

**Succulent:** *Sedum* | *Crassula* | *Aloe* | *Agave* | *Echeveria* | *Aeonium* | *Euphorbia* | *Sempervivum* | *Unknown* *Other* \_\_\_\_\_

OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial (succulent)

Sun: Sun | Mixed

Water: Low

Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

**Succulent:** *Sedum* | *Crassula* | *Aloe* | *Agave* | *Echeveria* | *Aeonium* | *Euphorbia* | *Sempervivum* | *Unknown* *Other* \_\_\_\_\_

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Type: Perennial (succulent)

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Comments:

# Agapanthus

## OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full to part sun  
Water: Regular, well drained soil. Low water tolerated once established.  
Flowers: Blue | White | Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: Clumps up to 3' wide by 4' tall.

This South African native has become a regular in Bay Area gardens. It is very easy to grow. A great plant for beginners. It forms clumps of daffodil-like leaves that can become very large in diameter. In summer, globes of flowers form at the tops of stalks rising above the foliage.

Agapanthus will flourish with little attention. In hot, sunny locations it may need some cover. In freezing locations it can benefit from protective mulching in winter. However, for most Bay Area gardeners, this is a set-it-and-forget-it plant.

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# Pregnant Onions

*(Albuca bracteata aka Ornithogalum longibracteatum)*

## OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Average, do not overwater  
Flowers: Greenish white  
Size: Leaves to 3' tall, flower stalks to 5'

“Pregnant onions” resemble an onion with numerous baby bulbs forming on its sides. Note that it is NOT an onion and should NOT be eaten. It is native to South Africa and grows well outdoors here in the East Bay. They can survive to about 25°F and can also be grown as a house plant. It should be planted with much or all of the bulb exposed above ground, since that is the most interesting part of this plant.

Some individuals may have an allergic skin reaction to this plant.

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## Grass:

Carex | Festuca | Stipa | Unknown

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial

Sun: Sun | Mixed | Shade

Water: Medium | High

Flowers: Brown (insignificant)

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Tree Dahlia** (*Dahlia imperialis*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Medium  
Flowers: Single | Double, Lavender | White  
Size: 15-20' tall, 4-6' wide

Stick a piece of this Central American native in the ground in a sunny spot. One year later you will be rewarded with a towering plant topped with floppy, handkerchief-like blooms. Two years later you will be bringing armloads of cuttings to The Plant Exchange. Plant cuttings either horizontally or vertically as you wish, as long as one or more “joints” are buried.

Note: Gets leggy and bare at the bottom. Most attractive when planted where the lower part of the plant is hidden.

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**Snake Flower aka Stalked Bulbine** (*Bulbine frutescens*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial (succulent)  
Sun: Full Sun  
Water: Low  
Flowers: Yellow | Red  
Size: 1'-2' high x 4'-5' wide

This succulent hails from the southern coast of South Africa. It has narrow fleshy green leaves that are 6-8 inches long, which form an open rosette of leaves to 1-2 feet tall. It spreads by rhizomes to create wide clumps. Flowers form on long stalks that rise above the foliage in the spring through the summer. Plant in full sun to light shade. Low water. Bulbine is evergreen and hardy to 20-25 degrees F.

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# Jade Plant *(Crassula ovata)*

INDOOR or OUTDOOR PLANT

**EASY PLANT**

Type: Perennial (succulent)  
Sun: Bright light  
Water: Low  
Flowers: Small white to pink stars in clusters  
Size: up to 3' wide by 6' tall

This succulent is a native of South Africa. It is very easy to grow. A great plant for beginners. Very tolerant of most conditions except deep shade and standing water. Can be grown outdoors in the ground or in pots, or indoors. Jade plants want bright light, but prefer some afternoon shade.

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## Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full to part sun  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: Single | Double  
Yellow | Pink | Red | White | Other  
Size: 5'-30' tall, 4'-15'

Flowers may be pendulous or horizontal. Colors may be yellow, white, pink, orange, etc., and may change with the age of the bloom. Some are highly fragrant, particularly in the evening.

They are easy to propagate and grow from cuttings. Remove most of the leaves and any flowers/buds before planting to reduce moisture loss. Stick a cutting into soil with at least one joint underground. Keep moist.

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## *Crocosmia aka Montbretia*

### OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial (corms)  
Sun: Full to part sun  
Water: Average water  
Flowers: Red | Orange | Other  
Size: 2'-4' tall, spreading clumps

### POTENTIALLY INVASIVE

Crocosmia spreads by both corms and seeds and can be difficult to get rid of. Because it is so attractive and carefree, people readily accept, plant, and retain this “wildly successful plant,” but sometimes regret it. If you are willing to keep it in control, it’s a beauty, if not, move on.

Crocosmia is very similar in appearance to Chasmanthe (another potentially invasive plant.) It is very difficult to tell the difference between Chasmanthe and Crocosmia from the corms.

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***Iris*** Variety: \_\_\_\_\_

OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial (bulbs or rhizomes)  
Sun: \_\_\_\_\_  
Water: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

There are 100's of varieties of Iris. Most commonly grown in the Bay Area are bearded "German" irises and Pacific coast irises which grow from rhizomes, and "Dutch" irises from bulbs. Most prefer full sun and low water, however, some varieties require constant moisture and some want shady locations.

For iris varieties that grow from rhizomes, do not fully bury the rhizome – it must be at the soil surface.

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## Fortnight Lily (*Dietes*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial (rhizomes)  
Sun: Full to part sun  
Water: Low water (once established)  
Flowers: White | White+Purple | Yellow | Other  
Size: 2'-3' tall, 3'-4' wide clumps

Fast growing, easy, hardy plant. Low water once established, but will flower better with regular watering. Tolerates shade, but grows and flowers best in full sun.

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**Orchid:** *Phalaenopsis* | *Oncidium* |  
**Intergeneric** | **Other** | **Unknown**

INDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Strong indirect light  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Many orchids are among the most challenging plants to grow. Of them, *phalaenopsis* are relatively easy, *oncidium* and intergeneric orchids can challenge even the most expert growers. These plants have widely varying requirements, but most prefer strong indirect light, regular watering with fast drainage, and frequent light fertilizing. We recommend researching your orchid thoroughly for greatest success.

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Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Many orchids are among the most challenging plants to grow. Of them, *phalaenopsis* are relatively easy, *oncidium* and intergeneric orchids can challenge even the most expert growers. These plants have widely varying requirements, but most prefer strong indirect light, regular watering with fast drainage, and frequent light fertilizing. We recommend researching your orchid thoroughly for greatest success.

**Orchid:** *Phalaenopsis* | *Oncidium* |  
**Intergeneric** | **Other** | **Unknown**

INDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Strong indirect light  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Orchid:** *Cymbidium* | *Dendrobium* | *Epidendrum* | Other | Unknown

INDOOR or OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Strong indirect light  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Many orchids are among the most challenging plants to grow, while others are literally weeds (!) Among orchids commonly grown outdoors in our area, *cymbidium*, *dendrobium* and *epidendrum* are relatively easy. Most of these plants prefer strong indirect light, regular watering with fast drainage, and frequent light fertilizing.

*Cymbidium* orchids are generally fine down to 29° F, *epidendrum* to just freezing, and *dendrobium* to about 40° F. We recommend researching your orchid thoroughly for greatest success.

**Orchid:** *Cymbidium* | *Dendrobium* | *Epidendrum* | Other | Unknown

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## Peruvian Lily (*Alstroemeria*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Prefers morning sun  
Water: Average water, good drainage  
Flowers: Orange | Red | Purple | Yellow | White | Mixed | Unknown | Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: 1'-4' tall, spreading clumps.

Easy to grow, popular florists plant. Dwarf varieties are around 1' tall, standard varieties can be up to 4' tall and may need support. Prefers sun but not high heat, so morning sun is best. If it is happy, it will spread readily; some people say it can become invasive.

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## Spider Lily, Swamp Lily

(*Crinum*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial (bulb)  
Sun: Full, bright filtered light  
Water: Regular to ample water  
Flowers: Red | Orange | White | Unknown |  
Other | \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Crinum lilies are large bulbs in the family of Amaryllis. They are slow growing and can become very large, potentially forming large clumps (depending on variety.) They produce large showy flowers, usually in spring or summer. The foliage dies back in fall.

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## Cranesbill or “Geranium”

(*Geranium or Pelargonium*)

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full to part sun, afternoon shade  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the plants that people refer to as “geraniums” are actually *pelargoniums*. True *geraniums* and *pelargoniums* have similar growth and requirements. They can be grown as indoor or outdoor plants, want moderate to regular water, and prefer full sun except in hot climates where they will want afternoon shade.

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***Bromeliad: Guzmania | Tillandsia | Other***

INDOOR | OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Bright indirect light  
Water: Regular water | low water  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Bromeliads are a large family of mostly tropical plants. Many are epiphytes (i.e. normally they live in trees or on rock outcroppings, without soil.) Others naturally grow on the ground. [Note: most epiphytic varieties can grow on the ground.] Most require bright indirect or filtered light, frequent water, and often high humidity, though some prefer to go dry. Many are grown as indoor plants but can do well outside during the summer, others can survive and even thrive outside all year round.

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## Queen's Tears (*Billbergia nutans*)

### OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Bright indirect light  
Water: Regular water  
Flowers: Green and blue flowers on fuchsia stalks  
Size: Up to 2' tall, forming clumps

This Brazilian bromeliad is easy to grow. It readily forms clumps of bronze-green leaf rosettes. Arching flower stalks carry pink bracts and pendant flowers that have green petals edged with blue.

Though in nature this plant is an epiphyte, here it is quite drought tolerant and grows well in rich soil. Hardy to 30°F, or even lower for short periods. Can be planted in shade, but for best results, *Billbergia* prefers filtered sun or bright indirect light. It makes an excellent container plant.

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## Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full to part sun. Part shade in hot areas  
Water: Regular  
Flowers: Red | Orange | White | Mixed |  
Unknown | Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Daylilies come in a wide variety of sizes. Dwarf varieties can be less than 1' tall. At the other extreme there are standard types that can exceed 4'. All form clumps that expand over time. Plant in full sun or part shade in hot areas.

Daylilies should be dug up, split, and separated when they become overcrowded. Donate extras to The Plant Exchange ☺

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## **Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Low to moderate  
Flowers: Purple | White  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Rosemarys are tough, easy to grow, drought tolerant Mediterranean plants. Some varieties are upright, others bushy, and still others trailing. All varieties can be used in cooking, but some are better than others.

Prefers full sun, relatively low water, and good drainage.

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## Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial (bulb)  
Sun: Full to part sun, filtered sun in hot areas  
Water: Regular  
Flowers: White | Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Tough, easy to grow bulbs, naturalize readily forming large clumps. Size and color vary by variety. Prefers full sun, with partial sun in hot areas. The common Calla lily (*aethiopica*) thrives in moist soil. Other Calla varieties have varying requirements. Can be grown in pots and as an indoor plant.

All Calla's should be dug up, split, and separated when they become overcrowded. Donate extras to The Plant Exchange ☺

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**Daisy: Santa Barbara (*Erigeron*) | Shasta (*Leucanthemum*) | Aster | Chrysanthemum | Other**

OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full sun | Part sun  
Water: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

The plants we refer to commonly as “daisies” consist of a wide variety of different plants, most of the family *Asteraceae*. Requirements vary by type, but most want full sun or part sun.

Frequently we see Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*) and Santa Barbara Daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*.)

**Daisy: Santa Barbara (*Erigeron*) | Shasta (*Leucanthemum*) | Aster | Chrysanthemum | Other**

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## ***Canna***

### OUTDOOR PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Full to part sun  
Water: Frequent water with good drainage  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Cannas are popular garden plants. They have been bred into almost 3000 varieties. Unless the donor has specified the variety, it will be impossible to predict the size or appearance of the plant from the rhizome alone. They may have huge (often colorful) leaves. Tall varieties should be sheltered from strong wind. The rhizomes will need to be protected, or lifted and moved inside, in freezing weather.

Cannas are related to “Ginger lilies” (*Hedychium*). The two plants can look quite similar and are often confused with each other.

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## Ginger Lily (*Hedychium*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Part sun to part shade  
Water: Ample  
Flowers: White | yellow | orange | red | other  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Ginger lilies (*Hedychium*) are related to the ginger that we eat (*Zingiber*), but are ornamental. They often have handsome leaves and fragrant, colorful flowers. Individual stalks emerge from rhizomes, flower, and then die, to be followed by new stalks. Encourage fresh new growth by removing old stems after flowers fade. Ginger lilies do best in rich soil high in organic matter.

The clumps of rhizomes and become very large. Over time they may overwhelm nearby plants and even buckle pathways and fences. Care should be taken in locating these plants where they can be kept in check.

## Ginger Lily (*Hedychium*)

OUTDOOR PLANT – EASY PLANT

Type: Perennial  
Sun: Part sun to part shade  
Water: Ample  
Flowers: White | yellow | orange | red | other  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_

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