

Why Garden with Natives?

CA natives are adapted to their local climate, water availability and soil. Therefore, they generally require less maintenance (water and fertilizer) than traditional landscape plants.

Natives attract 10 to 50 times as many wildlife species as nonnatives! Natives blend the home landscape with the surrounding natural environment and provide a stopping point for wildlife in the urban setting.

California native plants are unique and diverse. California has the greatest number of endemic plants of any state in the U.S.! Approximately one third of native California plants are classified as rare, endangered or threatened. Adopting them in your landscape helps preserve these treasures.

General Garden Maintenance

Optimal planting time is in the fall and early spring when the soil is cool and rains have begun.

Native plants generally do not require fertilizers. However, depending on the condition of your soil, an organic soil amendment or mycorrhizal inoculants may be recommended to enhance the soil and improve plant health.

Native plants will require water regularly until they have established. Once established, little watering is required.



The Oak Woodland Garden

The Oak Woodland

The oak woodland is one of our most beloved plant communities in California. Driving through California one witnesses the massive oaks and gently rolling golden foothills. The discontinuous tree canopy creates gaps for sunlight to enter and unique microhabitats for plants and animals. Oak woodlands display a large amount of spatial and plant diversity, making them a wonderful community to recreate in a garden setting.

Understanding Your Oak

After established in a garden, oaks thrive better with less care and are an ideal candidate if you seek a “low hassle” garden. Mature oaks do not require water in the summer dry season. Avoid thick ground covers, lawns, or other water loving plants under the canopy of your oak.

It is important to maintain air circulation and leaf mulch under the tree. The zone within six feet of the trunk should be disturbed as little as possible. Oaks do not require significant pruning. In fact, pruning more than 15-20% of the leaf canopy at one time can stress the tree.

Oaks at Central Coast Wilds

The following oaks are available at our nursery:

- Quercus agrifolia—Coast Live Oak
- Q. berberidifolia—CA Scrub Oak
- Q. chrysolepis—Canyon Live Oak
- Q. kelloggii—Blue Oak
- Q. lobata—Valley Oak
- Q. wislizeni—Interior Live Oak

Plant Suggestions



Plants that tolerate dry shade and require little to no summer water are great around oaks. Plants found in oak woodlands include:

- Arbutus menziesii—Madrone
- Corylus cornuta—Hazel
- Epilobium canum—CA Fuchsia
- Festuca californica—CA Fescue
- Fragaria vesca—Wood Strawberry
- Garrya elliptica—Coast Silk Tassel
- Heteromeles arbutifolia—Toyon
- Holodiscus discolor—Ocean Spray
- Iris douglasiana/fernaldii—Douglas/Fernalds Iris
- Juncus patens—Common Rush
- Lonicera hispidula—Western Honeysuckle
- Monardella villosa—Coyote Mint
- Phacelia californica—CA Phacelia
- Polystichum munitum—Western Sword Fern
- Rhamnus californica—Coffeeberry
- Ribes menziesii—Canyon Gooseberry
- Ribes sanguineum—Pink-flowering Currant
- Ribes speciosum—Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry
- Rosa californica—CA Rose
- Rhus integrifolia—Lemonade Berry
- Salvia spathacea—Hummingbird Sage
- Sisyrinchium bellum—Blue-eyed Grass
- Stachys bullata—Hedge Nettle
- Symphoricarpos albus—Snowberry
- Satureja douglasii—Yerba Buena
- Tellima grandiflora—Fringe Cups

