

FOOTHILL HEDGEROW SPECIES

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Hedgerows are permanent plantings that may include trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. They are usually located on the perimeters of agricultural fields, and have been used for centuries as barriers, boundary fences, windbreaks, and as sources of fuel wood and animal fodder. Today, these plantings play an important role in pest management, serving as habitat for birds, wildlife, and the beneficial insects called natural enemies, which prey on pests. Hedgerows may also suppress weeds, help prevent soil erosion, retain runoff on farm property, and reduce dust from farm roads.

The plants on this list, mainly California natives, are a starting point for selecting hedgerow species. While the list is intended for use in the Sierra Nevada foothills, the foothills include a wide range of elevations and microclimates. Before planting specific species, check that they are appropriate for your elevation.

Most of the listed species are drought tolerant and need little or no summer water. They will, however, require irrigation for the first two or three years. Many also need good drainage. In clay soils, placement on a slope or

bank or planting on a raised ridge will provide adequate drainage.

If the hedgerow can be irrigated, many other species, both native and non-native, could be included. Ornamental shrubs such as *Hibiscus*, *Spiraea*, *Buddleia* (Butterfly Bush), *Mahonia* (Oregon Grape), pomegranate, persimmon, *Syringa* (lilac) and wild rose species are appropriate. Many of these may also provide an economic return to the grower. Herbaceous perennials such as asters, *Cosmos*, *Coreopsis*, *Dianthus*, lupines, and penstemons, would all make excellent additions.

This list includes the time of year that the plants are in bloom. Different species in bloom throughout the season helps to ensure that natural enemies remain in your growing area and will not have to search for other food sources. Many natural enemies feed on nectar and pollen produced by these plants as well as pest insects.



References & Resources

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Large Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Bloom Time	Known Beneficial Insects	Comments
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	H – 6-20' W – 10-20'	Early to mid-spring		Deciduous, N fixing
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	H – 5-12'	Mid-spring		Evergreen
California Flannel Bush	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	H – 15-20'	April to July		Needs good drainage, plant on a ridge.
Fremont Silk tassel	<i>Garrya fremontii</i>	H – to 9' W – to 9'	Mid-winter to early spring		Evergreen
Hollyleaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	H – 15-20'	Early to mid-spring	Lacewings, lady beetles, syrphid flies, wasps	Evergreen
Sierra Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus tomentella</i>	H – 12-15'	April through May	Lady beetles, syrphid flies, wasps	Evergreen, <i>R. tomentella</i> foothill species; <i>R. rubra</i> 2500-3000 ft
Mexican Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	H – 4-10', to 35' in ideal conditions	Spring to summer	Syrphid flies, wasps	Deciduous, attracts many forms of wildlife; wide range: valley to high elevation.

Medium Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Bloom Time	Known Beneficial Insects	Comments
Western Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	H – 3-9'	April through June		Deciduous, full sun to part shade. Small, Edible, apple-like fruit. Occasional summer water.
Manzanita 'Howard McMinn'	<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i>	H – 6-8' W – 8'	Spring		Evergreen, attracts birds
Whiteleaf Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos viscida</i>	H – 5' W – 3-4'	Mid-winter to mid-spring		Evergreen, tolerates light shade.
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis ssp. consanguinea</i>	H – 4-8'	Fall, early winter	Wasps, syrphid & tachinid flies, minute pirate bug	Evergreen, valuable wildlife species. Blooms when other flowers not available.

Medium Shrubs (cont'd.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Bloom Time	Known Beneficial Insects	Comments
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	H – 8' W – 6-8'	Early spring		Deciduous, afternoon shade, occasional summer water.
California Lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Blue Jeans'	H – 7-9' W – 7-9'	Spring	Syrphid flies, lacewings, wasps, lady beetles	Evergreen, tolerates heavy soil and summer water.
California Lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Concha'	H – 5-7' W – 6-10'	Mid-spring	Syrphid flies, lacewings, wasps, lady beetles	Evergreen, tolerates some summer water.
Buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	H – 8-12'	Spring	Syrphid flies, lacewings, wasps, lady beetles	Rigidly branched, upright growth, evergreen.
Deerbrush Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>	H – 3-12'	Late spring	Syrphid flies, lacewings, wasps, lady beetles	Semi-deciduous, full sun to light shade.
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	H – 8-15'	Early spring	Wasps, syrphid & tachinid flies	Evergreen, full sun to part shade. Fireblight host, do not use near apples or pears. Winter berries.
Bush Lupine	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	H – 3-5'	Mid-summer	pollinators	Evergreen, N fixing
Coffeeberry 'Eve Case'	<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Eve Case'	H – 3-8' W – 3-8'	April through May	Wasps, syrphid & tachinid flies, lady beetles	Evergreen
Holly-leaf Redberry	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i>	H – 6-8' W – 6-8'	Spring	Wasps, syrphid flies, lady beetles	Evergreen
Chaparral Currant	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i> , <i>R. roezlic</i>	H – 3-6'	Midwinter to early spring		Deciduous, full sun to light shade.
California Wild Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	H – 3-4' W – 3-10'	Early spring through October	Bees, syrphid files	Attractive to wildlife Needs space, excellent barrier plant.
Rosemary	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	H – 4-7' W – 4-7'	Winter, intermittently all year	Bees	Non-native, evergreen. Needs some supplemental water.
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	H – 4-5' W – 4-5'	March through May	Wasps and tachinid flies	Deciduous, full sun to shade, low to moderate water. Stabilizes soil and retains runoff.

Small Shrubs and Perennials

Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Bloom Time	Known Beneficial Insects	Comments
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	H – 2-3' clump	April through June	Syrphid flies, wasps, lady beetles, minute pirate bugs, lacewings	Native, flowers may be cut and dried for winter bouquets.
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i> 'Montara'	H – 12-24" W – 3-5'	Spring	Lady beetles	Evergreen shrub, needs good drainage, plant on a ridge.
Narrowleaf Milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	H – 2-3'	July through October	Syrphid flies, lady beetles, wasps, soldier beetles	Host plant to Monarch butterfly. May pull insects from crops. Very hardy.
Showy Milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	H – 2-3'	Summer	Syrphid flies, lady beetles, wasps, soldier beetles	
Lemmons Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus lemmonii</i>	H – 1-3'	Mid-spring	Syrphid flies, lady beetles, wasps, lacewings	Evergreen shrub
Gray Rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	H – 1-6' W – 3'	Late summer	Wasps and tachinid flies	Deciduous shrub
California fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum</i> ssp. <i>angustifolium</i>	H – 1-2' W – 3-4'	June until first frost	Carpenter bees	Evergreen, may die to ground in winter. Attracts hummingbirds.
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	H – 2-3' W – 2-3'	Late spring	Wasps, syrphid & tachinid flies, lady beetles, butterflies, minute pirate bugs	Evergreen shrub. Needs good drainage, plant on a ridge.
Sierra Sulfur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> 'Sierra'	H – 1-2' W – 3-4'	Late spring through early summer	Syrphid & tachinid flies, wasps, minute pirate bugs, lady beetles, butterflies	Evergreen shrub, two-inch clusters of bright yellow flowers.
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>	H – 2-3' clump	June until first frost		Non-native
Douglas Iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	H – 6-18" W – 2-3'	Early spring	Attracts hummingbirds, beetles	Evergreen, low to moderate amounts of supplemental water.
English Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	H – 3-4'	Late spring through mid summer	Bees, syrphid flies, minute pirate bugs, beetles, bumble bees	Non-native, evergreen shrub, needs some water. Hummingbirds.

Small Shrubs and Perennials (cont'd)

Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Bloom Time	Known Beneficial Insects	Comments
Western Blue Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	H – 18-24"	March through September		Full sun to light shade. Does not provide soil cover.
Spanish Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	H – 1-2'	Early summer	Bees, syrphids flies, minute pirate bugs	Non-native, evergreen, slow growing.
Golden Sticky Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus auranticus</i>	H – 2-4'	Spring	Butterflies	Full sun to part shade, little water. Hummingbird attractor.
Sierra Bush Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus bifidus</i>	H – 1-2'	April through June		Full sun to part shade, little water. Hummingbird attractor.
Deer Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	H – 3-4'	Summer through fall	Lady beetles	Clump-forming evergreen grass, tolerant of summer water, usually no reseeding problem.
Foothill Penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	H – 1-3'	June through Sept.		Evergreen, mounding or mat forming, full sun or light shade.
Squaw Bush	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	H – 2-5'	Early to mid-spring		Deciduous shrub, yellow to red fall color. Well drained soils.
California Goldenrod	<i>Solidago californica</i>	H – 3'	Mid-summer to fall	Big-eyed bugs, damsel bugs, soldier beetles, wasps and tachinid flies	For wetter areas, tolerant of mowing.

Reviewed by Marcia Braga, Sierra College Environmental Horticulture Department; Bob Bugg, UC Sustainable Ag Research and Education Program; Sam Earnshaw, Community Alliance with Family Farmers; Monica Finn, CalTrans; Justin Maciulis, alterNATIVES Nursery.

