**Easiest Native Plant Species for Santa Cruz County – Groundcovers**

**** *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. thyrsiflorus* – Creeping Blueblossom

Grows well in many different soils and tolerates poor or fast draining situations. Great for erosion control. Wide spread – up to 15’.

****  *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus* – Carmel Creeper

Fast and easy. One of the most commonly planted groundcovers in California. Can also spread up to 15’.

 *Fragaria chiloensis* – Beach strawberry

Beautiful dark glossy leaves, it is the parent of commercial strawberries whose genes provide vigor. Prefers sandy soils.

****  *Fragaria vesca* – Wood strawberry

Can quickly cover an area. Good under trees, tasty fruit. Easy-care.

 *Erigeron glaucus* – Seaside daisy

Loves our coastal climate, very showy, in bloom almost all year, deer resistant. Up to 2’ spread.

****  *Grindelia stricta* – Gumplant

Long-flowering, can spread 6-10’, takes salt spray and supports a wide diversity of bees. Deer resistant. Used to treat poison oak and as an adhesive.

 *Corethrogyne filangifolia* – California aster

Formerly called *Lessingia filangifolia*, a long-flowering butterfly plant that prefers well-drained soils. Silvery foliage, light purple to pink flowers.

*Clinopodium douglasii* – Yerba Buena (good herb)

A low trailing plant with dainty oval mint-scented leaves. Edible and makes a great tea. For woodland gardens.

 **** *Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. hearstiorum* and Monterey Carpet– Hooker’s manzanita. Rare, threatened or endangered in the wild.

These 2 subspecies are very low growing approx. 1 ft tall X 6 ft wide