

botanika gardens

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Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency

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California Native Plants for Bay Area Gardens

Presented by Melinda Rose

California is home to a diverse range of habitats, resulting in a vast array of beautiful native plant species. Our native plants generally need little care and water, adapt easily to our gardens and support native birds, bees, butterflies other important pollinators. A garden can be composed entirely of natives. Any garden is enhanced by incorporating natives among other favorite plants. Growing natives helps us connect to the world around us, as we become part of a thriving community of plants and pollinators.

## Woodland and Riparian

Though most associate California with dry sun baked hills, we also have rivers, woodlands, deep forests and northern slopes. The following plants are native to these environs and are for the shady protected areas

in your garden. Or where the water naturally gathers such as the bottom of a slope or near a natural water source. Though not suited for boggy conditions, these plants do prefer occasional summer water. Keep in mind, the less sun the less water loss to evaporation. All of the following plants benefit from thick layers of compost and mulch to shade the roots and retain soil moisture.

Ribes species, Gooseberries and Currants

- ~ *R. sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*, Pink Flowering Currant
- ~ *R. speciosum*, Fuchsia Flowered Gooseberry

Mahonia's (aka Berberis), The Barberries

- *M. nervosa*, Longleaf Barberry
- ~ *M. aquifolium*, Oregon Grape

*Heuchera maxima*, Island Alum Root, Coral Bells

*Satureja douglasii*, Yerba Buena

Coastal Scrub and Chaparral

Windy coastal bluffs? Rocky soil? Hot and dry? These plants fill in the exposed sunny area of your garden.

*Garrya elliptica*, Coast Silk Tassel

*Ceanothus* species, The California Lilacs

~ *C. Ray Hartman*

~ *C. Dark Star*

*Arctostaphylos* species, The Manzanitas

~ *A. Howard McMinn*

~ *A. Emerald Carpet*

*Fragaria chiloensis*, Beach Strawberry

*Eriogonum* species, The Buckwheats

~ *E. giganteum*, Saint Catherine's Lace

~ *E. latifolium*, Coast buckwheat

Wild Flowers; Annual Color from seeds

This winter season is predicted to be a wet one (the phrase "El Nino" keeps popping up). And though it won't quench all our drought weary

woes, it does make this a banner year for planting wild flower seeds and this is the time to start. The following flowers are ones I've personally had great luck with. But spend some time at [www.larnerseeds.com](http://www.larnerseeds.com) and get inspired. Seeds are an inexpensive way to prepare for a colorful Spring now.

*Eschscholzia californica*, California Poppy (our state flower comes in a full range of warm colors)

*Layia platyglossa*, Tidy Tips (yellow flowers with white tips, early spring)

*Nemophila manziesii*, Baby Blue Eyes (long bloom time, blue flowers all through spring)

*Clarkia amoena*, Farewell to Spring (pink blooms late spring into summer, lots of cultivars)