting information, visit www.sloatgardens.com

NEW LEAF PAPER® ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT				
of testing post-consumer waste fiber vs. virgin fiber				
<small>Resources: Cuts saved the following resources by using 7562 pounds of NewLeaf Offset, made with 100% recycled fiber and 100% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green e8 certified renewable energy certificates.</small>				
trees	water	energy	solid waste	greenhouse gases
48 fully grown	22224 gallons	21 Million BTUs	1488 pounds	4098 pounds
<small>Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense Fund, and other members of the Paper Task Force. www.newleafpaper.com</small>				

FALL gardening seminars

Each season we select local gardening experts and designers, as well as our knowledgeable senior staff, to speak in our seminar series. The seminar fee is \$5. (Gardener's Reward Program members attend for free) and all participants receive a 10% off coupon for redemption at any of our locations. *Please call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat. Attendance is limited.*

Check our website for seminar additions and drop in clinics. Workshop fees are additional.

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP: Pink October

Watch how a little pink paint can transform Dusty Miller into Dusty Rose, and a fall gourd into a Pumpkin with a Purpose. Add a few pink perennials, and feel good about gardening. A portion of your class fee goes to the "To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation". *Fee: \$75.*

Wednesday, Oct. 1, Sloat Blvd., SF, 11am
Thursday, Oct. 2, Miller Ave., Mill Valley, 11am
Friday, Oct. 3 Kentfield 11am
Saturday, Oct. 4, Novato, 11am
Sunday, Oct. 5, Danville, 11am

SEMINAR: High Style, Low Water Drought Tolerant Gardens

Emily Hatfield of "Humanature Landscape Design" will show us how to create a designer garden with drought tolerant and native plants. We are honored to have her share her knowledge and advice.
Sunday, Oct. 12, Miller., Mill Valley, 10:30am

DROP IN CLINIC: Layered Bulb Container

Creating a layered bulb container is a fun way to have a colorful pot of flowers throughout the cold winter months. We provide the work space, soil,

fertilizer, and designer advice. Cost is based on the container and plants you choose. No need to pre-register. Bring a friend, have some fun, and leave the mess behind.

Friday, Oct. 17, Kentfield, 10:30am –12:30pm
Sunday, Oct. 19, Sloat Blvd., 10:30am–12:30pm
Friday, Oct. 24, Novato, 10:30am – 12:30pm

SEMINAR: What to do in your garden this fall

Learn tips that will help plants go through winter and enter spring strong. We welcome the expert advice of Kier Holmes, a local landscaper who has been designing gardens for over 15 years.

Saturday, Oct. 25, Kentfield, 10:30am
Saturday., Oct. 25, Mill Valley, Miller, 12:30pm

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP: Orchid Centerpieces

Orchids are a beautiful way to brighten up an interior space. Learn how to incorporate them into a living centerpiece design with Greg Bernard, Kentfield manager. A perfect custom creation to fit your home. *Fee: \$60.00*
Wednesday, Nov. 5, Kentfield, 11am
Saturday, Nov. 8, Kentfield, 11am

MAKE & TAKE Workshop: Holiday Creations

Jen Strobel, our container design expert, will show how to create holiday and winter arrangements. We will incorporate dried greens and berries combined with living evergreens and perennials for a perfect holiday look. *Fee \$75.00*
Wednesday, Nov. 19, SF, Sloat Blvd., 10:30am
Friday, Nov. 21, Miller Ave., Mill Valley, 12 noon
Saturday, Nov. 22, Novato, 10:30am
Saturday, Nov. 22, Kentfield, 2pm

MAKE & TAKE Terrarium Workshop

Bring a friend and join us in creating beautiful living arrangements in glass. This popular workshop is the perfect gift for the holidays!
Fee \$55 (2 or more tickets \$50 each)
Sunday, December 7, Sloat Blvd, 10:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 10, Miller., Mill Valley, 10:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 10, Danville, 10:30am
Friday, December 12, 3rd Ave., SF, 10:30am

Enter your pumpkin in our **Pumpkin Carving Contest**
See www.sloatgardens.com for details!



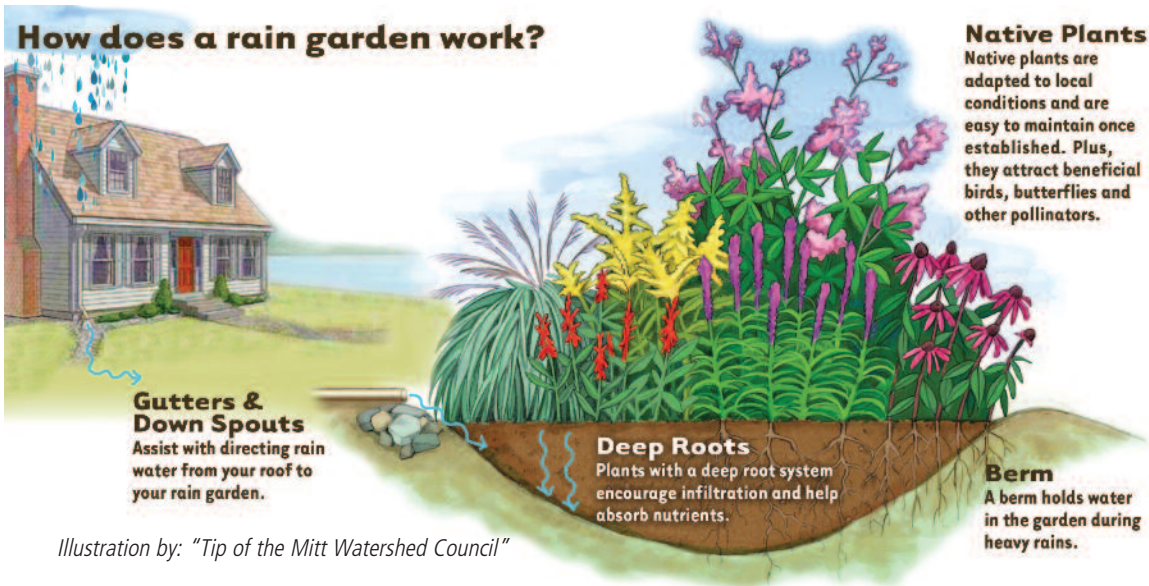


Illustration by: "Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council"

- Appropriate plants for rain gardens**
- Manzanita
 - Grasses & Sedges
 - Iris
 - Asclepia
 - Rushes
 - Penstemon
 - Echinacea
 - Monarda
 - Liatris
 - Aster
 - Helenium

Slow it down, spread it out, soak it in: Once the rains arrive, keep water in its place with a rain garden



This winter we hope you'll consider adding a rain garden or bioswale to your yard, patio or sidewalk area.

Rain gardens are depressions in the soil that are planted with deep-rooted plants and grasses to help divert storm runoff from treated lawns and roofs. An added benefit is that they give gardeners the opportunity to feature native plants that encourage butterflies, birds, and beneficial insects.

"The main purpose of a rain garden is to divert storm water to soil before it hits the sidewalk, runs down storm drains and enters waterways," explains Sloat Vice President and horticulturist Katy Thompson. "Soils filter the storm runoff of pollutants, and organisms in

the soil work to break them down. This is an efficient way to help mitigate polluted runoff entering bays and streams, help with erosion, and allow gardeners to utilize a precious resource."

The rain garden concept started in the mid-west and on the east coast during the 1990's, and is now a growing landscaping trend.

Creating a rain garden does not require technical experience, planting plans or heavy equipment. Here's how it works: A mounded or bermed garden with a depression space is filled with blooming annuals and perennials. Many of your favorite blooming perennials will be able to live there, though plants selected for a rain garden should be able to tolerate both saturated and dry soil.

It should be located near a house to catch roof stormwater runoff, or in an area that will collect runoff from the lawn or driveway. Rain gardens are perfect for both suburban and urban gardens.

"Building a rain garden in your yard is probably the easiest and most cost efficient thing you can do to reduce your contribution to storm water pollution," explains the Rain Garden Network. "By capturing rainwater and diverting it into a rain garden where it can slowly soak into the ground, filtering contaminants and keeping quantities of clean water from going down the sewer system, you'll have a great looking garden that puts water in its place."



Brand New Website



If you're thinking about ways to improve your garden space, call the **Sloat Garden Center Design Department**. We can develop simple, success-oriented, low maintenance planting plans for gardens, decks, and terraces, as well as provide indoor plant consultations. But most importantly, we can help you brainstorm garden ideas and solutions.

To schedule an appointment, call: **415-388-3754**
design@sloatgardens.com

After months of hard work, our new website is complete. We are proud and excited to unveil a treasure trove of gardening tips, recipes, garden inspiration, a plant database, our blog and more. See the new website:
www.sloatgardens.com

Fall & Winter Checklist

Prepare your garden for the cool weather season



Damaging scale



Each fall, our Garden Guru receives a number of questions asking how to prevent diseases and insects from taking over fruit and citrus trees. We carry a variety of products to ensure a disease-free harvest next year.

To help prevent scale and overwintering eggs from mites, aphids and other insects, we recommend a fall application of **Monterey Horticultural Oil**. It's a spray oil emulsion made with highly paraffinic-based petroleum oils. It should be applied while trees are dormant, and can be applied at the same time as *Bonide Copper Fungicide* (an all-purpose fungicide that works as a dormant spray -- see below for details).



There's nothing worse than watching your tender strawberries get snacked on by slugs. Thankfully, there's **Monterey Sluggo Plus** to protect vegetables, fruit and berries from damaging slugs, snails, earwigs, sow bugs, pill bugs and cutworms. Available in easy to use pellets, Sluggo Plus contains Spinosad (which is derived from a naturally-occurring soil dwelling bacterium) and meets national organic program standards for organic gardening.



Many gardeners think of Fall as "California's second spring," when new plants have time to become established before the winter rains. For this terrific period of fall planting, we recommend using **E.B. Stone Sure Start**. Its beneficial soil microorganisms (mycorrhizae and humic acid) help feed plants and soil, and help establish long-lasting plant vigor. We've tried planting with and without Sure Start, and we can always see the difference in plant growth and health.



Spray now to avoid peach leaf curl later



UC Statewide IPM Project
2000 Regents, University of California

This leaf has peach leaf curl; distorted, reddened foliage in the spring is a

distinctive symptom. New leaves and shoots thicken and pucker and later may die and fall off. An infection that continues untreated for several years can lead to a tree's decline.



Age-old, common fruit tree diseases like peach leaf curl, brown rot, blossom blight, fruit rot, canker, and fire blight can hamper fruit production and overall tree health. These diseases are always best controlled by applying **Bonide Copper Fungicide** spray (an all-purpose fungicide that works as a dormant spray), during a tree's dormancy period. The dormant period starts at leaf drop (fall) and runs through the early leaf and blossom periods (early spring). Each year's weather pattern is different, so pay attention to the season and spray accordingly.

This fall, after 80% of the leaves on your fruit tree have dropped, spray the tree until dripping (being sure to include the branches and trunk). If it rains within 24 hours, re-apply. Re-apply often during the winter rains. Be sure to remove all fallen leaves and branches.



Use Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide as a preventative against Peach Leaf Curl and Fire Blight on Pear trees.



Bud Swell



Full Pink/White



First Color



Petal Fall



Shuck Split

Dormant sprays are traditionally applied in the fall once leaves have fallen, and again in mid-winter, then in spring as the buds begin to swell. Spraying at the right time is critical to disease control and may require spraying at these various growth cycles: Delayed dormant (bud swell), popcorn (bud color), bloom, petal fall (as the blossoms fall) and as the fruit first develops.

Goodbye water-hungry lawn

It's time to break the grass habit (if you haven't already). In the Bay Area, large lawns are being replaced with smarter, **greener alternatives** that work with (rather than against) our mild, wet winters and long, dry summers.

There are so many plant choices that use less water without sacrificing beauty. Experiment with rock gardens, low-growing shrubs, succulents, groundcovers and native plants. If you must have a lawn for kids or dogs, keep it small and use a drought-tolerant, deep-rooted fescue, or consider a clover lawn.



Hello beautiful alternatives!

Eight plants to help reduce lawn size and add color & textural interest



Dymondia



Gazania



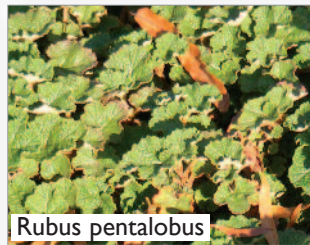
Armeria



Chamomile



Verbena



Rubus pentalobus



Aportenia



Woolly Thyme

Try enlarging and curving the lawn's border to reduce size, add color and create textural interest. Or, place a patio/seating area in the lawn using flagstone, gravel or bark instead of cement. Plant chamomile or woolly thyme between the stones for fragrance.

Eight groundcovers for shady areas



Ajuga



Campanula



Bergenia



Duchesnea indica



Vinca minor



Viola hederacea



Creeping Jenny



Mondo grass

Replace lawns that are struggling to get enough sun by planting patches of groundcovers.

Five combinations to replace a small front lawn



Gaura



Festuca glauca



Aloe



Aeonium

A combination of succulents, shrubs & perennials around a grouping of large rocks.



Purple Lantana



Osteospermum



Achillea



Salvia

Bright perennials and annuals around a birdbath or a statue.



Limonium



Blue Oat Grass



Echeveria



Phormium

For a coastside garden, try these plants among driftwood pieces.



Oregano



Lavender



Artemisia



Creeping Thyme

These plants will provide plenty of fragrance.



Eriogonum



Ceanothus



Erigeron glaucus



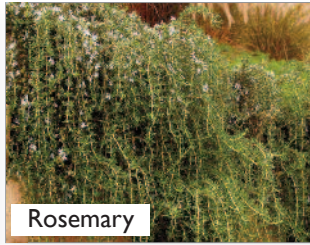
Arctostaphylos

Try a few native plants and support native bees, too.

Eight drought-tolerant shrubs to cover large areas



Correa



Rosemary

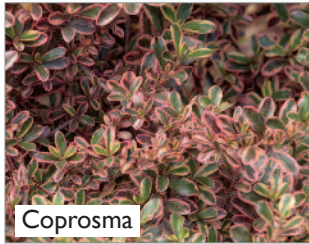


Abelia Kaleidoscope



Coleonoma Sunset Gold

Need to cover a large area? Try these space-filling, drought-tolerant shrubs.



Coprosma



Salvia clevelandii



Cistus



Grevillea lanigera