

Southwest



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PLANT THIS



Gray creeping germander (*Teucrium aroanium*)
USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 7 to 10
SIZE: 3 inches tall and 8 inches wide
CONDITIONS: Full sun; well-drained soil

This textural gem of a ground cover from the Mediterranean basin is a welcome addition to our region. Gray creeping germander's needle-like foliage spreads into a low mound spangled with clusters of honey-scented, lavender-pink flowers in May and June. I have seen this plant blooming into October.

WITH THAT:



'Siskiyou Blue' fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* 'Siskiyou Blue')
ZONES: 4 to 8
SIZE: 1 foot tall and 15 to 18 inches wide
CONDITIONS: Full sun; well-drained soil

'Siskiyou Blue' fescue is a long-lived, well-proportioned evergreen offering gentle naturalness. This grass grows into a tufted form with fine-textured, powder blue blades. The flowers radiate a light green that mellows to warm amber by late summer. Its evergreen powder blue is an eye-catching accent to germander.



Kannah Creek® buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *aureum* 'Psdowns')
ZONES: 3 to 8
SIZE: 12 to 18 inches tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
CONDITIONS: Full sun; lean, well-drained soil

Kannah Creek® buckwheat displays rich green foliage with a white underside that spreads to form matting rosettes. Clusters of small, sulphur yellow flowers age to a warm orange. When viewed at close range, germander and buckwheat leaves appear related by the subtle tonal and textural variations of their foliage.



Wasatch beardtongue (*Penstemon cyananthus*)
ZONES: 3 to 8
SIZE: 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
CONDITIONS: Full sun; lean, well-drained soil

The lesser-known Wasatch beardtongue has cobalt blue flowers on tall stems with foliage that turns orange-red as the weather cools. It is also a butterfly and hummingbird magnet. The incredible color of Wasatch beardtongue complements germander's flowers and foliage and adds vertical contrast.

Photos, except where noted: Reggie Millette/www.millettephotomedia.com; top left, courtesy of Maggie Lee; second from center left, Jerry Pavia. Illustration: Elnora Tanguy