



The Power of Plants and Pests

California Native Plants and Pests Protect

What's the buzz about native plants and species?

Whether you already have a garden or you're thinking of creating one, plan to use native plants and pests to reap benefits for both yourself and our waterways. California native plants attract beneficial native pests, so you'll not only save water but eliminate the use of harmful, chemical-filled pesticides that can end up in our waterways when it rains.

The Perks of (Native) Plants



California native plants require very little maintenance and have several benefits:

1. **They need less water** because they're already acclimated to California's drier climate
2. **Native plant beds are a stormwater sponge!** They absorb rainwater and pollutants that would otherwise run into storm drains and directly into our waterways
3. **They eliminate the need for fertilizers and pesticides** that could be washed into our storm drains

Plants to Pick



Here are some California native plants that you can plant in your garden:

- Bush monkeyflower (attracts butterflies)
- Blue elderberry (attracts butterflies)
- Coyote bush
- Common yarrow

The Bee-utiful Benefits of Native Gardens



By creating a garden filled with native plants and species, you're helping to create a native habitat for essential species! Here's why native gardens are important:

- **They provide habitat for native wildlife** (e.g., honey bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds)
- **They maintain the stability of our ecosystems** as native species can thrive and our soil and waterways stay healthy

For more eco-friendly gardening tips, visit [cccleanwater.org](https://www.cccleanwater.org)!

Make Buddies with Native Bugs



Introducing natural predators like ladybugs will help you eradicate pesky pests like aphids! Many spiders that are already in your garden are also beneficial and help get rid of unwanted pests.

Use native predators to help naturally eliminate pests so you can eliminate harmful pesticides and herbicides.



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Prevent Invaders from Infesting Contra Costa County!



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Don't let them in and don't let them win!

Invasive species drown out native species vital to California's ecosystems. Contra Costa County is threatened by many invasive plant, insect, and animal species. One invasive species that's found in Mt. Diablo Creek is the **New Zealand mud snail**. These pests are infamous for stealing the food of native fish and insects and threatening their health and existence. You can be a part of the solution! **Help protect native species, by actively removing invasive species and preventing their spread.**

If you're going on a hike, dust off your clothing and equipment before traveling back home or to your next destination. Small seeds and insects can easily be carried or tracked and spread through your gear.

Use integrated pest management (IPM) to eliminate pests. IPM takes a natural approach to getting rid of unwanted bugs and critters. Add beneficial nematodes (*H. bacteriophora* or *S. carpocapse*) to soil if you discover a flea problem outdoors. If you're dealing with invasive plants, physically remove them to avoid the use of chemical-filled pesticides. Some common invasive plants include many ice plant species and English ivy.

If you have a bigger infestation problem, hire a professional pest control company that uses IPM practices that are safe for your pets, home, and the environment. Visit ourwaterourworld.org to learn more about natural pest control solutions.

GET INVOLVED. California Invasive Species Action Week (CISAW) is June 1 - June 9, 2024. **Join a volunteer event for invasive species removal or a restoration project!** To see a schedule of events, visit wildlife.ca.gov/CISAW.



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