









A Few Native Plants to Support Birds and other Native Wildlife NOTES: Supplement this cursory description of these plants with more detailed information available at the California Native Plant Society website, CalScape (calscape.org). Learn about plant growth habitats, planting and maintaining native plants, designing a native plant garden—and much more!

	Common Name (<i>Scientific name</i>)	Growth Habit & Flowering	Bird Support Provided	Key Bird Species & Other Biodiversity	Growing Conditions	Notes
 C. Callas, UC Master Gardener	Coast Live Oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	Tree; 25-80' tall & 15-35' wide; evergreen; produces catkins in spring and acorns in fall	1) Acorns; Production varies greatly by year 2) Catkins provide food 3) Many insects on oaks provide food 4) Nesting & roosting	* Acorn woodpeckers, scrub jays, wrens, bluebirds, robins, Bullock's orioles, yellow-rumped warblers, to name a few * 41 confirmed species of butterflies/moths; 122 likely supported	1) Plant by acorn or as small a tree 2) Plant in rainy season 3) Grows in wide range of soils, not sand 4) Full sun 5) Accepts pruning	Very hardy tree; grows well throughout the Bay area; a champion species for wildlife support
 L. Trulio, UC Master Gardener	California Fuchsia (<i>Epilobium canum</i>)	Perennial herbaceous; abundant showy red flowers in summer with attractive green leaves	Flowers for nectar throughout summer	* Hummingbirds * Native bees and honey bees	1) Water first year for survival & thereafter for greenery & blooms 2) Cut back in rainy season for abundant growth the next year 3) Grows in a wide range of soils & sand 4) Full or partial sun	Very attractive plant throughout summer; spreads aggressively; can be grown in a large pot
 USFWS	Toyon (<i>Heteromeles artutifolia</i>)	Large bush; 6-30' tall & 10-15' wide; evergreen; flowers in summer; red berries through fall and winter	1) Flowers attract birds and pollinators 2) Berries for food in the winter 3) Nesting and roosting	Cedar waxwings, hermit thrush, robin, mockingbirds	1) Grows in a range of soils, not sand 2) Full sun	An iconic California species; beautiful year-round, especially in winter

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	Coast Buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>)	Herbaceous perennial; 1' tall, 1-3' wide; evergreen; flowers early summer	Supports 42 species of moths/butterflies= caterpillars for birds! Seeds are food source for birds	Seeds eaten by Finches, juncos, towhees, sparrows. 19 species of native bees rely on this plant.	1) Full Sun 2) Low maintenance 3) Will tolerate salt spray 4) Loves fast drainage	Mass plantings can form a dense ground cover that chokes out weeds
 C. Callas, UC Master Gardener	Sage (various species) [<i>Salvia spathacea</i> , <i>S. clevelandii</i> , <i>S. leucophylla</i> , <i>S. mellifera</i>]	Range from ground cover to medium shrubs 4' tall x 8' wide	Seeds for goldfinches, sparrows, quail. Tubular flowers loved by hummingbirds!	Great nectar plants for native bees, butterflies, including monarchs. Recommended by Xerces Society.	1) Full Sun 2) Generally fast drainage, but some cultivars tolerate clay 3) Requires pruning to look its best	Resinous leaves with beautiful, strong aromas. My vote for the 3 best looking cultivars year- round: <i>Salvia</i> Pt. Sal, <i>Salvia</i> Bee's Bliss, and any <i>spathacea</i> .
 C. Callas, UC Master Gardener	Blueblossom <i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Range from large scale ground cover, to shrub, to small tree 20' tall x 10' wide	Food, shelter, nesting sites.	120 caterpillar species use this as a host plant! Bushtits, chickadees, mockingbirds, finches eat the seeds.	1) Partial shade to full sun 2) No summer water once established! 3) Grows well in a variety of soils	Evergreen, versatile and fast growing. Tough plant that thrives even in highway medians.

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 C. Callas, UC Master Gardener	California Wax Myrtle (<i>Morella californica</i> , <i>Myrica californica</i>)	Evergreen upright shrub 6-30' tall, 20' wide. Fast grower, ideal for hedges. Afternoon shade in non-coastal areas.	Seeds for birds, flowers for pollinators, nesting/food for moths and butterflies and their caterpillars.	Hosts 22 moths and butterfly species and caterpillars.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Full sun on the coast, afternoon shade inland. 2) Fast grower, ideal as a hedge. 3) Can be easily shaped and pruned. 4) Water 1x/wk once established. 	Evergreen plant that makes a great hedge in coastal areas.
 C. Callas, UC Master Gardener	Coffeeberry or California Buckthorn 'Eve Case' (<i>Frangula californica</i> , <i>Rhamnus californica</i>)	Dense evergreen rounded shrub up to 6' tall and wide, slow growing	Host plant for butterflies, berries feed the birds.	Hosts up to 33 butterflies and moths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tolerates full sun in coastal, but needs shade or part shade inland. 2) Slow growth with rounded form 	'Eve Case' is a horticultural selection. Great ornamental for the berries. Prized for its red berries in fall/winter.
 C. Walworth, UC Master Gardener	Valley Oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	Large rounded deciduous tree, up to 100' tall, 50' wide.	Hosts birds, caterpillars and butterflies/moths.	Hosts up to 168 butterflies and moths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Taps into valley water tables for summer water 2) Thrives in warmer areas and valley floors 3) May be too large for most residential gardens 	Magnificent when mature, with distinct irregular branches and ridged bark.

Pointers for Supporting Birds:

- Avoid herbicides, pesticides and rodenticides, as these kill birds and bird food.
- Plant in layers - low growing, medium height, and tall to provide structure for shelter.
- Provide food resources year-round.
- Prune as little as possible and leave leaves and snags when you can to provide shelter and food resources.
- Provide a water source, as birds and bees need this.
- Keep resources away from windows to avoid bird strikes. Put bird-deflecting films on windows.
- Keep cats indoors. Maybe give them a “catio”!

Native Species Planting and Care Notes:

1. Plant in native soil during the rainy season.
2. Do not use fertilizers or pesticides.
3. Here is how to water native plants:

- **Year 1 (while establishing)**

A general rule is to keep the soil moist but not wet until the plant doubles in size or for the first year. What does this actually mean? Move some mulch in a couple places around the plant and feel the top of the soil. Is it clearly moist? Don't water! Is it dry? Stick your index finger in the soil 2-3” if you can. Still dry? Water! This can be tricky because your skin will register coolness as moisture. You can use a soil probe or chopstick to help.

Water in a wide circle around the plant. Try not to get the leaves wet. Water deeply. Do not just splash some water on top of the soil and call it a day. You want to ensure the entire depth of the root-ball is moist and perhaps even a little deeper. Remember: clay soil is extremely different from sandy soil. Clay will hold onto water much longer, and water will spread out much further in the soil. But, it will take much longer for the water to percolate down deeply. In sandy soil, water goes straight down quite quickly. Roots of native plants tend to be MUCH wider than the plant, more shallow than we often realize. Think about this when you water an established plant. Its roots are reaching out far beyond the crown of the plant—often several feet.

- **After year 1 (established native plants)**

Do not water when it is hot. Warmth + moisture = fungal growth. Plants can get diseases, and some particularly sensitive plants can collapse and die when watered in the summertime. Plants that are native to your local conditions will survive on rainfall alone. They will typically look healthier though with a little supplemental water. To accomplish this: water deeply once every 4-6 weeks outside the rainy season. Choose cool, overcast, foggy days and water in the morning or evening. Know your plant! Some native plants can handle water once a week throughout the summertime. Some plants cannot tolerate any. Use resources, such as, CalScape (calscape.org) to learn about each plant's needs.