**CALIFORNIA NATIVE LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN**

Designed as a 1000 square foot front yard of native plants local to the Los Angeles area, this garden features plants that tend to look attractive year-round with minimal maintenance once established. Habitat is maximized with a swath of low Coyote Brush, which provides a central grounding point to the colorful edge plantings. A rain garden captures and infiltrates rainwater from the roof gutter, keeping this precious resource on site to replenish the local aquifer.

**BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS**

- Saves water
- Reduces polluted runoff to the ocean
- No toxic pesticides/herbicides or fertilizer
- Lower maintenance than average gardens
- Invites wildlife + supports local ecology

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4” of bark mulch keeps the plant’s roots cool, locks in moisture + discourages weeds. Allow leaf litter to remain in place to build a healthy soil interface for beneficial organisms.

Downspouts are directed to the rain garden swale.

The curving rain garden swale is a slight depression that slows water and allows it to infiltrate into the soil, storing the water on site, recharging local aquifers, and preventing pollutants from running into the ocean.

The garden teems with life! Watch as birds, bees, and butterflies enjoy the biodiversity of your garden.

A variety of leaf textures and plant forms bring a rich tactile quality to the garden. Sow California poppy, lupine, + clarkia seeds in fall for spectacular color!

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**SIDEWALK**

**HOUSE**

**4’**

**30’**

**4’**
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### TALL

- **Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)**
  - 8-30' H + 10-15' W / Summer Flowers + Winter Berries
  - Sun / 2 in plan

- **Malacothamnus fascicularis (Chaparral Mallow)**
  - 3-12’ H + 6’ W + spreading / Winter to Spring Bloom
  - Full to Part Sun / 1 in plan

- **Ceanothus ‘Dark Star’**
  - 6’H + 8’ W Spring Flower / Limit summer water once established / Sun to Part Shade / 1 in plan

### MEDIUM

- **Muhlenbergia rigens (Deergrass)**
  - 2-4’ H + 4’ W
  - Sun to Part Shade / 9 in plan

- **Leymus condensatus ‘Canyon Prince’**
  - (Canyon Prince Wild Rye) / 3’ H + 3’ W (spreading)
  - Sun to Part Shade / 11 in plan

- **Juncus patens (California Gray Rush)**
  - 2’ H + 2’ W
  - Sun or Shade / 6 in plan

- **Festuca californica (California Fescue)**
  - 2’ H + 2’ inflorescence, 2’ W
  - Sun to Part Shade / 47 in plan

- **Salvia apiana (White Sage)**
  - 3-5’ H + 4-6’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
  - Full to Part Sun / 1 in plan

- **Lupinus albifrons (Silver Bush Lupine)**
  - 3’ H + 5’ W / Spring Bloom / Do not ingest plant
  - Full to Part Sun / 1 in plan

### SHORT

- **Galvezia speciosa (Island Snapdragon)**
  - 3’ H + 5’ W / Spring Bloom
  - Part Sun or Shade / 3 in plan

- **Penstemon heterophyllus (Foothill Penstemon)**
  - 1’ H + 2’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
  - Full to Part Sun / 12 in plan

- **Baccharis pilularis ‘Pigeon Point’**
  - (Pigeon Point Dwarf Coyote Brush) / 2’ H + 6-8’ W
  - Full Sun / 5 in plan

- **Eriogonum umbellatum var. umbellatum**
  - (Sulfur Buckwheat) 1’ H + 3’ W / Summer Bloom
  - Full to Part Sun / 9 in plan

- **Salvia leucophylla ‘Bee’s Bliss’**
  - (Bee’s Bliss Sage) 1-2’ H + 2-5’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
  - Full to Part Sun / 14 in plan
Some plants we love and recommend for the Low Maintenance Garden:

- Salvia leucophylla (Purple Sage)
- Eriogonum fasciculatum (California Buckwheat)
- Eriogonum parvifolium (Coast Buckwheat)
- Salvia spathacea (Hummingbird Sage)
- Dudleya pulverulenta (Chalk Dudleya)
- Peritoma arborea (Bladder Pod)
- Artemisia californica ‘Montara’ (Montara California Sagebrush)
- Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia (Hollyleaf Cherry)
- Baccharis pilularis consanguinea ‘Pozo Surf’ (Lowly Coyote Brush)
- Aristida purpurea (Purple Three Awn)

**PLANTING TIPS**
- Best to plant natives in fall + early winter.
- Sheet mulch to amend the soil and repress weeds.
- Apply 4” of mulch over planting area and parkway, keeping it away from the base of plants to avoid crown rot.
- Before planting, give each planting hole a good soaking; after planting, water each plant deeply.
- Avoid soil amendments, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- Control weeds by hand or with a hula-hoe.

**IRRIGATION TIPS**
- You can convert spray heads to drip irrigation. Note that overhead irrigation (pop-up sprinklers, riser shrub heads, single or multi-stream sprinkler/rotors/nozzles) is not allowed or eligible for LADWP rebates.
- Bury PVC pipe at least 4 inches in the ground.
- Use schedule 40 or thicker PVC pipe and use “brown” aboveground piping, which is resistant to UV rays.
- Use weather-based irrigation controllers (WBIC) to automate seasonal irrigation adjustments.

**WATERING TIPS**
- Water plants by hand or with drip irrigation.
- Watering too often causes more damage than under-watering.
- Water infrequently, adding additional watering days only if plants look stressed.
- Water deeply, but without causing runoff or water to pool at the base of plants.
- Water during cooler hours, between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., to conserve water.
- Check the soil a few inches under the mulch. If it is moist, do not water.
- Water for 1-3 years, throughout the year, to establish plants. After this, natives need very little water.
- When establishing plants, water no more than 1-2 times per week.
- After establishment, water very rarely (e.g., during a dry winter if plants look stressed); watering regularly or during the summer can shorten the lifespan of plants.