

**Full sun: groundcovers
for DEER areas**

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Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<p>Creeping Thyme <i>Thymus 'Elfin' or 'Reiter'</i></p> 	<p>1-3 inches tall 12-18 inches spread</p>	<p>Evergreen <i>Hardy to minus 10 degrees</i></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 <i>Hardy to minus 25 degrees</i></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 <i>Hardy to 15 degrees</i></p>	<p>Long-blooming, early summer until a frost. Purple-pink blooms.</p> <p>Deer rating: 8/10</p>	

<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>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 (but goes deciduous in extreme cold)</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. Foliage may burn in extreme heat and turn reddish in cold.</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>	
<p>Lowfast Bearberry <i>Cotoneaster dammeri 'Lowfast'</i></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 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. Deer rating: 9/10</p>	
<p>Creeping Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall 5-6 feet spread</p>	<p>Evergreen Hardy to 15 degrees</p>	<p>Aromatic green needle-like foliage. Lavender-blue flowers in winter and early spring. 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.

Scroll down for California Native ideas!

California Native Options ↓

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Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<p>California Lilac <i>Ceanothus</i></p> 	<p>Size varies by type: 3 inches to 3 feet tall, 6-10 feet wide.</p>	<p>Evergreen Hardy to 15 degrees</p>	<p>Low, spreading shrub with oval, dark green leaves. Showy lilac flower spikes in spring. Flowers are loved by bees. 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>'Point Saint George' California Aster <i>Aster 'Point Saint George'</i></p> 	<p>4-6 inches tall 4-6 feet wide</p>	<p>Evergreen Hardy to 10 degrees</p>	<p>Low growing perennial with shiny green leaves. Beautiful daisy-like lavender flowers with yellow center. Blooms summer and fall. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p>Deer rating: 9/10</p>	
<p>'Emerald Carpet' Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'</i></p> 	<p>10-16 inches tall 4-6 feet wide</p>	<p>Evergreen 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 'Bee's Bliss' or 'Dara's Choice'</i></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 'Pigeon Point' or 'Twin Peaks'</i></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 'Hancock'</i></p> 	<p>2-3 feet tall 5-8 feet wide</p>	<p>Deciduous</p> <p>Hardy to min15 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>	