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.
- Apply 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
- Permeable paving (at least 1/4” between pavers)
- Gravel- Decomposed granite (DG)

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.

Five Easy Project Ideas for your Garden

**Homem 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.
Plants on this list have been carefully selected by your local North Coast Chapter.

Visit Calscape.org to find more plants native to your area.