

## PLANNING/PLANTING THE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Stephanie Morris

1. Review garden for:
  - a. Sun/shade amounts
  - b. Soil type(s)
  - c. Watering system
  - d. Wind, views, other factors
  - e. Choose plant communities that reflect the onsite environment
  - f. Incorporate personal tastes/functional needs
2. Soil Preparation
  - a. Should be as minimal as possible
  - b. Amend only in clay soil areas – 25% or less
  - c. Use organic compost or planting mix w/compost
  - d. Excess organic matter shortens the life of the plant by promoting excessive growth
3. Plant Selection
  - a. Plant as small a container size as possible
  - b. Smaller plant container size will surpass larger in growth
  - c. Roots are less likely to be bound in can if plant is younger
  - d. Easier to dig the hole if the plant is smaller
  - e. Choose plants that are healthy, show signs of new growth, not root bound
4. When to Plant
  - a. Fall is often the 'best' time
  - b. Allows root growth to establish plant with fall/winter rains
  - c. Strong roots help achieve drought tolerance
  - d. Spring planting is also an option
  - e. Easier to dig holes during the rainy season
  - f. Often, planting season is determined by plant availability
  - g. Avoid planting in June, July, August
5. Plant Spacing
  - a. Make sure to research full size of plant at maturity – height and width
  - b. Landscape will look bare at first
  - c. Filling gaps with wildflowers is an option
  - d. Wildflowers will often re-seed (this can be positive or negative)
6. Plant Pit Preparation
  - a. Consider mounding or berming to enhance drainage
  - b. Dig hole twice as wide and as deep as the container
  - c. Leave jagged edges in hole so roots don't coil and bind plant
  - d. Plant root ball slightly above soil level so crown of plant doesn't rot
  - e. Basin at perimeter of each plant is not necessary
  - f. Water entire eventual root zone area, not just at rootball
7. Fertilizer
  - a. Generally not necessary; plants are used to un-amended soils
  - b. Fertilizer can shorten the life span of a native plant
  - c. Plants will draw what they need from the soil
  - d. Use minimal amounts of compost when planting
  - e. Feed the soil, not the plant

8. Topdressing/Mulch
  - a. Extremely important
  - b. Keeps down weeds
  - c. Maintains soil moisture from extremes
  - d. Holds water in the soil
  - e. Apply after planting, then about once per year before spring weeds
  - f. Pro-chip or tree-trimmers wood chips are ideal
9. Change in the Garden
  - a. Expect the garden to change over time
  - b. Natural processes such as seeding from birds
  - c. Some species will be shaded out as trees grow
  - d. Soil will become more workable and healthy
  - e. Some species are short-lived
10. Irrigation Tactics
  - a. Remember: A drought tolerant plant needs water to become established!
  - b. Plants received regular water at the nursery
  - c. Provide extra attention and water for the first two years minimum
  - d. Irrigate beyond the rootball of the plant to encourage roots to spread
  - e. Irrigate during the cool parts of the day
  - f. Water deeply and infrequently
11. Hand watering
  - a. Allows for close interaction/observation
  - b. Monitor growth and flowering
  - c. More time consuming
  - d. Make at least two soaks/passes vs a quick spray
  - e. No installation cost (save money and plastic)
  - f. More exact and potentially very water-conserving
12. Drip Irrigation
  - a. Keeps garden watered during vacationing/busy schedules
  - b. Very time-efficient
  - c. Relatively easy to install
  - d. Install drip on soil surface, then cover with mulch
  - e. Use ½" poly pipe for areas with broad plant spacing (8' and up)
  - f. Use an inline drip for more uniform plantings and a better root network
13. Spray Irrigation
  - a. Often a waste of water and can cause runoff
  - b. Promotes more year-round weeds
  - c. Very time efficient
  - d. More labor to install
  - e. Can cause leaf fungal issues on plants
  - f. Appropriate only for grassland/meadow
  - g. Can be retrofitted to drip system or more efficient nozzle if it is existing
14. Estimated Watering Schedule – Some general guidelines
  - a. Natives from different plant communities require different amounts of water. For drought tolerant natives:
  - b. Check once per week when establishing plants during rainy season
  - c. If planted in fall...check once every 1- 2 weeks the next dry season
  - d. The second dry season, check once every 2-3 weeks
  - e. Use your hands to dig into the soil, or use a moisture meter
  - f. Plant is considered 'established' after 2-3 seasons, or when it has grown 2 to 3 times its original size.

# California Native Plants for Full Sun - Chaparral, Coastal Scrub

Stephanie Morris

LARGE SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd'	Manzanita
Arctostaphylos glauca	Bigberry Manzanita
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Bush
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's Mahonia
Ceanothus arboreus, thyrsiflorus	California Lilac
Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps', 'Dark Star', 'Concha' 'Joan Mirov', 'Frosty Blue', 'Joyce Coulter' 'Ray Hartman'	California Lilac
Ceanothus megacarpus, rigidus	White Flowering California Lilac
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Mahogany
Fremontodendron californica	Flannel Bush, Fremontia
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Lyonothamnus f. var asplenifolius	Catalina Ironwood
Prunus illicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry
Rhus ovata	Sugar Bush

MEDIUM SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Arctostaphylos d. 'Howard McMinn', 'Sentinel'	Manzanita
Arctostaphylos pajaroensis 'Paradise'	Manzanita
Artemisia californica	California Sagebrush
Dendromecon harfordii, rigida	Bush Poppy
Eriogonum arborescens	Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat
Lupinus albifrons	Silver Bush Lupine
Ribes malvaceum	Chaparral Currant
Ribes speciosum	Fuchsia-Flowered Currant
Salvia apiana	White Sage
Salvia brandegii, mellifera, leucophylla	Sage
Salvia clevelandii	Sage
Trichostema lanatum	Woolly Blue Curls

LOW SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry
Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet', 'Green Supreme'	Groundcover Manzanita
Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'	Dwarf Coyote Bush
Eriogonum crocatum	Conejo Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande rubescens	Pink Flowering Buckwheat
Rhamnus californica 'Seaview'	Dwarf Coffeberry
Salvia 'Dara's Choice', 'Bees Bliss'	Creeping Sage

PERENNIALS/ACCENTS - BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Achillea millefolium 'Paprika', 'Rosea'	Yarrow
Armeria maritima	Pink Thrift
Artemisia pycnocephala 'David's Choice'	Sandhill Sage
Epilobium 'Select Mattole', 'Brilliant Smith' 'Everet's Choice', 'Silver Select'	California Fuchsia
Erigeron glaucus	Seaside Daisy
Mimulus aurantiacus and hybrids	Monkey Flower
Monardella villosa	Coyote Mint
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass
Penstemon h. 'Margarita BOP'	Foothill Penstemon
Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy

# California Native Plants for Part Shade - Oak Woodland

Stephanie Morris

<b>TREES - BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California Buckeye
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak
<i>Quercus douglasiana</i>	Blue Oak
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Bay Laurel

<b>TALL SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	Bigberry Manzanita
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Bush Anemone
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Coast Silktassel
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Cream Bush
<i>Prunus illicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf Cherry
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffeeberry
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Flowering Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> var <i>glutinsum</i>	Pink Flowering Currant
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Wild Rose
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry

<b>MEDIUM SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita
<i>Berberis</i> (Mahonia) <i>aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Lepechinia fragrans</i>	Pitcher Sage
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Eve Case'	Dwarf Coffeeberry
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Mound San Bruno'	Dwarf Coffeeberry
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Lemonade Berry
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> , <i>mellifera</i>	Sage

<b>LOW SHRUBS - BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Emerald Carpet', 'Green Supreme'	Groundcover Manzanita
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Yankee Point'	Carmel Creeper
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Seaview'	Dwarf Coffeeberry

<b>PERENNIALS/ACCENTS - BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	White Yarrow
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	Miner's Lettuce
<i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	Shooting Stars
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> 'Siskyou Blue'	Fescue
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Island Alum Root
<i>Iris douglasiana</i> /PCH	Pacific Coast Iris
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Monkey Flower
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue Eyed Grass

# How GREEN is your landscape?

Currently

Idea for future

## MATERIALS

Salvage and re-use materials onsite  
Use local materials  
Use repositionable/re-usable materials  
Incorporate rapidly regenerative materials (bamboo)  
Arbors, decks made of sustainably harvested woods  
Use recycled base rock under new patios  
Recycle old materials or re-use onsite (bricks, stone, etc.)  
Recycled, salvaged or renewable resource furniture

## IRRIGATION

Group plants in the garden into hydrozones  
Water slowly, infrequently, and deeply  
Use a drip system  
Adjust your controller monthly  
Use a weather based 'smart' controller  
Turn off your irrigation system in the winter

## DRAINAGE

Monitor to prevent runoff of water onto paved surfaces  
Create percolation pits or rain garden  
Have a rainwater catchment system  
Utilize greywater onsite  
Use permeable Paving

## PLANTING

Plant drought tolerant plants  
Plant native plants that can survive on rainfall alone  
Include plants to attract wildlife habitat and pollinators  
Include edible plants  
Eliminate all un-necessary lawn  
Eliminate all un-necessary water-loving plants  
Plant trees to shade patios and hardscape  
Design for a minimum amount of pruning, green waste

## SOIL

Regularly compost kitchen and garden waste  
Fertilize with compost or organic products  
Avoid fertilizing native plants  
Avoid un-necessary grading, tilling and compaction of soil

## MAINTENANCE/ENERGY

Eliminate chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides  
Regularly mulch with organic materials/wood chips  
Use human powered equipment instead of gas-powered  
Grasscycling  
Hand pull and compost weeds

# Resources for Native Plant Enthusiasts

## South Bay Area, California

### BOOKS

*California Native Plants for the Garden* – Carol Bornstein, David Fross, Bart O'Brien  
*Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the SF Bay Region* - EBMUD  
*The California Landscape Garden* – Francis & Reimann  
*Edible and Useful Plants of California* – Charlotte Clarke  
*The Flavors of Home: A Guide to Wild Edible Plants ...* – Margit Roos-Collins  
*Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California* – John Hunter Thomas  
*Gaia's Garden* – Toby Hemenway, John Todd  
*Gardening with a Wild Heart* – Judith Larner Lowry  
*Growing California Native Plants* – Marjorie Schmidt  
*The Habitat Garden Book* – Nancy Bauer  
*The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* – James C. Hickman, ed.  
*Landscape Plants for Western Regions* – Bob Perry (rare)  
*Manual of Pacific Coast Trees* – McMinn & Maino  
*Oaks of California* – Bruce M. Pavlik  
*The Wildlife Sanctuary Garden* – Carol Buchanan  
*Common Butterflies of California* – Bob Stewart

### WEBSITES

[www.landscapestandards.com](http://www.landscapestandards.com) (local professionals, vendors, photos and guidelines)  
[www.gardeningwithnatives.com](http://www.gardeningwithnatives.com) (Gardening with Natives Santa Clara Valley)  
[www.nativeplantdesign.com](http://www.nativeplantdesign.com) (with example portfolio photos)  
[www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) (Native California Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter)  
[www.laspilits.com](http://www.laspilits.com) (click on '1000 Native Plants')  
[www.calflora.org](http://www.calflora.org) (Database and plant photos)

### NURSERIES

Capitol Wholesale Nursery, San Jose (408) 239.0357  
[www.capitolwholesalenursery.com](http://www.capitolwholesalenursery.com)  
Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery, Moss Landing & Soquel (831) 763.1207  
[www.elkhornnursery.com](http://www.elkhornnursery.com)  
Yerba Buena Nursery, Woodside (650) 851.1668  
[www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com)  
Native Revival Nursery, Aptos (831) 684.1811  
[www.nativerivival.com](http://www.nativerivival.com)  
Central Coast Wilds, Santa Cruz  
[www.centralcoastwilds.com](http://www.centralcoastwilds.com)