

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO WEEDY EXOTICS

This handout lists common weedy exotic species that have been planted in the Santa Barbara area. Several plants native to California are suggested as better alternatives for the designed landscape.

WEEDY EXOTIC

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Trees

Green wattle (*Acacia mearnsii* = *A. decurrens* ssp. *mollis*)

Santa Cruz Island Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *aspleniifolius*)
Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*)
Oaks (*Quercus* species)
California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)

Santa Cruz Island Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *aspleniifolius*)
Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*), Gray pine (*P. sabiniana*)
Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
Oaks (*Quercus engelmannii*, *Q. douglasii*)
California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

London plane tree (*Platanus X acerifolia*)

Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)
White alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)
Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)

Peruvian Pepper (*Schinus molle*)

Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)—can become a multi-trunked tree
Santa Cruz Island ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *aspleniifolius*)
Oak species (*Quercus agrifolia*, *Q. engelmannii*, *Q. lobata*)
California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

Shrubs

Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* = *A. latifolia*)

Quail brush (*Atriplex lentiformis breweri*)
Mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia* [syn. *B. glutinosa*])
Bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*)
Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*)
Bush lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*, *L. arboreus*)
Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)

Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) and
French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*)
Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*, *D. harfordii*)
Bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*, *L. albifrons*)

Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*)

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
California wax-myrtle (*Myrica californica*)
Holly-leaved cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*)
Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)
Lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)

Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*, *D. harfordii*)
Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*)

Victorian box (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
Laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*)
California wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*)
Holly-leaved cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*)
Lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
Sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*)
California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

Grasses

Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*)
Silver beardgrass (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*)
San Diego sedge (*Carex spissa*)
California fescue (*Festuca californica*)
Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)
Alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*)

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata*)

Silver beardgrass (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*)
Spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*)
Giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*)
Leymus condensatus ‘Canyon Prince’, a blue-leaved form introduced by SBBG
Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)
Parry’s nolina (*Nolina parryi*)

Ground covers

English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Algerian ivy
(*Hedera canariensis*), Periwinkle (*Vinca major*),
and German ivy (*Delairea odorata*)

Groundcover manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* species and cultivars)
Dwarf coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* ssp. *pilularis*)
Groundcover barberries (*Berberis repens* or *B. aquifolium* ‘Compacta’)
Sedges (*Carex pansa*, *C. praegracilis*, *C. subfusca*)
Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* ssp. *californica* and *F. chiloensis*)
Poverty weed (*Iva hayesiana*)
Evergreen currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*)
Yerba Buena (*Satureja douglasii*)
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*)
California grape (*Vitis californica*)—allowed to sprawl as a groundcover

Iceplant, hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*)

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)—this can be mowed as a turf substitute
Sandhill sagebrush (*Artemisia pycnocephala*)
Morning-glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*)
Groundcover ceanothus (*Ceanothus* species and cultivars)
Live-forevers (*Dudleya* species)
Seaside golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*)
Beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)
Spreading gum plant (*Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla*)
Dune tansy (*Tanacetum camphoratum*)

Herbaceous perennials

Statice (*Limonium* species)

Seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus* and cultivars)
Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*, *M. linoides*)
Beardtongue (*Penstemon heterophyllus*, *P. spectabilis*)
Salvia ‘Dara’s Choice’
Lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*)