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Container Gardening Keystone Plants List



6.2 Western Cordillera



Tickseed

(Coreopsis tinctoria)



Summer through fall HEIGHT: 2-4 ft DURATION: Annual

This playful prairie species is a favorite of butterflies with striking flowers up to 2 inches across. It is easy to grow, can self seed, is ignored by deer, and is relatively pest and disease free.

*Not native to southern half of ecoregion



Cutleaf daisy

(Erigeron compositus)



LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun

WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST:

Spring through fall **HEIGHT:** 1-3 ft

DURATION: Perennial
Drought tolerant with lush
foliage, this plant keeps its leaves
through dry periods. The showy
yellow blooms appear from spring

to the first frost.



(Erigeron speciosus)



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Average

SEASON OF INTEREST:

Summer through fall **HEIGHT:** 1-2 ft

DURATION: Perennial

This long blooming and virtually disease free flower provides resources to pollinators for months. Cut it back to encourage more flowers and growth.

*Not native to CA

Common Sunflower (Helianthus annuus)



LIGHT: Full sun

WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Mid through late summer

HEIGHT: 3-10 ft

(dwarf varieties available)

DURATION: Annual

These tall and showy flowers are easy and fun to grow, and the seeds are great for birds. Put only one plant in each pot and provide support as the plant grows.

Hairy False Goldenaster

(Heterotheca villosa)



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST: Late spring through fall

HEIGHT: 1-3 ft

DURATION: Perennial This plant blooms 3-4 months starting in late spring. The bright yellow flowers produce a sage-like aroma and attract butterflies. It is drought tolerant and can thrive in poor soil as long as it is well-draining.

Silvery Lupine

(Lupinus argenteus)



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST:

Summer

HEIGHT: 1-3 ft

DURATION: Perennial
This species has stunning
silvery-green leaves with spikes of
blue to violet flowers. They are
particularly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Plant in a
deep pot due to long roots.



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White Heath Aster

(Symphyotrichum ericoides)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST:
Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 1-3 ft

DURATION: Perennial This densely blooming and compact plant resembles a spreading Juniper shrub when not in bloom. This low maintenance species does not have any serious pests or diseases.

*Not native to CA and NV

Western Coneflower

(Rudbeckia occidentalis)



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Average SEASON OF INTEREST: Summer through fall HEIGHT: 2-6 ft DURATION: Perennial

This unique flower has a large central cone with abundant pollen and nectar. Deadheading promotes further blooms, and this species is deer resistant with no serious pests or diseases.

*Not native in NM and SD



(Symphyotrichum laeve)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST:
Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 2-4 ft

DURATION: Perennial These small and densely blooming flowers are a striking blue to purple color with a golden-yellow center. This species has no serious pests or diseases.

*Not native to western parts of

ecoregion