



## California Native Plants for Your Landscape

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To access this handout on line: [mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/files/291204.pdf](https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/files/291204.pdf)

### The Benefits of Gardening with Natives:

- Reduced water, pesticide and herbicide use and fewer chemicals in our water supply.
- Plants that are naturally adapted to our climate and soil conditions.
- Reduced time and energy in maintenance.
- A garden that reflects your own unique style and taste.
- Your own enjoyment. Natives attract native bees and birds.

### Design Basics:

- **Define your style.** Visit gardens and take photos of those you like (and those you don't).
- **Know your space.** Take note of your unique micro climate. Where is the shade/sun, reflective walls? Slopes or areas that flood? Views (those to hide or those to enhance)?
- **Hydro-zones.** Group plants with the same water needs.
- **"Slow it. Spread it. Sink it".** Using permeable hardscapes, rain gardens and dry creek beds where possible will enable you to keep rainwater on your property.
- **"Right Plant, Right Place".** Do your research. Where does the plant come from? What size is it at maturity? Water use? Hardiness? When is it dormant? When does it bloom? What exposure does it need? How and when do you prune it?
- **Design tips:** Keep things low near the walkways. Plant in odd numbers. Avoid straight lines (unless you are going for a very formal look). Plant large groups of the same plant to create harmony. Stagger plants (think triangles). Fill in with low-growing groundcover.

Websites that offer design tips and pre-made native garden plans:

- CNPS - State site has garden plans for six different garden styles and situations.  
[http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/garden\\_plans.php](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/garden_plans.php)
- UC Davis Arboretum. They have designs for a California Native Garden, Low Maintenance Garden and Wildlife Attracting Garden [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plan\\_california.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plan_california.aspx)
- South Bay Green Gardens: <https://www.southbaygreengardens.org/landscape-designs/>
- Yerba Buena Nursery has lawn replacement designs. We can't endorse any nursery, but the plans are a good resource. This nursery is located much closer to the coast than Santa Clara Valley so take that into consideration as you may need to swap out certain plants.  
[http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/lawn\\_alternatives\\_article.php](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/lawn_alternatives_article.php)
- Master Gardener Website: <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/demonstration-gardens/>
- Going Native Garden Tour: Photos of previous years' gardens including plant lists. [GNGT.org](http://GNGT.org)

### Installation:

- Fall is the optimal time to plant natives. Winter and very early Spring are also good.
- Select healthy plants. Avoid root-bound plants. Smaller plants will often be more successful.
- Plant on a cool day or early in the morning.
- Check to make sure your soil is not too wet (if the mud sticks to the shovel, wait).

- Make sure your plant is well hydrated before you plant.
- Dig your hole as deep as the container and 1-1/2 – 3 times as wide. The root ball should be slightly higher than the ground.
- Fill the hole with native soil.
- Water well.
- Sheet mulching: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/files/216158.pdf>
- Evaluating and if needed improving your soil: <http://pcmg.ucanr.org/files/166278.pdf>

#### Watering:

- Water regularly for the first season. Water deeply (just past the root ball) and infrequently (don't let the root ball dry out).
- Check the moisture of the soil before you water.
- Water in the winter during drought years.

#### Websites:

- 5 steps for establishing drought-tolerant plants: <http://publicgarden.ucdavis.edu/apg-feed/5-steps-for-establishing-drought-tolerant-plants>
- UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma: Drip Irrigation Basics: [http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Drip\\_Irrigation/](http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Drip_Irrigation/)

*Ceanothus species*: 'Valley Violet', 'Yankee Point', 'Ray Hartman', 'Julia Phelps'

*Arctostaphylos species* Manzanita: 'Sentinel', 'Howard McMinn', 'Emerald Carpet', 'Dr. Hurd'

*Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eriogonum giganteum* St. Catherine's Lace, *Eriogonum grande var. rubescens* Rosy buckwheat, *Eriogonum umbellatum var. polyanthum* Sulphur buckwheat

*Salvias species*: *Salvia spathacea* Hummingbird sage, *Salvia clevelandii* Cleveland sage, *Salvia leucophylla* x *S. clevelandii* or *S. sonomensis* Bee's Bliss, *Salvia munzii* San Diego Sage

Large Shrubs: *Dendromecon harfordii* Island Bush Poppy, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* Toyon, *Rhamnus californica* Coffeeberry

Small trees: *Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia* Hollyleaf Cherry, *Cercis occidentalis* Western Redbud, *Chilopsis linearis* Desert Willow

*Ribes viburnifolium* Catalina Perfume, *Ribes aureum var. gracillimum* Golden Currant, *Ribes malvaceum* Chaparral currant, *Ribes speciosum* Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry

Perennials for sun: *Achillea millefolium* Yarrow, *Epilobium* California fuchsia, *Monardella villosa* Coyote mint, *Erigeron glaucus* Seaside daisy, *Penstemon species*

Shade loving perennials: *Heuchera maxima* Island Alum Root, *Symphoricarpos mollis* Creeping Snowberry, *Pacific Coast Iris*

Shade loving ground covers: *Satureja douglasii* Yerba Buena, *Fragaria vesca ssp. californica* Wood Strawberry, *Whipplea modesta*

Vines: *Aristolochia californica* Dutchman's Pipevine, *Clematis lasiantha* Chaparral Clematis, *Vitis californica* California Wild Grape

Grasses and such: *Muhlenbergia rigens* Deer grass, *Bouteloua gracilis* Eyebrow grass, Carex or sedges, *Juncus patens*

Annuals: *Gilia capitata* Globe Gilia, *Clarkia amoena*, *Layia platyglossa* Tidy Tips, *Nemophila menziesii* Baby Blue Eyes, *Eschscholzia californica* California Poppies