CALIFORNIA NATIVE MODERN GARDEN

This 1000 sq. ft. modern front yard garden exclusively uses plants native to the Los Angeles area, creating large swaths of color, texture, pattern, and movement that will draw wildlife into your garden. Architectural bunch grasses and native succulents arranged in clean lines define this bold design. Silvery green manzanita shrubs form a natural side hedge. A rain garden captures and infiltrates rainwater from the roof gutter, keeping this precious resource on site.

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

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.

Elegant swaths of grass sway in the wind.

Existing permeable path.

Downspouts are directed to the rain garden swale.

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

An L-shaped 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.

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**TALL**

**Arctostaphylos glauca (Big Berry Manzanita)**
7-12' H + 7-12' W / Late Winter Bloom
Full Sun / 3 in plan

**MEDIUM**

**Muhlenbergia rigens (Deergrass)**
2-4' H + 4' W
Sun to Part Shade / 31 in plan

**Leymus condensatus ‘Canyon Prince’**
(Canyon Prince Wild Rye) / 3' H + 3' W (spreading)
Sun to Part Shade / 12 in plan

**Juncus patens (California Gray Rush)**
2' H + 2' W
Sun or Shade / 9 in plan

**SHORT**

**Festuca californica (California Fescue)**
1-2' H + 3' inflorescence 2' W
Sun to Part Shade / 109 in plan

**Asclepias fascicularis (Narrow Leaf Milkweed)**
1-3' H + 1' W
Sun to Part Shade / Winter Dormant / 7 in plan

**Artemisia californica ‘Canyon Grey’**
(Canyon Grey Sagebrush) / 4' H + 4' W / Sun / 3 in plan

**Dudleya pulverulenta (Chalk Dudleya)**
18" H + 18" W
Sun to Part Shade / 14 in plan

**Dudleya lanceolata**
(Lance Leaf Dudleya) / 1' H + 1' W / Sun to Part Shade / 8 in plan

**Achillea millefolium (Y arrow)**
6" H (flowers to 2' H) + 2-3' W (spreading)
Spring - Summer Bloom / Sun to Shade / 7 in plan
CALIFORNIA NATIVE MODERN GARDEN

STREET VIEW

OTHER GREAT PLANTS TO TRY
Some plants we love and recommend for the Modern Garden:

- Aristida purpurea (Purple Three Awn)
- Hesperoyucca whipplei (Chaparral Yucca)
- Artemisia californica 'Montara' (Montara California Sagebrush)
- Eriogonum cinereum (Ashy-leaf Buckwheat)
- Eriogonum parvifolium (Cliff Buckwheat)
- Eriogonum umbellatum (Sulfur Flower Buckwheat)
- Salvia apiana (White Sage)
- Salvia leucophylla ‘Bee’s Bliss’ (Bee’s Bliss Sage)
- Myrica californica (Pacific Wax Myrtle)
- Ceanothus crassifolius (Hoaryleaf Ceanothus)

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.

GARDEN TEMPLATES COURTESY OF

Garden Design + Graphic Design by Tricia O’Connell + Elisabeth Weinstein

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