

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

