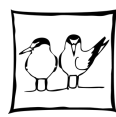


# California Native Plants for Container Gardens



FRIENDS OF BALLONA WETLANDS

Using California native plants on your balcony or patio is an excellent way to provide habitat for wildlife, save water & add low maintenance beauty to your world.

## Step 1: Evaluate Your Space

How much sun does your patio/balcony get & how much space do you have? Can you fit a large shrub? Full Sun > 6 hrs, Part Sun = 3-6 hrs, Shade < 3 hrs

## Step 2: Choose Your Plants

Choose the type & number of plants based on the size & amount of sun your space gets. Look up plants on [theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase](http://theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase) or [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org) to see plant preferences. Use the smaller end of the size range because they are confined to a pot and will stay smaller. Purchase plants from CA native plant vendors, like Theodore Payne Foundation (see full list at [Ballonafriends.org/Grow-native](http://Ballonafriends.org/Grow-native)).

## Step 3: Gather & Arrange Your Pots

Purchase plastic, resin, glazed ceramic, or metal pots.

Use light colors in full sun. Get pots that will allow plants to grow for a year or more so you don't need to constantly re-pot. Use very large pots or stock tanks for large shrubs/small trees. Consider picking a permanent home for very large pots so you don't need to move them or repot them. Arrange your pots so smaller ones are in front of larger ones. Consider putting 2 or 3 plants in medium/large pots that work well together.

## Step 4: Get Rocks, Soil & Mulch

Buy enough cactus/palm soil to fill your pots (NOT Miracle Grow - natives don't like excessive nutrients. Choose organic if possible). Buy small rocks for the bottom of your pots & cedar or redwood mulch to cover the top of the soil (Vital to keep soil moist. You can use small rocks for succulents instead). Get a few large rocks to put next to the base of woody plants.

## Step 4: Plant Your Container Garden

Water your plants before planting. Drill more holes in the pots if needed. Native plants like good drainage!

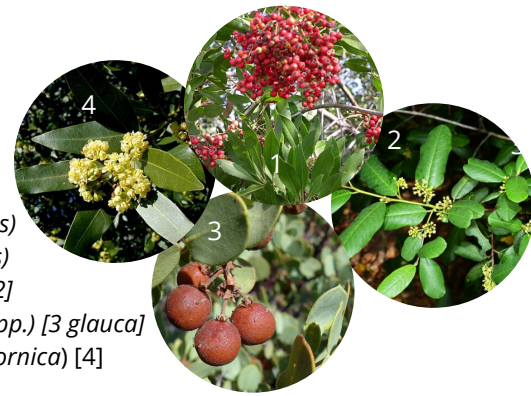
Layer the bottom of your pot with small rocks to prevent soil from escaping. Fill the pot with enough soil so that when you add the plant, 1 inch of space is left at the top for mulch. Gently squeeze the pot & remove the plant while supporting the root ball. Place it in the pot, fill around with soil & then water. Add a rock near the stem if desired and then mulch all around your plant, but not touching the stem of your plant.

## Step 5: Love Your Garden

Water deeply (until water comes out the bottom) twice a week, on average. Adjust for the weather. Not sure? Stick your finger 3 inches into the soil to check if it's starting to get warm or dry. Don't forget to remove weeds! Add mulch as needed & add diluted balanced fertilizer once per year. Enjoy the wildlife & beauty!

## Large Trees, Shrubs

- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) [1]
- Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
- Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)
- Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) [2]
- Manzanita - Many (*Arctostaphylos spp.*) [3 *glauca*]
- California Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) [4]



## Medium, Small Shrubs

- [5] Red Fairyduster (*Calliandra californica*)
- [6] Oregon Grape/Barberry (*Berberis aquifolium*)
- Manzanita - Many (*Arctostaphylos spp.*)
- [7] Bush Anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)
- [8] Palmer's Indian Mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*)
- Conejo Buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*)



## Low Shrubs, Groundcovers

- Lilac Verbena (*Verbena lilacina*) [9]
- Manzanita - Many (*Arctostaphylos spp.*)
- Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*) [10]
- Alumroot/Coral Bells - Many (*Heuchera spp.*) [11]
- Western Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) (several colors) [12]
- Foothill Penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*) [13]
- Seaside Daisy - Many (*Erigeron spp.*)
- Wood Strawberry - Many (*Fragaria spp.*)
- Yerba Buena (*Satureja douglasii*)
- Creeping Barberry (*Berberis aquifolium var. repens*) [14]
- Calistoga CA Fuchsia (*Epilobium canum 'Calistoga'*)



## Grass, Succulents

- Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) [15]
- Liveforever - Many (*Dudleya spp.*) [16 *palmeri*]
- Fescue - Many (*Festuca spp.*)
- [17 *idahoensis 'Siskiyou Blue'*]



Plant Photo Credits:

- Theodore Payne Foundation unless otherwise noted.
- [2] Gary McDonald, [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org)
- [3] Neal Kramer, [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org)
- [4] Barry Breckling, [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org)
- [6] The Marmot, [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org)
- [10] [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org)

