



















**Full sun: groundcovers
for DEER areas**

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| Plant Name | Height & Spread | Evergreen or Deciduous | Description | Photo |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Creeping Thyme <i>Thymus</i> 'Elfin' or 'Reiter'</p>   | <p>1-3 inches tall 12-18 inches spread</p> | <p>Evergreen Hardy to minus 10 degrees</p> | <p>Very low growing groundcover with tiny, fragrant green leaves. Small purple flowers in summer. Handles light foot traffic.</p> <p>Deer rating: 10/10</p> |  |
| <p>Creeping Phlox <i>Phlox subulata</i></p>   | <p>2-3 inches tall 3-4 feet spread</p> | <p>Evergreen Hardy to minus 25 degrees</p> | <p>Showy spring flowers, usually around March and/or April. Flowers purple, pink, or pink-red.</p> <p>Deer rating: 10/10</p> |  |
| <p>Spreading Germander <i>Teucrium majoricum</i></p>   | <p>3-4 inches tall 3-4 feet spread</p> | <p>Evergreen Hardy to 15 degrees</p> | <p>Long-blooming, early summer until a frost. Purple-pink blooms.</p> <p>Deer rating: 8/10</p> |  |

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| <p>Periwinkle <i>Vinca minor</i></p>  | <p>3-6 inches tall Continuously spreading</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 20 degrees</p> | <p>Trailing stems of smooth, green leaves. Blue-purple flowers in spring. Spreads continuously wherever there is water – can be difficult to stop spread.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p> |  |
| <p>Snow In Summer <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i></p>  | <p>4-6 inches tall 15-18 inches spread</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 40 degrees</p> | <p>Silvery-grey foliage forms nice low mat. Covered in pure white, star-like flowers in summer.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p> |  |
| <p>Creeping Jenny <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i></p>  | <p>4-8 inches tall Continually spreading</p> <p>*‘Goldilocks’ variety has bright chartreuse-yellow leaves but does best with some shade</p> | <p>Semi-evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 15 degrees (<i>but goes deciduous in extreme cold</i>)</p> | <p>Vigorous grower that re-roots itself and spreads to fill in an area. Low mat of rounded bright green leaves. Golden yellow flowers in late spring. <i>Foliage may burn in extreme heat and turn reddish in cold.</i></p> <p>Deer rating: 7/10</p> |  |
| <p>Green Mound Juniper <i>Juniperus ‘Green Mound’</i></p>  | <p>6-12 inches tall 4-6 feet spread</p> <p>*there are also similar low-growing junipers that have blue foliage like Juniper wiltonii and Juniper ‘Blue Rug’</p> | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 20 degrees</p> | <p>Dense, spreading, rug-like shrub. Attractive blueish-green needles take on purplish hue in fall. Blue berries from late spring to late winter.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p> |  |

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| <p>Lowfast Bearberry <i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i> 'Lowfast'</p>  | <p>10-12 inches tall 10-12 feet spread</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 10 degrees</p> | <p>Trailing stems of glossy, dark green leaves. White flowers in spring followed by bright red berries.</p> <p>Deer rating: 7/10</p> |  |
| <p>St. Johns Wort <i>Hypericum calycinum</i></p>  | <p>12-15 inches tall Continuously spreading</p> | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to minus 5 degrees</p> | <p>Elongated green to blue-green leaves. Attractive yellow flowers in summer. Spreads continuously wherever there is water – can be difficult to stop spread.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p> |  |
| <p>Trailing Lantana <i>Lantana montevidensis</i></p>  | <p>12-18 inches tall 3-5 feet spread</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 25 degrees</p> | <p>Very long-blooming. Lots of purple or white flowers from spring until a frost. Needs winter protection above Sonora and in cold micro-climates.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p> |  |
| <p>Creeping Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus'</p>  | <p>1-2 feet tall 5-6 feet spread</p> | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 15 degrees</p> | <p>Aromatic green needle-like foliage. Lavender-blue flowers in winter and early spring.</p> <p>Deer rating: 10/10</p> |  |












→ this symbol indicates plants that can survive drought once established. It takes 1-2 years of regular watering for a plant to be fully established. In general, plants will look better with regular water, but drought-tolerant plants can survive times when water is not available.



→ this symbol indicates plants that are considered fire-wise, meaning that they are more resistant to wildfire due to their growth habits. Plants with this symbol were found online in lists of 'fire safe' plants.

California Native Options ↓

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| Common Lippia <i>Phyla nodiflora</i>  | 3-6 inches tall 2-3 feet wide  | Semi-evergreen <i>Hardy to 5 degrees</i> | Charming little heads of mauve-pink, lavender and white blossoms beginning in late spring. Long-blooming, loved by pollinators. Deer rating: 9/10 |  |
| 'Point Saint George' California Aster <i>Aster 'Point Saint George'</i>  | 4-6 inches tall 4-6 feet wide  | Evergreen <i>Hardy to 10 degrees</i> | Low growing perennial with shiny green leaves. Beautiful daisy-like lavender flowers with yellow center. Blooms summer and fall. Drought-tolerant once established. Deer rating: 9/10 |  |
| Hearst California Lilac <i>Ceanothus hearstiorum</i>  | 6-12 inches tall 6-8 feet wide  | Evergreen <i>Hardy to 15 degrees</i> | Low, spreading shrub with oval, dark green leaves. Showy lilac flower spikes in spring. Flowers are loved by bees. Deer rating: 7/10 *deer don't typically like to bend over to feed on low things, but will if they are very hungry |  |

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| <p>'Emerald Carpet' Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Emerald Carpet'</p>  | <p>10-16 inches tall 4-6 feet wide</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 5 degrees</p> | <p>Low, spreading shrub with glossy green leaves. Small pink bell flowers in early spring. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p>Deer rating: 7/10 *deer don't typically like to bend over to feed on low things, but will if they are very hungry</p> |  |
| <p>Spreading Sage <i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss' or 'Dara's Choice'</p>  | <p>1-2 feet tall 4-6 feet wide</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 15 degrees</p> | <p>Low-growing perennial with green or grey-green leaves. Soft lavender-blue flower clusters in summer. Leaves and flowers are very aromatic. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p>Deer rating: 10/10</p> |  |
| <p>Dwarf Coyote Bush <i>Baccharis</i> 'Pigeon Point' or 'Twin Peaks'</p>  | <p>1-2 feet tall 6-8 feet wide</p>  | <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 15 degrees</p> | <p>Spreading shrub with tiny, light green leaves. Insignificant cream flowers in spring. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p>Deer rating: 7/10 *deer don't typically like to bend over to feed on low things, but will if they are very hungry</p> |  |
| <p>Hancock Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i> 'Hancock'</p>  | <p>2-3 feet tall 5-8 feet wide</p>  | <p>Deciduous</p> <p>Hardy to minu15 degrees</p> | <p>Native hybrid with blue-green leaves and small coral berries in fall. Spreads quickly to cover ground and smother weeds. May need yearly trimming to keep low (can grow tall on its own).</p> <p>Deer rating: 8/10</p> |  |