

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 REDWOOD GARDEN

The Redwood Forest

California is known for its redwoods of majestic size and beauty. These trees aid in creating a community with damp, mild temperatures and lush understory plants.

The redwood forest is found along the coast extending north from Monterey county to Southern Oregon. While rain may vary between 40 to 100 inches a year, fog is a characteristic feature of the forest. The coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is the predominant species found in moist canyons and ravines. In drier areas, Douglas firs are present as well. Understory species include western azalea, redwood sorrel, California huckleberry and many different species of ferns.

Methods of Recreating a Redwood Forest in Your Garden:

Understanding the characteristics of a redwood forest help to recreate this unique habitat in your own home:

- ♦ Plant more than one redwood tree in order to create a garden community that is similar to the natural environment and to avoid intense levels of light reaching the understory.
- ♦ Plant species that are naturally found in redwood forest communities.
- ♦ Use misters and/or water in the morning to increase humidity and simulate fog. Use mulch to increase moisture and organic matter.

Plant Suggestions

Plants that thrive in areas with cool temperatures, abundant moisture and soil rich in organic matter are ideal for a garden in a redwood setting:

Aquilegia formosa—Western Columbine
Aralia californica—Spikenard, Elk Clover
Clintonia andrewsii—Bead Lily
Disporum hookeri—Hooker's Fairy Bells
Festuca occidentalis—Western Fescue
Heuchera micrantha—Common Alumroot
Iris fernaldii—Fernald's Iris
Lilium pardalinum—Leopard Lily
Mianthemum dilatatum—False Lily of the Valley
Myrica californica—Wax Myrtle
Oxalis oregana—Redwood Sorrel
Polystichum munitum—Western Sword Fern
Rhododendron occidentale—Western Azalea
Rosa gymnocarpa—Wood Rose
Rubus ursinus—CA Blackberry
Sambucus mexicana—Blue Elderberry
Smilacina racemosa—Western False Solomon's Seal
Umbellularia californica—California Bay
Vaccinium ovatum—CA Huckleberry
Viola glabella—Stream Violet

