



Photo courtesy of Photo Botanic Garden Library of Saxon Holt

# CREATE BACKYARD & NEIGHBORHOOD HABITAT!

Landscaping with native plants enhances wildlife habitat, builds healthy soil, restores biodiversity, and helps re-create a resilient ecosystem. Local native plants conserve water, replenish groundwater, improve water quality, and reduce soil erosion.

## Invite birds, bees, and butterflies to your yard with 5 simple steps!

### 1. OBSERVATION

Look for wildlife in your yard and neighborhood. Notice which trees, shrubs and flowers they visit. Note your **soil type** and moisture, sun and wind direction, so that you can plant the right plants in the right places.

### 2. FOOD

Use a variety of native and non-invasive plants that produce nectar, fruit and seeds throughout the year. Many plants attract beautiful insects, which in turn provide food for birds.

### 3. COVER

Cover gives wildlife shelter and places to nest. Pick plants with varied heights and density, leave a wild corner where you only remove invasives, and keep a brush pile and hollow logs.

### 4. PLANTS

Native plants can survive the summer drought, but **some need more water than others**. Plant the appropriate plants in shadier, wetter areas, e.g., **coast silktassel** and the right plants in drier, sunnier areas, e.g., **sticky monkeyflower**. Group your plants according to their water needs and the natural **communities** in which they grow.

### 5. SUSTAINABLE GARDEN PRACTICES

Help local wildlife by keeping chemicals out of the food web and the Bay. Native plants need less water, pesticides and fertilizers. Compost and mulch to build soil. **In our Mediterranean climate, the best time to plant is late fall at the onset of the rainy season. Plan ahead by checking with local nurseries.**

SFPlantFinder.org

SF PLANT FINDER

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

Golden Gate Audubon Brochure: Inviting Wildlife into Your Backyard

SF Environment Biodiversity in the City



For more information on the SF Plant Finder, including native plant nurseries, go to the About, Glossary and Resources pages on the SF Plant Finder website.

The project is a collaborative effort among the following agencies:

