California Native Plants for Floral Arrangements

Using California native plants in your garden is an excellent way to provide habitat for wildlife, save water & add low maintenance beauty to your world. Plus, California natives make wonderful floral arrangements! They last longer than typical store bought flowers and they look amazing!

Step 1: Evaluate Your Space
Choose a section of your yard to turn into a wildlife habitat & harvest patch. Measure size & see how much sun it gets. Full > 6 hrs, Part = 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 or Calscape.org to see the space & sun preferred by each plant. It’s okay to plant a little closer together than recommended because you will be doing a lot of pruning to fill your vases! Purchase plants from CA native plant vendors, like Theodore Payne Foundation (see full list at Ballonafriends.org/Grow-native).

Step 3: Prep Your Garden
Remove weeds from your site, install irrigation if needed (or just hand water), purchase your plants, & buy enough cedar or redwood mulch to cover your site (Vital to reduce weed growth & keep soil moist).

Step 4: Plant Your Garden
Dig holes a little wider than the pot, but not deeper. Water the holes & plants. Gently squeeze pots & remove plant while supporting the root ball. Place in the hole, back fill with soil & then water again. Add mulch to a depth of 3 to 4 inches all around your plants, but not touching the stems of your plants. Water everything.

Step 5: Love Your Garden
Water deeply (2-3 gallons per 1 gallon pot) twice a week for 1-2 months, then weekly. Taper to every 2 weeks, then to a monthly basis. Water more in hot weather. And don’t forget to remove weeds!

Step 6: Harvest, Arrange & Enjoy!
Arrange with tall flowers in the middle & shorter flowers around the edge. Fill in with foliage. Don’t forget to leave some for the birds, butterflies & bees!

Purple, Blue, Pink
Clarkia – (amoena & unguiculata) [1]
Lacy Phacelia (Phacelia tanacetifolia)
Penstemon - Many (Penstemon spp.) [5]
Salvia - Many (Salvia spp.) [3 spathacea]
Chinese Houses (Collinsia heterophylla) [2]
Arroyo Lupine (Lupinus succulentus)
CA Pacific Aster (Symphyotrichum chilense)
Bush Mallow (Malacothamnus marruboides) [4]
Island Pink Yarrow (Achillea millefolium 'Island Pink')

Yellow, Red, Orange
[6] Apricot Mallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua)
[8] CA Poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
[7] Island Bush Poppy (Dendromecon harfordii)
[9] Island Snapdragon (Galvezia speciosa)
Calistoga CA Fuchsia (Epilobium canum 'Calystoga')
CA Sunflower Bush (Encelia californica)
Golden Yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum)

White
[10] Matilija Poppy (Romneya trichocalyx)
[12] Bush Anemone (Carpenteria californica)

Many Colors
Monkeyflower - Many (Mimulus spp.)
[13 'Trish', 14 'Changeling']
Iris - Many (Iris spp.) [15 Douglas]

Foliage
Sugar Bush (Rhus ovata)
Coyote Bush (Baccharis spp.)
California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica)
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) [18]
Western Sword Fern (Polystichum munitum) [17]
Canyon Prince Wild Rye (Elymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince') [16]
Catalina Currant (Ribes viburnifolium)

Plant Photo Credit: Theodore Payne Foundation
Sample Arrangement Photo Credit: Cynthia Gingerich, CNPS.org