



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

A Planting Guide for Orange County



Your Garden Matters

California native plants are a great landscaping choice for your home garden. Not only are they beautiful, they offer important benefits. Native gardens support the food webs, watersheds, and ecosystems upon which we all depend. The simple act of replacing your lawn with California native plants is a powerful way to make a difference.

-  Save water
-  Reduce maintenance
-  Cut pesticide use
-  Support local ecology
-  Help the birds and butterflies!



Tips for Success

Once established, a California native garden is easier and less expensive to maintain than traditional landscapes. Set your garden up for success with a few important tips - some might surprise you.

Plant with Care



1. **Choose the right time.** Plant fall through early spring to take advantage of cooler temperatures and rainfall.
2. **Plant with care.** Dig a hole 1.5x as deep as the plant and 2x as wide, leaving the crown a half inch higher than the ground. Create a circular berm around the edge of the hole to form a water basin.
3. **Room to breathe.** Make sure mulch doesn't touch the plant's crown or cover irrigation sources.
4. **Room to grow.** Space plants based on mature growth size to avoid an overgrown, wild look.

Water Like Mother Nature



Native plants require little irrigation beyond natural rainfall after their first year of planting. But that first year is important. Here's what you need to know:

- **Don't overwater.**
- **Water every 1-2 weeks after planting.** Native plants typically enjoy a regular "rainfall" for the first six months or so after planting.
- **Mimic the rain.** Native plants prefer overhead watering from an efficient sprinkler system or hand-watering. (Get an efficient irrigation device rebate at bewaterwise.com)
- **Use your senses.** As you transition from weekly watering to less frequent irrigation, keep an eye on your garden. Watch your plants and check the soil for signs of dryness before you water.



Did you know?

California has more than 6,000 types of native plants. That's more than any other state in the U.S.

Think Like a Watershed



Use your landscape to capture water and minimize run-off.

- **Contour your landscape** with berms, swales, and dry creek beds.
- **Use permeable surfaces** wherever possible to allow water to infiltrate into the soil below.
- **Direct water** from downspouts and driveways to your water capture designs and other permeable area to help keep water on site and benefit your plants.

Set Your Foundation



Evergreen plants and hardscapes provide structure to keep your garden green and attractive year-round.

- **Get shrubby.** Go for the flowers, but be sure to incorporate shrubs and small evergreens.
- **Get solid.** Pavers, decomposed granite, and other hardscapes provide consistency, form and firewise landscaping.
- **Go pro.** A landscape professional can ensure your design is both elegant and functional.

Right Plant, Right Place



Select the right native plants for your location. Start with the plants in this guide then consider your yard's unique conditions.

- Is it high sun or dense shade?
- Does your yard have poor drainage, or is it sandy?
- Your answers can help inform what plants you choose and where you place them.
- Then, group plants with similar water, sun and soil needs.

Know Friends from Foes



Rethink insects. Do you see a munched leaf? That may be a good thing. Native plants are an irreplaceable food source for local butterflies, bees, caterpillars, and the birds that eat them. Learn about beneficial insects at ipm.ucanr.edu.

Grasses



Clustered field sedge / *Carex praegracilis*

📍🌲☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 2' x spreads

Canyon Prince wild rye / *Elymus 'Canyon Prince'*

🌲☀️/☀️💧🌈 3' x 4'

Deergrass / *Muhlenbergia rigens*

📍🌲☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 4' x 4'

Groundcover



Yarrow / *Achillea millefolium*

📍🌲☀️/☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 2' x 1'

Nicolas chamise / *Adenostoma 'Nicolas'*

🌲☀️/☀️💧🌈 2' x 4'

Strawberry spp. / *Fragaria* spp.

🌲☀️/☀️💧/💧🌈 < 1' x 2+'

Catalina currant / *Ribes viburnifolium*

🌲☀️/☀️/☀️💧🌈 3' x 6'

Bee's Bliss sage / *Salvia 'Bee's Bliss'*

🌲☀️/☀️💧🌈 2' x 6'

Trees



Desert willow / *Chilopsis linearis*

🌲☀️💧💧🌈 15+' x 10+'

Coast live oak / *Quercus agrifolia*

📍🌲☀️/☀️💧/💧🌈 20-60' x 15-35'

Engelmann oak / *Quercus engelmannii*

📍🌲☀️/☀️💧/💧🌈 20-40' x 25-50'

Vines



Island bush snapdragon / *Gambella speciosa*

🌲☀️/☀️💧/💧🌈 3' x 10'

Desert grape / *Vitis girdiana*

📍🌲☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 10' x 30+'

Succulents

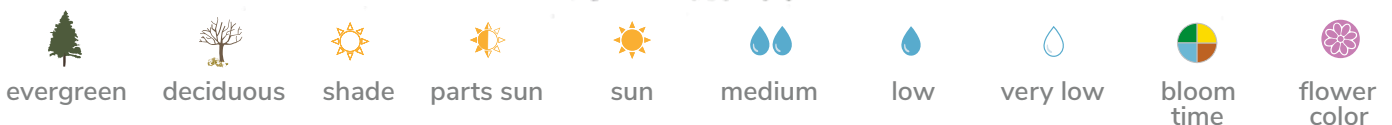


Fingertips / *Dudleya edulis*

🌲☀️/☀️/☀️💧🌈 < 1' x 1'

Chalk dudleya / *Dudleya pulverulenta*

📍🌲☀️/☀️/☀️💧🌈 1' x 1'



Large Shrubs



Coffeeberry / *Frangula californica*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 3-12' x 3-12'

Toyon / *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 12+' x 10+'

Hollyleaf cherry / *Prunus ilicifolia*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 12+' x 10+'

Lemonade berry / *Rhus integrifolia*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 10+' x 10+'

Medium Shrubs



Howard McMinn manzanita / *Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'*

🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 6' x 8'

Concha ceanothus / *Ceanothus 'Concha'*

🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 4' x 4'

Matilija poppy / *Romneya coulteri*

📍🌳☀️💧🌈 6' x 6'+

Small Shrubs / Perennials



Narrow leaf milkweed / *Asclepias fascicularis*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 3' x 2'

Catalina silverlace / *Constancea nevinii*

🌳☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 4' x 4'

California fuchsia / *Epilobium canum*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 1' x 2'

California buckwheat / *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧💧🌈 3' x 5'

Foothill penstemon / *Penstemon heterophyllus*

📍🌳☀️💧🌈 2' x 2'

Cleveland sage / *Salvia clevelandii*

📍🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 4' x 5'

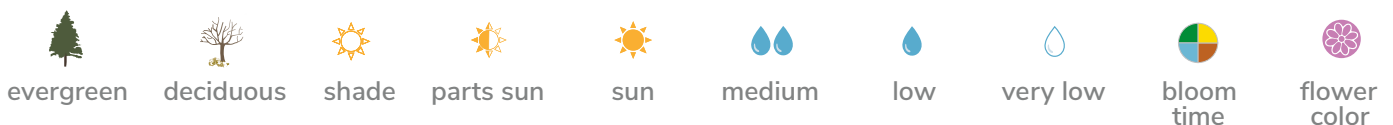
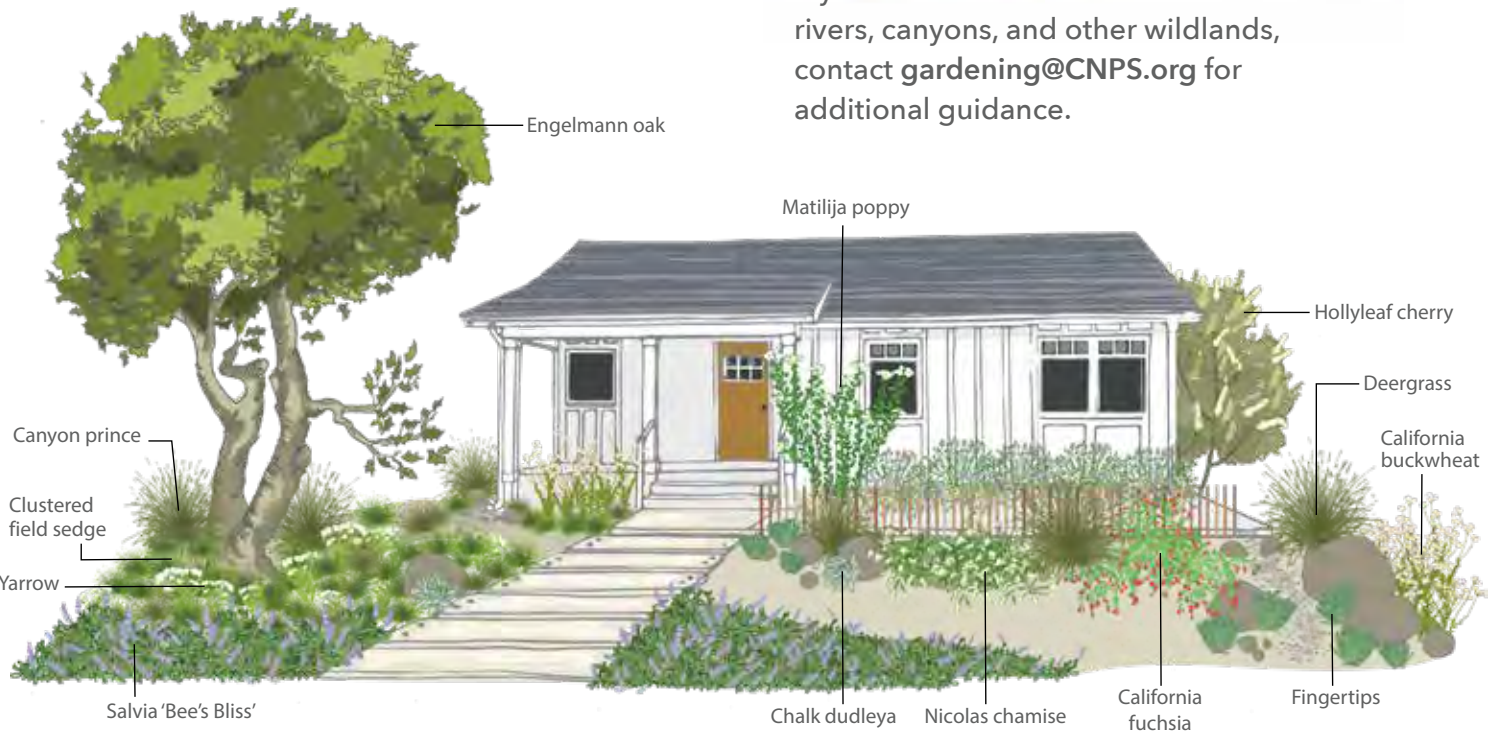
Desert mallow / *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 4' x 3'

Lilac verbena / *Verbena lilacina*

🌳☀️/☀️💧🌈 4' x 5'

If you live within a half mile of rivers, canyons, and other wildlands, contact gardening@CNPS.org for additional guidance.





Planning Your Native Plant Landscape

The California native palette offers a beautiful selection of plants for your landscaping needs, including trees of all sizes, evergreen shrubs, groundcovers, vines, perennial herbs, bulbs and colorful annuals.

In this planting guide, the California Native Plant Society provides a recommended starter list of native plants for your Orange County landscape. Use the sample design and plant list (on the inside of this guide) as inspiration. To expand your list, go to Calscape.org and enter your zip code to find more ideas for your location.



What is a California native plant?

From the mighty coastal redwoods to desert wildflowers and coastal succulents, California's native plants are cherished worldwide. These are the plants that grow here naturally and have evolved over thousands of years, long before European settlers. They are uniquely adapted to California's Mediterranean climate and form the foundation of our ecosystems.



All the plants on this list attract important wildlife. Go to Calscape.org to learn more.



Visit Us

More great information for your California native garden.

bewaterwise.com

Learn about Metropolitan Water District's rebate programs and see dozens of native plant profiles.

CNPS.org/gardening

Your one-stop resource from California's native plant experts.

Calscape.org

Discover which native plants grow best in your location and find nurseries near you.

Photos by Saxton Holt



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

bewaterwise.com