

Why Garden with Natives?

CA natives are adapted to their local climate, water availability and soil. Therefore, they generally require less maintenance (water and fertilizer) than traditional landscape plants.

Natives attract 10 to 50 times as many wildlife species as nonnatives! Natives blend the home landscape with the surrounding natural environment and provide a stopping point for wildlife in the urban setting.

California native plants are unique and diverse. California has the greatest number of endemic plants of any state in the U.S.! Approximately one third of native California plants are classified as rare, endangered or threatened. Adopting them in your landscape helps preserve these treasures.

General Garden Maintenance

Optimal planting time is in the fall and early spring when the soil is cool and rains have begun.

Native plants generally do not require fertilizers. However, depending on the condition of your soil, an organic soil amendment or mycorrhizal inoculants may be recommended to enhance the soil and improve plant health.

Native plants will require water regularly until they have established. Once established, little watering is required.



Ecological Building Exteriors

Green Roofs

Green roof development is the creation of a green space on top of a human-made structure. A modern green roof is an extension of the existing roof that is designed to support living plants. A typical green roof system includes plants, a lightweight growing medium, filter fabric, a drainage system, a root repellent barrier and a water proofing membrane.

There are two basic types of green roofs:

(1) extensive green roofs are planted with one or more types of low growing perennial plants that require little or no maintenance

(2) intensive green roofs are planted with a wide variety of plants that are often more aesthetically pleasing, but have a higher installation and maintenance costs.

Benefits of Green Roofs and Living Walls

There are a wide range of public and private benefits from the installation of green roofs and living walls, including:

- Improved air quality from filtration of airborne particulates and increased carbon dioxide/oxygen exchange
- Temperature regulation due to the moderation of the urban heat island effect
- Improved building insulation thereby a reduction in both heating and cooling costs.
- Stormwater retention, water filtration and reduced runoff volume
- Enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat and an increase in local plant and animal biodiversity.

Living Walls

Living walls are the creation of green spaces on vertical building exteriors. Plants are rooted in fibrous material and installed on walls with custom tile or planting pockets. Living walls can be designed for moist or dry habitats depending on the walls' exposure to the sun. Living walls are integrated with the roof drainage system so that water trickles down between the plant root zones providing filtration. Living walls can also be designed to drain into ponds and bioswales thereby creating habitat suitable for aquatic life and further filtering the water before it leaves the property.

Plant Suggestions

Green Roof Plants

Allium peninsulare - Wild Onion
Aster chilensis - California Aster
Carex globosa - Globe Sedge
Chorizanthe spp. - Spineflower Species
Clarkia unguiculata - Elegant Clarkia
Dudleya farinose - Bluff Live Forever
Eriogonum spp. - Buckwheat Species
Eschscholzia californica - California Poppy
Fragaria chiloensis - Beach Strawberry
Festuca idahoensis - Idaho Fescue
Gnaphalium californicum - California Pearly Everlasting
Koeleria macrantha - June Grass
Lasthenia californica - California Goldfield
Layia platyglossa - Tidy tips
Lotus scoparius - California Broom
Lupinus bicolor - Miniature lupine
Nassella pulchra - Purple Needlegrass
Plantago erecta - California Plantain
Prunella vulgaris - Selfheal
Sedum spathulifolium - Stonecrop

Living Wall Plants

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow
Armeria maritima - Sea Pink
Blechnum spicant - Deer Fern
Epilobium canum - California Fuchsia
Festuca californica - California Fescue
Monardella villosa - Coyote Mint
Penstemon heterophyllus - Scarlet Penstemon
Phacelia bolanderi - Bolander Phacelia

Potential LEED Credits for Green Roofs & Living Walls

- Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit 5.1: Protect & Restore Habitat - 1 point
- SS Credit 5.2: Site Development: Maximize Open Space - 1 point
- SS Credit 6.1: Stormwater Design: Quantity Control - 1 point
- SS Credit 6.2: Stormwater Design: Quality Control - 1 point
- Water Efficiency (WE) - Water Efficient
- Landscaping - 1-2 Points
- Innovation & Design Process (ID) - 1-4 Points

