

CA NATIVE PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS



Containers make California native plants accessible to gardeners who may be limited by space, gardening restrictions, or the inability to plant directly in the ground. While growing native plants in containers is still something of an ongoing experiment, we encourage gardeners to explore a variety of species and see what works best in their unique conditions. Over time, however, we have observed that certain plants consistently perform better in containers than others, and those selections are noted below.

For best results, choose the largest container practical and fill it with a well-draining soil mix, such as a cactus or succulent blend, or topsoil amended with perlite. Standard potting soils are often too rich in organic matter and nutrients for many California native plants.

It is important to note that native plants grown in containers generally do not exhibit the same drought tolerance as those planted in the ground, as they lack access to deeper soil moisture and groundwater. As a result, container-grown natives typically require regular irrigation comparable to that of many non-native ornamental plants. Applying a layer of mulch can help retain soil moisture, and container material may also influence how quickly the soil dries out. Most importantly, have fun experimenting. Container gardening offers a rewarding way to enjoy California native plants in almost any setting.

Full Sun

Abutilon palmeri (Indian's Palmer Mallow)

***Achillea millefolium* & cultivars (Yarrow)

Adenostoma fasciculatum 'Dwarf' (Dwarf Chamise)

***Arctostaphylos* Groundcover Spp. (Groundcover Manzanitas)

Asclepias fascicularis (Narrow Leaf Milkweed)

Baileya multiradiata (Desert Marigold)

Bouteloua gracilis (Blue Grama)

Clarkia spp. (Clarkias)

Cleomella arborea (Bladderpod)

Collinsia heterophylla (Purple Innocence)

Encelia farinosa (Brittlebush)

Eriogonum spp. (Buckwheats)

Erigeron spp. (Seaside Daisy/Fleabanes)

Eschscholzia californica (California Poppy)

Leptosiphon spp. (Prickly Phlox)

Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince' (Canyon Prince Wild Rye)

Lupine spp. (Lupines)

Monardella macrantha 'Marian Sampson' (Marian Sampson Coyote Mint)

Opuntia spp. (Pricklypears)

Rosa minutifolia (Small Leaved Rose)

Salvia spp. (Sages)

***Trichostema lanatum* (Woolly Bluecurls)

Part Shade

Anemopsis californica (Yerba Mansa)

Diplacus spp. (Monkeyflowers)

Dudleya spp. (Liveforevers)

Carpenteria californica (Bush Anemone)

Frangula californica (Coffeeberry)

Iris spp. (Iris)

***Lepechinia fragrans* (Fragrant Pitcher Sage)

Prunus ilicifolia (Hollyleaf Cherry)

Symphoricarpos albus var. *laevigatus* 'Variegata' (Variegated Canyon Snowberry)

Shade

Adiantum capillus-veneris (Southern Maiden Hair Fern)

Aquilegia formosa (Western Columbine)

Clinopodium chandleri or *douglasii* (Yerba Buena)

Heuchera spp. (Coral Bells)

Ribes spp. (Currants or Gooseberries)

** Plants can be difficult, or may need additional staking to stay upright in containers