

DURABLE delights

BEAUTIFUL, TOUGH, AND HEAT-TOLERANT PLANTS FOR YOUR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

Agave americana 'Variegata',
striped agave



The striped agave provides a dramatic focal point in sunny spots where water is unavailable. This variety grows only half the size of the species and can be used more easily in today's smaller landscapes.

Delosperma cooperi,
cerise hardy ice plant



Apple-green foliage creeping flat on the ground will surprise you with beautiful, showy, bright-purple flowers. Tough and cold tolerant, it sailed through this past winter's cold temperatures.

Leucophyllum frutescens
'Compactum' and 'Green Cloud',
cenizo



This dense-growing, medium-sized shrub has fuzzy, gray-green leaves all year and showy, bright, lavender-violet flowers that bloom through spring and summer. It tolerates heat, wind, and alkaline soil and can be clipped for a formal shape or grown as a loose hedge.

Muhlenbergia dubia,
Mexican deergrass



A plant often put on the "cast-iron" list, Mexican deergrass is the well-tailored cousin of our native California deergrass. Flower spikes like a Fourth of July fireworks display form on the plant in neat, clean lines and look perfect surrounded with flowering perennials like sages.

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Mozart',
Ed Carman's rosemary



Rosemary is one of the toughest and lowest-maintenance plants for the garden. This low, spreading plant grows to 2-3 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide and sports attractive, dark-blue flowers in winter and early spring.

Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei',
hybrid soapwort



This dependable, creeping plant is suitable for the rock garden or around roses and taller perennials. In full sun it produces a solid mass of bright-pink flowers over a long period in the hot summer months and early autumn.

Bupleurum fruticosum,
shrubby hare's ear



A shrubby, evergreen plant native to the Mediterranean region that produces a mass of lime-green, tiny flowers in large clusters shaped like upside-down umbrellas. A great plant for full sun and infrequent irrigation situations, it blooms in summer and fall. The flowers are very interesting in arrangements.

Achillea 'Coronation Gold',
coronation gold yarrow



A longtime favorite of gardeners in hot-summer climates, this low-water perennial has silver-gray foliage and produces tall, golden flowers in flat-topped clusters in early summer. It is a great plant for flower arrangements and important for native pollinator conservation.

Salvia clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman',
Winnifred Gilman Cleveland sage



This California native is a woody evergreen shrub to 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide that produces maroon-stemmed, brilliant blue-violet flowers from mid-spring to early summer. The gray-green leaves have a deliciously strong fragrance. It is heat and drought tolerant but not for gardens where water pools in winter.

Anigozanthos 'Amber Velvet',
The Velvet Range™ kangaroo paw



Kangaroo paw is a spiky perennial that produces curious flowers resembling furry little "paws" on elongated stems to 20 inches tall. More frost tolerant than some previously-available varieties, its upright form and dark-green foliage make it useful as an accent among low-growing plants.

Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Little Spire',
little spire Russian sage



Russian sage is a tough, heat-tolerant, deciduous perennial that thrives in the most harsh environments. This compact variety will reward you with vertical spikes of showy purple blooms in the summer garden. It should be cut to the base in winter.

Dasyliirion wheeleri,
desert spoon



This evergreen desert native has long, narrow, blue-gray leaves that radiate from a woody base to form a spiky globe. Cream-colored flowers emerge in summer on tall spikes on mature plants. It is drought tolerant, survives temperatures several degrees below freezing, and makes a striking accent plant.

Iberis sempervirens,
evergreen candytuft



A mound-forming and dependable evergreen perennial that will grow in either sun or part shade. In spring it is covered with clean, white flowers that add sparkle to any planting. One of the most adaptable garden perennials around, it thrives in a wide range of light and water conditions.

Muhlenbergia capillaris,
pink muhly



A medium-sized grass to 3 feet tall with delicate flower sprays that create a cloud of pink over loose tufts of narrow green leaves in summer and fall. Performs beautifully in full sun with infrequent deep irrigation.

Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition',
blonde ambition blue grama



Also called "eyelash grass," this tough, sun-loving, warm-season grass has flowers and seeds even bigger and more showy than those of the species. In native landscapes with low water it produces a fluffy summer display of buff-colored flowers.

Salvia chamaedryoides,
Mexican blue sage



A low-growing, shrubby sage with small, rounded, gray leaves and masses of unusually clear-blue flowers. It loves the sun and brings the sky down to earth in the low-water garden, creating a field of gray and blue that works well with yellow-blooming plants like bush daisy.

Teucrium fruticans 'Azureum',
azure bush germander



For low water and full sun, it is hard to beat the silver foliage and dark-blue flowers of azure bush germander. Showiest in winter and early spring, it will extend your garden's season of display with only annual shaping to keep it compact.

Beschorneria yuccoides,
Mexican lily



Like an agave but without the stiff and painful spines, this plant has been marvelous as a large container specimen. The arching, bluish-gray leaves do best in afternoon shade. In the Arboretum Terrace Garden, where it is protected from frost, it showed no damage from this winter's cold spell.

Geranium × *cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo',
Biokovo cranesbill



This tough, evergreen ground cover has attractive, shiny, scalloped leaves and produces delicate, pale-pink flowers in spring. A marvelous shade plant, it survives infrequent irrigation keep the dry-shade garden fresh and lush on the hottest of summer days.

Epilobium canum 'Sierra Salmon',
Sierra salmon California fuchsia



Tough and sun loving, this upright perennial to 2 feet tall has salmon-colored flowers instead of the common orange-red. This dependable bloomer is perfect for low-water landscapes.

Carex oshimensis 'Evergold',
variegated Japanese sedge



A tough, variegated sedge for brightening up the dry-shade garden. Creamy, striped, evergreen leaves form a beautiful mound, creating an accent among darker-green ground covers.

Viburnum tinus 'Anvi',
spirit viburnum



A long-lived shrub with evergreen leaves, the "laurustinus," as it is known, is one of the best tough shrubs for garden bloom and screening. This new dwarf variety will fit perfectly in your urban or suburban landscape, growing only 2-3 feet tall by 3 feet wide. It flowers in winter and early spring.

Ajuga reptans 'Catlin's Giant',
Catlin's giant bugle



A tough, low-water choice for shady gardens, this cultivar will "wow" you with its tall columns of deep-blue flowers in March and April. It makes a dramatic, ground-covering display in the low-maintenance garden.

Origanum 'Marshall's Memory',
Marshall's oregano



This unusual ornamental oregano produces a mass of delicate, pink-purple flowers on a mat of medium-green leaves. Tough and drought tolerant, it likes full sun and hot exposures and will attract butterflies with its nectar.

Glandularia aristigera (*Verbena tenuisecta*), moss verbena



The finely-divided leaves on this ground-hugging plant sport attractive, purple flowers in summer. It makes a great addition to container plantings and will spill delicately over the edge of the pot.

Garrya elliptica 'Evie',
Evie's silktassel



This California native shrub produces long, silvery catkins in winter that dangle from the stems to create a dramatic display. Great for extending interest in the low-water garden through the winter, it is useful as an evergreen screen.

Chondropetalum tectorum,
small Cape Rush



Cape rush is an unusual plant from South Africa with evergreen stems and chocolate-colored "grass-like" flower spikes. It creates a fountain to 2-3 feet tall that sways in the wind contrasting nicely with silver leaved plants and colorful flowers.

Quercus tomentella,
Island oak



This rare native tree grows only on the Channel Islands of California and is not usually available for gardens. With clean, dark-green leaves, it forms a beautiful, drought-tolerant, cone-shaped tree, excellent for accent or screen.

Miscanthus sinensis var.
condensatus 'Cosmopolitan',
cosmopolitan silver grass



This plant is a good substitute for invasive Pampas grass to create a large statement near entryways or at the back of the border. Cream and white striped leaves emerge in spring to 6-8 feet and are then topped with bronze tassel-like flowers that toss in the wind. Cut to the ground in winter.

Juncus patens 'Elk Blue',
elk blue California gray rush



Rushes are especially useful to create strong, vertical accents in low-maintenance plantings. The bluish tint to the foliage of this variety creates a lovely exclamation point for the front of plantings. Tolerates poorly-drained soils and can be cut to the ground to rejuvenate as needed.