

***Welcome to John and Valerie Matzger’s mostly native plant garden.***  
***Why natives?***

In 2019, the journal *Science* reported that 3 **billion** North American breeding birds have disappeared since 1970. This population crash is due, among other factors, to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. Our national parks, great as they are, are too small and far apart from each other to preserve species to the levels needed. Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware, has started a program called Homegrown National Park, a grassroots, call-to-action program to restore biodiversity, asking homeowners and others with available soil to plant natives and remove most invasive plants. This project aims at achieving 20 million acres of native plantings in the US – about half the size of all the traditional lawns on private properties.

But why natives? Since native birds have evolved with the plants native to where the birds live, these plants are most likely to meet the needs of local bird species. For instance, an oak tree supports over 500 species of caterpillar (which birds feed to their nestlings), whereas a ginkgo supports just one. Furthermore, native plants are wonderfully adapted to their environment, requiring less water, fertilizer and pest control than most non-native species.

To quote Doug Tallamy: **“In the past we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water.”**

***Native Plant Nurseries Nearby***

Oaktown Native Nursery (Berkeley)  
The Watershed Nursery (Richmond)  
Native Here (Tilden Park)  
Annie’s Annuals and Perennials (Richmond)  
Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery (San Ramon)  
East Bay Wilds (Oakland)  
Regional Parks Botanic Garden (Tilden)

***Native Plant Nurseries Further Afield***

California Flora Nursery (Fulton, near Santa Rosa)  
Yerba Buena Nursery (Half Moon Bay)  
Rana Creek Nursery (Carmel)  
Sierra Azul (Watsonville)  
Bay Natives (San Francisco)

***Good Online Sources of Information about Native Plants***

Calscape.org – enter your zip code to see what plants are native to your area and how to grow them; this is the site that most gardeners will use again and again.  
Las Pilitas Nursery – delightfully opinionated information about native plants  
Cal Flora Nursery – reliable and thorough

***Native Plants in Our Garden***

**Trees**

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)  
Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)  
Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*)  
Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)

**Tall Shrubs**

California lilac (*Ceanothus arboreus* Cliff Schmidt)  
Western chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*)  
Cream bush (*Holodiscus discolor*)  
Blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*)  
Blueblossom ceanothus (*C. thyrsiflorus*)  
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)  
Coast silktassel ‘James Roof’ (*Garrya elliptica* J.R.)  
Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata* var. *ledbourii*)  
Island Tree Mallow (*Lavatera malvacea*)

## Medium Height Shrubs

Blue curls ‘Midnight Magic’ (*Trichostema lanatum* x *purpusii*)  
Cedros Island vebena (V. ‘lilacina de la mina’)  
Sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*)  
Mimulus cultivars (Eleanor, Jelly Bean Scarlet, etc.)  
Manzanita Lutsko’s pink (*Artostaphylos* L.P.)  
Upright snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus laevigatus*)  
Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)  
Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)  
Eve Case Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica* E.C.)  
Silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*)  
Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*)  
Alan Chickering Cleveland sage (*Salvia* A.C.)  
Winnifred Gilman sage (*Salvia clevelandii* W.G.)  
Purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*)  
Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*)  
King Edward VII currant (*Ribes sang.* K.E.VII)  
Mountain lilac (*Ceanothus* ‘Dark Star’)  
Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)  
Coast barberry (*Berberis pinnata*)  
Coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)  
California wild rose (*Rosa californica*)  
Cedars oceanspray (*Holodiscus dumosus* var. *cedrorum*)  
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)  
Showy island snapdragon (*Gambelia speciosa*)  
St. Catherine’s lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*)  
Point Reyes ceanothus (*Ceanothus gloriosus*)

## Groundcovers

Manzanita emerald carpet (*Arctostaphylos* E.C.)  
Silver carpet aster (*Lessingia filanginifolia*)  
Centennial ceanothus (C. x ‘Centennial’)  
Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)  
Beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)  
Bees’ bliss sage (*Salvia bees bliss*)  
Creeping snowberry (*Symphoricarpus mollis*)  
Yerba Buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*)  
Redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*)  
California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fascicularis*)  
Wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)

## Bulb and Bulb-like Plants

Stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*)  
Pacific coast iris (*I. douglasiana* x *I. incomitata*)  
Indian rhubarb (*Darmera peltata*)  
Lopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum*)

## Vines

Roger’s red grape (*Vitis californica* x *V. vinifera*)  
Virgin’s Bower ( *Clematis ligusticifolia*)  
Pipestem clematis (*C. lasiantha*)

## Perennials

California hedgenettle (*Stachys bullata*)  
Bee plant (*Scrofularia californica*)  
Hairy false goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*)  
California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*)  
California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina*)  
Rock phacelia (*Phacelia californica*)  
Golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*)  
Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*)  
Checker bloom (*Sidalcea malviflora*)  
Cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*)  
Wooly angelica (*Angelica tomentosa*)  
Wayne Roderick seaside daisy (*Erigeron* W.R.)  
Red-flowered buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande Rubescens*)  
Little moonshine yarrow (*Achillea* L.M.)  
Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*)  
Island alum root (*Heuchera maxima*)  
Crevice alum root (*Heuchera micrantha*)  
Fringe cups (*Tellima grandiflora*)  
Western columbine (*Aquilegia Formosa*)  
Serpentine columbine (*Aquilegia eximia*)  
Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)  
Yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*)  
Margarita BOP penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*)  
Narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepius fasciculatum*)  
California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilensis*)  
Dara’s choice salvia (*S. sonomensis* x *S. mellifera*)

## Annuals

Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*)  
Pink ribbons clarkia (*Clarkia concinna*)  
California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)  
Sticky phacelia (*Phacelia viscida*)  
Poached egg plant (*Lisianthes douglasii*)

## Ferns, Sedge, Succulent

Western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)  
Deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*)  
Foothill sedge (*Carex tumulicola*)  
Chalk dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*)

## Note:

Not all native plants have equal wildlife value. These plants were chosen for their usefulness to pollinators and birds. Recommended books about natives:

**Bringing Nature Home** and **Nature’s Best Hope**, both by Douglas Tallamy. For a shorter treatment, Tallamy’s essay, “The Chickadee’s Guide to Gardening” is enlightening and a fun read.