

# HOLLYWOODLAND NATIVE PLANTS

## A BASIC LANDSCAPE & GROWING GUIDE



Hollywoodland Design Review Board

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## Introduction

The first three things to know about growing native plants in Hollywoodland are:

1. They preserve the natural beauty of Hollywoodland, as well as your home;
2. They provide vital habitat for birds and many other species of wildlife;
3. Because they are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less maintenance, saving time, money, and the most valuable natural resource, water.



## Preparation

*When to Plant Natives* The ideal time to plant them is fall and winter when cool temperatures and rains help plants get established in their new setting.

*Basic Care* Native plants need deep and infrequent watering. This encourages their roots to grow deeply into the soil.

*How to Choose Native Plants in Hollywoodland* Hollywood belongs to a heathland plant community called chaparral. Walk around Griffith Park and Hollywood Hills and look at which types of Chaparral plants appeal to you. Visit Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley to see a large inventory of Chaparral and other native plants for sale. Starting off with native plants in small containers is just fine. They grow more quickly and don't cost as much as larger plants.





## Site Plan

Make a base drawing of your site.

The size of your garden determines which plants you can grow. Measure your site and draw a to-scale outline of your yard, including house, driveway, walkways and other hardscape features. Use a long tape measure and graph paper for this step.

Make note of challenging features that require special attention, such as steep slopes and views (good and bad). Note the location of north, south, east and west.

Make notes on your plan of where you get sun or shade in the morning or afternoon, and where you get more than 6 hours of sun each day (that equals full sun).



When drawing each plant on your site plan, use a to-scale circle of the plant's width at maturity. Give each plant enough space to reach its mature size; this prevents the need for pruning in years to come.

Select plants that will work in your space. Choose native plants that are compatible to the size of your lot, soil and drainage.

*Soil* Hollywoodland's soil ranges from somewhat coarse to loam.

*Drainage* To find out what kind of drainage you have, dig a one-foot deep and one-foot wide hole where your garden is going to be planted. Fill the hole with water and time how long it takes to drain. If it drains within 15 minutes, you have fast-draining soil. If it takes more than an hour, you have slow-draining soil. If the hole drains somewhere in between those times, you have medium-draining soil.



## Design Your Native Garden

Understand your objectives (to provide shade for your home, privacy, habitat, etc.) and start with plants that are easy to grow like the selection in this guide.

Keep it simple. Start with a limited plant number, and plant in multiples of 3 or more. Don't be put off by the plant's botanical name. It's helpful in checking the exact plant and making sure it's the one you want.

Use evergreen shrubs such as toyon as “anchors” to maintain your garden's appearance year-round. Group plants according to their sun and water needs (like with like).



Place large plants in the background, medium-size plants in the middle and low plants in the front and along walkways.

## Site Preparation

Remove or reduce your lawn, using the method that works best for you. Allow enough time necessary for complete removal of turf (it usually takes longer than first expected and, if you are removing Bermuda grass, you'll probably see some regrowth in subsequent years – so pull up the sprouts as they emerge).



Remove all weeds. Avoid tilling your soil unless it is extremely compacted. Tilling brings weed seeds to the surface, creating more weeds later.

Install or upgrade your irrigation system, if necessary. Choose the system or method – either drip, overhead or hand-watering – that will work best for your site and your needs.

Install hardscape, if planned.



## Install Your Native Garden

If the ground is dry, water the site two or three days prior to planting to make digging much easier.

Space plants according to your plan, giving each plant enough space to reach its mature size.

Dig the planting hole one time as deep and twice as wide as the root ball of the plant.

Place the plant in the hole, making sure that the crown of the plant is slightly above the grade of the surrounding soil.

Back fill with your native soil. There is no need to add amendments or fertilizers. Pack gently but firmly.



After all of your plants are installed, water the entire area thoroughly. If hand watering, make sure each plant receives at least 4-5 gallons of water within the first 2 hours after planting. Cover your soil with a 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch (bark, leaves, wood fibers). Keep mulch about 6 inches away from the base of each plant.

Establish your plants with deep watering every two to three weeks.

Let it grow and enjoy!



*Chaparral-style garden*

## 20 NATIVE PLANTS YOU CAN EASILY GROW

The following 20 plants are native to Hollywoodland and range in size from small succulents to tall trees. All are easy to grow and most are drought tolerant once established. Use them to create an indigenous garden, attract birds and insects, retain hillsides and nurture you and your environment.

### Succulents

#### 1. Chalk Dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height: 3"-1'

Width: 1'

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Drainage: Fast, Medium

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Hummingbird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Note: This succulent grows well in containers.





## 2. Lance-leaf Dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 4"-9"

Width: 1'

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Drainage: Fast, Medium

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Bird Gardens, Hummingbird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Notes: This succulent grows well in containers. Red, pink and yellow flowers.



## 3. Chaparral Yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 2'-12'

Width: 2'-3'

Drainage: Fast

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens

Note: Also known as Our Lord's Candle. Attracts the Yucca Moth, which co-evolved with this plant.



## Grass

### 4. Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 4'-5'

Width: 4'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant,

Notes: Can be cut back. Attracts birds to its seeds.



## Low/Groundcovers

### 5. Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-5'

Width: 5'

Drainage: Medium

Sun: Morning Sun, Afternoon Shade

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer, Winter

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant,  
Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly  
Gardens, Bee Gardens

Note: [Hummingbird Sage video here.](#)





## 6. Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Ease of care: Very easy

Height; 1'-3'

Width: 6"-1'5"

Sun: Sun, Part Shade, Full Shade

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Groundcovers, Bird Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bee Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Notes: Can be used as a turf substitute, mowed 2-3 per year. [Common Yarrow video here.](#)



## 7. Foothill Penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-5'

Width: 5'

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer, Winter

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant, Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Note: Can be lightly pruned in summer if desired.



## 8. San Diego Povertyweed (*Iva hayesiana*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 2'-4'

Width: 6'-9'

Drainage: Fast, Medium,

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Year-round

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers,

Notes: Rare species in the daisy family; aromatic and evergreen.



## 9. White Sage (*Salvia apiana*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-5'

Width: 3'-8'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer, Winter

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Garden

Notes: Strongly aromatic, native Americans use the dried leaves as incense for ceremonial purposes.





## 10. Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-6'

Width: up to 10"

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer, Winter

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Notes: Aromatic leaves can be used for cooking.

Flowers are lavender, white or blue.



## Medium to Large Shrubs (all evergreen)

## 11. Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 2'-10'

Width: 12'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Year-round

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Butterfly Gardens, Bird Gardens, Bee Gardens

Note: Great pollinator attractor. [Coyote Brush video here.](#)



## 12. Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-12'

Width: up to 5'-15'

Drainage: Fast, Medium

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer

Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Note: Laval host plant for the swallow tailed butterfly.



## 13. Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 3'-20'

Width: up to 3'-20'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun

Flowering Season: Spring, Winter

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer

Resistant, Bird Gardens

Note: Lemonadeberry is very tough and fire retardant.





## Large Shrubs/Small Trees/Hedges (all evergreen)

### 14. California Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 6'-33'

Width: 20"

Drainage: Medium

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Summer

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant,

Note: Grows in upright form and makes for an excellent small tree or screen hedge.



### 15. Holly-leaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 5'-40'

Width: 5-20"

Drainage: Medium

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Bird Gardens, Bee Gardens

Notes: Member of the rose family; clusters of small white attract .





## 16. Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

**Ease of care:** Very Easy

**Height:** 6'-30'

**Width:** 10'-15'

**Drainage:** Fast, Medium, Slow

**Sun:** Sun, Part Shade

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Common uses:** Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

**Notes:** Official native plant of City of Los Angeles; Birds depend on the winter berries; Hollywood is thought to be named after this plant.



## Trees

## 17. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

**Ease of care:** Very Easy

**Height:** 25'-75'

**Width:** 15'-35'

**Drainage:** Medium

**Sun:** Sun, Part Shade

**Flowering Season:** Spring, Summer

**Common uses:** Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

**Notes:** Beautiful evergreen tree that can live over 250 years. Needs plenty of space! [Coast Live Oak video here.](#)



## 18. Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wizlineni*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 15'-50'

Width: 10'-50'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Hedges, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Notes: Needs space but less than Coast Live Oak.



## 19. California Bay Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 6'-80'

Width: 3'-30'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Spring

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Hedges

Notes: Fragrant leaves; needs moderate water. [California Laurel video here.](#)



## 20. Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

Ease of care: Very Easy

Height; 30'-115'

Width: 65'

Drainage: Fast, Medium, Slow

Sun: Sun, Part Shade

Flowering Season: Spring, Summer

Common uses: Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Notes: Winter deciduous, producing nice fall color. Fast growing, needs moderate watering and plenty of space.



## References & Acknowledgements

To learn more about these plants and other California natives go to: [California Native Plant Society](#), [Theodore Payne Foundation](#) and [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#).

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