

CA Natives for groundcovers

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Q. I removed my lawn last fall and planted some Calif. Natives but I am having problems with weeds and would like to add some ground covers that will go well with my planting. What would you suggest?

A. Adding some plants that have similar needs to the California Native Plants is a good idea. Here are a few suggestions for finding a ground cover that you like and will grow well in a Native Plant landscape.

Walk through our local McConnell Arboretum at Turtle Bay for ideas, they have a nice California Native Plant section, or check out the website at Las Pilitas Nursery <http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/groundcover.html>, they have pictures and descriptions of different native ground covers. Another website that has landscape ideas and pictures and won't limit you to just California Native plants is the water wise website sponsored by the City of Redding. <http://www.reddingwatersmart.com/>

A few things to keep in mind when choosing plants for the Redding area. Creeping Sage and Hummingbird sage and Yarrow all require shade and not much water once established. Dwarf coyote brush becomes unsightly and should be avoided. Pacific bleeding heart requires at least afternoon shade and moderate water. California fuchsia does well in full sun and is drought tolerant once established. Trailing Gazania or Creeping Thyme grow well in full sun with moderate water but are not California Natives.