

Marin Chapter
California Native Plant Society
www.cnpsmarin.org

NATIVE PLANTS FOR SHADY SLOPES

Landscaping a north facing or shady slope can be problematic for a number of reasons. In addition to shade, there may be erosion and drainage issues and exposure to wind. Pick plants that form clumps or mounds and spread underground by runners or rhizomes. Their extensive root systems help stabilize soil. Terracing a steep slope will enable plants to get a foothold. Biodegradable materials like coils of coir will weaken over time, but by then your plants will have good root systems to hold the soil.

SMALL TREES/LARGE SHRUBS

Aesculus californica / Buckeye (sunnier spots)
Corylus cornuta / California Hazelnut

Garrya elliptica / Coast Silktassel
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea / Blue Elderberry

MEDIUM SIZE SHRUBS

Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium / Oregon Grape
Frangula californica / Coffeeberry
Holodiscus discolor / Cream Bush
Keckiella cordifolia / Heartleaf Penstemon
Lepechinia fragrans / Fragrant Pitcher Sage
Mimulus aurantiacus / Sticky Monkeyflower

Rhus integrifolia / Lemonade Berry
Ribes sanguineum var. glut. / Pink-flowering Currant
Ribes speciosum / Fuchsia-flowering Gooseberry
Ribes viburnifolium / Catalina Perfume
Symphoricarpos albus / Snowberry
Vaccinium ovatum / Huckleberry

PERENNIALS

Aquilegia formosa / Western Columbine
Artemisia douglasiana / Mugwort
Athyrium filix-femina / Ladyfern
Chlorogalum pomeridianum / Soap Root
Clematis lingusticifolia / Virgin's Bower
Dryopteris arguta / Coastal Wood Fern
Heuchera maxima or *H. micrantha* / Alum Root
Iris douglasiana / Douglas Iris & hybrids

Lonicera hispidula / California Honeysuckle
Montia perfoliata / Miner's Lettuce
Polypodium californicum / California Polypody Fern
Polystichum munitum / Western Swordfern
Salvia spathacea / Hummingbird Sage
Tellima grandiflora / Fringe Cups
Triteleia laxa / Ithuriel's Spear
Solanum xantii / Blue Nightshade

GROUNDCOVERS

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi / Bearberry
Berberis aquifolium var. repens / Creeping Barberry
Fragaria vesca / Wild Strawberry
Salvia sonomensis / Sonoma Sage

Clinopodium (Satureja) douglasii / Yerba Buena
Symphoricarpos mollis / Creeping Snowberry
Whipplea modesta / Modesty

GRASSES

Elymus glaucus / Blue Wildrye
Festuca californica / California Fescue
Hierochloa occidentalis / Vanilla Grass

Melica torreyana / Torrey Melicgrass
Stipa (Nassella) lepida / Foothill Needlegrass