

**Thank you for being a BUG community scientist!**  
Your photos will help us better understand and advocate for native plants in California.

## Getting Started:



[inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)

- **Download the iNaturalist phone app** (iNat Classic for Apple)
- **Make an iNaturalist account**
- **Click on the projects briefcase icon, type “Biodiversity in Urban Gardens” and join these two projects:**
  - [Biodiversity in Urban Gardens: California Public Gardens](#)
  - [Biodiversity in Urban Gardens: California Home & Neighborhood Gardens](#)



### 1. Find California native plants in urban areas.

- Find native plants growing **around your home or neighborhood** or use the map at [bit.ly/PubGardensMap](https://bit.ly/PubGardensMap) to find a public native plant garden near you.
  - Suggest public gardens with this form: [bit.ly/PubGardensForm](https://bit.ly/PubGardensForm)



### 2. Look for native insects, birds, lizards, mammals, or other animals you see with California native plants.

- **Common non-native animals to avoid:** European Honeybee, Eastern Fox Squirrel, Brown Garden Snail, Seven Spotted Ladybug, and House Sparrow. Refer to the full list of non-native animals at [bit.ly/NoSpecies](https://bit.ly/NoSpecies).

### 3. Take photos of native animals on, in, under, or around native plants, and upload them to the iNaturalist app.

- **Take multiple photos (at least 3):**
  1. Capture the moment before they run/fly away
  2. Close up of the animal, from different angles
  3. Zoom out to see the whole plant it's on or near

**TIP:**  
Take photos in  
your camera app,  
then upload to  
iNat



# BUG Statewide Project

## Step-by-Step Guide (Page 2)



### Upload photos to iNaturalist using the mobile app:

- Tap the camera icon (Apple iNat Classic) or the + sign (Android).
- Choose Photo Library and **select images for the animal observation.**
- Use the most zoomed-in photo of the animal as your "Default" photo.
- **Tap "What did you see?" to select an identification.**
- Verify the observation time (calendar icon) and location (map pin icon).
- **Follow the steps below for a public garden vs. home garden.**

### In a participating California public garden:

TIP:  
Crop one photo  
to zoom in on  
the animal

- Follow the steps above.
- **Edit your location (map pin icon):** zoom in so the accuracy circle is within the garden boundaries.
- Click the Share button (Apple) or Save button (Android).

### In a home or neighborhood garden, or anywhere else in urban habitats:

TIP:  
"Obscure" the  
location of your  
home garden

- Follow the steps above.
- Join the **Biodiversity in Urban Gardens: California Home & Neighborhood Gardens** (see instructions above)
- Geoprivacy: For home gardens, mark your observation as "Obscured" to hide your exact location. Otherwise leave it as "Open."
- **Click projects and select the "Biodiversity in Urban Gardens: Home & Neighborhood Gardens" project.**
- **Answer the project questions**, then click the back to details arrow.
- Click the Share button (Apple) or Save button (Android).

### 4. Follow the project to see what we're finding.



Learn how your data is helping us better understand California biodiversity and how you can get more involved with advocacy.

- **Sign up for the BUG Initiative** to receive updates at [cnps.org/bug](https://cnps.org/bug)
- **TIP: Log into iNaturalist from your desktop computer** to see what others have shared and read updates in the project's journal posts.

