

Plants for California Wild Flower Meadow

A meadow of wildflowers native to California creates a symphony of color and requires less maintenance than you think. Combine bunch grasses with a sprinkling of native wildflowers such as poppy and Farewell to Spring. Native wildflowers prefer poor soil, making them a simple option for your garden. Include perennial bunch grasses and evergreen shrubs and trees to maintain the meadow throughout the summer and fall.



Blue Grama

Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

Bouteloua gracilis and cultivars (Blue Grama), 6-12 inches tall, clumping or sod-forming, with fine-textured, bluish gray-green leaves that age to purplish golden brown and feathery, purple-tinged flowers held horizontally on 18-inch stalks. Dormant in summer if grown dry. Native to the Great Plains region from Canada to the southwestern United States. 'Blonde Ambition' is 12-18 inches tall and has chartreuse flowers. Can be mowed as rough turf. May be offered as Chondrosium.

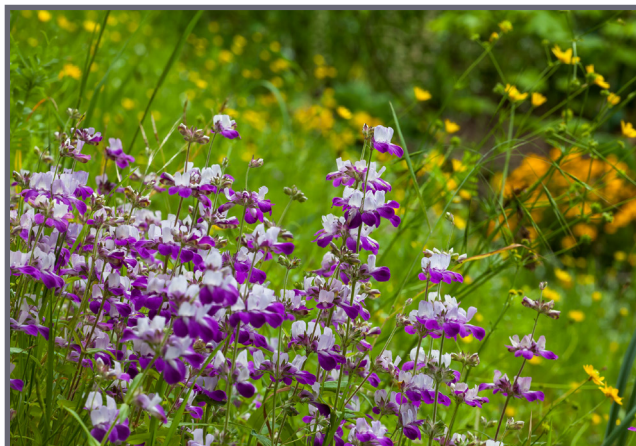
Sunset: 1-3,7-11,14,18-21

Mountain Garland

Clarkia unguiculata

Clarkia unguiculata (Mountain Garland) annual, 1-3 feet tall and less than 1 foot wide, with a few narrow, linear to lance-shaped, green leaves and pink to reddish purple flowers with paddle-shaped petals in late spring or early summer. Native to open woodlands along the central California coast and in the northern Sierra Nevada foothills. Self-sows. Sun to light shade or afternoon shade, most well-drained soils. Best from seed sown in open ground in fall. Needs moisture in spring to bloom well.

Sunset: 1-24



Chinese Houses

Collinsia heterophylla

Collinsia heterophylla (Chinese Houses), annual, 1-2 feet tall and a few inches wide, with bright green, lance-shaped to almost triangular leaves and two-lipped, white and purple flowers in widely spaced tiers in spring and early summer. Self-sows. Native to foothills of coastal mountains in California and Baja California. Part shade to shade, well-drained, humusy soils.

Sunset: 1-24

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California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*

Eschscholzia californica (California Poppy), perennial, 1-2 feet tall and wide, with finely dissected, blue-green leaves and golden yellow to orange flowers in late winter to summer. Self-sows freely. Native to grassy, open areas from southern Washington to Baja California and east to New Mexico. Cultivars, available with white, red, or pink flowers, may not persist or reseed. Full sun, most soils.

Sunset: 1-24



Coastal Tidy Tips *Layia platyglossa*

Layia platyglossa (Coastal Tidy Tips), annual, less than 1 foot tall and wide, with narrow, hairy, gray-green leaves and lightly fragrant, white-tipped, yellow daisy flowers on tall stems. Native to low-elevation, dry habitats in the Central Valley and coastal mountains of central and southern California north to southwestern Oregon and south to northern Baja California. Sun to light shade, most soils. Best grown from seed sown in fall. Needs moisture in spring to bloom well.

Sunset: 1-10,14-24

Hairy Awn Muhly *Muhlenbergia 'Pink Flamingo'*

Muhlenbergia 'Pink Flamingo' (Hairy Awn Muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 3-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide, with fine-textured, bluish gray-green leaves and tall plumes of pale pinkish gray flowers on 5-foot stems in fall. Flowers are followed by a haze of airy, purplish pink seedheads in late summer and fall. Natural hybrid discovered in Texas and believed to be between *M. lindheimeri* and *M. capillaris*. Sun to light shade, most well-drained soils, good air circulation.

Sunset: N/A



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Pine Muhly
Muhlenbergia dubia

Muhlenbergia dubia (Pine Muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 1-2 feet tall and 2 feet wide, with fine-textured, bright green leaves and tall plumes of purple-tinged, creamy white flowers in late summer and fall. Self-sows but not aggressively. Native to desert mountains from Arizona to southwestern Texas and northern Mexico. Sun to light shade, fast drainage, good air circulation.

Sunset: 3b,7-24

Lindheimer Muhly
Muhlenberia lindheimerii 'Autumn Glow'

Muhlenbergia lindheimerii 'Autumn Glow' (Lindheimer Muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, upright to 3-4 feet tall and wide, with fine-textured, medium green to bluish gray leaves and 5- to 6-foot stems with pale yellow, late-summer flowers that age to tan. Self-sows but not aggressively. Species is native to Texas and northern Mexico and has creamy white flowers that age to silvery gray. Sun to light shade, most soils, good air circulation. Accepts periodic flooding.

Sunset: 6-24



Desert Bells
Phacelia campanularia

Phacelia campanularia (Desert Bells), annual, 1 foot to 18 inches tall and wide, with oval to rounded, toothed, green to blue-green leaves. Bright blue flowers in one-sided coiled clusters uncurl as the flowers open in sequence in late winter or spring. Native to open, sandy or rocky places in deserts of southern California. Self-sows. Sun or part shade, well-drained soils. Needs moisture in spring to bloom well.

Sunset: 1-3, 7-24