

WHY GROW **California** **native plants** AT HOME?



© Mark Francis

- Native plants often need less water and care than other garden plants.
- Native plants provide needed food for native birds and insects.
- Native plants bring the beauty of wild California to your home.

This drought-tolerant home landscape includes many California native plants.

So...what is a native plant?

Most people agree that a plant is native if it grew naturally in a place before humans made major changes to the environment.

For more information on California native plants, visit the California Native Plant Society website at www.cnps.org.



WELCOME TO THE
Mary Wattis Brown
Garden of California
Native Plants



"I will grow old, I won't grow lazy"
note in
Mrs. Brown's
botany book,
1915

Who was Mary Wattis Brown?

Mary Wattis Brown was an avid gardener and botanist who recognized the need for education to promote conservation of California's wild heritage.

Although Mrs. Brown did not live in Davis, she came here often to visit her good friends, Jack and Mary Major. Dr. Jack Major was a beloved UC Davis botany professor, and Mary Major helped develop the Arboretum's first educational programs.

The generous endowment created by Mary Wattis Brown's family supports the maintenance and development of the Arboretum's California native plant collection. Over the years, many people have made additional gifts to her endowment.

Enjoy our Garden of California Native Plants
Sign made possible by a grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Foundation

THE ORIGINAL California lawn

Consider reducing the size of your lawn and planting California native grasses or other drought-tolerant native plants.

to mow...

Traditional Home Lawn



Home lawns are great for running and playing outdoor games, but they require a lot of mowing, water, and other maintenance.

- Must be mowed 2-4 times each month
- Must be watered 1-3 times each week
- Frequent weeding and fertilizing
- Low diversity of plants

or not to mow?

California Native Grass Landscape



California native grass landscapes require much less mowing and water than a traditional lawn and help you connect to California's natural heritage at home.

- Only needs to be mowed or cut 1-2 times a year
- Only needs to be watered 1-2 times each month
- Periodic hand weeding and thinning
- High diversity of plants
- Well-adapted to the Central Valley's growing conditions and provides food for native wildlife

Mary Wattis Brown Garden



The native grass meadow in front of you represents the grassland habitat that once covered much of California's Central Valley.



THIS NATIVE PLANT IS A natural birdfeeder

Toyon's red berries attract winter birds to California gardens.



© Saxon Holt

Showy red berries last throughout the fall and winter. A yellow-berried form, 'Davis Gold,' originated at UC Davis.



© Ellen Zagory



© Thomas Cahill

Look for flocks of cedar waxwings and other birds feasting on toyon berries. Cedar waxwings migrate through Davis and the Central Valley during the fall and early winter.

The "Holly" in Hollywood?

Toyon, also known as California holly, is common on the hillsides of California. Could it have inspired the naming of the city of Hollywood?

Mary Wattis Brown Garden

Available for Purchase at UC Davis Arboretum Plant Sales

See our website for more information: <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu> • Made possible by a grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Foundation



Recommended for Central Valley gardens

Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia

PLANT TYPE
shrub

HEIGHT
8-15 ft.

WIDTH
6-12 ft.

BLOOM COLOR
small white flowers
in clusters

BLOOM SEASON
May-August

PLACEMENT
full sun or part shade

WATER NEEDS
deep watering once
or twice a month

PRUNING NEEDS
little to none

NATIVE TO
Coast Ranges and
foothills of the
Sierra Nevada
Mountains in
California



aromatherapy IN YOUR GARDEN

Rub the leaves of this white sage to activate its fragrant scent.
Do you like the smell?



© Nikhil Joshi

California white sage's silvery leaves reflect sunlight and heat, reducing the plant's need for water. This silver color also adds a striking accent to a low-water garden.

People often like the smell of the aromatic oils found in sage leaves. These same oils actually repel hungry insects, making sages pest resistant.

Let the scent of sages enhance your garden experience.

Smell the leaves of other sages as you walk through the Arboretum to discover your favorite.

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Recommended for Central Valley gardens

California white sage
Salvia apiana

PLANT TYPE
shrub

HEIGHT
3-5 ft.

WIDTH
3-5 ft.

BLOOM SEASON
April-May, white flowers

PLACEMENT
full sun

WATER NEEDS
deep watering once or twice a month

PRUNING NEEDS
remove old flower stalks once a year

NATIVE TO
coastal sage scrub and chaparral of southern California



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