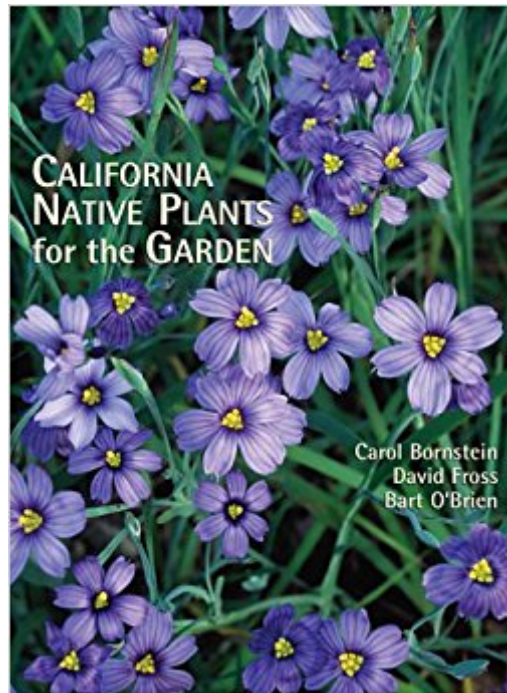




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California Native Plants For The Garden



Synopsis

California Native Plants for the Garden is a comprehensive resource that features more than 500 of the best California native plants for gardening in Mediterranean-climate areas of the world. Authored by three of the state's leading native-plant horticulturists and illustrated with 450 color photos, this reference book also includes chapters on landscape design, installation, and maintenance. Detailed lists of recommended native plants for a variety of situations and appendices with information on places to see native plants and where to buy them are also provided.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (71 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I love this book! I bought it a few weeks ago and I've kept it close to me ever since.*Fantastic color pictures, easily averaging two per page. (If nothing else, the photography alone would make it a great coffee table book. It transcends that limitation however by being so research intensive.)*Crisp, informative writing with attention paid to color (flower, foliage, bark, etc), shape and habit, site analysis, and seasonal interest for every entry.*Three-to-five chunky paragraphs for each plant with key families like manzanita and pine getting several pages.*Clear, straightforward endorsements and appraisals. "Desert willow is simply the best summer-blooming large shrub or small tree that California has to offer." "Though justly and thoroughly praised through the years as the queen of California's wildflowers, Matilija poppy is both finicky and aggressive in the garden." "This first-rate sage [Salvia spathacea] satisfies on all counts and truly lives up to its name by attracting hummingbirds to your garden." "It would be difficult to come up with another California native to top giant coreopsis in the weird-looking plant category."*Appendices include several pages listing native

plant nurseries and public gardens throughout CA, and a five page bibliography. I could go on praising this book. (I only found one plant missing from this book I'd have expected to see: *Vaccinium ovatum*.)

This book distinguishes itself by offering wonderful color photographs of most of the plants it discusses. This is a significant advantage for neophyte native plant gardeners. Other valuable and well-respected books on the same topic, such as *Growing California Native Plants* by Marjorie G. Schmidt, don't offer even close to the same pictorial experience. Don't think that it's all about the photographs, however. The rest of the book is put together well and stands side by side with any other California native plant guides for completeness of information.

If you're a California gardener you can't be without *CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN*, which is deserving of ongoing recommendation as one of the most comprehensive guides on the subject we've seen. Color photos pack a comprehensive review of plants best suitable for California gardens, covering cultivation, landscape design usage, water needs, and more. From pruning requirements to common diseases and insect problems, plants in *CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN* are all thoroughly detailed. Diane C. Donovan,
Editor California Bookwatch

This is one of two must have books if you are interested in gardening with native California plants. This book is definitely the 'guidebook' half of that collection (the other being *Designing California Native Gardens*). It does an excellent job of getting you acquainted with all the different plants you may be wanting to bring into your garden, and in giving you actual photographs of the plants! One giant peeve of mine in gardening books and guidebooks is the use of hand done illustrations- in other contexts they are charming but you really can't get a feel for a plant unless you are looking at its' actual picture. It just gives you a much better feeling for the plant- the texture of its' leaves, the weediness of its' growth habit, that kind of thing. This is a book you will find yourself using as a reference again and again. Five stars are given enthusiastically.

I am in my third season of growing natives and without "CA Native Plants for the Garden" my plant knowledge would be called spotty at best. It is literally the best 'general' books for native plant reference, identification and garden selection. I take mine to Theodore Payne Nursery/hiking all the time. Hint, most nursery available natives are sold in 1 or 5 gal containers; the book is chock-full of

photos of MATURE flowers, sub shrubs, shrubs, and trees in full bloom. Therefore you are able to see what your plant selection will look like in X years and how to choose. Moreover it provides great recommendations for planting by 'plant community', soil types, sun, and garden topography. The bottom line? If you are looking to buy a reference guide and/or a beginners guide on CA native plants, this is it. The book is made of fine quality paper and has excellent plant descriptions and crisp glossy photos throughout. Before this book, I couldn't count how many times I was overwhelmed with what to choose and where to plant. This book provided the hand holding I needed.

My husband and I are gardeners, and we tend to gravitate towards California natives . . . and this book offers us everything we need. It's a must for every gardener, whether a professional or just your everyday backyard enthusiast. Kudos to the staff at Cachuma Press and the authors for bringing us this spectacular, yet down-to-earth (like get in the dirt, dig, plant, and enjoy!) book.

We started re-landscaping our Northern California yard with California native plants. This book is probably the best place to start if you are considering adding native plants to your yard. As our interest has grown, we've expanded our California native plant library because this book doesn't cover everything (as you'd expect), but this is still probably our favorite quick reference and it's definitely a great place to get started.

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