Container Gardening Keystone Plants List

11.1 Mediterranean California

**Cobweb thistle** *(Cirsium occidentale)*
- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial Sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** All year
- **HEIGHT:** 2-5 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  This striking thistle produces large rose-purple flowers and is covered in lacy, white hair. The flowers attract numerous pollinators.

**Great Valley Gumplant** *(Grindelia camporum)*
- **LIGHT:** Full sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Late spring through fall
- **HEIGHT:** 2-6 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  This late season flower provides nectar and pollen to many pollinators from its yellow flowers. It is drought tolerant and is naturally resistant to deer and pests.

**Bigelow’s sneezeweed** *(Helenium bigelovii)*
- **LIGHT:** Full sun
- **WATER:** Average to high
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Mid through late summer
- **HEIGHT:** 2-3 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  Showy yellow flowers with a dark brown-purple center that love wet bog-like conditions. This plant is also deer and disease resistant.

**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.

**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.

**Lacy Phacelia or Fiddleneck** *(Phacelia tanacetifolia)*
- **LIGHT:** Full sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Late spring through fall
- **HEIGHT:** 1-4 ft
- **DURATION:** Annual
  This unique flower is a favorite of bees and can bloom for 5 months. This species is deer resistant, relatively pest and disease free, and self seeds. The stem bristles can be mildly irritating.
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**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 to southern parts of ecoregion*

**Desert or Globe Mallow**
*(Sphaeralcea ambigua)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Spring through fall
- **HEIGHT:** 2-4 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
- This bushy plant has striking flowers that are typically orange, but other varieties are available. Disease and drought resistant. Cut back the plant after it flowers to get more blooms.
- *Not native in northern parts of ecoregion*

**Pacific Aster**
*(Sympyotrichum chilense)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Mid summer through fall
- **HEIGHT:** 1-4 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
- This species boasts a profusion of star shaped flowers that provide a late season food source for a variety of pollinators. Cut back in early spring to encourage bushiness. No serious pests or diseases and deer resistant.