

## TECHNICAL GUIDES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### USDA climate/hardiness zones

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>

Oakland (94610) Zone 10a: 30 to 35 (F); San Luis Obispo (93401) Zone 9b : 25 to 30 (F)

### Sunset Western Gardening Zones

<https://www.sunsetwesterngardencollection.com/climate-zones>

### HEIRLOOM FRUIT TREES AT 824 GROSVENOR PLACE

[Babcock Peach](#)

(Hybridized to thrive in the East Bay!)

[Blenheim apricot](#)

[USDA Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] - TOA

[Seckel Pear](#)

[USDA Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] - TOA

[Sierra Beauty Apple Tree](#)

[USDA Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] - TOA

### LEARN HOW TO PRUNE YOUR SHRUBS & TREES

Learn Pruning Techniques: remove branches that are weakly attached, crossing, dead, and growing from the root crown (suckers) - guides from [NCSU](#) & [UNM](#).

### WEED ERADICATION

[Corn gluten meal](#) herbicide for establishing grasslands/prairies.

[Sheet Mulching](#) to kill weeds and/or to convert lawns to wildscapes.

“[Weed Slayer](#)” (clove oil).

Eradicating English Ivy: [Cal-IPC fact sheet](#) and [Metro Vancouver technical report](#).

Weed Control Methods from the [Skyline Gardens Alliance](#) (East Bay Hills)

1. “[Bradley Method](#)” of weed control.
2. 100% vinegar “Four Monks” can eradicate broadleaf plants when they’re small, e.g., Italian thistle
3. Weed slayer: clove oil
4. [Hand sickle](#) for small weeds
5. Pole sickle for Italian thistle

[Herbicide](#) for the most pernicious shrubs and trees, e.g., [Acacia](#), [Ailanthus](#), [Cotoneaster](#), and [Ligustrum](#) (Privet) using appropriate methods: “[safe herbicide handling in natural areas](#)” Hillmer et al. TNC June 2003.

## **BOOKS & ARTICLES**

California Native Plant Society - Restoring Nature One Garden at a Time

<https://www.cnps.org/gardening>

Planting Guides for Your Region

<https://www.cnps.org/gardening/choosing-your-plants/native-planting-guides>

*Designing California Native Gardens -*

*The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens* (Keater et al.)

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520251106/designing-california-native-gardens>

*California Native Plants for the Garden* (Bornstein et al.)

<https://cnpslo.org/shop/california-native-plants-for-the-garden/>

*Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California*, by M. Nevin Smith, UC Press, 2006

<https://baynature.org/magazine/fall2006/book-review-native-treasures-gardening-with-the-plants-of-california/>

*Nature's Best Hope - A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*

(Tallamy). <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/douglas-w-tallamy/natures-best-hope/9781604699005/?lens=timber-press>

*California Plants: A Guide to Our Iconic Flora*. Matt Ritter. 2018

<http://www.matritter.net/california-plants>

*Ecosystems of California*

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520278806/ecosystems-of-california>

*The California Deserts: An Ecological Rediscovery*

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520251458/the-california-deserts>

Water for Birds and Wildlife Gardens - Art of Stone Gardening

<https://www.artofstonegardening.com/water-for-birds-and-wildlife-gardens>

*Which Bay Area Salamander Are You?* (11/27/19) *BAY NATURE* magazine

<https://baynature.org/2019/11/27/which-bay-area-salamander-are-you/>

Bumble Bees of California

[https://www.inaturalist.org/check\\_lists/217590-Bumble-Bees-of-California](https://www.inaturalist.org/check_lists/217590-Bumble-Bees-of-California)

How to Create a Dry, Shade Garden

[https://www.laspilitas.com/garden/Dry\\_shade.html](https://www.laspilitas.com/garden/Dry_shade.html)

[https://www.laspilitas.com/garden/California\\_natives\\_for\\_part\\_shade.html](https://www.laspilitas.com/garden/California_natives_for_part_shade.html)

**BOOKS & ARTICLES continued...**

*Small patches make critical contributions to biodiversity conservation* (12/27/18)  
PNAS. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1820169116>

Water Efficient Landscaping  
<https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2020/June/Why-Garden-with-California-Native-Plants>

*Leave the Leaves Campaign*  
<https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>  
<https://davidsuzuki.org/queen-of-green/how-to-leave-the-leaves/>  
<https://www.leaveleavesalone.org>

*In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees* (04/03/22) NEW YORK TIMES  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/travel/no-mow-may-wisconsin.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.5k4.cmGY.XtMTvUYoS4Qy&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/travel/no-mow-may-wisconsin.html?unlocked_article_code=1.5k4.cmGY.XtMTvUYoS4Qy&smid=url-share)

*Beauty of the Wild: A Life Designing Landscapes Inspired by Nature*  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/11/realestate/your-garden-may-be-pretty-but-is-it-ecologically-sound.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.5k4.Gm88.Kqi295BF8VkL&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/11/realestate/your-garden-may-be-pretty-but-is-it-ecologically-sound.html?unlocked_article_code=1.5k4.Gm88.Kqi295BF8VkL&smid=url-share)

*How (and Why) to Use Native Plants*  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/15/realestate/how-and-why-to-use-native-plants.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.5k4.Y4hE.mJdvQbJ8c8nX&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/15/realestate/how-and-why-to-use-native-plants.html?unlocked_article_code=1.5k4.Y4hE.mJdvQbJ8c8nX&smid=url-share)

SAVE THE PEATLANDS! {DO NOT buy peat moss for your garden}  
*Peatlands: A journey between land and water by Alys Fowler*  
<https://www.hachette.co.uk/titles/aly-fowler-2/peatlands/9781399727563/>

*'People think you're an idiot': death metal Irish baron rewilds his estate*  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/07/people-think-youre-an-idiot-death-metal-irish-baron-rewilds-his-estate>

**PLANT NATIVE OAK TREES & PROTECT WILD ONES AT YOUR FEET**

Why You Should Plant Oaks

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/31/realestate/oak-trees-why-you-should-plant.html?referringSource=articleShare>

DO NOT Trench Under Oaks!

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/21538.pdf>

DO NOT Butcher Your Trees!

<http://www.ourcityforest.org/blog/2016/1/29/w4p4udrhn7mfyj7yuja0atvgjliqgy>

Compatible Plants Under & Around Oaks - California Oaks Foundation

<http://californiaoaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CompatiblePlantsUnder-AroundOaks.pdf>

California Oaks Newsletter

<http://californiaoaks.org/newsletters/>

[Oakland's oaks are largely gone. He's leading the fight to protect the city's namesake trees](#) (11/25/21) San Francisco Chronicle

**GROW NATIVE BUCKEYE TREES FROM SEED PODS!**

*California Buckeye: A Tree for All Seasons*

<https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/california-buckeye-a-tree-for-all-seasons/>

Propagating California Buckeye Trees

<https://turkeysong.wordpress.com/2009/12/26/propagating-california-buckeye-trees/>

**INVITE WILD BIRDS INTO YOUR GARDEN**

Nest Watch: All About Bird Houses

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>

UC Davis: Building Songbird Nest Boxes

<https://mwfb.ucdavis.edu/research/california/nestboxes/putah-creek>

Birdhouse Plans for 70 North American Birds

<https://70birds.com>

Right Bird - Right House

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/right-bird-right-house/>

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program - Santa Clara Valley Audubon  
<https://scvas.org/nest-box-plans>

Coveside Conservation Products  
<https://coveside.com/collections/bird-houses>

Hungry Owl Project  
<https://www.hungryowls.org/barn-owl-boxes>

UC Davis: How to Build an Owl Box  
<https://www.ucdavis.edu/one-health/how-to-build-an-owl-box>

### **SAVE WILD BIRDS FROM YOUR WINDOWS & CATS!**

Prevent Bird Collisions on Your Windows  
<https://abcbirds.org/solutions/prevent-home-collisions/>  
<https://www.audubon.org/news/reducing-collisions-glass>

Birds Be Safe Cat Collars - scientifically-designed to visually warn birds  
[https://www.birdsbesafe.com/index.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIrJ\\_e74ml6QIVch-tB-h3jjAqsEAAYASAAEgIC-PD\\_BwE](https://www.birdsbesafe.com/index.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIrJ_e74ml6QIVch-tB-h3jjAqsEAAYASAAEgIC-PD_BwE)

### **KEY PODCASTS ON ECOLOGICAL GARDENING & “RE-WILDING”**

Joe Gardener  
<https://joegardener.com/podcasts/>

Cultivating Place  
<https://www.cultivatingplace.com/about>

Rewilding Earth Podcast  
<https://rewilding.org/rewilding-earth-podcast/>

Rewilding The World with Ben Goldsmith  
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2156617/episodes>

In Defense of Plants  
<https://www.indefenseofplants.com/>

**REMEMBER THE GEOPHYTES!**

Special Issue: California's Geophytes

<https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/FremontiaV44.3.pdf>

CNGA: [\*Grasslands: Special Issue on Rare Plants\*](#)

Forays in Propagating Native Bulbs and Corms from Seed

<https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/2022/11/11/forays-in-propagating-native-bulbs-and-corms-from-seed/>

**PLANT A PRAIRIE!**

Reimagining the California Lawn

<https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/meadows/>

Plant a Pocket Prairie

<https://www.wildflower.org/magazine/native-plants/make-pocket-prairie>

Reviving the Meadow at the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden - Reservoir of Biodiversity

<https://www.sbbg.org/explore-garden/garden-sections-displays/meadow>

Xerces Society: California 327A Conservation Cover, Pollinators

<https://www.xerces.org/publications/habitat-installation-guides/california-327a-conservation-cover-pollinators>

Creating a Coastal Meadow/Lawn Alternative

<http://www.centralcoastwilds.com/news/2020/Creating-a-Coastal-Meadow-Lawn-Alternative.html>

*Beauty of the Wild* by Darrel Morrison

[https://ced.uga.edu/2021\\_darrel\\_morrison\\_book/](https://ced.uga.edu/2021_darrel_morrison_book/)

Grassland Facts

<https://cnga.wildapricot.org/grasslandfacts>

**DO NOT USE POISON BAIT AND RODENTICIDES**

Raptors Are The Solution (R.A.T.S.)

<https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org>

Save Our Raptors - Don't Use Rodenticide

<https://intobirds.com/save-our-raptors-dont-use-rodenticide/>

Safe Alternatives to Rat Poison - Audubon

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/january-february-2013/poisons-used-kill-rodents-have-safer>

Preferred Pest Control Products

<https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/preferred-pest-control-products/>

5 Keys to Rat-Trapping Success

[https://www.automatictrap.com/blogs/rats-trapping-tips/5-keys-to-rat-trapping-success?\\_pos=9&\\_sid=90d02f755&\\_ss=r](https://www.automatictrap.com/blogs/rats-trapping-tips/5-keys-to-rat-trapping-success?_pos=9&_sid=90d02f755&_ss=r)

Native and Non-native Squirrels; and Non-Toxic Tube Traps

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74122.html>

[https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product\\_pages/products.php?mi=44491&item-num=35803](https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product_pages/products.php?mi=44491&item-num=35803)

**LANDSCAPING & EROSION CONTROL ON SHADY & SUNNY SLOPES**

*Hot Sunny Slopes and the Plants That Hold 'Em*

<https://www.cnps.org/gardening/hot-sunny-slopes-and-the-plants-that-hold-em-12972>

*California Native Plants for Erosion Control*

<https://jannelsonlandscapedesign.com/wordpress/2013/10/22/california-native-plants-for-erosion-control/>

**FIRE SAFE GARDENS!**

*Firescaping Your Home: A Manual for Readiness in Wildfire Country* by Edwards and

Schleiger; 2023. <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/adrienne-edwards/firescaping-your-home/9781643261355/?lens=timber-press>

Q&A with the Authors of *Firescaping Your Home: A Manual for Readiness in Wildfire Country*. <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/qa/timber-press-post-firescaping-qa/?lens=timber-press>

*How Will We Manage East Bay Wildfire Risk* (the case for “Shaded Fuel Breaks”)

<https://ebcnps.org/conservation/how-will-we-manage-east-bay-wildfire-risk-2021-04/>