

Why Garden with Natives?

CA natives are already 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.

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

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 COASTAL SCRUB GARDEN

What Defines Coastal Scrub?

Coastal scrub communities consist of low shrubs 3-6 feet tall and a showy herbaceous understory. No trees are present.

Communities range in species composition due to different climatic and topographic features along the coast of California, but all plants are adapted to salt air, fog and strong winds.

Coastal Scrub Communities

Coastal sage scrub is divided into two geographical subtypes:

Northern coastal scrub extends from San Francisco to Southern Oregon. The dominant plant species are coyote bush, silk tassel, monkeyflower, black sage and California sage.

Southern coastal scrub extends from San Francisco to northern Baja California. California sagebrush, California buckwheat, California aster, encelia, black, purple, and white sage, and fuchsia-flower gooseberry are all common species found.

California Coastal Scrub is being replaced at an alarming rate by exotic Mediterranean annual grasses. Agriculture, urbanization and grazing have all been leading factors contributing to the decline of this important ecosystem.

According to the World Wildlife Fund only 15% of coastal sage scrub remains today. Help protect this plant community by adopting these plants in your coastal garden.

Plant Suggestions

If you live in a coastal community and face changes in fog, winds and intense heat, than coastal scrub plants are a perfect addition to your garden. These hardy plants will be easy to manage and provide vibrant color to your garden.

Achillea millefolium—Yarrow
Artemisia californica — California Sagebrush
Artemisia pycnocephala—Sandhill Sagebrush
Baccharis pilularis - Coyote Brush
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus— Blue Blossom
Ceanothus
Encelia californica - Encelia
Erigeron species— Buckwheat
Erigeron glaucus—Seaside Daisy
Eriophyllum confertifolium - Lizard Tail
Fragaria chiloensis—Dune Strawberry
Lepechinia calycina— Pitcher Sage
Lessingia filaginifolia - California Aster
Lotus scoparius — Deerweed
Lupinus arboreus—Yellow Bush Lupine
Mimulus aurantiacus - Sticky Monkeyflower
Ribes speciosum - Fuchsia-flowering gooseberry
Salvia species - Sages
Scrophularia californica—Bee Plant

