

## 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.



## Ponds & Rain Gardens

Ponds and rain water gardens are landscape elements that provide beauty, wildlife habitat and stormwater management. These water features range in size from small patio rain barrels, to backyard ponds and large constructed wetlands for stormwater or waste water treatment. The ideal location for a backyard pond is where it can be seen from a deck or patio. Have it blend in with its natural surroundings. Make sure that any drainage from the pond is away from your house. Landscape with California native plants in and around the pond to provide habitat for frogs and birds.



If you do not have space in your yard for a built-in earthen pond, consider a "tub" pond or large water bowls. These can be placed on the patio and provide many of the same benefits as a built-in pond. There are numerous tub kits available that can be as simple as adding water, a pump, and some plants.

There is a wide variety of California native plants adapted to wetland and pond environments. It is important to plant a mix of emergent, submergent, and floating species. Emergent plants line the shore of the pond thereby protecting the edge from erosion and providing critical cover for habitat. Submergent species are valuable as 'oxygenators' that remove carbon dioxide and add oxygen to the water. Floating species help keep the water clear by limiting the amount of sunlight that algae receive.

## Plant Suggestions

*Alisma plantago-aquatica* - Water Plantain  
*Aquilegia eximia* - Columbine  
*Bidens laevis* - Bur-Marigold  
*Cicuta douglasii* - Western Water Hemlock  
*Eleocharis macrostachya* - Creeping spikerush  
*Epipactis gigantea* - Stream Orchid  
*Euthamia occidentalis* - Western Goldenrod  
*Helenium puberulum* - Rosilla  
*Hoita macrostachya* - California Hemp  
*Lilium pardalinum* - California Tiger Lily  
*Mimulus cardinalis* - Scarlet Monkeyflower  
*Mimulus moschatus* - Musk monkeyflower  
*Oenanthe sarmentosa* - Water Parsley  
*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus* - Western Coltsfoot  
*Polygonum amphibium* - Water Knotweed  
*Polygonum punctatum* - Water Smartweed  
*Potamogeton natans* - Floating Pondweed  
*Potentilla anserina* - Pacific Silverweed  
*Sagittaria latifolia* - Arrowhead  
*Scirpus americanus* - Common Bulrush  
*Scirpus californicus* - California Bulrush  
*Stachys ajugoides* - Bugle Hedgenettle  
*Tolmiea menziesii* - Piggy Back plant  
*Veronica americana* - American Brooklime  
*Woodwardia fimbriata* - Giant Chainfern

