



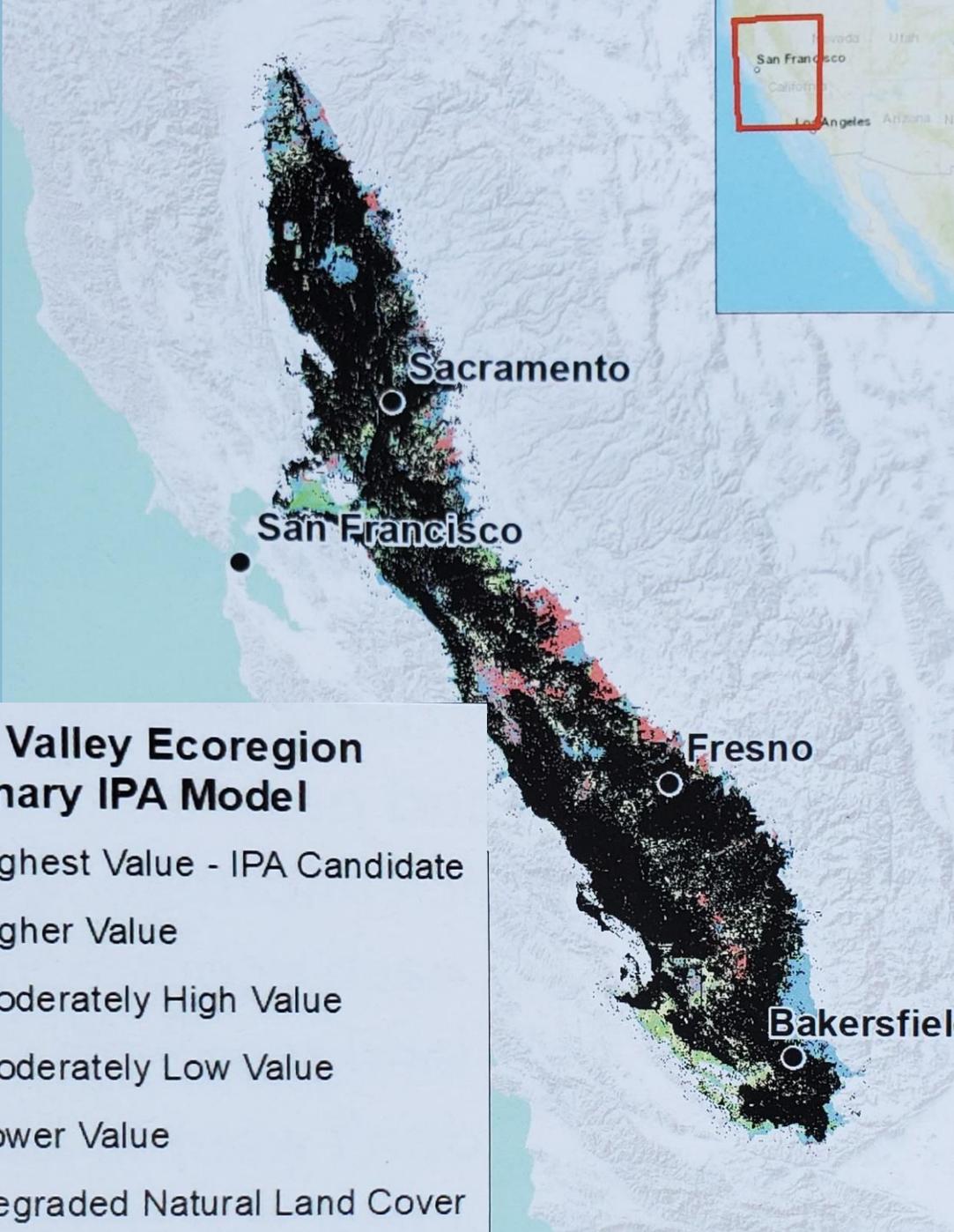
What's So Special about Native Plants !

SacValley CNPS Nursery and Homegrown Habitat
Projects of the Sac Valley Chapter of CNPS ~ Presented by Chris Lewis ~ CNPSchris@gmail.com



**We are NOT HERE anymore when nature stayed in balance on it's own.
Now it's time to help nature, right in our own yards and community gardens.**

90% of our Ecoregion is used for urban development, agriculture or energy production.



Where are the birds, bees & butterflies and all wildlife supposed to live?

Black = Degraded Natural Land Cover



A photograph of a Chaparral Honeysuckle plant. The plant has several clusters of small, round berries hanging from its stems. The berries are in various stages of ripeness, with some being bright red and others still green. The leaves are green and have a slightly serrated edge. The background shows a blurred natural setting with trees and a path.

what is a

NATIVE PLANT?

Native plants are found naturally in a given region and over ***thousands of years, adapted*** to the conditions that surround them. Wildlife depend on native plants either directly or indirectly. Because they co-evolved, native plants fill the needs of wildlife.

Chaparral Honeysuckle *Lonicera interrupta*
Snipes Pershing Ravine, Norma Hamlin Park, Orangevale, CA

Which is a California Native Plant garden?

Which the Mediterranean garden?

Why are Native Plants better for people & the environment?

California Native Plants

- Decorative value
- Screening
- Focal point
- Drought tolerant
- Climate adaptable
- Soil restoration
- Wildlife habitat
- Watershed value
- Pesticides not needed
- Host plants
- Resilience - Survivability
- Pollinator habitat
- Carbon sequestration

Mediterranean / Non-native

- Decorative value
- Screening
- Focal point
- Drought tolerant
- Some are good for pollinators



What is special about Native Plants?



Black Phoebe eating Blue Elderberries
(*Sambucus nigra caerulea*)

1. They support biodiversity by **providing a home and food source** for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other insects.
2. **Indigenous people** used and tended the land for 12,000 years.
3. They **improve** our environment.
4. They are simply **beautiful**.
5. They **connect us to the natural world**.
6. They're **lower maintenance, less water and don't require pesticides and herbicides**.

What is special about Native Plants?

1. They provide a home and food source for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other insects.

- Wildflowers **provide nectar** to butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators.
- Insects are the largest group of animals in the world, **co-evolved** with native plants, and provide essential services: **pollination, nutrient recycling, and pest control**.
- **Caterpillars feed on native plants, ensuring the next generation of butterflies and moths**, plus caterpillars are also important food for birds.

Experience Biodiversity!



Did you know....

CATERPILLARS ARE THE PRIMARY FOOD SOURCE FOR MANY BIRD SPECIES?



Both parents take turns feeding the chicks, enabling them to bring a caterpillar to the nest once every three minutes. And they do this from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. for each of the 16 to 18 days it takes the chicks to fledge.

That's a total of **350 to 570** caterpillars every day, depending on how many chicks they have.

So, an incredible **6,000 to 9,000** caterpillars are required to make one clutch of chickadees!



Whoa, that's a whole lot of me!

SEARCH: Doug Tallamy + chickadee

Carolina Chickadee and caterpillar
Photo by Doug Tallamy

What is special about Native Plants?

2. Indigenous people

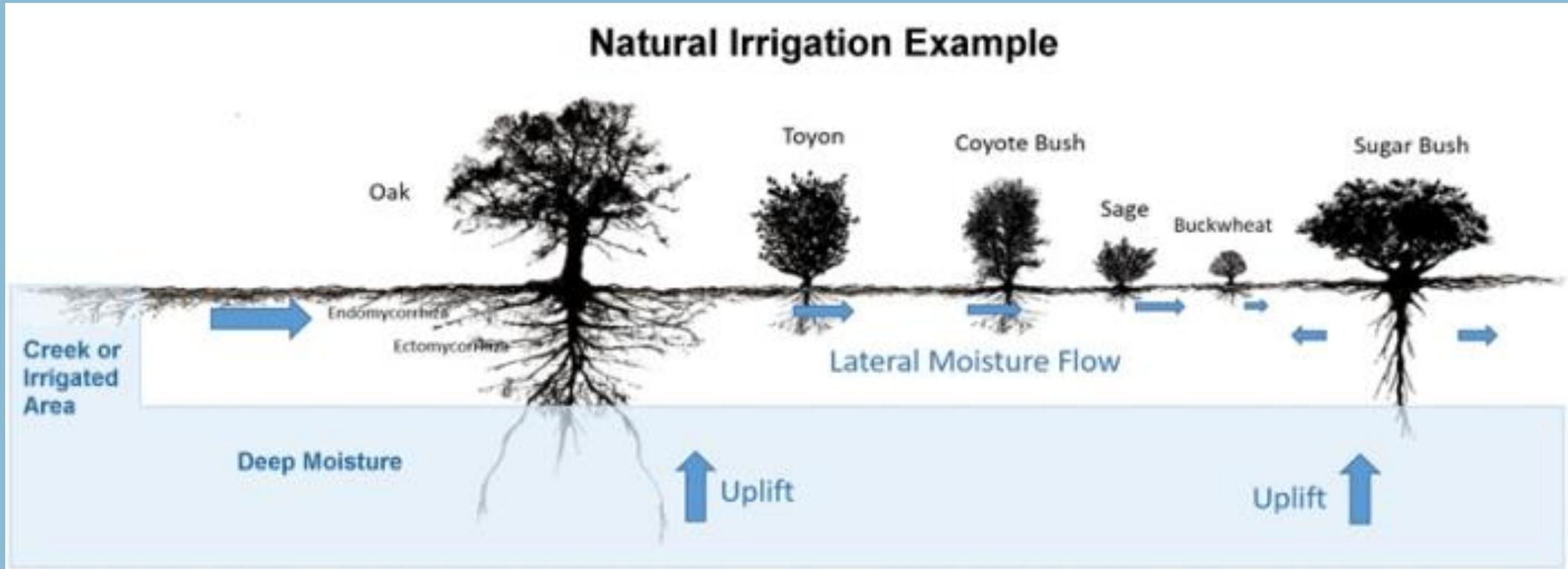
- **Tended** the land in California for more than 12,000 years.
- **Developed fire management** and other strategies to create useful landscapes that provided food, fiber, tools, recreation, and medicine.
- Knowledge of traditional plant use has been passed from generation to generation.
- That knowledge base continues to grow today.



CNPS.org *then search:* **Native American Uses**
(California Native Plant Society)

What is special about Native Plants?

3. Improve our environment. How? **It's their roots!**



- Drought Tolerance
- Erosion Control
- Carbon Sequestration
- Fire Recovery
- Climate Adapted
- Plant Survivability

Interior Live Oak

Quercus wislizeni



Evergreen Tree: It is a beautiful tree that needs no special care. 30'to 50' tall and wide

Wildlife Supported

Birds Mammals Reptiles Amphibians
Invertebrates

Butterflies & moths hosted: 17 confirmed
and another 151 likely!



Plus: The live oak is the most efficient **carbon capturing tree**, it being able to **sequester** some 10,994 CO₂ equivalent over its lifetime. This biological process is key to reducing the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1292740/tree-species-with-the-highest-lifetime-carbon-sequestration/>

What is special about Native Plants?

4. They are diverse - their colors, shapes and bloom times are essential for wildlife. ***Are not just beautiful, they have a function.***

Native plants come in all colors, shapes, and heights so it is easy to integrate them into an existing garden or design a new space.



Downingia bella, Jepson Prairie Preserve

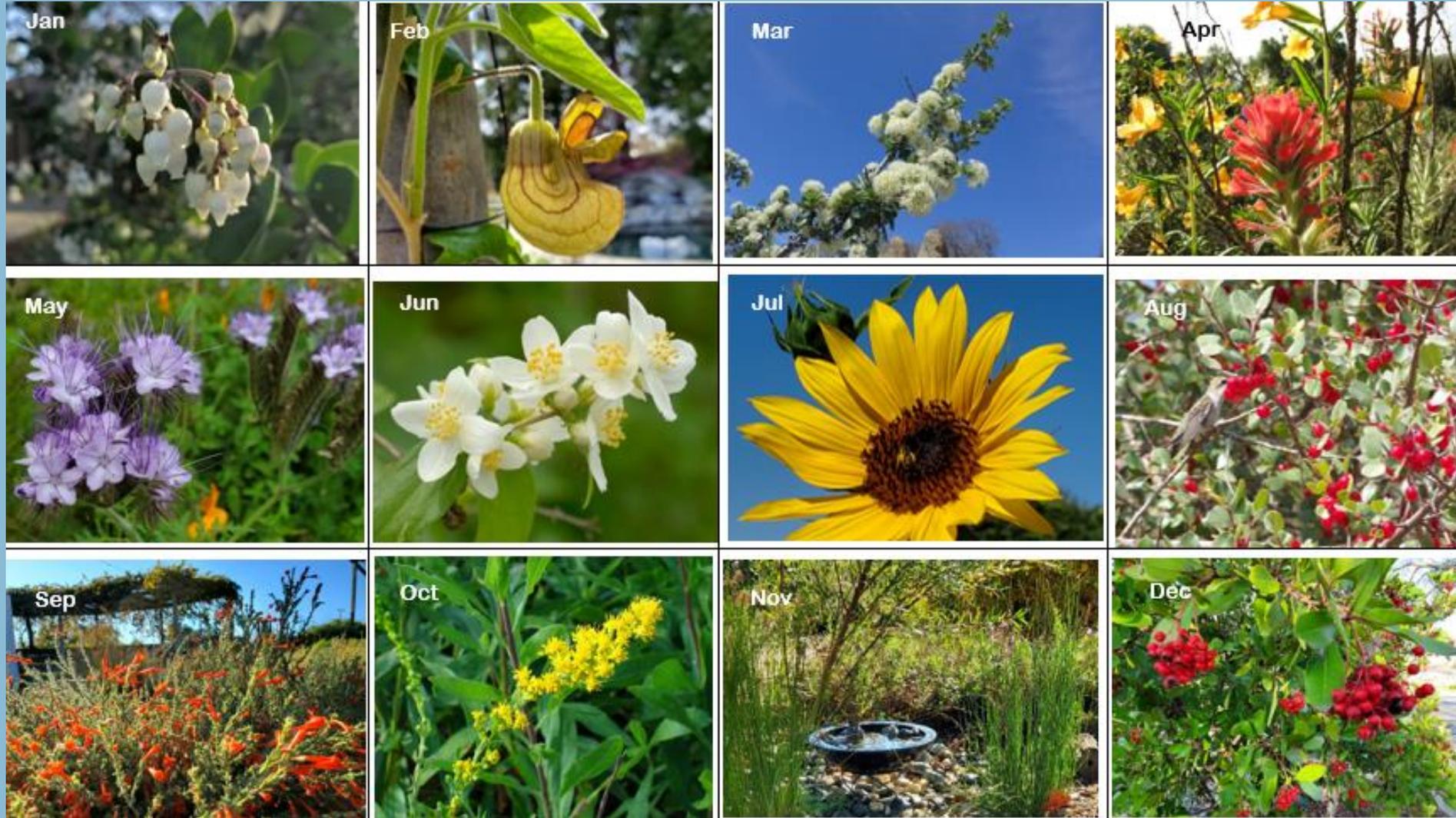


Hibiscus lasiocarpus, Rose Mallow



Aristolochia californica; Dutchman's Pipe

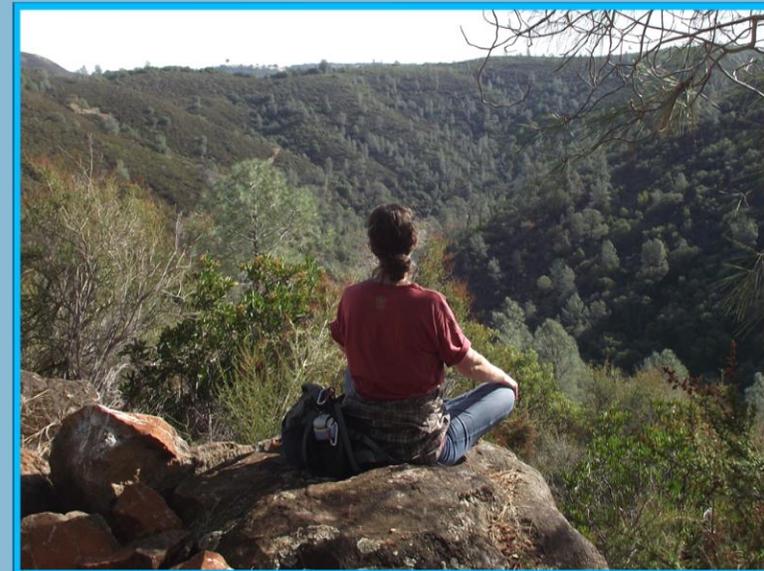
There's always something interesting!



What is special about Native Plants?

5. They connect us to the natural world.

- Having native plants in our own living spaces allows us to **experience the seasonality of nature** in our own spaces.
- They show us that cities and nature can work together. **Enliven your space!**
- They're also a great way to foster conversations about our natural habitat and **pay tribute to our shared natural heritage.**



What is special about Native Plants?

6. They're lower maintenance, use less water, and no or less pesticide or herbicide.

- skip the mulch – leave some areas bare for ground dwelling bees
- leave the stems – they are homes for critters, bundle if you cut them
- leave spent flowers – the seeds are bird food!
- leaves are garden gold – critters use the leaves, when leaves decompose they feed the soil and plants
- **Skip using Pesticides – they kill native bees and butterflies. Avoid using them.**



What is special about Native Plants?

6a. They're low maintenance because Native Plants:

- And because Native Plants attract **BENEFICIAL INSECTS**:
 - They need **little or no pesticide or herbicide**
 - And **require no pest control**



This hummingbird is eating **scale** off this Hollyleaf Redberry.

Not using pesticides and herbicides also **keeps excess nutrients out of the air and our waterways** and saves you money.

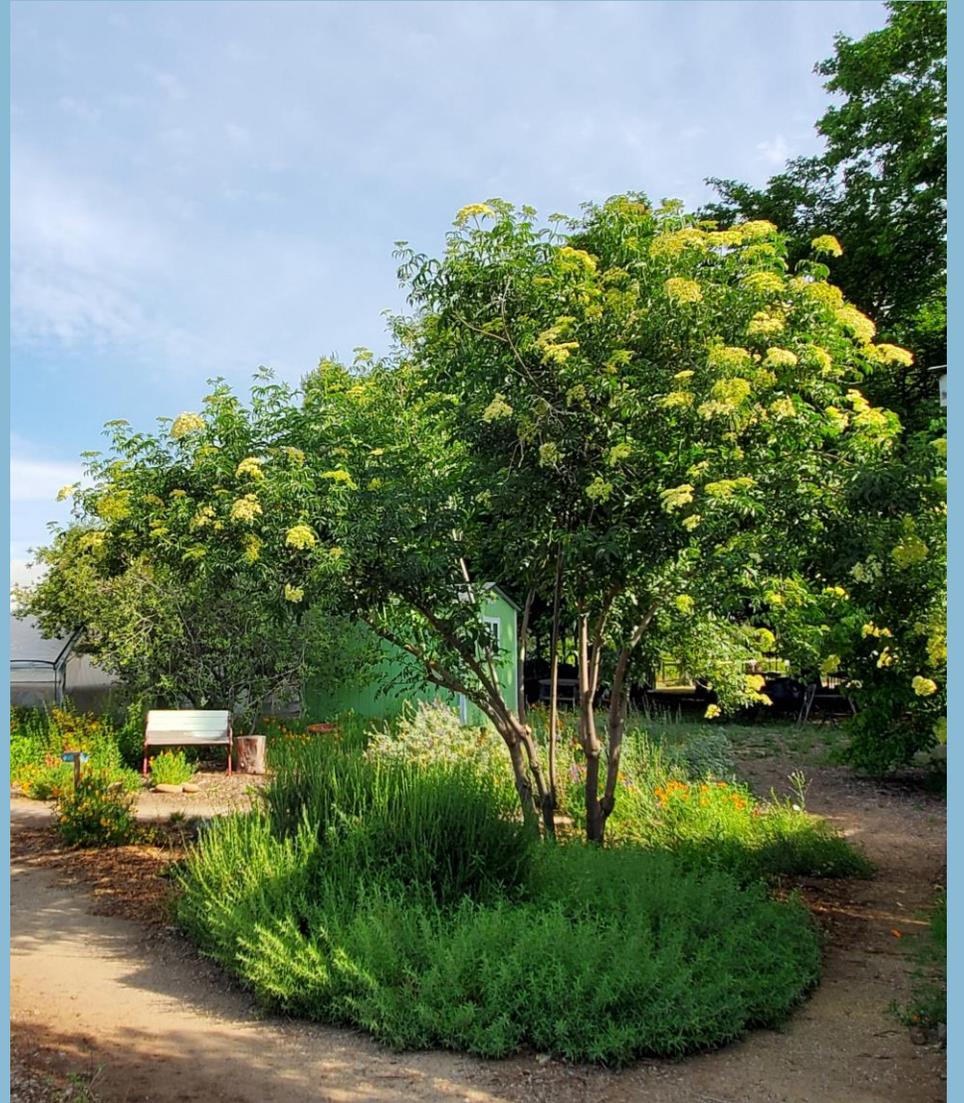
Where should **you** plant native plants?

Anywhere or everywhere. It's **your** choice.

Your home, **your** community's garden, or **your** church garden!

And you don't have to take out your favorite plants or your entire lawn!

But anywhere you do add Native Plants, **you help the bees, birds and butterflies!**



SacValley CNPS Nursery & Gardens



Volunteers are the face, heart, and soul of CNPS. For this reason, we encourage a culture of gratitude and celebration of volunteers



Our **Nursery & Garden workdays** are most Monday and every Wednesday from 10-12. (See website)

Monthly Volunteer Orientation

SacValleyCNPS.org/Nursery

Monthly Drop-In Saturdays

Once a month, you are invited to drop in to visit the nursery & demo gardens and get to know local native plants! (See website for **dates & times**)





Art by Aston Smith

ANIMALS,
absolutely
every
ANIMAL on
this planet
gets its food
directly from
PLANTS.

They get their food either by eating a plant or by eating something else that ate the plant. Plants are the only organisms that can capture the sun's energy and turn it into food.

Doug Tallamy