

in this issue >>>

Getting Plants Established
"Easy" Native Plants
Keep These Out! Invasive Plants
Annual or Perennial?



Understanding YOUR California native plants

CALIFORNIA

Native Plants at Home

current topics >>>

Key to Success

Understanding the natural plant environment, and with a little effort and patience you can successfully establish native plants in your yard and be rewarded with little water needs, lasting interest, and beauty.

Native plants make beautiful flower arrangements.



Why Have Native Plants?

Save Water and Welcome Nature!

This brochure is intended as a guide to help you establish native plants in your Southern California home

Benefits of Native Plants

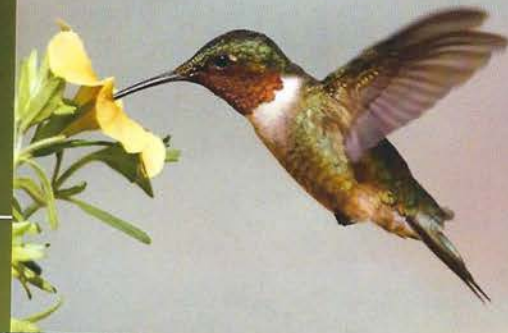
California native plants evolved over thousands of years to co-exist with animals and soil microbes. They form the foundation of California's natural ecosystems. Many native plants are extremely drought-tolerant, and others grow naturally in wet habitats. Many non-native drought-tolerant plants are from regions other than California and even though they are drought-tolerant, are not necessarily adapted to our soils, climate and pollinators.

Native plants can help you be WaterWise® and have a beautiful yard

- Once established, Southern California natives use, on average, one-seventh the water of most non-natives.
- Native plants provide birds, hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators with food and shelter. A native plant garden will support more insect species which are food sources for baby birds. Non-native gardens do not support enough insects for bird food.
- Once established, the garden will not require much maintenance. Native plants also have fewer pest problems than non-natives.
- Native plants add beauty with colorful blooms and leaves, textures, forms, and aromas.

varieties of native plants >>>

Trouble-free Native Plants



Coastal Gardens



Seaside Daisy

Seaside Daisy – Evergreen

Height: 1'H x 2' W
Growth: fast
Setting: full sun in coast, part sun if inland
Soil: well-draining
Water: occasional to moderate
Appeal: butterflies



Coral bells

Coral bells – Evergreen

Height: 1'H x 3'W
Growth: moderate
Setting: shade to part sun.
Soil: adaptable
Water: occasional to moderate
Appeal: hummingbirds

Inland Gardens



Toyon

Toyon – Evergreen

Height: 8-15'H x 10-15' W
Growth: fast
Setting: full to part sun
Soil: adaptable
Water: drought-tolerant to moderate
Appeal: can be pruned for privacy screen or small tree.

California lilac – Evergreen.

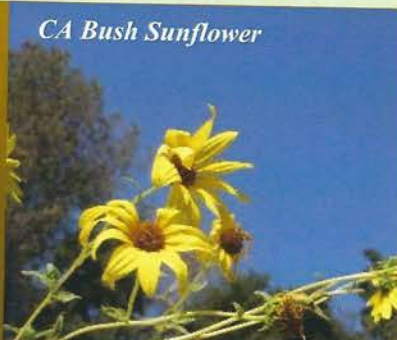
Height: 6'Hx10'W to 20'H x 15' W
Growth: fast
Setting: full sun
Soil: adaptable
Water: drought-tolerant to moderate
Appeal: butterflies and bees



California Lilac

Diverse Garden Surroundings

CA Bush Sunflower or Coast Sunflower - Summer deciduous
Height: 3'H x 5' W
Growth: fast
Setting: full sun
Soil: adaptable
Water: drought-tolerant to moderate
Appeal: birds, bees, cut flowers.



CA Bush Sunflower

CA Buckwheat – Evergreen

Height: 3'H x 4' W
Growth: fast
Setting: full sun
Soil: adaptable
Water: drought-tolerant to moderate
Appeal: butterflies, cut flowers



CA Buckwheat

Season, Watering, & Soil

Establishment Period for Native Plants

Plants will develop the root system micro-ecology during the first year; afterwards, you will see more above ground growth. When planted in fall or early winter, establishment runs through fall, winter and spring. Establishment can take one year for perennials and shrubs, and two years or more for trees.



*Annuals:
California Poppy*

Southern California summers are hot and dry, and is very inhospitable to animals, plants, and humans! Native plants have adapted well to these harsh conditions. Many become dormant during harsh seasons. For example, trees and plants in colder regions adapt by becoming dormant in cold, snowy, harsh winter months, by dropping all their foliage. They are

considered winter deciduous. Conversely, many Southern California natives are summer deciduous, dropping foliage but are still very much alive. By becoming dormant in the summer, the plant reduces transpiration, water needs, and rests after growing and flowering from November to May. Once autumn rain and cooler weather approaches, they will once again explode with growth and blossoms.



*Perennials:
Margarita BOP Foothill Penstemon*

ask the expert >>>

Q: What are “annual” and “perennial” plants?

A: Annual plants last one year or season. Perennials last many years.

If you choose annuals for color spots, you will need to replant them each year, unless the plants readily re-seeds themselves. Perennials persist over many years and do not need to be replaced each year. They are also good color accent plants.



Watering

Improper watering is the most common reason for plant loss during the establishment period. Understanding how and when to water is crucial to establishing a healthy drought tolerant plant.

- Water infrequently and deeply. The soil type, sun exposure, weather, and age of plant determines how often. Do not water if the top 3-4” are still moist for gallon size or larger pots. For plants from 4” pots, water when the top 1-2” of soil are dry.
- Supplement light winter rains that do not soak deeply with additional irrigation.

Know Your Soil



- Sandy – drains rapidly and dries out quickly;
- Clay – takes longer to saturate but retains moisture longer than sandy soils. If you have clay, irrigate less-frequently, but long and slowly to completely wet the root zone.

invasive plants

Stop them in their tracks

Keep them out of your garden and neighborhood!

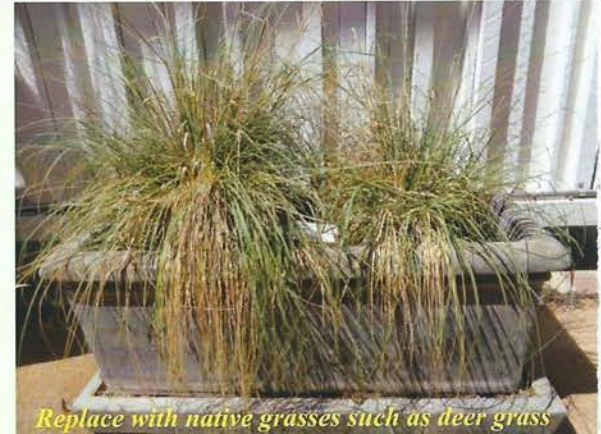


Fountain grass overtaking garden

California's climate allows us to have fantastic gardens comprised of ornamental plants from all around the world. Unfortunately, some of these have become extremely invasive, escaping gardens and growing so fast they crowd out native vegetation, block streams, and become serious fire hazards. If you see these invasive plants in your garden or if you are near a natural area, we recommend you remove them and replace with a native plant alternative.

Invasive Grasses

Fountain grass is a native of Africa. It has no natural enemies in Southern California and readily out-competes native plants, displacing habitat for California wildlife. It is extremely invasive, growing vigorously between gaps in concrete, bedrock, and natural slopes. Its shallow roots don't stabilize slopes like many of the native plants it displaces. It dries out early in summer and is more flammable than the native vegetation.



Replace with native grasses such as deer grass

Pampas grass is native to South America. This grass competes aggressively with native plants on roadsides, dunes, and coastal bluffs. It has razor-sharp leaves, likes dry and sunny areas, and catches fire quickly. It produces millions of seeds that can easily take over your garden and natural areas. Instead of using invasive plants, use California native bunch grasses. Two of many native grasses are shown as a replacement for invasive ornamental grasses.



Pampas Grass



Replace with Giant Wild Rye



**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

www.mwdh2o.com



**南加州華人環保協會(SCCAEPA)
Southern California Chinese American
Environmental Protection Association**

www.sccaepa.org

for more information >>>

*Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Grow
Native Nursery, Claremont, California*
www.rsabg.org

*Theodore Payne Foundation Gardens and
Nursery, Sun valley, California*
www.theodorepayne.org

California Native Plant Society
www.CNPS.org

California Invasive Plant Council
www.cal-ipc.org