



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
East Bay Chapter
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Native Landscape Planting Guide

Starting a native plant garden doesn't have to be complicated. This easy guide takes the guesswork out of which plants to use where. Simply choose one of the garden vignettes below and select from recommended native plants listed on the inside of your guide.

✓ Low Water Use ✓ Pollinator Friendly ✓ Locally Native

▶ CHOOSE YOUR DESIGN

Five Easy Project Ideas for your Garden



Homey Habitat

Featuring a bench and bird bath, you can take a seat in this habitat and enjoy all of the bustling activity in your yard!
Features: bench, bird bath, boulders.



Colorful Entry

Make a statement in your entryway! Be sure to choose plants with a variety of colors.
Features: large pot, decorative round stones.



Wildlife Walkway

Take a stroll through your landscape. Use permeable materials for your pathway, such as stepping stones or decomposed granite.
Features: permeable walkway, large boulders.



Pollinator Park

Add excitement to the parkway strip along your driveway by adding plants that butterflies and other pollinators love.
Features: stepping stones and contrasting colors.



Living Wall

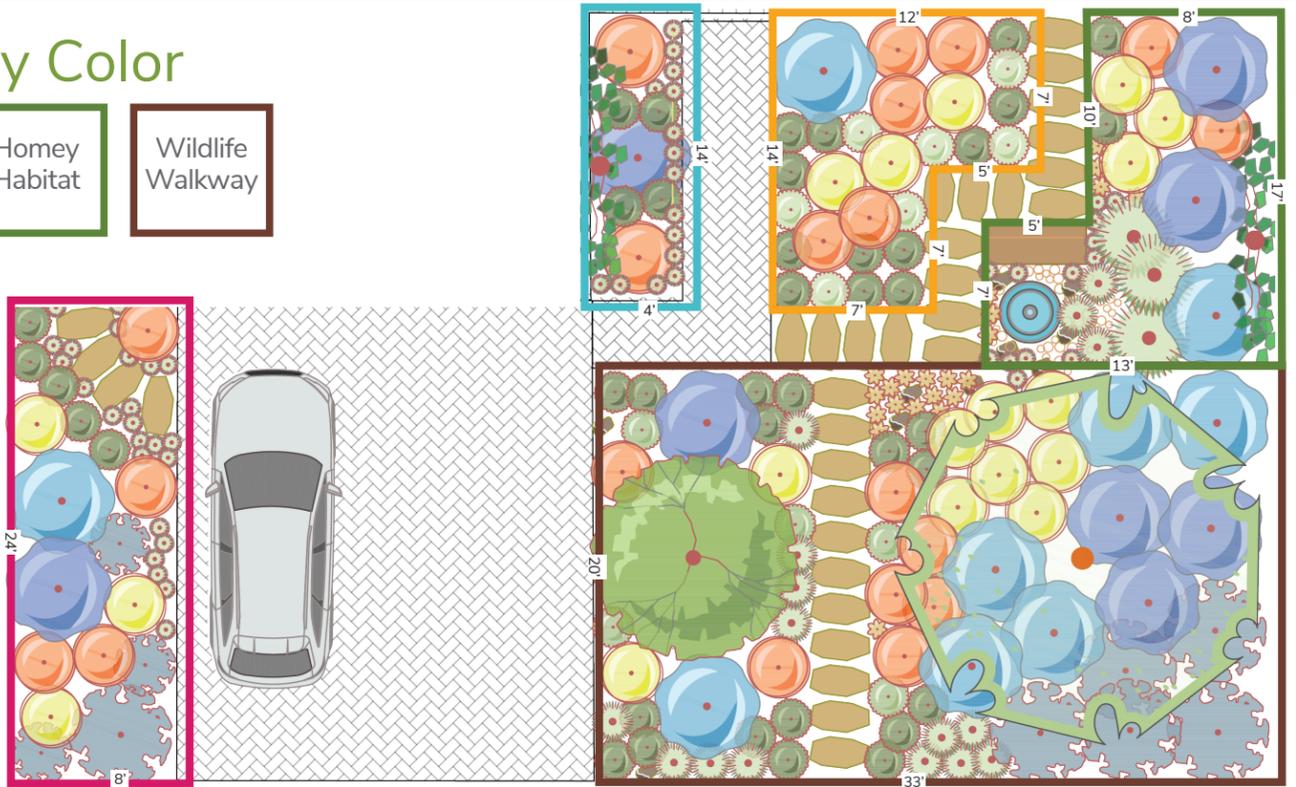
Designing your space vertically can add life to your yard. Use bold colors, and interesting shapes to make a flat area stand out.
Features: rain chain, swale, trellis.

▶ CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS

Vignettes Outlined By Color



1. Choose the design vignette that best fits the shape and size of your site.
2. Match the symbols with those in the plant list.
3. Select plants based on your site's sun exposure.
4. Bonus points for choosing locally native plants!



California Native Plant List

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SYMBOL	PLANT SPECIES	LOCAL	SUN	WATER	H/W	COLOR	WILDLIFE
TREES							
	Coast Live Oak / <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Y	☀☀	💧	25-80' 15-35'	—	🐦🦋
	Valley Oak / <i>Quercus lobata</i>	Y	☀☀	💧	60-100' 40-50'	—	🐦🦋
	Blue Elderberry / <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Y	☀☀	💧	6.5-26' 6-20'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
LARGE SHRUBS							
	Manzanita / <i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	Y	☀	💧	to 20' to 10'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Coyote Brush / <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	1.5-10' 12'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Ceanothus / <i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	5-12' 5-12'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	California Coffeeberry / <i>Frangula californica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	4-15' 5-15'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Silk Tassel Bush / <i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	6-16' 6-10'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Toyon / <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Y	☀	💧	6-30' 10-15'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Red-flowering Currant / <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Y	☀	💧	6.5-13' 7'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
MEDIUM SHRUBS							
	Evergreen						
	Sticky Monkeyflower / <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	3-5' 2-4'	🟡	🐦🦋
	California Huckleberry / <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	2-7' 12'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	California Sagebrush / <i>Artemisia californica</i>	Y	☀	💧	4-8' 4'	—	🐦🦋
	Black Sage / <i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	3-6' 10'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	California Rose / <i>Rosa californica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	8-10' 10'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Snowberry / <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	3-6' 6'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Deciduous						
SMALL SHRUBS							
	Evergreen						
	Oregon Grape / <i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	3.5-7' 6'	🟡	🐦🦋
	California Buckwheat / <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Y	☀	💧	1-6' 3'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Bush Lupine / <i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	3.2-5' 5'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Deciduous						
	Oceanspray / <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	3-16' 10-15'	🟡	🐦🦋
LOW SHRUBS							
	Evergreen						
	California Fuchsia / <i>Epilobium canum</i>	Y	☀	💧/💧	2-3' 3'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Yarrow / <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1-3' .5-1.5'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Gumplant / <i>Grindelia camporum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	2-6' 2-3'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Narrow-leaf Milkweed / <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1-3' 1'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Soap Plant / <i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1-3' 3-4'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Coyote Mint / <i>Monardella villosa</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	2' 2-3'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	California Buttercup / <i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	0.5-2' 0.5'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Checkerbloom / <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	0.5-1.5' 0.5'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Blue Eyed Grass / <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	0.5-1.5' 0.5'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	California Goldenrod / <i>Solidago velutina</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1.5-5' 3'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Deciduous						
SPREADING GROUNDCOVER							
	Wild Ginger / <i>Asarum caudatum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1' 5'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Yerba Buena / <i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	0.5' 3'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Wild Strawberry / <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	0.5' 5'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Douglas Iris / <i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	1' 4'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Western Sword Fern / <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	3-4' 4-5'	—	🐦🦋
	Self-heal / <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> var. lanceolata	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	0.5-1' 2'	🟡🟢	🐦🦋
	Pacific Aster / <i>Symphotrichum chilense</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	1-3' 3'	🟡	🐦🦋
GRASSES							
	Field Sedge / <i>Carex praegracilis</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	2-3.5' 3.5'	—	🐦🦋
	Blue Wildrye / <i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	2-4.5' 0.5-1'	—	🐦🦋
	California Fescue / <i>Festuca californica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	3-4' 3'	—	🐦🦋
	Spreading Rush / <i>Juncus patens</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	1-3' 3'	—	🐦🦋
	Torrey's Melic / <i>Melica torreyana</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	1-2' 2'	—	🐦🦋
	Foothill Needle Grass / <i>Stipa lepida</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	1-3.5' 0.5-1'	—	🐦🦋
	Purple Needle Grass / <i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	<4' 2'	—	🐦🦋
VINES							
	California Pipevine / <i>Aristolochia californica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧	to 3' to 20'	🟡	🐦🦋
	Pink Honeysuckle / <i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	3-6' 8'	🟡	🐦🦋
	California Wild Grape / <i>Vitis californica</i>	Y	☀☀☀	💧/💧	10-40' 1'	—	🐦🦋

SUN

- ☀ Full Sun
- ☀☀ Part Sun
- ☀☀☀ Shade

WATER

- 💧 Very Low
- 💧 Low
- 💧 Medium

Plants on this list have been carefully selected by your local East Bay Chapter.

Visit ebcnps.org/native-here for more information



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Visit Calsscape.org to find more plants native to your area.

▶ BRING YOUR DESIGN TO LIFE



Living Soil

Grass Removal – Still need to get rid of your lawn? Try sheet mulching!

- Layers of cardboard and mulch deprive grass of light.
- Layers decompose into nutrients for your new plants.
- Visit [CNPS.org/gardening](https://www.cnps.org/gardening) for more information!

Soil Amendment – Many native plants thrive in what we consider poor soil conditions!

- Add organic compost or worm castings to promote healthy soil.
- AVOID chemical fertilizers and other amendments.

Mulch – Retain moisture, feed your soils, and insulate your plants from heat and cold.

- Use organic, weed free, well-composted mulch with a fine to medium texture.
- Apply after planting, and in late spring and early fall.
- AVOID wood chips, large pieces of bark mulch, and synthetic materials. They deprive your soil and plants of nutrients.
- AVOID weed cloths, plastic, and other weed barriers. They prevent the natural cycle of nutrients through the soils, can kill the living biology in your soil, and are often ineffective at preventing weeds.

Hardscape – Use permeable surfaces wherever possible to allow water to soak in to the soil below.

- Stepping stones
- Gravel
- Permeable paving (at least 1/4" between pavers)
- Decomposed granite (DG)



Planting and Watering

Give your new CA native landscape a healthy start by following our online planting and watering guides.

Visit [CNPS.org/gardening](https://www.cnps.org/gardening) to learn more!



Create a Habitat

Water Feature – Pollinators, birds, and wildlife need water too!

- Add a bird bath, fountain or other water feature.

Bare Soil for Bees – Our ground dwelling, native bees need habitat! These bees are not aggressive, and will help keep your landscape flowering!

- Leave a few sunny areas of your landscape mulch free.



Garden Décor – Most importantly, have fun with your garden! Add a personal touch with your favorite décor.

- Boulders
- Rain Chain
- Decorative Pots
- Bird Feeders
- Bench
- Patio Table

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization with 35 local chapters dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of California's native plants and places.



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