GO NATIVE

Using Native Plants For Your
• Yard
• Patio
• Creek

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

www.mcstoppp.org
Notes on Natives:

Acknowledgments:
MCSTOPPP gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by Debi Tidd of The Gardens at Heather Farm, Doreen Smith of the CA Native Plant Society, Marin Chapter, David Herlocker and Mischon Martin of Marin County Parks and Open Space District, and Charlotte Torgovitsky of the Marin Art and Garden Center.

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Why Use Native Plants?

When planning a garden, there are many reasons to consider native plants. They are adapted to the climate and soil conditions of their area, they attract beneficial insects to the area, they provide food and habitat for birds and butterflies, they thrive (even in nutrient-poor soils), they need little watering, they are more resistant to pests and diseases, and they don’t require the use of toxic pesticides.

A “true” native means that it is native to a particular area. Just because a plant is a “California native” doesn’t mean it is suited for life in Marin. The best way to tell this is to look around and see the types of native plants growing nearby in the wild.

“Natives” that occur naturally in your area are adapted to specific local conditions and will be the easiest to grow.

Tips on Planting “Natives”

Care for your new plants during the first few years to help them become established. Dry-season watering, regular weeding, mulching, and installing deer protectors will increase survival rates. After the first few years, you should not need to continue watering your native plants.

Early Fall is an ideal time to plant natives. The cool weather and rainfall will help plants establish a healthy root system before Spring growth.

Visit the MCSTOPPP website for more information on Native Plants at www.mcstoppp.org
Where to Buy Natives

Visit a nursery that specializes in native plants to help select species that will thrive in your garden or on your creek bank. The following local nurseries offer a good selection of native plants.

**Green Jean’s**—690 Redwood Highway, Mill Valley (415) 389-8333

**Larner Seeds**—230 Grove Rd., Bolinas (415) 868-9407
  (call about demonstration garden open to the public from October-July)

**Las Baulines Nursery**—150 Olema-Bolinas Rd, Bolinas (415) 868-0808

**Mostly Natives Nursery**—27235 Highway 1, Tomales (707) 878-2009

**North Coast Native Nursery**—Petaluma (Pacific Open Space Inc.) (707) 769-1213

**O’Donnell’s Nursery**—1700 Sir Francis Drake, Fairfax (415) 453-0372

Other Locations to find Native Plants in Northern California

- Baylands Nursery, East Palo Alto ........................................ (650) 323-1645
- Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, Berkeley .............................. (510) 526-4704
- Bitterroot Restoration, Inc. Auburn .................................... (530) 745-9814
- Buckeye Nursery, Petaluma.................................................. (707) 559-7081
- California Flora Nursery, Fulton ........................................... (707) 528-8813
- Carman’s Nursery, Gilroy..................................................... (408) 847-2313
- Cornflower Farms, Elk Grove .............................................. (916) 689-1015
- Elkhorn Ranch Restoration Nursery, Moss Landing ............. (831) 763-1207
- Las Pilitas Nursery, Santa Margarita .................................. (805) 438-5992
- Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross (periodic sales)........... (415) 455-5263
- Native Revival Nursery, Aptos ............................................ (831) 684-1811
- Pacific Coast Seed, Livermore ............................................ (925) 373-4417
- Redwood Nursery, Santa Cruz ............................................ (831) 438-2844
- Soquel Nursery Growers, Soquel ....................................... (831) 475-3533
- Sunset Coast Nursery, Aromas ............................................ (831) 726-1672
- The Watershed Nursery, Berkeley ...................................... (510) 548-4714
- Yerba Buena Nursery, Woodside ....................................... (650) 851-1668
- The California Native Plant Society, ................................ (650) 691-9749

at the Peninsula Conservation Center, holds annual and semi-annual native plant sales.
When and What to Plant

The best time to plant is in the fall—just before the rains start. This allows plants to develop a strong root system before the summer heat. Though native plants don’t require water once they are established, they may require some tending to for the first year or two—especially if they are planted in the hot summer months.

The following is a list of native plants that are good for attracting butterflies, beneficial insects, hummingbirds, and other backyard birds to your garden. While all plants listed are native to California, those plants that are native to Marin are also noted. However, even in Marin there are climate changes and unique differences so look around you. For example, what is native to Pt. Reyes (a cool coastal climate) is not always native to Novato (a hot inland climate).

Sowing California Wildflower Seeds

Native wildflowers are best sown early in the rainy season. Choose an area with at least six hours of sunlight a day; part shade is fine for some species, but generally the more sun the better. The area will need to be weeded, and the soil loosened to about a two-inch depth. Mix your seed mix with sand—make sure it’s river sand, not beach sand. Use about 1 teaspoon of seeds to cover 100 square feet (that’s about a 10’ x 10’ area or a 2’ x 50’ area). Scatter this mix over the area that has been prepared, and then pat it down by hand—or walk on it to assure good seed to soil contact. Cover the seeded area with a light mulch. You can choose to water—or let the rains take care of it! For increasingly beautiful displays, let your wildflowers re-seed themselves year after year!
**NATIVE PLANT LIST**

Here are some California native plants that are reliable and hardy, and will attract wildlife to your garden. Plants are noted as perennial (P), annual (A), tree, shrub or vine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Blooming Season</th>
<th>Native to Marin</th>
<th>Backyard Birds</th>
<th>Hummingbird</th>
<th>Beneficial Insects</th>
<th>Butterfly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alder</td>
<td>Alnus spp.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumroot</td>
<td>Heuchera micrantha</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelica</td>
<td>Angelica spp.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring / Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster</td>
<td>Nemophila menziesii</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Spring / Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baby blue-eyes</td>
<td>Umbellaria californica</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Summer to Fall</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Laurel</td>
<td>Rubus ursinus</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bleeding heart</td>
<td>Dicentra formosa</td>
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<td>Summer to Fall</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckeye</td>
<td>Enogonium spp.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckwheat</td>
<td>Galvezia speciosa</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush Island snapdragon</td>
<td>Lindsaya californica</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Checkerbloom</td>
<td>Collinsia heterophylla</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese houses</td>
<td>Clarkia</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coast silk-tassel</td>
<td>Clarkia spp.</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Phlomis fertilis</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Populus spp.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Native to Marin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cow parsley</td>
<td>Heracleum lanatum</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Backyard Birds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coyote bush</td>
<td>Baccharis spp.</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Hummingbird</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream bush</td>
<td>Holodiscus discolor</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Beneficial Insects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Currant, golden</td>
<td>Ribes aureum</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Butterfly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deergress</td>
<td>Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogwood</td>
<td>Muhlenbergia rigens</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderberry</td>
<td>Cornus sericea</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
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<td>Figwort, California</td>
<td>Scrophularia californica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowering ash</td>
<td>Fremontodendron californicum</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldenrods</td>
<td>Solidago californica</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazelhong</td>
<td>Ceanothus californica</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris, Pacific Coast</td>
<td>Iris douglasiana</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilac, California</td>
<td>Iris douglasiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lupine</td>
<td>Lupinus spp.</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mallow</td>
<td>Lavatera assurgentiflora</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manzanita</td>
<td>Arctostaphylos spp.</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Winter / Berries in Fall</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matilija poppy</td>
<td>Romneyra coulteri</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Milkweed</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkeyflower, scarlet</td>
<td>Mimulus aurantiacus</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkeyflower, sticky</td>
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<td>Mugwort</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Oak</td>
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<td>Oregon grape</td>
<td>Berberis aquifolium</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Pearly Everlasting</td>
<td>Anaphalis margaritacea</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>Penstemon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phegx</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis occidentails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose, California</td>
<td>Rosa California</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sage, California</td>
<td>Artemisia californica</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>x</td>
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</table>

**Native Plant List**

**Native to Marin**

**Backyard Birds**

**Hummingbird**

**Beneficial Insects**

**Butterfly**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Blooming Season</th>
<th>Native to Marin</th>
<th>Backyard Birds</th>
<th>Hummingbird</th>
<th>Beneficial Insects</th>
<th>Butterfly</th>
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<th>Backyard Birds</th>
<th>Hummingbird</th>
<th>Beneficial Insects</th>
<th>Butterfly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sage, Cleveland's</td>
<td>Salvia clevelandii</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Sage, hummingbird</td>
<td>Salvia spathecea</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Sage, pitcher</td>
<td>Lepechinia calycina</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Sage, white</td>
<td>Salvia apiana</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snowberry</td>
<td>Symphoricarpus albus var. kaempferi</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Winter / Berries in Fall</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snowdrop bush</td>
<td>Stryx officinalis</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap plant</td>
<td>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorrel</td>
<td>Oxalis oregana</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Succulent</td>
<td>Dudleya spp or Sedum spathulatum</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower, California</td>
<td>Helianthus californicus</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Summer to Fall</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thistle, cobweb</td>
<td>Cirsium occidentale</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring / Summer</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrift</td>
<td>Armeria maritima</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Mid to late Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tidyips</td>
<td>Layia platyglossa</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring / Berries in Fall</td>
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<td>Tidytips</td>
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<td>Tidyips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twinberry</td>
<td>Lonicera involucrata</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgin's Bower</td>
<td>Clematis sps.</td>
<td>Vine</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Salix spp.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow Arrow, Common</td>
<td>Oenothera hookeri</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow evening primrose</td>
<td>Trichostema lanatum</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Spring to Summer</td>
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<td>Spring to Summer</td>
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Deer Resistant Native Plants (sometimes!)

Deer in different areas seem to have different tastes. To complicate matters even further, what they like one year may change the next and young deer will try almost anything it seems. As well, plants left untouched in the spring may be eaten in the fall.

For more information on deer resistant plants, including “best bets”, check out this link: http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/Conservation/plantlists/DeerResistantPlants.pdf

Some examples of native deer resistant plants are listed below. The native plants that are considered almost always deer resistant are placed in bold type. Because native plants are better adapted to the local climate than their exotic counterparts, they should be considered first in landscape planning.

The designation “some” simply means that only some subspecies are native to California.

- Dutchman’s Pipe (vine)
- Baby Blue Eyes
- Beach Strawberry
- Bleeding Heart
- Blue Eyed Grass
- Buckwheat
- California Honeysuckle (vine)
- Clematis (vine)
- Coffeeberry (shrub)
- Dwarf Coyote Brush
- Ferns
- Fuchsia, California
- Iris
- Larkspur (some)
- Lupines
- Matilija Poppy
- Monterey Manzanita
- Penstemon (some)
- Poppy, California
- Sage (shrub)
- Sea Thrift
- Spicebush (shrub)
- Toyon (shrub)
- Verbena
- Wild Ginger (some)
**Drought Tolerant Native Plants**

Many of our native plants are drought tolerant. Drought tolerant plants have the quality that allows them to survive in low-moisture, high-heat situations. Some native species that appear drought tolerant are really water loving and grow in wet areas near creeks or other water sources that keep them alive. These native species (i.e.- Juncus) would die if their natural water source dried up.

Other native plants are seasonally compatible. This is the case with baby blue eyes. The growing cycle of this plant coincides with the rainy season, dies in the summer, and re-seeds itself for the next season. Following the winter rains, those “baby blues” will emerge again.

The following lists some native drought tolerant plants.

**Native Seasonal Compatible Plants**
- Baby blue eyes
- California Blue Eyed Grass
- California Fushia
- California Poppy
- Coreopsis
- Lupine
- Matilija Poppy
- Monkey Flower
- Pacific Coast Iris

**Native Shrubs**
- California Wild Rose
- Ceanothus Dark Star
- Coast Purple Sage
- Coffebean
- Golden Currant
- Island Snapdragon
- Manzanita ‘Howard McMinn’ or ‘Hookerii’
- Toyon
- Tree Anemone

**Native Grasses/Groundcovers**
- Blue Wild Rye
- California Brome
- California Strawberry
- Ceanothus gloriosus or griseus
- Evergreen Currant
- Manzanita ‘Emerald Carpet’ or ‘uva ursi’
- Meadow Barley
- Muhly Grass
- Red Fescue
- Sea Thrift

![Coffeeberry](image)
If you are a Marin Municipal Water District customer you can receive a free Water-Wise Gardening CD containing a full-color plant library and design ideas for native, as well as Mediterranean gardens. Also look for water-wise plants at the following stores: Sunnyside, Sloats, Bayside, West End, and United.

For more information, contact the Marin Municipal Water District at 415-945-1520.

North Marin Water District offers rebates to their customers for replacing regularly mowed and irrigated turf with drought tolerant, low water use native plants.

For information and participation procedures call: North Marin Water District (Serving Novato and West Marin) Water Conservation Program 415-897-4133 ext 8421
Fire Resistant Plants

The 1995 Mount Vision Fire in Pt. Reyes and the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991 served as a wake-up call to property owners who allow their shrubs and plants to “take over”. “Pruning back” and creating defensible space* is an important step in guarding your property against wildfires. Also important is choosing fire resistant plants. These plants tend to have certain characteristics:

- Most are broad-leaf trees that lose their leaves (deciduous).
- Some thick-leaf evergreens are also fire-resistant.
- Leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed.
- Trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood.
- Shrubs are low-growing (2”) with minimal dead material.
- Tall shrubs are clean, not bushy.
- Sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor.

Some firewise native plants include:
bush anemone (Carpenteria californica)
California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
common flannel bush (Fremontodendron californica)
creeping mahonia (Mahonia repens)
monkey flower (Mimulus repens)
sword fern (Polystichum munitum)
pink winter current or red flowering current (Ribes sanguineum currant)
sage (Salvia clevelandii and Salvia sonomensis)
California fuschia (Zauschneria californica)

* Defensible space breaks up the continuous paths that could carry a wildfire to your home. To learn more about defensible space and how to create it, contact FireSafe Marin at the number below.

For more information on reducing wildland fires call:  
FireSafe Marin  
555 Northgate Ave.  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415-446-4420  
www.firesafemarin.org
Beneficial Insects
Less than one percent of insects are considered garden pests. Insects that are considered good for the garden are called “beneficials.” These beneficial insects eat garden troublemakers! Some favorite native plants that attract beneficial insects include: Marin baby blue eyes, buckwheat, goldenrod, and common yarrow.

Common beneficial insects and their food source include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficial Insect</th>
<th>Garden Troublemakers (food source)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minute Pirate Bug</td>
<td>Aphids, mites, thrips, psyllids, and insect eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladybug</td>
<td>Aphids, mites, thrips, mealybugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier Beetle</td>
<td>Cutworms, gypsy moth larvae, cankerworms, slugs and snails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrphid Fly</td>
<td>Aphids, mealybugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Lacewing</td>
<td>Insect eggs, mites, thrips, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, leafhoppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assassin Bug</td>
<td>Most insect species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mealybug Destroyer</td>
<td>Mealybugs and aphids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragonflies</td>
<td>Small flying insects, including mosquitoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacewings</td>
<td>Aphids, scale, whiteflies, mites, mealybugs, eggs of mites, thrips and other insects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about good garden bugs, visit [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html).
Or get a copy of *Natural Enemies Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control* by UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
You can also call MCSTOPPP at 499-6528 for a free flier on “Naturally Managing Garden Pests.”
Planting A Container Garden

In general, the best plant choices for containers are smaller, herbaceous perennials. If you are growing shrubs in containers, be sure to use a large enough container and keep plants pruned. You might want to scatter some wildflower seeds into the pots to fill in small spaces.

The following offers a list of some native plants good for containers:

**PLANTS FOR SUNNY AREAS**

**PERENNIALS**

Azure Penstemon – *Penstemon azureus*  
Blue-eyed Grass – *Sisyrinchium bellum*  
California fuchsia – *Zauschneria californica* or *Epilobium canum*  
California Goldenrod – *Solidago californica*  
California sagebrush – *Artemisia californica*  
Cleveland Sage – *Salvia clevelandii*  
Coyote Mint – *Monardella spp.*  
Foothill Penstemon – *Penstemon heterophyllus* ‘Margarita BOP’  
Hummingbird Sage – *Salvia spathacea*  
Scarlet Lobelia – *Lobelia cardinalis*  
Seaside Daisy – *Erigeron glaucus*  
Sea Thrift – *Armeria maritima*  
Sticky Monkey Flower – *Mimulus aurantiacus*  
Yerba Buena – *Satureja douglasii*  
Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*

**ANNUALS**

California Poppy – *Eschscholzia californica*  
California Gilia – *Gilia achilleifolia*  
Chia – *Salvia columbariae*  
Farewell-to-spring – *Clarkia amoena*  
Fivespot – *Nemophila maculata*  
Goldfields – *Lasthenia californica*  
Redmaids – *Calandrinia ciliata*  
Tidy Tips – *Layia platyglossa*

**GRASSES**

Hair Grass – *Festuca idahoensis* or *Deschampsia cespitosa*
SHRUBS
Island Snap Dragon - *Galvezia speciosa*
Manzanita
   Arctostaphylos nummularia ‘Small Change’
   Arctostaphylos uva-ursi “Wood’s Compact”
Rosy buckwheat - *Eriogonum grande* var. rubescens
Santa Cruz Island buckwheat - *Eriogonum arborescens*
Wild Lilac – *Ceanothus maritimus*
Wild Rose – *Rosa californica*

PLANTS FOR PART SHADE

SHRUBS
Boxleaf Wax Myrtle – *Myrica buxifolia*
Cream Bush – *Holodiscus discolor*
Dwarf Mahonia – *Berberis repens*
Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos* sp.

PERENNIALS
Beach Strawberry – *Fragaria chiloensis*
Boxleaf Wax Myrtle – *Myrica buxifolia*
Coral Bells – *Heuchera maxima, Heuchera micrantha*
Douglas Iris – *Iris douglasiana*
Hedge Nettle – *Stachys chamissonis*
Meadow Rue – *Thalictrum fendleri*
Sticky Monkey Flower – *Mimulus aurantiacus*
Western Columbine – *Aquilegia formosa*

ANNUALS
Chinese Houses – *Collinsia heterophylla*
Globe Gilia – *Gilia capitata*

GRASSES
Nutka Reed Grass – *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*
Red Fescue – *Festuca rubra*
Planting Along Creeks

A riparian corridor is the vegetated area next to a creek bank. Dense roots and vegetation stabilize creek banks, help reduce soil loss, filter sediment, and slow floodwaters. Trees and shrubs help raise the water table and cool the water—necessary for the survival of fish.

“Natives” that occur naturally in a particular area are adapted to specific local conditions and will be the easiest to grow. Native species that don’t naturally occur in an area will require additional care and maintenance to become established.

The following native trees are more specific to the Marin County watersheds listed below:

**Novato Creek and Miller Creek watersheds:** California bay, California box elder, Coast live oak, Oregon ash, Valley oak, and Willow (red and yellow).

**Corte Madera Creek watershed:** California bay, California box elder, Coast live oak, Oregon ash, Valley oak, Willow (red and yellow), White alder, and Coast redwood in some areas.

**Mill Valley Creek watershed:** Big-leaf maple, California bay, Coast redwood, Tanbark oak, and White alder.

**San Geronimo Creek Watershed:** Redwood, Red alder, Big-leaf maple, California bay, California box elder, California nutmeg, Coast live oak, Douglas fir, Hinds walnut, Oregon ash, Valley oak, and White alder.

Even though plants may be native or attract beneficial insects, they may not be appropriate for planting near creeks. The following two pages provide a list of “natives” that are appropriate for planting near creeks in Marin. The list is not definitive.

Before beginning work on a creekside restoration project, permits may be needed. Call MCSTOPPP at 499-6528.
# Marin County Creekside Native Plant List

- ☐ = Appropriate for sunny conditions
- ☐ = Appropriate for partial sun/shade conditions
- ☐ = Appropriate for shade conditions

## Plant Low on Bank (in or near water)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ground Covers</th>
<th>Perennials</th>
<th>Ferns &amp; Vines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Polypody (<em>Polypodium californicum</em>: 0-2')</td>
<td>Monkey Flower (<em>Mimulus guttatus</em>: 0-3')</td>
<td>Chain Fern (<em>Woodwardia fimbriata</em>: 3-6')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner's Lettuce (<em>Montia perfoliata</em>: 0-1')</td>
<td>Scarlet Monkey Flower (<em>Mimulus cardinalis</em>: 1-3')</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piggy-back Plant (<em>Tolmiea menziesii</em>: 1-2')</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redwood Sorrel (<em>Oxalis oregana</em>: 1-2')</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Ginger (<em>Asarum caudatum</em>: 0-2')</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Strawberry (<em>Fragaria vesca</em>: 0-18')</td>
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</table>

## Plant in the Middle of the Bank

| | | |
| California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*: 6-20') | Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*: 1/2-2') | Alum Root (*Heucher micrantha*: 3-6') |
| Clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*: 15-18' long vine) | Deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*: 1-2') | Douglas's Iris (*Iris douglasiana*: 1-3') |
| Deer Fern (*Blechum spicant*: 1-3') | False Solomons’s-密封 (*Smilacina stellata*: 1-3') | Hedge-Nettle (*Stachys chamissonis*: 2-3') |
| Dutchman's Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*: 3-6') | Hog-Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*: 2-3') | Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*: 2-3') |
| Five Finger Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*: 1-2') | Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*: 1-2') | Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*: 1-2') |
| Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*: 6-18') | Wake Robin (*Trillium ovatum*: 1-2') | Wake Robin (*Trillium ovatum*: 1-2') |
| Native Blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*: 4-8') | | |
| Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') | | |
| Native Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*: 6-20') | | |
| Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') | | |
| Native Blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*: 4-8') | | |
| Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') | | |

## Plant High on Bank (away from water)

| | | |
| Miner's Lettuce (*Montia perfoliata*: 0-1') | California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*: 6-20') | Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*: 6-18') |
| | | Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*: 2-5') |
| | | |
Grasses & Grass-like Plants

- Bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus: 3-6')
- Horsetail (Equisetum arvense: 0-1')
- Spike-rush (Eleocharis palustris: 1-3')
- Torrent sedge (Carex nuda: 3-5')
- Tule, Giant Bulrush (Scirpus acutus: 3-10')
- Whiteroot sedge (Carex barbara: 3-5')

Grasses &

- Blue rush (Juncus patens: 1-2')
- Bog rush (Juncus effusus: 1-2')
- Creeping red fescue (Festuca rubra: 1-2')
- Creeping wild rye (Leymus triticoides: 1-4')
- Iris-leaved rush (Juncus pheacocephalus: 1-4')

- California Aralia (Aralia californica: 3-9')
- California Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum: 3-8')
- Coffeetree (Rhamnus californica: 3-14')
- Creambush (Holodiscus discolor: 3-6')
- Creek Dogwood (Cornus sericea: 5-15')
- Hazelnut (Corylus cornuta: 6-20')
- Ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus: 3-13')
- Red Elderberry (Sambucus callicarpa: 5-20')
- Rose-Bay (Rhododendron macrophyllum: 5-25')
- Salmon Berry (Rubus spectabilis: 3-12')
- Snowberry (Symphoricarpus albus: 6-20')
- Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus: 2-10')
- Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia: 6-30')
- Twinberry (Lonicera involucrata: 2-10')
- Western Azalea (Rhododendron occidentale: 3-15')

- Black Oak (Quercus kelloggii: 30-80')
- Box Elder (Acer negundo: 20-70')
- Buckeye (Aesculus californica: 6-21')
- California Bay (Umbellularia californica: 25-90')
- Canyon Live Oak (Quercus chrysolepis: 30-80')
- Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia: 35-85')
- Madrone (Arbutus menziesii: 40-80')
- Oregon Oak (Quercus garryana: 30-80')

Trees

- Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens: 160-280')
- Gray Willow (Salix exigua: 6-30')
- Oregon Ash (Fraxinus latifolia: 30-80')
- Red Alder (Alnus rubra: 30-105')
- Red Willow (Salix leuca: 15-45')
- White Alder (Alnus rhombifolia: 30-105')
- Yellow Willow (Salix lucida: 20-50')
- Big Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum: 15-100')
- Box Elder (Acer negundo: 20-70')
- California Nutmeg (Torreya californica: 6-25')
- Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens: 160-280')
- Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii: 70-250')
- Red Alder (Alnus rubra: 30-105')
- Tan Oak (Lithocarpus densiflora: 30-80')
- White Alder (Alnus rhombifolia: 30-105')
- Valley Oak (Quercus lobata: 40-125')
- Black Oak (Quercus kelloggii: 30-80')
- Box Elder (Acer negundo: 20-70')
- Buckeye (Aesculus californica: 6-21')
- California Bay (Umbellularia californica: 25-90')
- Canyon Live Oak (Quercus chrysolepis: 30-80')
- Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia: 35-85')
- Madrone (Arbutus menziesii: 40-80')
- Oregon Oak (Quercus garryana: 30-80')
Avoid Invasive “Pest Plants” Near Creeks and Open Space

Before planting “natives” along a creek bank, it’s a good idea to remove any invasive plants. Generally, invasive plants do not provide good bank stability. In addition, they crowd out native species and do not provide the same fish and wildlife habitat as native plants.

If non-native invasive plants remain in close proximity to newly planted natives, the “invasives” will soon overtake the natives. When removing “invasives”, work on one small section at a time and re-establish with natives to ensure that the bank is not completely bare and subject to erosion from wind, rain, and foot traffic.

Examples of invasive plants to avoid having near creeks and open space, in addition to those listed on page 24 include:

Acacia, Bamboo, Spanish broom, and Tree-of-Heaven.
Willows are an effective and inexpensive way to armor creek banks and gullies and to provide important wildlife habitat. For information on planting willows, call Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) at 499-6528.

For more information on protecting local creeks, or to request free technical assistance for your creek stabilization project, contact MCSTOPPP at 499-6528
Cape Ivy

Giant Reed

Algerian Ivy

English Ivy
“Pest plants” are non-native plants introduced to California from other parts of the world. By virtue of having left their natural checks and balances behind, they are capable of overwhelming the native diversity—replacing rich stands of wildflowers with a mere handful of species. Not all non-native species qualify as pest plants, only those that seriously disrupt the indigenous communities.

It is worth noting that many of these pest plants came to California as attractive additions to gardens, and were determined to be pest plants only when they had “escaped” and begun to take over natural areas. For this reason, do not add non-indigenous plants to wild areas or you might end up unwittingly contributing to the demise of the natural beauty that is already there.

Some pest plants—such as French Broom—also increase the fire hazard at a site. Consequently they are targeted for removal by community site stewardship projects with the goal of encouraging natural diversity and reducing fire hazard.

**Learn more About Invasive Plants:**

For a list of invasive plants and their alternatives:
CA Invasive Plant Council
http://www.Cal-IPC.org

For Information/Projects on Weed Management and Invasive Plants:
Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area
www.marinsonomaweedmanagement.org

For volunteer opportunities to remove invasive plants from trails, etc.:
www.marinopenspace.org
www.nativehabitats.org

**Book of Interest:**

*Invasive Plants of California’s Wildlands,* edited by Carla Bossard, John Randall and Marc Hoshovsky, UC Press.
TOP “PEST” PLANTS TO AVOID IN MARIN

Cape Ivy (or German Ivy) .... *Delairea odorata* ............... riparian/coastal
Eastern Cordgrass.......... *Spartina alterniflora* ........ salt marsh
Ehrarta Grass ............. *Ehrharta erecta* .................... woodlands
English and Algerian Ivy .... *Hedera helix* subspecies.... woodlands/riparian
European Beachgrass ...... *Ammophila arenaria* .......... coastal dunes
Fennel........................ *Foeniculum vulgare* .......... widespread
French Broom ............. *Genista monspessulana* .......... widespread
Giant Reed ............... *Arundo donax* ................. riparian areas
Gorse ......................... *Ulex europea* .................. grasslands/riparian
Harding Grass .......... *Phalaris aquatica* ............. widespread
Himalayan Blackberry ...... *Rubus discolor* .......... riparian/woodlands
Ice Plant .................. *Carpobrotus edulis* .......... coastal dunes/ grasslands
Italian Thistle.............. *Carduus pycnocephalus* .......... widespread
Licorice Plant ............ *Helichrysum petiolare* .......... coastal scrub/ widespread
Milk Thistle ................ *Silybum marianum* .......... widespread
Pampass Grass ............ *Cortaderia selloana*
and *jubata* ..................... widespread
Perennial Peppergrass ...... *Lepidium latifolium* .......... marshlands
Periwinkle .................. *Vinca major* .................. woodlands/riparian
Poison Hemlock ............ *Conium maculatum* .......... moist sites widespread
Purple Star Thistle ........ *Centaurea calcitrapa* .......... grasslands
Scotch Broom ............. *Cytisus scoparius* .......... widespread
South African Capeweed .... *Arctotheca calendula* .......... riparian/grassland
Tasmanian Blue Gum ....... *Eucalyptus globulus* .......... widespread
Wooly Distaff Thistle ...... *Carthamnus lanatus* .......... grasslands
Yellow Star Thistle ........ *Centaurea solstitialis* .......... widespread

*Annual ryegrass, wild oats and ripgut brome are pest plants that have become so ubiquitous that they, unfortunately, have become a permanent part of the grasslands.

*SOURCE: Bob Soost of the California Native Plant Society, Marin County Chapter*
Pesticides and Water Quality

A recent study on “The Quality of Our Nation’s Waters” by the U.S. Geological Survey found that insecticides are detected more often, and usually in higher concentrations, in urban streams as opposed to agricultural streams. Most common were diazinon, carbaryl, sevin, and malathion. (Diazinon was removed from retail stores in 2004 because of human health concerns. This was done through a voluntary agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and product registrants.)

Chemicals called pyrethroids are now being used as replacements for some common pesticides that have been removed from retail store shelves. Unfortunately, researchers have found widespread toxicity caused by these synthetic pyrethroids in Bay area urban creeks. Pyrethroids are **highly toxic** to aquatic insects and crustaceans. Unlike pyrethrin, they last longer in the environment. (Note: Pyrethrin is a “natural” pesticide made from the chrysanthemum flower; however, it is toxic to birds, fish, and beneficial insects until it breaks down in the environment.)

You can recognize pyrethroids by looking at the active ingredient listed, in small print, on the front of the product label. If the active ingredient ends with a “thrin” (with the exception of pyrethrin), the chemical is a synthetic pyrethroid! The only pyrethroid-containing over-the-counter product that does not contain “thrin” in its name is esfenvalerate – also toxic to insects, crustaceans and fish.

Consider avoiding products that contain pyrethroids! Also avoid insect-repellent clothing treated with permethrin (another example of a pyrethroid). EPA found that wearing such clothing more than once a year could increase cancer risks.

Herbicides found in many common “weed and feed” products are also problematic. Independent tests on a common weed killer used in lawn care have found a strong link to increased miscarriages and lost pregnancies. For more information on lawn care, go to www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm.
Our Water, Our World: Alternatives to a Toxic Tomorrow

Far too often, we use toxic products when they are not necessary or because we are not aware of healthier alternatives. In a regional survey conducted by the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), 75% of consumers said they would be willing to try less toxic alternatives to manage household and garden pests if they were available. They ARE! In Marin, 15 local retail stores are partnering with Marin Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program to promote the availability of less toxic products for consumer purchase. The stores participating in the program, called “Our Water, Our World”, include:

**Belvedere/Tiburon**
Bayside Garden Center

**Fairfax**
Fairfax Lumber/Ace Hardware
O’Donnell’s

**Larkspur/Greenbrae/Kentfield**
Jim Corbet’s Ace
Sloat Garden Center

**Mill Valley**
Goodman Building Supply
Green Jeans
Sloat Garden Center (2)

**Novato**
Pini Ace Hardware
Sloat Garden Center

**San Anselmo**
Sunnyside

**San Rafael**
Orchard Supply Hardware
Sloat Garden Center
Jackson’s Hardware

Next time you visit one of the stores listed above, look for this sign next to pesticide products that are safer for you, your family, and pets! These tags are placed beneath less toxic products as they are displayed on store shelves. The cards (shelf-talkers) give the name of the product in the white area of the tag.

For more information on the availability of less toxic products and how to have a less toxic home and garden, visit [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org).
Resources

For more information on native plants contact:
CA Native Plant Society, Marin chapter at
www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps/index.html or www.cnps.org
CA Native Plant Link Exchange at
www.cnplx.info
Mostly Natives at
www.mostlynatives.com/guide.htm

For creating healthier habitats and/or using less toxic pest management and safer alternatives, contact:
www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/alternatives.html
www.birc.org
www.panna.org
www.pesticide.org
www.ourwaterourworld.org
www.ewg.org
www.beyondpesticides.org
www.herc.org

To find out how you can volunteer to remove invasive plants from hiking trails and open space areas, contact:
www.marinopenspace.org
Notes on Natives:
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Copies of this publication should not be made without permission. Call MCSTOPPP at 415-499-6528.
GO NATIVE

Using Native Plants

FOR YOUR

• Yard
• Patio
• Creek

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

www.mcstoppp.org