



Why Garden with Natives? Because Life Depends On It.

Local birds & insects need our help. They are in severe decline because "traditional" gardens filled with exotic ornamentals and lawns are "dead zones" for nature. Why? Because most insects need the native plants they have evolved with to thrive and reproduce. Birds, in turn, need insects, especially caterpillars, to feed their young.

You can make a difference when you plant natives, especially the "keystone species" - those that many moths and butterflies can lay their eggs on because they are the right food for the emerging caterpillars.



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

- 1. Native to California and Texas
- 2. Attracts many native insects and birds
- 3. Long-lived tree
- 4. Provides shade and shelter
- 5. Supports many native species

Keystone Species Sign

- Three Ways You Can Help:**
- 1) Watch for the Keystone Species plant signs and learn more about these must-have plants that are not only beautiful but also support insect and bird life in your garden. You can download these signs from our website.
 - 2) Grow keystone species in your garden and encourage neighbors and friends to do this too. Together we can bring back the butterflies, bees and birds by growing the native plants that feed them.
 - 3) Discover resources by visiting BringingBackTheNatives.net. These include local native plant nurseries, seed sources, native plant gardening videos, virtual and live garden tours, and much more!
- "By including native plants in our gardens we can create life, and by using nonnative plants, we can prevent it."*
Doug Tallamy





NATIVE
PLANTS
low level













A Must-Have California Native Plant!

Buckwheat

Ericogonum species

Description: Buckwheats are some of the most popular nectar sources for butterflies. They range in size from low-growing to large shrubs, and their flowers last for months.

Light: Full Sun



Attracts many species of butterflies and moths to this plant.



Slippery Elm is a common buckwheat. The green **Lotus Herb** can be seen patching on the pathways. Watch for butterflies through May.

Rock Stone Plant: This California native is a "must have" (host) plant for caterpillars, which, in turn, are "must have" food for baby birds.

Discover more at [CaliforniaNativePlants.org](http://www.CaliforniaNativePlants.org)

Plants: Naked Buckwheat, Kramer; Lotus Herb, some right, Jennifer B. D. given for



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