

When landscaping unirrigated shady areas, such as under oak trees, you will enjoy a much greater level of success by choosing the appropriate plant material. Here is a list of various drought tolerant plants to select from to add just the right touch to that dark spot. In most cases, it is more practical to use mixed accent plantings in understories, rather than a single ground cover. Shade gardening lends itself well to different aesthetic situations. Use the light and shadow patterns to create different effects. Consider using grey-green foliage in dark areas to lighten up the area and add depth.

***Remember, when planting under and around mature oaks, it is best to leave the area inside the dripline (under the canopy) free of vegetation and covered with the natural leaf mulch. This shady spot can be an excellent opportunity to add a statue, bird bath or other garden art to your landscape.



Annuals

Tree of Life Shade Mix (misc. species)

Perennials

- Dudleya* species (Live-Forever)
- Heuchera* species (Coral Bells)
- Iris* Pacific Coast Hybrids (California Iris hybrids)
- Mimulus* species (Monkeyflower)
- Monardella villosa* (Coyote Mint)
- Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-Eyed Grass)
- Solidago californica* (California Goldenrod)
- Epilobium* species (California Fuchsia)

Grasses

- Leymus (Elymus) condensatus* (Giant Wild Rye)
- Melica imperfecta* (Coast Range Melic)
- Muhlenbergia rigens* (Deergrass)
- Stipa (Nassella) species* (Needlegrass)

Shrubs

- Arctostaphylos* 'Canyon Sparkles' (Manzanita)
- Arctostaphylos* 'Point Reyes' (Manzanita)
- Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn' (Manzanita)
- Carpenteria californica* (Bush Anemone)
- Ceanothus* 'Point Reyes' (California Lilac)
- Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point' (California Lilac)
- Galvezia speciosa* (Island Bush Snapdragon)
- Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon)
- Holodiscus discolor* (Oceanspray)
- Mahonia* 'Golden Abundance' (Hybrid Oregon Grape)
- Philadelphus lewisii* (Mock Orange)
- Ribes* species (Currants and Gooseberries)
- Rhamnus californica*, selections (Coffeeberry)
- Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonadeberry)
- Rosa californica* (Wild Rose)
- Trichostema lanatum* (Wooly Blue Curls)