CALIFORNIA NATIVE TRADITIONAL GARDEN

Inspired by lush English flower and hedge gardens, this 1000 square foot yard is designed entirely with native California plants found in the Los Angeles area! A variety of purple and pink flowers bloom year-round and contrast nicely with dark green and silver foliage. Hedge plants at the back and sides provide visual structure while also offering shelter and food for birds and pollinators. The 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

Redbud trees bloom in Spring, then leaf out to provide a cool canopy for birds.

California lilac is a rich green carpet under the shade of the trees. Royal Pestemon and Wooly Blue Curls are showstoppers up front!

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.

A teardrop-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.

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

Downspouts are directed to the rain garden swale.
Cercis occidentalis (Western Redbud)
15’ H + 10’ W / Spring Bloom
Full Sun to Part Shade / 2 in plan

Rhamnus californica ‘Eve Case’ (Eve Case Coffeberry)
3-7’ H + W
Sun to Part Shade / 2 in plan

Salvia leucophylla (Purple Sage)
6’ H + 8’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
Full Sun / 3 in plan

Penstemon spectabilis (Royal Penstemon)
4’ H + 4’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
Full Sun / 18 in plan

Trichostema lanatum (Woolly Blue Curls)
4’ H + W / Spring to Fall Bloom / Full to Part Sun / Limit
summer water after establishment / 2 in plan

Festuca californica (California Fescue)
2’ H + 3’ W inflorescence
Sun to Part Shade / 12 in plan

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus ‘Yankee Point’
(Yankee Point California Lilac)
3-4’ H + 6-10’ W / Spring Bloom
Full to Part Sun / 10 in plan

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

Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)
6” H (flowers to 2’ H) + 2-3’ W (spreading)
Spring - Summer Bloom / Sun to Shade / 17 in plan

Sisyrinchium bellum (Blue-eyed Grass)
12-18 in. H + 6 in. W / Spring Bloom
Full Sun to Part Shade / Summer dormant / 11 in plan

Fragaria vesca (Wood strawberry)
4-6” H + W (spreading)
Full to Part Sun / 35 per plan

Corethrogyne filaginifolia (California Aster)
6” H + 3’ W / Summer to Fall Bloom
Full to Part Sun / 3 per plan

Baccharis pilularis ‘Twin Peaks No. 2’
(Twin Peaks No. 2 Dwarf Coyote Brush)
1’ H + 3-5’ W / Full Sun to Part Shade / 9 per plan

Penstemon heterophyllus (Foothill Penstemon)
1 ’H + 2’ W / Spring to Summer Bloom
Full to Part Sun / 11 in plan
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STREET VIEW

OTHER GREAT PLANTS TO TRY
Some plants we love and recommend for the Traditional Garden:
• Ceanothus thyrsiflorus ‘LT Blue’ (LT Blue California Wild Lilac)
• Baccharis pilularis consanguinea ‘Pozo Surf’ (Lowly Coyote Brush)
• Eriogonum cinereum (Ashyleaf Buckwheat)
• Salvia spathacea (Hummingbird Sage)
• Oenothera californica ssp. californica (California Evening Primrose)
• Ribes malvaceum (Pink Chaparral Currant)
• Salvia leucophylla ‘Bee’s Bliss’ (Bee’s Bliss Sage)
• Calystegia macrostegia (Coast Morning Glory)
• Rhus integrifolia (Lemonade Berry)
• Rosa californica (California Wild Rose)

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.

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