

# RESOURCES FOR BRINGING CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR GARDEN

## PLACES TO SEE NATIVE PLANTS

Oak Habitat, **Master Gardener** Demonstration Garden, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley (NID grounds)

California Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Sacramento Chapter, CNPS (within Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento) (Search for it in Sacramento CNPS Chapter's website.) <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/native-plant-gardening/shcc-demo-garden>.

Sacramento Valley Native Plant Garden Tour. April (after pandemic).  
<https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/fairsevents/gardens-gone-native>

UC Davis Arboretum. Native plant sections. <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/places-to-see>

## NATIVE PLANT SALES

Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale (pandemic permitting), 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley (NID grounds). Some native plants.

[Redbud Chapter of CNPS](#) plans a small online, Covid-safe sale in early May, with a larger sale in Fall.

[Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS](#) plans to have a significant Covid-safe Fall native plant sale.

UC Davis Arboretum Public Plant Sales. See their website for future dates. Some native plants.  
<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>

**BOOKS** *Starred books are particularly helpful for finding "the right plant for the right place."*

\*Bornstein, Carol, David Fross and Bart O'Brien. *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Cachuma Press, 2005. Filled with photos and descriptions of specific native species and named varieties. Lists plants for a wide assortment of circumstances, including allergenic plants, aromatic foliage, fast- and slow-growing plants, under oak trees, etc. Also *Reimagining the California Lawn*. Cachuma Press, 2011.

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 multiple types of bees, their natural enemies, and plant profiles for many of California's best bee attractants, including their flowering season.

Funk, Alicia, and Karin Kaufman. *Living Wild: Gardening, Cooking and Healing with Native Plants of California*. Flicker Press, Second Edition, 2013. Written by local authors and full of interesting information, including how to grow specific plants and how to use them as food.

Keator, Glenn and Alrie Middlebrook, *Designing California Native Gardens*. University of California Press, 2007. Uses the plant-community approach to design artful, ecological gardens. Discusses where to go to see the plants growing and where to buy them.

Larner, Judith, *Gardening with a Wild Heart*. University of California Press, 1999. Combines personal story, wildland ecology, restoration gardening practices, and California native plant horticulture.

Larner, Judith, *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays*, University of California Press, 2007. Lyrical yet practical guide to backyard restoration gardening; celebrating the beauty, challenges and rewards of growing native plants at home.

- \*Nevada County Master Gardeners. *Western Nevada County Gardening Guide*. 2020 Edition. All about gardening in the Sierra foothills, with good chapters on native plants and on soils.
- Popper, Helen. *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*. University of California Press, 2012. Like chatting with an experienced gardener, with many hints for the ongoing care of plants.
- \*Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society. *Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties, California*. Redbud Chapter, 2014. Comprehensive text and definitive photos for plant identification. The “Comments” section on each plant is helpful in understanding the plant and its needs. Also *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California*. Redbud Chapter, 2017. A comprehensive guide to local wildflowers with good photos and text to help with identification. Includes directions for hiking trails to view wildflowers.
- \*Rubin, Greg, and Warren, Lucy. *The Drought-Defying California Garden: 230 Native Plants for a Lush, Low-Water Landscape*. Timber Press. 2016. Great tips on how to establish and maintain 230 native plants that work well in the garden. Detailed info on each species; oriented toward plant communities.
- Rubin, Greg, and Warren, Lucy. *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner’s Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance*. Portland: Timber Press. 2013. Though a Southern California orientation influences the native plants and plant communities discussed, these authors also provide strong coverage on design principles and garden style options, installation, and pests and diseases.
- Schmidt, Marjorie G. and Katherine Greenberg. *Growing California Native Plants*. University of California Press, Second Edition, 2012. An updated classic source for growing and propagating natives, with lists of plants for a variety of conditions.
- \*Smith, M. Nevin. *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California*. University of California Press, 2006. A retired California horticulturalist has written about his favorite native plants and selected varieties, helping with plant decisions and giving cultural advice.
- Tallamy, Douglas W. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Timber Press, 2007. As an entomologist, the author explains the importance of native plants versus exotic plants for the survival of our ecosystem. Plant lists at the back of the book are specific to geographical areas in the United States.
- Tallamy, Douglas W. *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*. Timber Press, 2020. Tallamy shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

## **WEBSITES, BLOGPOSTS AND ARTICLES** *Starred sites are good places to start.*

- \*California Native Plant Society (CNPS). <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/>. Extensive information on gardening with native plants. Also check out websites for our local Redbud Chapter and for the Sacramento Valley chapter.
- \* Calscape. <https://calscape.org/>. Identification and search for native plants by location and by name. Results group plants by types such as shrubs, trees, easy, etc. Click a plant for its description, water-use/sun/shade needs, natural setting and landscaping information, as well as nurseries selling that plant. Build your own plant lists. From CNPS.
- \* Calscape Garden Planner. <https://gardenplanner.calscape.org/> Find the perfect native plants for your garden in just four questions. Based on the CNPS Calscape app.
- \*Redbud Chapter of CNPS. <https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/> **Local** chapter of the CA Native Plant Society for Nevada and Placer Counties; has much downloadable information, accessible by

exploring “Gardening.” They hold an annual fall native plant sale with over 2000 plants. Many valuable handouts about gardening with natives in our area.

Special Native Landscape Planting Guide for Nevada & Placer Counties.

<http://www.redbud-cnps.org/pdf/redbud-cnps-native-landscape-planting-guide.pdf>

[Native Gardening Inspiration - Local Native Plants for Local Plant Communities](#). List of many common local natives, noted by plant community and arranged by vertical layer in the landscape.

“The ‘Big 43’ for Nevada and Placer Counties.” List of 43 local natives that have co-evolved with beneficials and are specifically adapted to our climate and soils. <http://www.redbud-cnps.org/pdf/43-local-native-pollinator-plants.pdf>.

Calflora. <http://www.calflora.org/>. Search on a plant’s name to see its distribution in California, location suitability for growing the plant, name changes, etc. Photos helpful for ID. See “What Grows Here,” “Great Places,” and other useful menu items on left. Choose “Plant Guide” to enter address and see wild plants (native and non-native).

Cal Flora Nursery. <https://www.calfloranursery.com/>. Use their Plant Finder to filter by one or more variables, such as desired plant type, water need, bloom time, exposure, flower color, or characteristics, e.g., drought tolerant, attracts birds, deer-resistant, edible, meadow, under oaks. Descriptions of individual species and varieties. No mail order; visit nursery north of Santa Rosa.

East Bay Wilds Nursery – Photos of native-plant landscape design by East Bay nurseryman. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eastbaywilds/collections/72157600017422082/>.

“How to Plant Successful Gardens with California Native Plants.” Greg Rubin. Irrigation and Green Industry. June 18, 2018. <https://igin.com/article-6653-How-to-plant-successful-gardens-with-California-native-plants.html>. Detailed information and recommendations from an experienced native landscaper about what works for natives in terms of irrigation, use of compost, the importance of plant communities.

“Importance of Backyard Native Plants to Birds: Biodiversity for the Birds” University of Delaware. <https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2018/october/non-native-plants-birds-insects-washington-chickadee-desiree-narango-doug-tallamy/>. (Or search in your browser for “biodiversity birds U Delaware.”)

Larner Seed Company. <https://larnerseeds.com/> Under “CA native seeds,” you may select a type of plant (tree, annual wildflower, etc.); then you can shop by butterfly or pollinator-friendly plants. Clicking one of the resulting displayed photos opens a good description.

Las Pilitas Nursery. [www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com). Southern Central CA. Coast native nursery provides detailed plant descriptions, needs, and garden uses, as well as many articles on native gardening.

“Planting Under Oaks.”

[http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/Sonoma Gardener Articles/Planting Around Oak Trees/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/Sonoma_Gardener_Articles/Planting_Around_Oak_Trees/). Sonoma County Master Gardener gives guidelines for planting under oak trees, with suggested plant list.

Pollinator Partnership. <https://www.pollinator.org>. Manages programs to improve pollinator health across North America and beyond, with extensive resources for learning about pollinators. Also:

“Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Sierran Steppe.” <https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/SierranSteppe.rx3.pdf> (Click link; then document starts to download.) Lengthy booklet on the need for pollinators, with good regional plants list, including season of bloom and pollinators they attract.

Theodore Payne Foundation. <http://theodorepayne.org/>. A Southern California nursery and educational organization promoting California native plant gardening. They have extensive online native plant descriptions, plus a search tool to find plants for specific landscape purposes. Click “Learn” tab.

Tree of Life. <https://californianativeplants.com/plants/plantcatalogdownload/>. This Southern California nursery provides information on growing a native plant garden and lists of plants various conditions and landscape uses. No mail order.

UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars. [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum\\_all\\_stars.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx). In this list of 100 plants that have proven successful in California gardens, easily find natives that match your garden conditions and preferences. Helpful info on growing native and drought-tolerant plants.

UC Davis Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven. Bee Gardening Resources. Facts and plant lists for gardening for bees, from campus bee garden.  
<https://beegarden.ucdavis.edu/BeeGardeningResources>

Western Monarch Count.org. <https://www.westernmonarchcount.org/>. Much info on monarchs and on doing the annual count of the western population of overwintering monarchs.

WUCOLS. <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS>. Guidance in the selection and care of landscape plants based on their water needs.

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. <https://xerces.org>. Focus on conservation of invertebrates (such as butterflies and other pollinators) and their habitat. Their Pollinator Resource Center has a section on the California Sierra Foothills Region for plant lists, publications, native seed vendors, and other resources that support pollinator habitat. <https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/california>

Yerba Buena Nursery. <http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/GardenGuides.php>. Find articles about when and how to prune common native plants, garden design, replacing your lawn, butterfly gardens and more. Yerba Buena, in the Bay Area, was one of the earliest native plant nurseries.

#### ***Websites Based on Personal Experience:***

“Bridgeport’s Springtime Treasures.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be8ReJfYWbU>. View a 23-minute wildflower video about the Buttermilk Bend trail of South Yuba River State Park.

Darlene Ward on native plants. <http://pages.suddenlink.net/darleneward/index.html>. Darlene’s site on beginning a native plant garden in the foothills, using her home subdivision property to illustrate.

#### **DEFENSIBLE-SPACE RESOURCES RELATED TO NATIVE PLANTS**

“Firewise Landscaping for Zone 1 Defensible Space.” *Redbud News*, Spring 2018. <http://www.redbud-cnps.org/newsletters/2018-spring.pdf>.

National Fire Protection Association. <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Nevada County Firesafe Council. <https://www.areyoufiresafe.com/>