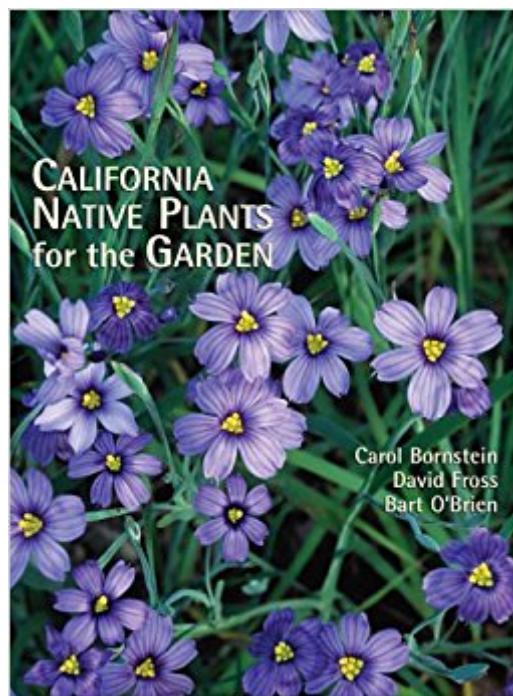


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California Native Plants For The Garden



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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Customer Reviews

"California Native Plants for the Garden"... is a stunner and comes at just the right time . . . a marvelous new resource. -- San Jose Mercury News, December 10, 2005An authoritative reference on California gardening, with detailed advice on landscape design, installation, watering, pruning, and pest control. -- Los Angeles Times, January 26, 2006Go out and buy "California Native Plants for the Garden"... [this] new book is a must-have. -- San Francisco Chronicle, February 15, 2006This guidebook . . . is both practical and inspirational. Lovingly detailed plant profiles . . . make you covet each species. -- Sunset Magazine, April 2006[It] provides a dazzling array of native plant possibilities for every garden situation, combined with a wealth of practical information. -- Pacific Horticulture, January 2006[The authors] have combined their deep knowledge of and extensive experience with California plants into a thorough and charismatic guide. -- Sue Rosenthal, Bay Nature Magazine, Fall, 2005

"California Native Plants for the Garden" is a recipient of the 2006 Book Award from the American Horticultural Society

Very nice pictures and description of California landscapes. Also helpful are lists in the back of plants for hedges, fast or slow growing, or liked by hummingbirds. The plant profiles are well documented by the pictures but lack crucial information like height/width, soil/ water preferences or hours of sunlight required. This is more from a traditional gardener's point of view with descriptions of how and when to prune so a plant looks at its best. Unfortunately, I (and most of the people interested in native plants) plant natives to provide habitat, so I would have expected pollinator information, butterfly host plants, which berries are liked best by birds, so I was quite disappointed in that aspect. Narrowleaf milkweed for example doesn't even get a picture but at least is mentioned in a two-liner as monarch host plant that the book doesn't recommend due to its spreading nature. So, sorry Carol, but for the habitat gardener nice pictures aren't enough. Yampah and many other important plants for native insects aren't even mentioned. So if you are interested in critters as well as flowers, better check out the las pilitas nursery website (<http://www.laspilitas.com>).

I have many books on landscaping and plants including California native plants but this is the first book that provided information on how and where specific plants will grow. Most books mention the USDA hardiness zone which is worthless in most situations. I have lost no plants from frost but more than I care to remember due to problems with water, drainage, and pests. This should be the first book one should read before buying California native plants. The one aspect that this book shares with most others and where it falls short of the mark is that all the plantings are done on flat soil. A great deal of the terrain in California is not flat and presents special problems for growing plants, and in particular California natives where the wrong plant can accelerate erosion. At least the book does provide a overall framework and enough plant specific information to get one headed in the right direction. There is a useful section in the very back of the book covers deer resistant plants sorted by category as with shrubs or trees or ground cover. It would actually have been much better is in the main section of the book where plant specific information is provided had the publisher put a "DR" symbol to let one know that the plant was deer resistant. Even better would be a "DL" designation for plants that the deer love to eat as with most varieties of ceanothus. With ceanothus a "DC" or deer candy designation would be more accurate from my own experiences.

if you're new or interested in California native plants and could only buy one book, this would be the

book to get. "The Bornstein book" as it is often referred to is probably the most user-friendly native plant book there is. Logically laid out with plenty of crisp and colorful pictures, it covers the broadest spectrum of plants next to the Jepson Manual. If you go to a nursery that sells native plants, unless you're looking at a cultivar that was released after the date of book publishing, chances are you'll find it in this book. Each plant entry is covered with straightforward facts and advice that will help determine if the plant is suitable for your garden. I also own the Nevin Smith and Glenn Keator books, and while both of those are excellent books as well, this is the book I check first, the one I refer to the most, and the one I find the easiest to use.

I checked out 5 books from the library: this one, Landscaping with Native Plants of Southern CA, Reimagining the CA Lawn, The CA Landscape Garden, and Designer Plant Combinations to compare and see which ones I should purchase. I am new to CA and am in a new house with no landscaping (in Santa Barbara foothills). I wanted to try to use mostly native plants, but for it to look interesting and beautiful (of course), too. This book helped me learn the plants with great photos and descriptions. I used it in conjunction with my Sunset Western Garden Book, but this always had better pictures and more detailed descriptions for uses, combinations with other plants, exposure, care, etc. It is almost the same as Reimagining the CA Lawn (same authors) but has a more comprehensive list of plants. This is the book I kept coming back to. In the end, this is the one I'm purchasing today.

This is a great tool to plan a CA native garden. Natives are usually reliable for a garden here because these plants all evolved to meet with CA summer drought, insects, etc. There are many planning guides for specific issues and garden layouts. Plant listings are thorough, and often include suggestions for other plants, native and non-native, that blend well. I know many consider Sunset's Western garden to be the "bible" and I also use it, but it often lacks key info on natives found here. It's also very helpful in listing a large number of vendors to locate plants.

Part of what is so valuable about this book is that it not only talks about native plants, it gives you quality color images all the way through, not just the cover. The images definitely enhance my ability to memorize plants for one of my classes. I have met one of the authors, and he is absolutely passionate about the subject and has many years of experience in the nursery trade. Also, he has visited the same sites year after year, and has observed their changes; he personally knows the history of many of the hillsides, mountains, and fields in California.

blurry tiny photos that are utterly useless for identifying or recognizing plants

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