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Fargesia nitida BLUE FOUNTAIN BAMBOO [at Strybing Arboretum](#) [stem detail](#) a compact, elegant, fine-textured clumping bamboo of great hardiness and distinction. It is recognized by rather narrow stems (1/2" max diameter), often covered with a powdery blue coating and with maroon to olive stem coloring beneath. The leaves are rather small compared to other bamboo species. It spreads slowly and is cold hardy enough to be raised in the Northeast. It does like some shade (most forms) and does need some chill and does show marked long day growth preference. It does not like hot, dry desert or swampy, tropical, Southeast conditions. There are a few selected strains available, and ours are one of them, but darn it I don't know which. I picked them up in Oregon in 1998 and put them in our stock plant house. Unfortunately the grower up in Oregon used paper labels, and by the time I remembered to swap them out for plastic the snails had eaten them (the labels). I hate it when that happens. This variety shows characteristics of both 'Nymphenburg' and 'De Belder.' The standard form of the species commenced flowering in Northern California in 2003. Since there is a chance that any form of *F. nitida* might commence flowering based on the parent clone's behavior we are offering a three year guarantee to our *resellers and outlets* for a replacement plant or equal value credit should the plant flower and die in the landscape. It is entirely possible that some of the individual forms of the species may never flower, or at least not for many years. This species is reported to take -25F and can be used in Sunset zones 2-9, 14-17/ USDA zones 5-9. It can also be used in Sunset zones 20,22, and 24 but only with some shade, and hopefully complete shade during winter. Graminae/Poaceae. China. rev 4/2007

Fatsia japonica [foliage](#) this evergreen foliage plant to 10' (20' with great age and perfect conditions) by about 6' across provides dramatic foliage displays, especially against walled backgrounds or as a backdrop for other plants with distinctive or colored foliage. It makes a durable container plant and has a well deserved reputation for holding up well in commercial applications. Sun to mostly shade, drought tolerant when established. Sunset zones 4-9, 13-24, USDA zone 8. Araliaceae, monotypic genus. Japan. rev 6/2005

'Variegata' [nice mature plant, Westlake](#) [foliage close up](#) [Blue Bamboo Nursery](#)
cut foliage a nicely variegated form to 10' or more, with somewhat greyer leaves and margins splashed irregularly with creamy white. For shade to half sun, average soils and relatively drought tolerant when established. Sunset zones 4-9, 13-24, USDA zone 8. rev 3/2005

Festuca californica [at UCSC Arboretum](#) one of our nicest native grasses. Grows as an upright grey green clump of foliage to about 2' tall. Leaves are about 1/4" wide. Rather open flower/seed heads follow in summer. Tough, adaptable, drought tolerant. Definitely doesn't

like poor drainage, though. Sun to part shade. Graminae/Poaceae.

cinerea 'Elijah Blue' [growing with Carex flagellifera](#) [toupe-like planting](#) a dwarf, very glaucous variety, with almost white foliage. This seems to be the smallest variety out there among the blue fescues, and is best maintained as a small scale accent plant. The problem with allowing it to get large is that while it spreads out with time, it never gets any taller, so it just looks like a giant blue pancake. rev 7/2004

'Siskyou Blue' [long blue hair](#) this is a wonderful variety, the *Carex flagellifera* of Blue Fescues, with long, lush blue blades reaching well over a foot in length and often laying horizontally to form broad blue masses of foliage. I think this would make a decent hanging basket. It is probably the bluest variety overall and therefore definitely my favorite. A neighbor up the street has it used simply but very effectively in front of a trellis of the dark green leaves of Star Jasmine and below the deep burgundy foliage of *Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy'. With the bright green lawn bordering the planting it looks colorful all year. rev 7/2004

Ficus carica FIG deciduous trees, usually to 10-20' in most gardens but occasionally larger in old landscapes. Foliage is large, coarse, deeply cut, somewhat ornamental. Hardy enough for almost any California climate, but will freeze to the ground and only bear late in the season on old growth in the coldest climates. Mediterranean. Moraceae.

'Brown Turkey' dark purple brown fruit, reddish interior, good for coastal or inland areas. A very good eating variety for cool areas. Not as good as 'Mission,' but still very good when fully ripe and most importantly, dependable where more difficult varieties fail. rev 2/2003

'Kadota' [leaves and fruit](#) a "white" fig (very pale green) of very high quality if you have the summer heat to ripen it, or even if you don't. It is at its best in inland valleys or at least away from the immediate coast. The skin can be quite leathery, the interior is tan to pinkish and goey, flavor is excellent, very sweet. In addition to blooming in late spring on new, green wood and producing fruit which ripen in fall like other varieties, this is one of the types which also bears a "breba" crop, which means it sets fruit in fall which pause their development until spring, then resume ripening and are ready in late spring or early summer. This makes it of value in cool summer areas which don't have the heat to completely ripen some

varieties between spring and fall. Its second crop may or may not ripen before fall, depending on the season and situation, but you should still get your early summer crop. rev 2/2003

'Mission' dark purple brown to purple black fruit, reddish interior, with an excellent, rich flavor. Will ripen (late!) in warmer coastal gardens many years if given a good, wind protected, heat accumulating situation, but overall this one is much more reliable away from the immediate coast and of much better quality. rev 2/2003

pumila CREEPING FIG [mature foliage](#) [juvenile foliage texture](#) [pattern](#)
[pattern](#) slow to moderate evergreen vine with dark green, oval leaves. Juvenile growth is characterized by small, thin leaves (to 1") with close internodes. Mature foliage is much larger (to 3"), somewhat glossy, much tougher, and with longer internodes. Foliage color will bleach out to yellow or almost white in full sunlight, especially in hot areas, but foliage rarely burns. Clings by adhesive roots, and can be problematic on some walls or structures because of this. It can also be quite useful for binding loose rock walls, etc. Best in at least part shade, little summer watering in most areas. Small fruits are usually not noticed. Eastern Asia, Japan.

'Quercifolia' [container](#) this is an extremely tight, dense grower, functioning mostly as a creeping, trailing groundcover. It seems clearly happier in at least 50% shade. I haven't been growing it long enough to know whether this very tiny foliage is a juvenile form only, or whether it even has some mature phase that is larger and coarser, like all the other varieties have. It will make a wonderful combo planter item. rev 11/2007

NEW for 2008!

Fremontodendron 'California Glory' FLANNEL BUSH [Mission Hill](#) [closeup](#) large, fast California native shrub to 15-20' tall and wide, though often to only half that size. Bears 3-lobed, grainy leaves to 3" across, sweetly scented with a resinous fragrance much like that of Rainbow Popsicles, most evident on warm spring days. Masses of open, well displayed, bright yellow to yellow orange flowers to almost 4" across appear in spring and early summer. Hybrid varieties will bloom as long as they are pushing new growth. With a deep water supply, this can extend the bloom season into early summer, and plants can repeat bloom in fall. This variety seems almost indistinguishable from the next two, but has been in the trade longer and so is better known. It is definitely harder to propagate than either 'Pacific Sunset' or 'San Gabriel'. Sun to part shade, little or no summer watering when established. Needs good drainage. Makes an excellent large espalier for a dry situation. Keep the grainy fuzz ("flannel") away from sensitive areas such as face, neck, or eyes. Sterculiaceae.

'Ken Taylor' [closeup](#) [habit](#) to 3-4' tall, 6-12' wide, with a horizontal to

semipendant habit. Leaves are somewhat more grey green, flowers hang horizontally to pendants and thus show their orange backs more than other hybrids. The flowers are also smaller by about an inch. A selection of, or hybrid involving *F. decumbens*.

'Pacific Sunset' [closeup](#) same parentage as 'California Glory' and 'San Gabriel.' Flowers are faintly orange, supposedly larger.

'San Gabriel' [flowers](#) [very closeup](#) flowers like 'California Glory,' leaves are slightly more lobed.

Fuchsias tender evergreen shrubs or scrambling vines, well known for their beautiful flowers. The majority of our varieties are sold as staked, including trailers, since they are much easier to merchandise at the retail level. Varieties range in growth from narrow upright growers, scandent vine-like shrubs, compact bushes, or trailing to mounding creepers. There are even some flat groundcover species available from specialists (*F. procumbens*, for example). The genus is native to South America.
Onagraceae. rev 9/2003

Culture for Fuchsias is usually going to include mostly shade to part sun unless you are along the immediate coast, where they can take mostly sun at the expense of somewhat redder, sparser foliage. Flowering tends to be heavier the more light they have, but any direct sunlight can result in scorching and bleaching on the hottest days. Soil or container mixes should be rich, freely draining, and heavy on humus or organic material. They are going to need regular to copious watering. None would be considered drought tolerant except in the mildest of cool summer, near-coastal plantings. They are going to respond well to soluble fertilizers applied monthly or even semimonthly, and should be cut back (if needed) as they begin to break growth in spring.

They are wonderful for attracting hummingbirds, but those, along with bees, can also spread the almost microscopic Fuchsia Mite, so they are a mixed blessing. Overall Fuchsia Mite has been a much less severe problem recently, and speculation is that they are now being fed upon by a predatory mite, though I haven't seen anything to confirm this. [Click here for descriptions of varieties no longer in production.](#)

'Bicentennial' [closeup](#) double petals are marbled coral rose against light coral sepals. Semitrailing, compact, self branching. rev 9/2003

'Dark Eyes' [closeup](#) full, semidouble to double petals are rich violet purple, sepals are rose red to clear red. Stamens provide nice definition. Buds are very globose, petals and sepals are both very wide though short. Flowers reach 2-2 1/2" across. A full basket type, growing as a vigorous, spreading compact shrub or trailer. rev 5/2005

'Display' [closeup](#) upright grower bears single rose pink flowers with light red sepals. Very heat tolerant.

'Dollar Princess' [closeup](#) smaller, globose buds, light red, open to reveal chunky,

double dark purple petals. Flowers only reach 1 1/2 to 2" across. Spreading rounded to semitrailing growth. rev 5/2005

'Dusky Rose' [closeup](#) very large flowers, to over 3" across and long, have rich lavender pink petals, fully double, and somewhat reflexed, particularly long, light red sepals. The outer petals are fluted and two toned lavender and light red. The flowers hang from long peduncles. Moderately compact semitrailing to trailing variety. rev 5/2005

'Firecracker' PP [foliage closeup](#) [flower clusters](#) a variegated form of 'Gartenmeister Bonstadt,' this one bears very attractive cream-margined leaves with lighter jade green zones. Typical pendant red flowers.

'Gartenmeister Bonstadt' [flowers](#) upright shrub to 3-4' tall and wide. Easily distinguished by foliage which emerges iridescent reddish purple, aging to dark green with dark red veins and burgundy undersides. Clusters of flowers are seen from late winter through late fall. Individual flowers are tubular, coral orange, to 2" long, flaring to four narrow sharp points at the mouths. Moderately resistant to Fuchsia Mite. I have seen this variety run extensively via underground stolons to cover a large area in a garden. rev 5/2005

'Indian Maid' [closeup](#) very large flowers to 4" across have dark violet purple petals, very long rose red sepals. Heat tolerant, semiupright to trailing. rev 5/2005

'June Bride' [closeup](#) bright, single rose pink petals, with rose red sepals that curve upwards. Partially upright, moderately vigorous growth, to 4' x 4' eventually. Relatively cold hardy. Very similar to 'Display' but a much larger grower. rev 5/2005

'Southgate' [closeup](#) upright or trailing variety. Large double light pink flowers have pale pink sepals. Heat tolerant.

'Swingtime' [closeup](#) upright or trailing variety. Double ivory white flowers with bright red sepals.

'Tinker Bell' [closeup](#) a fast, semivining plant with narrow leaves that bears elegant, graceful, thin petaled, light pink flowers in a heavy show. The bases of the flowers are light red. rev 5/2005

'Voodoo' [closeup](#) upright or trailing variety. Full double, dark purple flowers with red sepals.

Furcraea foetida CUBA HEMP, MAURITIUS HEMP [large container plant](#) an evergreen, agave-like plant to 4-5' tall by 12' across, with leaves to 6-8' when happy (warm and partly shaded with regular watering), with leaves that are softer, greener and more watery than an *Agave*, and unarmed. It is subtropical in origin and will start to show disfiguring damage below 25F. Use it when you want an *Agave* or *Yucca* form but don't want spines or teeth. It sends up a central stalk to about 25' when it blooms, which it will do after a few years, but the flowers are greenish and not particularly showy. A 25' spike can't be ignored, however, and it is dramatic due to its sheer size. In addition the flowers are highly fragrant. The plant is monocarpic, and will die after flowering, but bulblets on the flower spike will grow into new plants. For sun (coast) to part shade (hot inland) and

infrequent to average watering. Very good in containers, of course. The leaf fibers are used in making bags, cloth, and twine. Sunset zones 8-9 (with protection), 14-17, 21-24/USDA zone 9. Northern South America. Agavaceae. rev 10/2005

'Mediopicta' [container](#) [Wow! Hotel del Coronado](#) an amazing variegated form, producing a broad (9" wide) ivory white leaf with a narrow green margin when at its best. Leaves can also be green striped white. Something like a variegated *Phormium* on andro and creatine. One of the most striking of all variegated plants, but needs protection from frost. rev 5/2006