Plants for Part Shade

Shady spots in a garden offer refuge from the heat and add ambiance.

Plant California climate-friendly plants that do well in the shade in areas such as side yards, places under overhangings, and north-facing spots that receive less than a full day of sun.

California Pipevine Aristolochia californica

Aristolochia californica, (California Pipevine), deciduous vine, to 12-20 feet, with bright green, heart-shaped leaves and distinctive pipe-shaped, purple-striped, creamy white flowers on bare stems in late winter to early spring. Leaves are food for pipevine swallowtail butterfly larvae. Native to foothills and valleys of central and northern California, often along streams. Part shade, or with roots in shade, most soils.

Sunset: 5-10,14-24



Island Alumroot Heuchera maxima

Heuchera maxima (Island Alumroot), perennial, 1 foot tall and 2-3 feet wide, with large, bright green, heart-shaped leaves, often mottled with gray or light green, and airy clusters of tiny, bell-shaped, pinkish white, early spring flowers on 2- to 3-foot, maroon stems. Native to rocky or sandy soils on the northern Channel Islands. Many hybrids. Cool sun to part shade, well-drained, humusy soils. Plants occasionally may need lifting and resettling as they tend to push themselves up and out of the soil.

Sunset: 15-24



Yellow Clivia Clivia miniata 'San Marcos Yellow'

Clivia miniata 'San Marcos Yellow' (Yellow Clivia), perennial, 2 feet tall and wide, with broad, dark green, strap-shaped leaves with blunt tips and clusters of yellow flowers in mid-winter and early spring followed by showy, yellow fruit. Selection of a species native to South Africa. Part shade to shade, well-drained soils. Good choice for dry shade.

Sunset: 12-17,19-24





Plants for Part Shade



Canyon Snow Iris Iris 'Canyon Snow'

Iris 'Canyon Snow' (Canyon Snow Iris), perennial, 12-18 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide, with narrowly strap-shaped, glossy, dark green leaves and bright white flowers with golden yellow markings in early spring. Spreads slowly by rhizomes, forming large clumps over time. Hybrid between I. douglasiana and I. innominata, both native to coastal western Oregon and California. Cool sun to light shade, afternoon shade inland, well-drained soils. Sunset: 4-9,14-24

Creeping Lilyturf Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon'

Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon' (Creeping Lilyturf), perennial, to 1 foot tall and spreading by rhizomes to 3-4 feet wide, with upright, narrowly strap-shaped, white-striped, glossy green leaves. Short spikes of pale lavender to almost white flowers in late summer and fall are partly hidden among the leaves. Species is native to China and Japan and can spread aggressively in moist soils. Cool sun or light shade, most soils. Sunset: 3-10,14-24





Variegated Mock Orange Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'

Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata' (Variegated Mock Orange), evergreen shrub, 5-12 feet tall and wide, with leathery, spoonshaped, gray-green leaves with irregular white margins and clusters of small, fragrant, white flowers in spring that age to creamy yellow. Flowers are followed by small, green capsules that age to brown. Species is native to China, Japan, and Korea. Cool sun or part shade, most well-drained soils. Good seaside plant. May be offered as 'Variegatum'. Sunset: 8-24

Plants for Part Shade

Coffeberry Frangula californica

Frangula californica (Coffeeberry) evergreen shrub, 6-10 feet tall and wide, with leathery, dark green leaves, pale green beneath, insignificant and greenish yellow flowers in late spring to early summer followed by showy, red fruits that age to black. Native to dry, sandy or rocky slopes from southwestern Oregon to northern Baja California and east to western New Mexico. Sun to shade, most well-drained soils. May be offered as Rhamnus.

Sunset: 3a-10,14-24





Lemonade Berry Rhus integrifoila

Rhus integrifolia (Lemonade Berry), evergreen shrub, 3-12 feet tall and 10-15 feet wide, with leathery, dark green leaves with small, sharp marginal teeth, dense clusters of tiny, pink or white flowers in midwinter to spring, and red, berrylike fruits. Native to dry, open slopes along the coast from Santa Barbara County and the Channel Islands to northern Baja California. Sun to light shade, most well-drained soils.

Sunset: 8-9,14-17,19-24

