

“WHAT MAKES NATIVE GARDENING SPECIAL” - RESOURCES

BOOKS *Starred books are particularly helpful for plant communities.*

Bornstein, Carol, David Fross and Bart O'Brien. *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Cachuma Press, 2005. Filled with photos and descriptions of 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 bee types & their natural enemies, with plant profiles and flowering seasons, for many of our best bee attractants.

*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.

Nevada County Master Gardeners. *Western Nevada County Gardening Guide*. 2020 Edition. All about gardening in the Sierra foothills, with chapters on native plants, trees (including a section on native trees), and soils.

*Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society. *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. Directions for hiking trails to view wildflowers. Includes descriptions of plant habitats and associates each species with corresponding habitats.

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. Comments on each plant are helpful in understanding the plant and its needs.

*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 SoCal orientation influences native plants and plant communities discussed, the authors also provide strong coverage on design principles and garden style options, installation tips, 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.

Tallamy, Douglas W. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Timber Press, 2007. Tallamy, an entomologist, explains the importance of native plants versus exotic plants for the survival of our ecosystem. Includes plant lists specific to U.S. regions.

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 info on gardening with native plants. Check out websites for Redbud and for Sacramento Valley chapters.

[Habitat Gardening](#). Supporting native birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife with our gardens, with some local native plants and with plant community design.

[Ideas for Gardening with California Native Plants](#). Wonderful lists of natives to plants for various landscapes, including shade garden, riparian, and foothill native grassland and wildflower field.

[Highlights from 2019 Native Garden Tours](#). Small array of photos from native garden tours sponsored by CNPS chapters in 2019.

*Redbud Chapter of CNPS. <https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/>. Much downloadable information, under “Plants” and under “Gardening.” Particularly valuable:

Special Native Landscape Planting Guide for Nevada & Placer Counties.

<https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/03/redbud-cnps-native-landscape-planting-guide.pdf>

“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>.

*Calscape. <http://calscape.cnps.org/loc-California>. 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 description, water, sun/shade needs, natural setting and landscaping information, and nurseries selling that plant. From CNPS.

Calscape California Native Plant Gardening Guide. <https://calscape.org/planting-guide.php> Great information on how to select local native plants, & on installation and watering.

Calflora. <http://www.calflora.org/>. Search on a plant’s name to see its distribution in California, location needs, name changes, and other useful links. Good photos, often helpful for ID.

Cal Flora Nursery. <https://www.calfloranursery.com/>. Use their Plant Finder to filter by variables such as plant type, water need, bloom time, exposure, flower color, or characteristics, e.g., drought tolerant, attracts birds, deer-resistant, edible, meadow, under oaks. Description of each species.

“DIY Soil Drainage Perk Test for Your Yard.”

[https://extension.tennessee.edu/Williamson/Horticulture/Consumer%20Horticulture/DIY%20Soil%20Drainage%20Perk%20Test%20for%20Your%20Yard%20\(2016\).pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/Williamson/Horticulture/Consumer%20Horticulture/DIY%20Soil%20Drainage%20Perk%20Test%20for%20Your%20Yard%20(2016).pdf) Step-by-step directions for how to test the drainage characteristics of your soil. Easy; requires no special tools or knowledge.

East Bay Wilds Nursery. Photos of native-plant landscape design by East Bay nurseryman.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/eastbaywilds/collections/72157600017422082/>.

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

“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>. An experienced native landscaper gives detailed information about what works for natives for irrigation, use of compost, and 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/>. (Put “biodiversity birds U Delaware” in your browser.)

Larner Seed Company. <https://www.larnerseeds.com/icon/term/pollinator-friendly-plants>. Lists pollinator plants with photos. Clicking a photo opens good description.

Las Pilitas Nursery. 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.

<http://www.mynativeplants.com/> Online app from Las Pilitas Nursery. Answer questions about your location and watering intentions and type of plant community you intend to build, and the application generates a list of plants meeting these criteria. Not perfect but potentially useful.

“Planting Around Oak Trees.” A Sonoma County Master Gardener provides guidelines for planting under oak trees and a link to an extended list of plants.

http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/Sonoma_Gardener_Articles/Planting_Around_Oak_Trees/.

“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> Big booklet on need for pollinators, with good list of regional plants, plus season of bloom and pollinators they attract.

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

Tree of Life. <http://californianativeplants.com>. This SoCal nursery provides information on growing a native plant garden and list of plants for seasonal color. Click “Plants” and “Resources” tabs.

The World’s Biomes. <https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibits/biomes/index.php> UC Museum of Paleontology. Detailed, well-written descriptions of biomes (major communities and how fauna adjust to them) that include plant habitats, referencing those in western North America.

WUCOLS. <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS>. Guidance in the selection and care of landscape plants based on their water needs. Learn how much water any species needs where you live.

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>. Articles about when and how to prune common native plants, garden design, butterfly gardens and more.

Websites Based on Personal Experience:

Darlene Ward on native plants. <http://pages.suddenlink.net/darleneward/index.html>. Experienced Redbud member (and Master Gardener) on beginning a native plant garden in the foothills.

Sierra Foothill Garden. <https://sierrafoothillgarden.com/>. Sue Langley moved to the central Sierra foothills and began native plant gardening. Her blog is informative and inspiring because she shares as she learns.