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.

**North Coast Chapter**
Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and W. Siskiyou County

**Choose Your Design**

Five Easy Project Ideas for your Garden

1. **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.

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

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.
Plants on this list have been carefully selected by your local North Coast Chapter.
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 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 with a 3-4” layer of mulch.
- Use organic, weed free, well-composted mulch with a fine to medium texture.
- Wood chips are a good mulch material when placed on the soil surface (not mixed into the soil). Keep the chips pulled slightly away from the crowns of the plants.
- AVOID after planting, and in late spring and early fall.
- 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
- Decomposed granite (DG)
- Permeable paving (at least 1/4” between pavers)
Note that permeable pavement requires a specially-constructed base. Gravel or decomposed granite atop a traditional compacted base is generally not permeable.

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

Planting and Watering

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

Visit CNPS.org/gardening to learn more!