

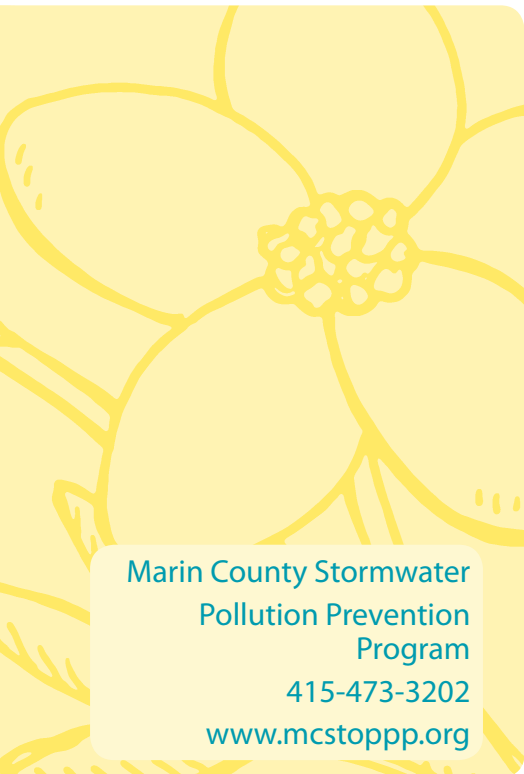


# GO NATIVE

*Using  
Native Plants*

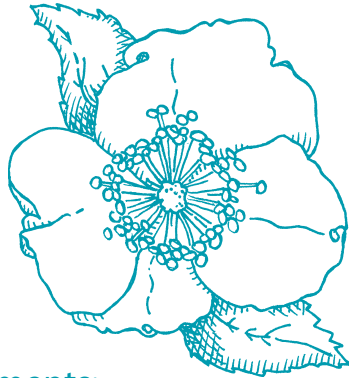
FOR YOUR

- *Yard*
- *Patio*
- *Creek*



Marin County Stormwater  
Pollution Prevention  
Program  
415-473-3202  
[www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org)





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### MCSTOPPP

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
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## Why Use Native Plants?

When planning a garden, there are many reasons to consider native plants. They are adapted to the climate and soil conditions of their area, they attract beneficial insects to the area, they provide food and habitat for birds and butterflies, they thrive (even in nutrient-poor soils), they need little watering, they are more resistant to pests and diseases, and they don't require the use of toxic pesticides.

A "true" native means that it is native to a particular area. Just because a plant is a "California native" doesn't mean it is suited for life in Marin. The best way to tell this is to look around and see the types of native plants growing nearby in the wild.

"Natives" that occur naturally in your area are adapted to specific local conditions and will be the easiest to grow.

## Tips on Planting "Natives"

Care for your new plants during the first few years to help them become established. Dry-season watering, regular weeding, mulching, and installing deer protectors will increase survival rates. After the first few years, you should not need to continue watering your native plants.

Early Fall is an ideal time to plant natives. The cool weather and rainfall will help plants establish a healthy root system before Spring growth.

Visit the MCSTOPPP website for more  
information on Native Plants at  
[www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org)



## Where to Buy Natives

Visit a nursery that specializes in native plants to help select species that will thrive in your garden or on your creek bank. The following local nurseries offer a good selection of native plants.

<b>Cal Native Nursery</b> —254 Shoreline Highway, Mill Valley	(415)-720-6253
<b>Green Jean's</b> —690 Redwood Highway, Mill Valley	(415) 389-8333
<b>Larner Seeds</b> —230 Grove Rd., Bolinas (call about demonstration garden open to the public from October-July)	(415) 868-9407
<b>Las Baulines Nursery</b> —150 Olema-Bolinas Rd, Bolinas	(415) 868-0808
<b>Mostly Natives Nursery</b> —27235 Highway 1, Tomales	(707) 878-2009
<b>North Coast Native Nursery</b> —Petaluma	(707) 769-1213
<b>O'Donnell's Nursery</b> —1700 Sir Francis Drake, Fairfax	(415) 453-0372

## Other Locations to find Native Plants

Baylands Nursery, East Palo Alto .....	(650) 323-1645
Bay Natives - online only.....	<a href="http://www.baynatives.com">www.baynatives.com</a>
Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, Berkeley .....	(510) 526-4704
Bitterroot Restoration, Inc. Auburn .....	(530) 745-9814
Buckeye Nursery, Petaluma .....	(707) 559-7081
California Flora Nursery, Fulton .....	(707) 528-8813
Carman's Nursery, Gilroy .....	(408) 847-2313
Cornflower Farms, Elk Grove .....	(916) 689-1015
Elkhorn Ranch Restoration Nursery, Moss Landing .....	(831) 763-1207
Las Pilitas Nursery, Santa Margarita .....	(805) 438-5992
Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross (periodic sales).....	(415) 455-5263
Native Revival Nursery, Aptos .....	(831) 684-1811
Pacific Coast Seed, Livermore .....	(925) 373-4417
Redwood Nursery, Santa Cruz .....	(831) 438-2844
The Watershed Nursery, Richmond .....	(510) 234-2222
Yerba Buena Nursery, Woodside .....	(650) 851-1668
The California Native Plant Society, .....	(650) 691-9749

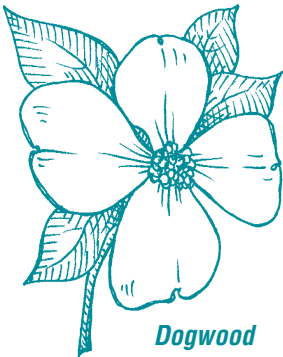
(The Peninsula Conservation Center holds annual and semi-annual native plant sales.)



## When and What to Plant

The best time to plant is in the fall—just before the rains start. This allows plants to develop a strong root system before the summer heat. Though native plants don't require water once they are established, they may require some tending to for the first year or two—especially if they are planted in the hot summer months.

The following is a list of native plants that are good for attracting butterflies, beneficial insects, hummingbirds, and other backyard birds to your garden. While all plants listed are native to California, those plants that are native to Marin are also noted. However, even in Marin there are climate changes and unique differences so look around you. For example, what is native to Pt. Reyes (a cool coastal climate) is not always native to Novato (a hot inland climate).



*Dogwood*

### Sowing California Wildflower Seeds

Native wildflowers are best sown early in the rainy season. Choose an area with at least six hours of sunlight a day; part shade is fine for some species, but generally the more sun the better. The area will need to be weeded, and the soil loosened to about a two-inch depth. Mix your seed mix with sand—make sure it's river sand, not beach sand. Use about 1 teaspoon of seeds to cover 100 square feet (that's about a 10' x 10' area or a 2' x 50' area). Scatter this mix over the area that has been prepared, and then pat it down by hand—or walk on it to assure good seed to soil contact. Cover the seeded area with a light mulch. You can choose to water—or let the rains take care of it! For increasingly beautiful displays, let your wildflowers re-seed themselves year after year!





## NATIVE PLANT LIST

Here are some California native plants that are reliable and hardy, and will attract wildlife to your garden. Plants are noted as perennial (P), annual (A), tree, shrub or vine.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Form	Blooming Season	Butterfly	Beneficial Insects	Hummingbird	Backyard Birds	Native to Marin
Alder	<i>Alnus</i> spp.	Tree	Spring	x	x			x
Alumroot	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	P	Spring to Summer				x	x
Angelica	<i>Angelica</i> spp.	P	n/a		x			x
Aster	<i>Aster</i> spp.	P	Summer to Fall	x	x			x
Baby blue-eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	A	Spring		x			x
Bay Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Tree	Spring					x
Blackberry, California	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Shrub	Summer	x			x	x
Bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	P	Spring to Summer			x		x
Buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	Tree	Spring	x	x	x	x	x
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.	P	Summer to Fall	x	x			x
Bush Island snapdragon	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	P	Summer	x	x	x		
Checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>	P	Spring to Summer	x	x			x
Chinese houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	A	Spring to Summer		x			x
Clarkia	<i>Clarkia</i> spp.	A	Spring to Summer	x	x			x
Coast silk-tassel	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Shrub	Winter to Spring		x	x		x
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall				x	x
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	P	Spring to Summer			x	x	x
Coneflower, California	<i>Rudbeckia californica</i>	P	Summer to Fall	x	x			



Common Name	Botanical Name	Form	Blooming Season	Butterfly	Beneficial Insects	Hummingbird	Backyard Birds	Native to Marin
Cottonwood	Populus spp.	Tree	Spring	x				
Cow parsnip	Herculeum lanatum	P	Spring	x	x			x
Coyote bush	Baccharis spp.	Shrub	Fall	x			x	x
Cream bush	Holodiscus discolor	Shrub	Spring	x	x		x	x
Currant, golden	Ribes aureum	P	Spring / Berries in Fall			x		
Currant, pink flowering	Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum	P	Spring / Berries in Fall			x		x
Deergrass	Muhlenbergia rigens	P	Fall		x		x	
Dogwood	Cornus sericea	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall				x	x
Elderberry	Sambucus mexicana	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall					x
Fescue, California	Festuca californica	P	Summer to Fall	x			x	x
Figwort, California	Scrophularia californica	P	Spring	x	x			x
Flannel bush	Fremontodendron californicum	Shrub	Spring		x			x
Flowering ash	Fraxinus dipetala	Shrub	Spring		x			
Fuchsia, California	Epilobium canum	P	Fall			x	x	x
Grape, California wild	Vitis californica	Vine	Fruit in Fall				x	
Goldenrod	Solidago californica	Shrub	Summer to Fall	x	x		x	x
Goldfields	Lasthenia spp.	A	Spring		x			x
Hazelnut, California	Corylus cornuta v. californica	Shrub	Spring					x
Honeysuckle	Lonicera hispidula	Vine	Summer	x		x	x	x
Iris, Pacific Coast	Iris douglasiana	P	Spring		x			x
Lilac, California	Ceanothus spp.	P	Spring to Summer	x	x			x
Lupine	Lupinus spp.	P	Spring	x				x





## NATIVE PLANT LIST

Here are some California native plants that are reliable and hardy, and will attract wildlife to your garden. Plants are noted as perennial (P), annual (A), tree, shrub or vine.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Form	Blooming Season	Butterfly	Beneficial Insects	Hummingbird	Backyard Birds	Native to Marin
Mallow	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>	Shrub	Summer	x				
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	Shrub	Winter / Berries in Fall			x	x	x
Matilija poppy	<i>Rommeya coulteri</i>	P	Summer		x			
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	P	Summer	x		x		x
Monkeyflower, scarlet	<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	P	Summer	x		x		x
Monkeyflower, sticky	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Shrub	Summer	x		x		x
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	P	Fall		x			x
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Tree	Spring	x	x		x	x
Oregon grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall				x	
Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	P	Spring to Summer	x	x			x
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	A/P	Summer	x	x	x	x	x
Phlox	<i>Phlox gracilis</i>	A	Spring	x				x
Pipevine, California	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	V	Spring	x		x		x
Poppy, California	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	A	Spring		x			x
Purple needlegrass	<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	P	Summer	x			x	x
Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Shrub	Spring		x	x	x	
Rose, California	<i>Rosa californica</i>	Shrub	Spring to Summer		x			x
Sage, California	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	P	Summer		x			x

Common Name	Botanical Name	Form	Blooming Season	Butterfly	Beneficial Insects	Hummingbird	Backyard Birds	Native to Marin
Sage, Cleveland's	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Shrub	Spring to Summer	x	x	x		
Sage, hummingbird	<i>Salvia spathecea</i>	P	Spring	x		x		x
Sage, pitcher	<i>Lepechinia calycina</i>	P	Spring	x		x		x
Sage, white	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	Shrub	Summer		x		x	
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus</i>	Shrub	Winter / Berries in Fall		x			x
Snowdrop bush	<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Shrub	Summer / Berries in Fall				x	
Soap plant	<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	P	Summer		x			x
Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	A	Spring		x			x
Succulent	<i>Dudleya</i> spp or <i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	P	Summer	x		x		x
Sunflower, California	<i>Helianthus californicus</i>	P	Summer to Fall	x	x			
Thistle, cobweb	<i>Cirsium occidentale</i>	A to P	Spring / Summer	x	x			x
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	P	Spring / Summer	x	x			x
Tidytops	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	A	Mid to late Spring		x		x	x
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall			x		x
Twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Shrub	Spring / Berries in Fall			x		x
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis</i> spp.	Vine	Summer					x
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	Tree	Spring	x			x	x
Woolly blue curls	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	P	Summer			x		
Yarrow, Common	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	P	Spring to Summer	x	x			x
Yellow evening primrose	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>	P	Summer		x			x



## Deer Resistant Native Plants (sometimes!)

Deer in different areas seem to have different tastes. To complicate matters even further, what they like one year may change the next and young deer will try almost anything it seems. As well, plants left untouched in the spring may be eaten in the fall.

For more information on deer resistant plants, including “best bets”, check out this link:

<http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/Conservation/plantlists/DeerResistant-Plants.pdf>

Some examples of native deer resistant plants are listed below. The native plants that are considered almost always deer resistant are placed in **bold** type. Because native plants are better adapted to the local climate than their exotic counterparts, they should be considered first in landscape planning.

The designation “some” simply means that only some subspecies are native to California.

Dutchman’s Pipe (vine)

Baby Blue Eyes

Beach Strawberry

Bleeding Heart

**Blue Eyed Grass**

**Buckwheat**

California Honeysuckle (vine)

Clematis (vine)

Coffeeberry (shrub)

**Dwarf Coyote Brush**

Ferns

**Fuchsia, California**

### **Iris**

Larkspur (some)

Lupines

**Matilija Poppy**

Monterey Manzanita

**Penstemon (some)**

Poppy, California

**Sage (shrub)**

Sea Thrift

Spicebush (shrub)

Toyon (shrub)

Verbena

Wild Ginger (some)



## Drought Tolerant Native Plants

Many of our native plants are drought tolerant. Drought tolerant plants have the quality that allows them to survive in low-moisture, high-heat situations. Some native species that appear drought tolerant are really water loving and grow in wet areas near creeks or other water sources that keep them alive. These native species (i.e.- Juncus) would die if their natural water source dried up.

Other native plants are seasonally compatible. This is the case with baby blue eyes. The growing cycle of this plant coincides with the rainy season, dies in the summer, and re-seeds itself for the next season. Following the winter rains, those “baby blues” will emerge again.

The following lists some native drought tolerant plants.

### Native Seasonal Compatible Plants

Baby blue eyes  
California Blue Eyed Grass  
California Fushia  
California Poppy  
Coreopsis  
Lupine  
Matilija Poppy  
Monkey Flower  
Pacific Coast Iris

### Native Shrubs

California Wild Rose  
Ceanothus Dark Star  
Coast Purple Sage  
Coffeeberry  
Golden Currant  
Island Snapdragon  
Manzanita ‘Howard McMinn’  
or ‘Hookerii’  
Toyon  
Tree Anemone

### Native Grasses/Groundcovers

Blue Wild Rye  
California Brome  
California Strawberry  
Ceanothus gloriosus or griseus  
Evergreen Currant  
Manzanita ‘Emerald Carpet’  
or ‘uva ursi’  
Meadow Barley  
Muhly Grass  
Red Fescue  
Sea Thrift



*Coffeeberry*

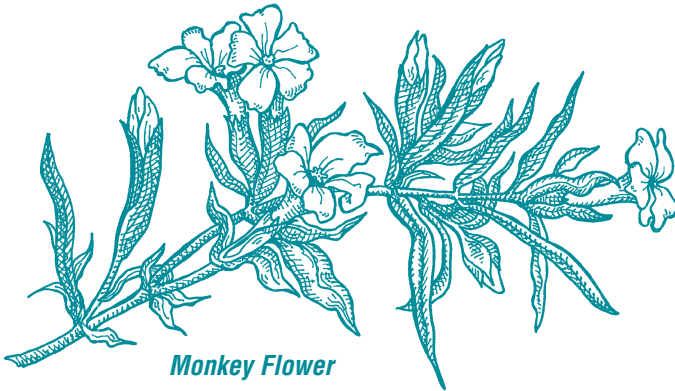


If you are a **Marin Municipal Water District** customer you can receive a free Water-Wise Gardening CD containing a full-color plant library and design ideas for native, as well as Mediterranean gardens. Also look for water-wise plants at the following stores: Sunnyside, Sloats, Bayside, West End, and United.

For more information, contact the Marin Municipal Water District at 415-945-1520.

**North Marin Water District** offers rebates to their customers for replacing regularly mowed and irrigated turf with drought tolerant, low water use native plants.

For information and participation procedures call:  
North Marin Water District (Serving Novato and West Marin)  
Water Conservation Program  
415-897-4133 ext 8421



## Fire Resistant Plants

The 1995 Mount Vision Fire in Pt. Reyes and the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991 served as a wake-up call to property owners who allow their shrubs and plants to “take over”. “Pruning back” and creating defensible space\* is an important step in guarding your property against wildfires. Also important is choosing fire resistant plants. These plants tend to have certain characteristics:

- . Most are broad-leaf trees that lose their leaves (deciduous).  
Some thick-leaf evergreens are also fire-resistant.
- . Leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed.
- . Trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood.
- . Shrubs are low-growing (2”) with minimal dead material.
- . Tall shrubs are clean, not bushy.
- . Sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor.

Some firewise native plants include:

bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)  
California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)  
common flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californica*)  
creeping mahonia (*Mahonia repens*)  
monkey flower (*Mimulus repens*)  
sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)  
pink winter current or red flowering current (*Ribes sanguineum cur-rant*)  
sage (*Salvia clevelandii* and *Salvia sonomensis*)  
California fuschia (*Zauschneria californica*)

\* Defensible space breaks up the continuous paths that could carry a wildfire to your home. To learn more about defensible space and how to create it, contact FireSafe Marin at the number below.

**For more information on reducing wildland fires call:**

FireSafe Marin  
**555 Northgate Ave.**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**  
**415-446-4420**  
**[www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org)**

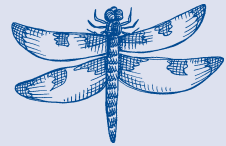


## Beneficial Insects

Less than one percent of insects are considered garden pests. Insects that are considered good for the garden are called “beneficials.” These beneficial insects eat garden troublemakers! Some favorite native plants that attract beneficial insects include: Marin baby blue eyes, buckwheat, goldenrod, and common yarrow.

### Common beneficial insects and their food source include:

Beneficial Insect	Garden Troublemakers (food source)
Minute Pirate Bug	Aphids, mites, thrips, psyllids, and insect eggs
Ladybug	Aphids, mites, thrips, mealybugs
Soldier Beetle	Cutworms, gypsymoth larvae, cankerworms, slugs and snails
Syrphid Fly	Aphids, mealybugs
Green Lacewing	Insect eggs, mites, thrips, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, leafhoppers
Assassin Bug	Most insect species
Mealybug Destroyer	Mealybugs and aphids
Dragonflies	Small flying insects, including mosquitoes
Lacewings	Aphids, scale, whiteflies, mites, mealybugs, eggs of mites, thrips and other insects



To learn more about good garden bugs, visit

[www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html).

Or get a copy of *Natural Enemies Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control* by UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

You can also call MCSTOPPP at 473-6528 for a free flier on “Naturally Managing Garden Pests.”





# Planting A Container Garden

In general, the best plant choices for containers are smaller, herbaceous perennials. If you are growing shrubs in containers, be sure to use a large enough container and keep plants pruned. You might want to scatter some wildflower seeds into the pots to fill in small spaces.

The following offers a list of some native plants good for containers:

## PLANTS FOR SUNNY AREAS

### PERENNIALS

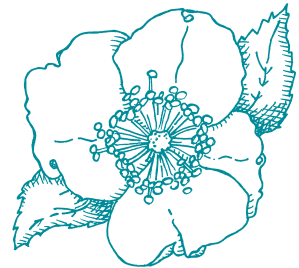
- Azure Penstemon – *Penstemon azureus*
- Blue-eyed Grass – *Sisyrinchium bellum*
- California fuchsia – *Zauschneria californica* or *Epilobium canum*
- California Goldenrod – *Solidago californica*
- California sagebrush – *Artemisia californica*
- Cleveland Sage – *Salvia clevelandii*
- Coyote Mint – *Monardella* spp.
- Foothill Penstemon – *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP'
- Hummingbird Sage – *Salvia spathacea*
- Scarlet Lobelia – *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Seaside Daisy – *Erigeron glaucus*
- Sea Thrift – *Armeria maritima*
- Sticky Monkey Flower – *Mimulus aurantiacus*
- Yerba Buena – *Satureja douglasii*
- Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*

### ANNUALS

- California Poppy – *Eschscholzia californica*
- California Gilia – *Gilia achilleifolia*
- Chia – *Salvia columbariae*
- Farewell-to-spring – *Clarkia amoena*
- Fivespot – *Nemophila maculata*
- Goldfields – *Lasthenia californica*
- Redmaids – *Calandrinia ciliata*
- Tidy Tips – *Layia platyglossa*

### GRASSES

- Hair Grass – *Festuca idahoensis* or *Deschampsia cespitosa*



*Wild Rose*



## SHRUBS

Island Snap Dragon - *Galvezia speciosa*

Manzanita

*Arctostaphylos nummularia* 'Small Change'

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* "Wood's Compact"

Rosy buckwheat - *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*

Santa Cruz Island buckwheat - *Eriogonum arborescens*

Wild Lilac – *Ceanothus maritimus*

Wild Rose – *Rosa californica*

## PLANTS FOR PART SHADE

### SHRUBS

Boxleaf Wax Myrtle – *Myrica buxifolia*

Cream Bush – *Holodiscus discolor*

Dwarf Mahonia – *Berberis repens*

Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos* sp.



*Snowberry*

### PERENNIALS

Beach Strawberry – *Fragaria chiloensis*

Boxleaf Wax Myrtle – *Myrica buxifolia*

Coral Bells – *Heuchera maxima*, *Heuchera micrantha*

Douglas Iris – *Iris douglasiana*

Hedge Nettle – *Stachys chamissonis*

Meadow Rue – *Thalictrum fendleri*

Sticky Monkey Flower – *Mimulus aurantiacus*

Western Columbine – *Aquilegia formosa*

### ANNUALS

Chinese Houses – *Collinsia heterophylla*

Globe Gilia – *Gilia capitata*

### GRASSES

Nutka Reed Grass – *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*

Red Fescue – *Festuca rubra*



*Douglas Iris*



# Planting Along Creeks

A riparian corridor is the vegetated area next to a creek bank. Dense roots and vegetation stabilize creek banks, help reduce soil loss, filter sediment, and slow floodwaters. Trees and shrubs help raise the water table and cool the water—necessary for the survival of fish.

“Natives” that occur naturally in a particular area are adapted to specific local conditions and will be the easiest to grow. Native species that don’t naturally occur in an area will require additional care and maintenance to become established.

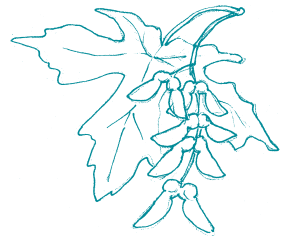
The following native trees are more specific to the Marin County watersheds listed below:

**Novato Creek and Miller Creek watersheds:** California bay, California box elder, Coast live oak, Oregon ash, Valley oak, and Willow (red and yellow).

**Corte Madera Creek watershed:** California bay, California box elder, Coast live oak, Oregon ash, Valley oak, Willow (red and yellow), White alder, and Coast redwood in some areas.



**Red Alder**



**Big-leaf Maple**

**Mill Valley Creek watershed:** Big-leaf maple, California bay, Coast redwood, Tanbark oak, and White alder.

**San Geronimo Creek Watershed:** Redwood, Red alder, Big-leaf maple, California bay, California box elder, California nutmeg, Coast live oak, Douglas fir, Hinds walnut, Oregon ash, Valley oak, and White alder.

Even though plants may be native or attract beneficial insects, they may not be appropriate for planting near creeks. The following two pages provide a list of “natives” that are appropriate for planting near creeks in Marin. The list is not definitive.

**Before beginning work on a creekside restoration project, permits may be needed.**

Call MCSTOPPP at 473-6528.





# Marin County Creekside Native Plant List

☐ = Appropriate for sunny conditions

❖ = Appropriate for partial sun/shade conditions

■ = Appropriate for shade conditions

## Plant Low on Bank (in or near water)

### Ground Covers

- California Polypody (*Polypodium californicum*: 0-2') ☐  
 Miner's Lettuce (*Montia perfoliata*: 0-1') ❖  
 Piggy-back Plant (*Toimiea menziesii*: 1-2') ❖  
 Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*: 1-2') ❖  
 Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*: 0-2') ❖  
 Woodland Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*: 0-18") ❖

## Plant in the Middle of the Bank

- Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*: 1/2-2') ❖  
 Deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*: 1-2') ☐  
 Douglas's Iris (*Iris douglasiana*: 1-3') ☐  
 False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina stellata*: 1-3') ❖  
 Hedge-Nettle (*Stachys charrissonis*: 2-3') ☐  
 Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*: 2-3') ❖  
 Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*: 1-2') ❖  
 Wake Robin (*Trillium ovatum*: 1-2') ❖

## Plant High on Bank (away from water)

- Miner's Lettuce (*Montia perfoliata*: 0-1') ❖

### Perennials

- Monkey Flower (*Mimulus guttatus*: 0-3') ☐  
 Scarlet Monkey Flower (*Mimulus cardinalis*: 1-3') ☐

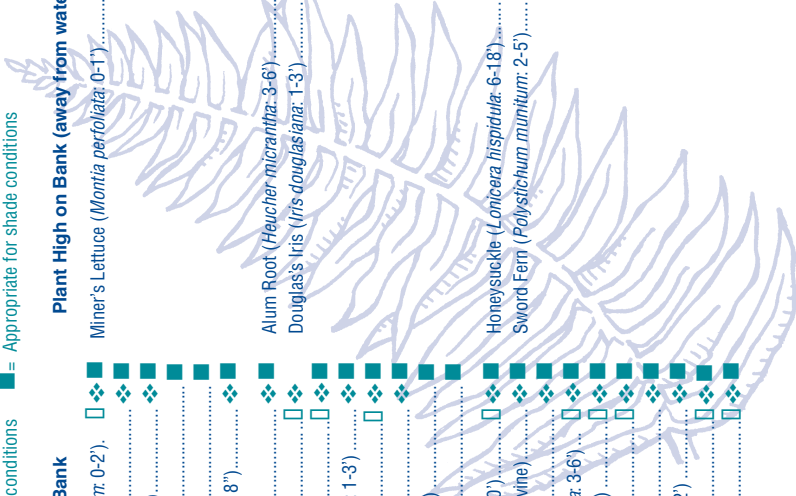
- Alum Root (*Heucher-micrantha*: 3-6') ❖  
 Douglas's Iris (*Iris douglasiana*: 1-3') ☐

### Ferns & Vines

- Chain Fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*: 3-6') ☐ ❖

- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*: 6-18') ❖  
 Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') ❖

- Clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*: 15-18' long vine) ☐  
 Deer Fern (*Blechnum spicant*: 1-3') ❖  
 Dutchman's Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*: 3-6') ☐  
 Five Finger Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*: 1-2') ☐  
 Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*: 6-18') ❖  
 Lady Fern (*Athrium filix-femina*: 1-5') ❖  
 Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*: 1-2') ☐  
 Native Blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*: 4-8') ☐  
 Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') ☐



### Plant Low on Bank (in or near water)

- Grasses & Bulrush** (*Scirpus microcarpus*: 3-6) □  
**Grass-like** Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*: 0-1) □  
**Plants** Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*: 1-3) □  
 Torrent sedge (*Carex nudata*: 3-5) ◆  
 Tule, Giant Bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*: 3-10) □  
 Whiteroot sedge (*Carex barbarae*: 3-5) ◆

### Shrubs

- Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*: 6-20) □  
 Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea occidentalis*: 5-15) ◆  
 Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*: 5-15) ◆



### Trees

- Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*: 160-280') ◆  
 Gray Willow (*Salix exigua*: 6-30) □  
 Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*: 30-80) ◆  
 Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*: 30-105) ◆  
 Red Willow (*Salix laevigata*: 15-45) ◆  
 White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*: 30-105) ◆  
 Yellow Willow (*Salix lucida lasianдра*: 20-50') ◆

### Plant in the Middle of the Bank

- Blue rush (*Juncus patens*: 1-2) ◆  
 Bog rush (*Juncus effusus*: 1-2) ◆  
 Creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*: 1-2) ◆  
 Creeping wild rye (*Leymus triticoides*: 1-4) ◆  
 Iris-leaved rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus*: 1-4) ◆

- California Aralia (*Aralia californica*: 3-9) □  
 California Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*: 3-8) ◆  
 Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*: 3-14) ◆  
 Creambush (*Holodiscus discolor*: 3-6) ◆  
 Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea occidentalis*: 5-15) ◆  
 Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta californica*: 6-20) ◆  
 Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*: 3-13) ◆  
 Red Elderberry (*Sambucus callicarpae*: 5-20) ◆  
 Rose-Bay (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*: 5-25) ◆  
 Salmon Berry (*Rubus spectabilis*: 3-12) ◆  
 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus var. levigatus*: 1-6) ◆  
 Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*: 2-10) ◆  
 Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*: 6-30) ◆  
 Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*: 2-10) ◆  
 Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*: 3-15) ◆  
 Western Spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*: 10-20) ◆

- Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*: 15-100') □  
 Box Elder (*Acer negundo californica*: 20-70') ◆  
 California Nutmeg (*Torreya californica*: 6-25) ◆  
 Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*: 160-280') ◆  
 Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*: 70-250') ◆  
 Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*: 30-105) ◆  
 Tan Oak (*Lithocarpus densiflora*: 30-80') ◆  
 White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*: 30-105) ◆  
 Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*: 40-125') ◆

### Plant High on Bank (away from water)

- Blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*: 1-4) ◆  
 California fescue (*Festuca californica*: 1-3) □  
 Creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*: 1-2) □

- Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*: 10-15) ◆  
 Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*: 6-24) ◆  
 California Rose (*Rosa californica*: 3-9) ◆  
 California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*: 3-15) ◆  
 Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*: 3-14) ◆  
 Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*: 4-6) ◆  
 Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta californica*: 6-20) ◆  
 Hollyleaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*: 20-30) ◆  
 Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*: 3-12) ◆  
 Rose-Bay (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*: 5-25) ◆  
 Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*: 6-30) ◆  
 Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*: 3-15) ◆

- Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*: 30-80') □  
 Box Elder (*Acer negundo californica*: 20-70') ◆  
 Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*: 6-21') ◆  
 California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*: 25-90') ◆  
 Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*: 30-80') ◆  
 Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*: 35-85') ◆  
 Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*: 40-80') ◆  
 Oregon Oak (*Quercus garryana*: 30-80') ◆



## Avoid Invasive “Pest Plants” Near Creeks and Open Space

Before planting “natives” along a creek bank, it’s a good idea to remove any invasive plants. Generally, invasive plants do not provide good bank stability. In addition, they crowd out native species and do not provide the same fish and wildlife habitat as native plants.

If non-native invasive plants remain in close proximity to newly planted natives, the “invasives” will soon overtake the natives. When removing “invasives”, work on one small section at a time and re-establish with natives to ensure that the bank is not completely bare and subject to erosion from wind, rain, and foot traffic.

**Examples of invasive plants to avoid having near creeks and open space, in addition to those listed on page 24 include:**

**Acacia, Bamboo, Spanish broom, and Tree-of-Heaven.**



*Spanish Broom*



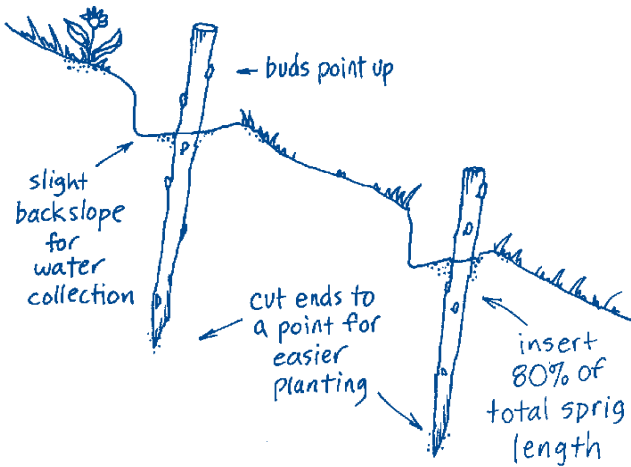
*Tree of Heaven*



*Acacia*



## Planting Willow Sprigs



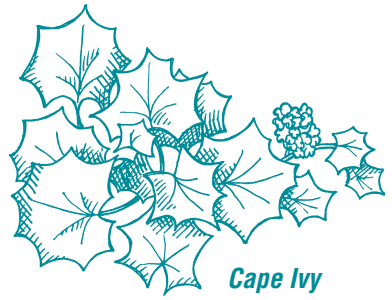
Willows are an effective and inexpensive way to armor creek banks and gullies and to provide important wildlife habitat. For information on planting willows, call Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) at 499-6528.

For more information on protecting local creeks,  
or to request free technical assistance  
for your creek stabilization project,  
contact MCSTOPPP at  
499-6528





*Giant Reed*



*Cape Ivy*



*Algerian Ivy*



*English Ivy*





## What Are Pest Plants?

“Pest plants” are non-native plants introduced to California from other parts of the world. By virtue of having left their natural checks and balances behind, they are capable of overwhelming the native diversity—replacing rich stands of wildflowers with a mere handful of species. Not all non-native species qualify as pest plants, only those that seriously disrupt the indigenous communities.

It is worth noting that many of these pest plants came to California as attractive additions to gardens, and were determined to be pest plants only when they had “escaped” and begun to take over natural areas. For this reason, do not add non-indigenous plants to wild areas or you might end up unwittingly contributing to the demise of the natural beauty that is already there.

Some pest plants—such as French Broom—also increase the fire hazard at a site. Consequently they are targeted for removal by community site stewardship projects with the goal of encouraging natural diversity and reducing fire hazard.

### Learn more About Invasive Plants:

For a list of invasive plants and their alternatives:

CA Invasive Plant Council

<http://www.Cal-IPC.org>

For Information/Projects on Weed Management and Invasive Plants:

Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area

[www.marinsonomaweedmanagement.org](http://www.marinsonomaweedmanagement.org)

For volunteer opportunities to remove invasive plants from trails, etc.:

[www.marinopenspace.org](http://www.marinopenspace.org)

[www.nativehabitats.org](http://www.nativehabitats.org)

### Book of Interest:

[Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands](#), edited by Carla Bossard, John Randall and Marc Hoshovsky, UC Press.

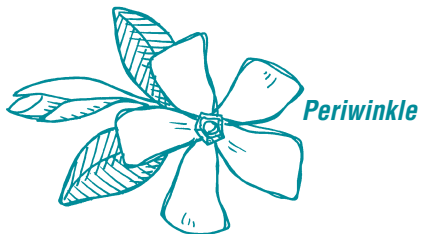


## TOP “PEST” PLANTS TO AVOID IN MARIN

Cape Ivy (or German Ivy) .....	<i>Delairea odorata</i> .....	riparian/coastal
Eastern Cordgrass.....	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> .....	salt marsh
Ehrharta Grass .....	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i> .....	woodlands
English and Algerian Ivy .....	<i>Hedera helix</i> subspecies.....	woodlands/riparian
European Beachgrass.....	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> .....	coastal dunes
Fennel .....	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> .....	widespread
French Broom .....	<i>Genista monspessulana</i> .....	widespread
Giant Reed.....	<i>Arundo donax</i> .....	riparian areas
Gorse.....	<i>Ulex europeae</i> .....	grasslands/riparian
Harding Grass .....	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i> .....	widespread
Himalayan Blackberry.....	<i>Rubus discolor</i> .....	riparian/woodlands
Ice Plant.....	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> .....	coastal dunes/ grasslands
Italian Thistle .....	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> .....	widespread
Licorice Plant.....	<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i> .....	coastal scrub/ widespread
Milk Thistle .....	<i>Silybum marianum</i> .....	widespread
Pampass Grass .....	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> and <i>jubata</i> .....	widespread
Perennial Peppergrass.....	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> .....	marshlands
Periwinkle.....	<i>Vinca major</i> .....	woodlands/riparian
Poison Hemlock .....	<i>Conium maculatum</i> .....	moist sites widespread
Purple Star Thistle.....	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> .....	grasslands
Scotch Broom .....	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> .....	widespread
South African Capeweed.....	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i> .....	riparian/grassland
Tasmanian Blue Gum .....	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> .....	widespread
Woolly Distaff Thistle.....	<i>Carthamnus lanatus</i> .....	grasslands
Yellow Star Thistle .....	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> .....	widespread

\*Annual ryegrass, wild oats and ripgut brome are pest plants that have become so ubiquitous that they, unfortunately, have become a permanent part of the grasslands.

SOURCE: Bob Soost of the California Native Plant Society, Marin County Chapter



## Pesticides and Water Quality

A study on “The Quality of Our Nation’s Waters” by the U.S. Geological Survey found that insecticides are detected more often, and usually in higher concentrations, in urban streams as opposed to agricultural streams. Most common were carbaryl, sevin, and malathion. (Diazinon was also found but subsequently removed from retail stores in 2004 because of human health concerns. This was done through a voluntary agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and product registrants.)

Chemicals called pyrethroids are now being used as replacements for some common pesticides that have been removed from retail store shelves. Unfortunately, researchers have found widespread toxicity caused by these synthetic pyrethroids in Bay area urban creeks. Pyrethroids are **highly toxic** to aquatic insects and crustaceans. Unlike pyrethrin, they last longer in the environment. (Note: Pyrethrin is a “natural” pesticide made from the chrysanthemum flower; however, it is toxic to birds, fish, and beneficial insects until it breaks down in the environment.)

You can recognize pyrethroids by looking at the active ingredient listed, in small print, on the front of the product label. If the active ingredient ends with a “thrin” (with the exception of pyrethrin), the chemical is a synthetic pyrethroid! The only pyrethroid-containing over-the-counter product that does not contain “thrin” in its name is esfenvalerate – also toxic to insects, crustaceans and fish.

Consider avoiding products that contain pyrethroids! Also avoid insect-repellent clothing treated with permethrin (another example of a pyrethroid). EPA found that wearing such clothing more than once a year could increase cancer risks.

Herbicides found in many common “weed and feed” products are also problematic. Independent tests on a common weed killer used in lawn care have found a strong link to increased miscarriages and lost pregnancies. For more information on lawn care, go to [www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm).



## Our Water, Our World: Alternatives to a Toxic Tomorrow

Far too often, we use toxic products when they are not necessary or because we are not aware of healthier alternatives. In a regional survey conducted by the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), 75% of consumers said they would be willing to try less toxic alternatives to manage household and garden pests if they were available. They ARE! In Marin, 15 local retail stores are partnering with Marin County

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program to promote the availability of less toxic products for consumer purchase. The stores participating in the program, called “**Our Water, Our World**”, include:

### **Belvedere/Tiburon**

Bayside Garden Center

### **Fairfax**

Fairfax Lumber/Ace Hardware

### **Kentfield**

Sloat Garden Center

### **Mill Valley**

Goodman Building Supply  
Sloat Garden Center (2)

### **Novato**

Pini Ace Hardware  
Sloat Garden Center

### **San Anselmo**

Sunnyside

### **San Rafael**

Jackson's Hardware  
Marin Ace  
Orchard Supply Hardware  
Sloat Garden Center  
The Home Depot

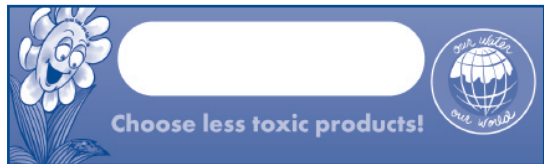
### **Pt. Reyes Station**

Toby's Feed Barn

Next time you visit one of the stores listed above, look for this sign next to pesticide products that are safer for you, your family, and pets! These tags are placed

beneath less toxic products as they are displayed on store shelves. The cards (shelf-talkers) give the name of the product in the white area of the tag.

For more information on the availability of less toxic products and how to have a less toxic home and garden, visit [www.OurWaterOurWorld.org](http://www.OurWaterOurWorld.org).



## Resources

For more information on native plants contact:

**CA Native Plant Society, Marin chapter** at  
[www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps/index.html](http://www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps/index.html) or [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

**CA Native Plant Link Exchange** at  
[www.cnplx.info](http://www.cnplx.info)

**Mostly Natives** at  
[www.mostlynatives.com/guide.htm](http://www.mostlynatives.com/guide.htm)

For creating healthier habitats and/or using less toxic pest management and safer alternatives, contact:

[www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/alternatives.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/alternatives.html)

[www.birc.org](http://www.birc.org)

[www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

[www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)

[www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)

[www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)

[www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)

[www.herc.org](http://www.herc.org)

To find out how you can volunteer to remove invasive plants from hiking trails and open space areas, contact:

[www.marinopenspace.org](http://www.marinopenspace.org)

### Looking for a Gardener or Landscaper?

Consider choosing one that has gone through the Bay-Friendly landscaping program offered by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) and Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD).

“Bay-Friendly” is a holistic and sustainable approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Watershed - of which Marin is a part! This approach - among other things - protects water and air quality, nurtures the soil, reuses and sources materials and plants locally, sends less waste to landfills, conserves energy and water, and uses an integrated approach to pest management.

Find landscapers committed to taking a bay-friendly approach by going to [www.bayfriendlycoalition.org](http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org). A “Marin” list is also available through [www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org) or by calling MCSTOPPP at 473-6528.



Notes on Natives:



Notes on Natives:





February 2013