



Enhance your garden with WaterSmart plants that exemplify the San Diego region at its best!

**T**hese Nifty 50 plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes and, once established, drought-tolerant. In fact, these plants thrive in San Diego's semi-arid climate and can help restore regional authenticity to your home.

What's exciting is that authentic also means sustainable. Plants native to Mediterranean climate zones love it here as much as you do. They adapted over thousands of years, and the animal species that depend on them for food and habitat adapted, too. In fact, there are thousands of ground covers, grasses, succulents, perennials, shrubs, vines and trees to choose from.

For more information, go to [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org).

## Water Like a Pro

10 essential steps to saving water in the garden you have or in the new one you design.

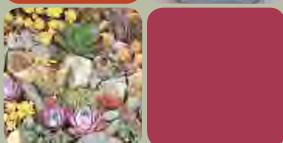
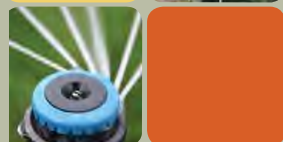
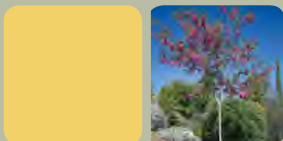
**1. Check Your Water Pressure**  
If pressure is too high, a pressure regulator should be installed; if low, options may include drip irrigation or low-flow sprinkler nozzles. High water pressure – over 70 psi – can cause sprinklers to fog, reducing the amount of water that is applied to your garden. Low water pressure – under 30 psi – can reduce a sprinkler's distance, leaving unwatered areas.

**2. Inspect Your System**  
Once a month, manually cycle through each irrigation zone. Check, adjust, or replace sprinkler heads and drip emitters that are missing, blocked, broken, or watering hardscape.

**3. Use a Landscape Watering Calculator**  
Use the city of San Diego's Landscape Watering Calculator <http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc/> to produce a watering schedule. The calculator is based on historical weather data for your zip code, along with the water requirements of the plants, the soil, and the sprinkler type in each of your irrigation zones. It's free, easy to use, and works for any location in San Diego County.

**4. Hydrozone Properly**  
Have one water-use level per irrigation zone. Water-efficient plants react to overwatering and underwatering the same way – they lose their foliage and produce fewer flowers until all you see are branches. To avoid this, limit the plants within each irrigation zone to one water-use level.

**5. Use One Type of Sprinkler Per Zone**  
In each of your irrigation zones, the plants should have the same water use level and the sprinklers should have the same application and efficiency rates.



**6. Take Care of Your Trees**  
Water trees less frequently but for longer periods than shrubs and perennials. Give your trees their own irrigation zone, use drip irrigation and water each tree at the dripline – the outside edge of the tree's canopy. As the tree grows, move irrigation outward to stay at the dripline.

**7. Baby Your New Plants**  
New plants need extra water during their first 12 months in your garden, which is called the establishment period. Water daily for two weeks after planting to mimic the watering routine in most nurseries. Maintain the establishment period watering schedule through your new garden's first summer.

**8. Water at Sunrise or Sunset**  
Soil absorbs the most water from irrigation when the temperature, evaporation rate and wind are lower.

**9. Don't Water When it Rains**  
Connect a rain sensor to a standard irrigation controller. Watering will stop automatically when the sensor detects rainfall. The system will stay off until the sensor dries out.

**10. Replenish Your Mulch**  
Maintaining a three-inch layer of mulch protects soil from direct sunlight and evaporation. It also absorbs water, reducing runoff and providing more moisture for your soil.

For more information, go to [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org) and check out our eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle, landscape classes, irrigation rebates, other programs and incentives.

These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in retail nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant. In some cases, there are so many excellent WaterSmart plants in a particular group, like salvias, that we chose the group, and gave several examples.

 and N = Native Plant

## Shrubs

<b>1</b> <b>Manzanita</b>  Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N	<b>2</b> <b>California Lilac</b>  Ceanothus species and hybrids, N	<b>3</b> <b>Western Redbud</b>  Cercis occidentalis, N	<b>4</b> <b>Geraldton Wax flower</b>  Chamaelaucium uncinatum
<b>5</b> <b>Rockrose</b>  Cistus species	<b>6</b> <b>Grevillea</b>  Grevillea species and hybrids	<b>7</b> <b>Toyon</b>  Heteromeles arbutifolia, N	<b>8</b> <b>Texas Ranger</b>  Leucophyllum species
<b>9</b> <b>Oregon Grape</b>  Mahonia aquifolium, N	<b>10</b> <b>Dwarf Myrtle</b>  Myrtus communis 'Compacta'	<b>11</b> <b>Rosemary</b>  Rosmarinus officinalis	<b>12</b> <b>Coast Rosemary</b>  Westringia fruticosa

## Succulents

<b>13</b> <b>Aeonium</b>  Aeonium species	<b>14</b> <b>Agave</b>  Agave species and hybrids
<b>15</b> <b>Aloe</b>  Aloe species and hybrids	<b>16</b> <b>Rock Purslane</b>  Calandrinia grandiflora
<b>17</b> <b>Live Forever</b>  Dudleya species and hybrids, N	<b>18</b> <b>Hens-and-Chicks</b>  Echeveria species and hybrids

## Vines

<b>19</b> <b>Bougainvillea</b>  Bougainvillea
<b>20</b> <b>Japanese Honeysuckle</b>  Lonicera japonica
<b>21</b> <b>Japanese Wisteria</b>  Wisteria floribunda

## Groundcover

<b>22</b> <b>Carmel Creeper</b>  Ceanothus griseus horizontalis species and hybrids, N	<b>23</b> <b>Silver Carpet</b>  Dymondia margaritae
<b>24</b> <b>Ice Plant</b>  Lampranthus species	<b>25</b> <b>Trailing Lantana</b>  Lantana montevidensis
<b>26</b> <b>ROSEMARY</b>  Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostrata'	<b>27</b> <b>Stoncrop</b>  Sedum species and hybrids
<b>28</b> <b>Woolly Thyme</b>  Thymus pseudolanuginosus	<b>29</b> <b>New Zealand Cabbage</b>  Cordylina australis
<b>30</b> <b>Pink Muhly Grass</b>  Muhlenbergia capillaris	<b>31</b> <b>Elijah Blue Fescue</b>  Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'
<b>32</b> <b>New Zealand Flax</b>  Phormium tenax and some species and hybrids	<b>33</b> <b>Kangaroo Paw</b>  Anigozanthos species and hybrids

## Grass\*

<b>34</b> <b>California Sunflower</b>  Encelia californica, N	<b>35</b> <b>Trailing African Daisy</b>  Osteospermum fruticosum
<b>36</b> <b>Monkey Flower</b>  Mimulus, Native species and hybrids	<b>37</b> <b>PENSTEMON, Native species</b>  Penstemon heterophyllus, N
<b>38</b> <b>Dune Sage</b>  Salvia africana lutea	<b>39</b> <b>GERMANDER SAGE</b>  Salvia chamaedryoides
<b>40</b> <b>Cleveland Sage</b>  Salvia clevelandii, N	<b>41</b> <b>Mexican Bush Sage</b>  Salvia leucantha
<b>42</b> <b>Autumn Sage</b>  Salvia greggii	<b>43</b> <b>French Lavender</b>  Lavandula dentata
<b>44</b> <b>Spanish Lavender</b>  Lavandula stoechas	<b>45</b> <b>Strawberry Tree</b>  Arbutus 'Marina'
<b>46</b> <b>Pindo Palm</b>  Butia capitata	<b>47</b> <b>Chitalpa</b>  Chitalpa tashkentensis, N
<b>48</b> <b>Peruvian Verbena</b>  Verbena peruviana	<b>49</b> <b>Australian Willow</b>  Geijera parviflora
<b>50</b> <b>Crape Myrtle</b>  Lagerstroemia indica	<b>51</b> <b>Sweet Bay</b>  Laurus nobilis
<b>52</b> <b>Fruitless Olive</b>  Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'	<b>53</b> <b>Desert Museum Palo Verde</b>  Parkinsonia (Cercidium) x 'Desert Museum'
<b>54</b> <b>Chinese Pistache</b>  Pistacia chinensis	<b>55</b> <b>Coast Live Oak</b>  Quercus agrifolia, N

## Perennials

<b>33</b> <b>Kangaroo Paw</b>  Anigozanthos species and hybrids	<b>34</b> <b>California Sunflower</b>  Encelia californica, N	<b>35</b> <b>Trailing African Daisy</b>  Osteospermum fruticosum	<b>36</b> <b>Monkey Flower</b>  Mimulus, Native species and hybrids
<b>37</b> <b>PENSTEMON, Native species</b>  Penstemon heterophyllus, N	<b>38</b> <b>Foothill Penstemon</b>  Penstemon heterophyllus, N	<b>39</b> <b>Parry's Beardtongue</b>  Penstemon parryi, N	<b>40</b> <b>Showy Penstemon</b>  Penstemon spectabilis, N
<b>41</b> <b>Dune Sage</b>  Salvia africana lutea	<b>42</b> <b>Germander Sage</b>  Salvia chamaedryoides	<b>43</b> <b>French Lavender</b>  Lavandula dentata	<b>44</b> <b>Spanish Lavender</b>  Lavandula stoechas
<b>45</b> <b>Strawberry Tree</b>  Arbutus 'Marina'	<b>46</b> <b>Pindo Palm</b>  Butia capitata	<b>47</b> <b>Chitalpa</b>  Chitalpa tashkentensis, N	<b>48</b> <b>Peruvian Verbena</b>  Verbena peruviana
<b>49</b> <b>Australian Willow</b>  Geijera parviflora	<b>50</b> <b>Crape Myrtle</b>  Lagerstroemia indica	<b>51</b> <b>Sweet Bay</b>  Laurus nobilis	<b>52</b> <b>Fruitless Olive</b>  Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'
<b>53</b> <b>Desert Museum Palo Verde</b>  Parkinsonia (Cercidium) x 'Desert Museum'	<b>54</b> <b>Chinese Pistache</b>  Pistacia chinensis	<b>55</b> <b>Coast Live Oak</b>  Quercus agrifolia, N	<b>56</b> <b>Manzanita</b>  Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N

\* Includes Ornamental Grasses & Grass-like Plants

## Trees

Many of the plants in this guide are labeled and on display at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas and the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon. These gardens are excellent places to get ideas for a new or retrofitted landscape that looks beautiful and saves water.

# LOW-WATER-USE-PLANT LIST (SUPPLEMENT TO THE “NIFTY FIFTY”)

## **BOTANICAL NAME**

## **COMMON NAME**

### **Trees:**

Agonis Flexuosa  
 Albizia Julibrissin  
 Eryobotrya Deflexa  
 Hymenosporum Flavum  
 Lophostemon Confertus (Tristania)  
 Metrosideros Excelsa  
 Prosopis Species And Hybrids  
 Robinia I. ‘Purple Robe’

Peppermint Willow  
 Silk Tree, Mimosa  
 Bronze Loquat  
 Sweetshade  
 Brisbane Box  
 New Zealand Christmas Tree  
 Mesquite  
 Locust Hybrid

### **Palms And Cycads:**

Ci-lamaerops Humilis  
 Cycas Revoluta  
 Trachcarpus Fortunei  
 Zamia Furfuracea

Mediterranean Fan Palm  
 Sago Palm  
 Windmill Palm  
 Cardboard Palm

### **Shrubs:**

Callistemon C. ‘Little John  
 Callistemon Jeffersii  
 Coprosma Species And Hybrids  
 Correa Species And Hybrids  
 Eleagnus Punsens Species And Hybrids  
 Euphorbia Species  
 Jasminum Mesnyi  
 Lantana Camara Hybrids  
 Lavatera Bicolor (L Maritima)  
 Leptospermum Species And Hybrids  
 Lobelia Laxiflora  
 Lophomyrtus X Ralphii  
 Nandina Domestica  
 Pittosporum Tenuifolium Hybrids  
 Plumbago Auriculata (Capensis) Hybrids  
 Rhamnus Alaternus Species And Hybrids  
 Rhamnus Californica Species And Hybrids  
 Romneyacoulteri Species And Hybrids  
 Santolina Chamaecyparissus  
 Sollya Heterophylla  
 Viburnum Tinus ‘Spring Bouquet’  
 Vitex Trifolia ‘Purpurea’

Little John  
 (Pink) Bottlebrush  
 Mirror Plant Hybrids

Silverberry

Primrose Jasmine  
 Lantana  
 Tree Mallow  
 Tea Tree And Other  
 Mexican Lobelia

Heavenly Bamboo

Cape Plumbago  
 Italian Buckthorn  
 Coffeeberry  
 Matilija Poppy  
 Lavender Cotton  
 Australian Bluebells  
 Laurustinus Hybrid  
 Arabian Jasmine

### **Vertical Accent Perennials:**

Yucca F. ‘Gold Sword,’ ‘Color Guard,’ ‘Bright Edge’  
 Hesperaloe Species And Hybrids  
 Kniphofia Species And Hybrids  
 Iris Douglasiana  
 Gaura Lindheimeri Hybrids

Variegated Adam’s Needle  
 Red Yucca  
 Red Hot Poker Plant  
 Douglas Iris  
 Gaura

## **BOTANICAL NAME**

## **COMMON NAME**

### **Ornamental Grasses And Grass-Like Perennials:**

Aloe 'Grassie Lassie'

Grassie Lassie

Dasyilirion Species

Flax Lily

Dianella Species And Hybrids

Lomandra Species And Hybrids

Muhlenbergia Species & Hybrids

Various Species

Helichtotrichon Sempervirens Hybrids

Blue Oat Grass

Nasella Tenuissima (Sti Pa)

Mexican Feathergrass

Leymus (Elymus) Condensatus 'Canyon Prince'

Hybrid Wild Rye

### **Groundcovers And Border Perennials:**

Mahonia Repens

Creeping Mahonia

Bulbine Frutescens Species And Hybrids

Bulbine

Erigeron Karvinskianus 'Profusion'

Santa Barbara Daisy

Gazania Uniflora Rigens

Trailing Gazania

Pelargonium Hortorum Species

(Select) Geranium Species

Heuchera Maxima

Alum Root

Juniperus Spp.

Juniper

Laniana 'Spreading Sunshine' Or 'Gold Mound'

Gold Trailing Lantana

Cotoneaster Horizontalis 'Lowfast'

Bearberry Cotton Easter

Polygonum (Persicaria) Capitatum

Pink Clover

### **Cool Season Turfgrass Alternatives:**

Seadwarf Or Aloha Seashore Paspalum

Hybrid Paspalum Sod Or Seed

Carex Divulsa (Tumulicola)

Berkeley Sedge

Carex Pansa

California Meadow Sedge

### **Succulents:**

Cistanthe Grandiflora

Cotyledon Species

Crassula Species

Jade And Other

Delospermum Alba

Disneyland Iceplant

Drosanthemum Floribundum

Rosea

Dyckia Species And Hybrids

Furcraea Species And Hybrids

Gasteraloe X 'Midnight'

(Aloe Hybrid Cross)

Kalanchoe Species And Hybrids

Lampranthus Species And Hybrids

Lampranthus

Malephora Species

Ice Plant

Portulacaria Afra Variegata'

Sansevieria Species And Hybrids

Senecio (Kleinia) Mandraliscae Or Serpens

Blue Chalk

X Graptoveria Species And Hybrids

### **Vines:**

Wisteria Sinensis

Chinese Wisteria

Gesemium Sempervirens

Carolina Jessamine

Lonicera J. 'Hallianana'

Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle