

## RESOURCES FOR KEYSTONE PLANTS & PLANT COMMUNITIES



### PLANT COMMUNITIES

Calscape. <https://calscape.org/>. Part of California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Search for native plants by location and by name. Get description, water and light needs, natural setting and landscaping information. Check out the [Garden Like Nature](#) section for info on plant communities.

[Local Native Plants for Nevada County Plant Communities](#). CNPS Redbud. Lists many of the more common natives local to Nevada County for the most widespread local plant communities, specifically oak savannah, chaparral, oak woodland, yellow pine forest, and foothill riparian. To aid in garden design, plants are grouped by understory, mid-story, and overstory.

Hanofee, Shane. [Botanizing Nevada and Placer Counties](#). *CNPS Redbud*. Shane takes us on a journey through the plant communities of both Redbud counties, from the valley floor to the eastern Sierra. Video on YouTube.

[Local Native Plants for Nevada County Plant Communities](#). CNPS Redbud Chapter. Lists many of the more common natives local to Nevada County for the most widespread local plant communities. To aid in garden design, plants are grouped by understory, mid-story, and overstory.

Keator, Glenn and Alrie Middlebrook, *Designing California Native Gardens*. University of California Press, 2007. Uses the plant-community approach to design artful, ecological gardens. Includes places to see.

Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society. *Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties*, California. Redbud Chapter, 2014. Comprehensive text and clear photos for plant identification. Helpful comments on each plant and its needs. Also *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties*, California. Redbud Chapter, 2017. A comprehensive guide to local wildflowers, including IDs and where to see.

### KEYSTONE PLANTS

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). <http://www.cnps.org/>

Redbud Chapter of CNPS. <https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/> **Local** chapter of the CA Native Plant Society for Nevada and Placer Counties. Download info, especially under “Gardening” and “Resources.”

- “The ‘Big 43’ for Nevada and Placer Counties.” Local natives that have evolved with beneficials and are specifically adapted to our climate and soils.  
<http://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/03/43-local-native-plants-for-pollinators.pdf>
- Special Native Landscape Planting Guide for Nevada & Placer Counties.  
<http://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/03/redbud-cnps-native-landscape-planting-guide.pdf>

Frankie, Gordon W., Robbin W. Thorp, Rollin E. Coville, and Barbara Ertter. *California Bees & Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists*. Heyday: Berkeley, CA. California’s bee types, their natural enemies, and plant profiles for many of California’s best bee attractants, including flowering season.

Fowler, Jarrod. Pollen Specialist Bees of the Western United States. 2020. Compiles associations among native pollen specialist bees and native host plants from the Western United States.

[https://jarrodfowler.com/pollen\\_specialist.html](https://jarrodfowler.com/pollen_specialist.html)

National Wildlife Federation. [Keystone Plants by Ecoregion](#). Try [Mediterranean California](#) & (for higher elevations) [Northwestern Forested Mountains](#).

Tallamy, Douglas W. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Timber Press, 2007. An entomologist, the author explains the importance of native plants versus exotic plants for our ecosystem. Includes plant lists for specific geographical areas in the United States. Also *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*. Timber Press, 2020.

Darke, Rick, and Tallamy, Douglas W. *The Living Landscape*. Timber Press, 2014. Walk through designing native home garden landscapes by observing nature in the wild and at home, then applying plant communities and layering to your own home garden.

[Homegrown National Park](#). Empowering private land owners with the resources to plant natives and remove invasive species in their communities.

Few keystone plant genera support the majority of Lepidoptera species. Desiree Lanago, Douglas Tallamy, Kimberley Shropshire. *Nature Communications*. 11: 5751. (2020).

[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19565-4?utm\\_id=97758\\_v0\\_s00\\_e0\\_tv4\\_a1dennhbfhttzv](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19565-4?utm_id=97758_v0_s00_e0_tv4_a1dennhbfhttzv)

Gardening for Birds. *234 Birds*. Birds need at least 70 percent (two-thirds) native plants within foraging range to maintain healthy population levels. Advice for the landowner to reach that goal.

<https://234birds.org/>

Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Sierran Steppe. *Pollinator*. <https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/SierranSteppe.rx3.pdf>

Krystle Hickman. "[Plant It and They Will Come: Supporting California's 1,600 Native Bees](#)." (Video of lecture). *UCLA*. October 21, 2025.

## PLACES TO SEE NATIVE PLANTS

- Native gardens at **Master Gardener** Demonstration Garden, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley
- Sac. Valley Native Plant Garden Tour. April.  
[www.sacvalleycnps.org/fairsevents/gardens-gone-native](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/fairsevents/gardens-gone-native)
- UC Davis Arboretum. Native-plant sections. [arboretum.ucdavis.edu/places-to-see](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/places-to-see)
- Bear Yuba Land Trust trails
  - Hirschman Trail in Nevada City <https://www.bylt.org/trail/hirschman-trail/>
  - Wildflower Ridge Trail in Grass Valley <https://www.bylt.org/trail/wildflower-ridge-trail/>
  - Eastern Independence Trail (wheelchair accessible) in South Yuba River State Park  
<https://www.bylt.org/trail/independence-trail-east/>

## NATIVE PLANT SALES

- Master Gardeners of Nevada County Spring Plant Sale. May. Some native plants. [ncmg.ucanr.edu](http://ncmg.ucanr.edu)
- [Redbud Chapter of CNPS](https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/plant-sale/) Fall Native Plant Sale, online Saturday, October 3.  
<https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/plant-sale/>
- Plant sales of other CNPS chapters, e.g., [Sacramento Valley](#).
- [UC Davis Arboretum Public Plant Sales](#). Some native plants.