



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Yerba Buena Chapter
San Francisco and
Northern San Mateo Counties

Native Landscape Planting Guide

Starting a native plant garden doesn't have to be complicated. This easy guide takes the guesswork out of which plants to use where. Simply choose one of the garden vignettes below and select from recommended native plants listed on the inside of your guide.

✓ Low Water Use ✓ Pollinator Friendly ✓ Locally Native

▶ CHOOSE YOUR DESIGN

Five Easy Project Ideas for your Garden



Homey Habitat

Featuring a bench and bird bath, you can take a seat in this habitat and enjoy all of the bustling activity in your yard!
Features: bench, bird bath, boulders.



Colorful Entry

Make a statement in your entryway! Be sure to choose plants with a variety of colors.
Features: large pot, decorative round stones.



Wildlife Walkway

Take a stroll through your landscape. Use permeable materials for your pathway, such as stepping stones or decomposed granite.
Features: permeable walkway, large boulders.



Pollinator Park

Add excitement to the parkway strip along your driveway by adding plants that butterflies and other pollinators love.
Features: stepping stones and contrasting colors.



Living Wall

Designing your space vertically can add life to your yard. Use bold colors, and interesting shapes to make a flat area stand out.
Features: rain chain, swale, trellis.

▶ BRING YOUR DESIGN TO LIFE



Living Soil

Grass Removal – Still need to get rid of your lawn? Try sheet mulching!

- Layers of cardboard and mulch deprive grass of light.
- Layers decompose into nutrients for your new plants.
- Visit [CNPS.org/gardening](https://www.cnps.org/gardening) for more information!

Soil Amendment – Many native plants thrive in what we consider poor soil conditions!

- Add organic compost or worm castings to promote healthy soil.
- AVOID chemical fertilizers and other amendments.

Mulch – Retain moisture, feed your soils, and insulate your plants from heat and cold.

- Use organic, weed free, well-composted mulch with a fine to medium texture.
- Apply after planting, and in late spring and early fall.
- AVOID wood chips, large pieces of bark mulch, and synthetic materials. They deprive your soil and plants of nutrients.
- AVOID weed cloths, plastic, and other weed barriers. They prevent the natural cycle of nutrients through the soils, can kill the living biology in your soil, and are often ineffective at preventing weeds.

Hardscape – Use permeable surfaces wherever possible to allow water to soak in to the soil below.

- Stepping stones
- Gravel
- Permeable paving
- Decomposed granite (DG) (at least 1/4" between pavers)



Planting and Watering

Give your new CA native landscape a healthy start by following our online planting and watering guides.

Visit [CNPS.org/gardening](https://www.cnps.org/gardening) to learn more!



Create a Habitat

Water Feature – Pollinators, birds, and wildlife need water too!

- Add a bird bath, fountain or other water feature.


Bare Soil for Bees – Our ground dwelling, native bees need habitat! These bees are not aggressive, and will help keep your landscape flowering!

- Leave a few sunny areas of your landscape mulch free.



Garden Décor – Most importantly, have fun with your garden! Add a personal touch with your favorite décor.

- Boulders
- Rain Chain
- Decorative Pots
- Bird Feeders
- Bench
- Patio Table



The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization with 35 local chapters dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of California's native plants and places.



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