Native Plants – The Landscape Choice for Sustainability

by Ann Elliott
Mount Lassen Chapter - California Native Plant Society
Why Landscape with Natives?

Include Natives in Your Yard Easily
California Floristic Province

Mediterranean Climate Zone

Cool, wet winters

Long, hot, dry summers
Native Plants Are Adapted to Our Climate.

They need less:

- water
- fertilizer
- soil amendments
- pesticides
- maintenance

So:

monetary & environmental costs
Native plants provide natural food and habitat for more:

- pollinators
- other insects
- birds
- wildlife
Native Landscapes Can Keep Lakes, Creeks, and Rivers Clean
As human development ↑

natural habitats ↓

Our yards with native plants can provide a "bridge" to nearby remaining wildlands.
Include Natives in Your Yard Easily

• Start small
• Integrate natives into existing plantings
• Convert just a portion of your yard

• Use existing designs
• Choose suitable plants
Use Existing Designs

– *Native Landscape Planting Guide* (handout)
– [CNPS.org](CNPS.org) (Gardening tab)
– [MountLassen_CNPS.org](MountLassen_CNPS.org) (Horticulture tab)
– Visit Local Native Plant Gardens
– Books on Native Plants
Choose Suitable Plants

- Plant Local
- Group plants by needs – **soil**, **sun**, **water**
Plant Resources

- Calscape.org (part of CNPS.org)
- Books on Native Plants
- Visit Local Native Plant Gardens to see plant size/shape/look.
- Floral Native Nursery
- Other local nurseries
- Mail Order Nurseries
Pick a Design: Pollinator Park

Parkway Strip or Along Driveway

Features: stepping stones and contrasting colors.
Pick your plants.
Lawn Conversion to Natives

• rebates?
• decide on basic design
• kill lawn
  – sheet mulch
  – Bermuda grass? – solarize one summer
• convert irrigation to drip
• plant through mulch
Irrigation Conversion

• sprinkler removal
• pressure regulator
• add filter if needed
• drip line
• emitters (allow for later removal)
New Mindset Needed

Away from “traditional,”

To natural and sustainable.

↑ Spring Bloom

← After winter cleanup
See the transformation.
Why Landscape with Native Plants?

• Adapted to our climate
• Use fewer resources
• Have natural California beauty
• Expand and link habitat for wildlife and insects.
MountLassen.CNPS.org

Start small. Plant one California native plant today.