Why Grow California Native plants at Home?

- Native plants often need less water and care than other garden plants.
- Native plants provide needed food for native birds and insects.
- Native plants bring the beauty of wild California to your home.

So...what is a native plant?
Most people agree that a plant is native if it grew naturally in a place before humans made major changes to the environment.

For more information on California native plants, visit the California Native Plant Society website at www.cnps.org.

This drought-tolerant home landscape includes many California native plants.

Enjoy our Garden of California Native Plants
Sign made possible by a grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Foundation

Who was Mary Wattis Brown?
Mary Wattis Brown was an avid gardener and botanist who recognized the need for education to promote conservation of California’s wild heritage.

Although Mrs. Brown did not live in Davis, she came here often to visit her good friends, Jack and Mary Major. Dr. Jack Major was a beloved UC Davis botany professor, and Mary Major helped develop the Arboretum’s first educational programs.

The generous endowment created by Mary Wattis Brown’s family supports the maintenance and development of the Arboretum’s California native plant collection. Over the years, many people have made additional gifts to her endowment.
Home lawns are great for running and playing outdoor games, but they require a lot of mowing, water, and other maintenance.

- Must be mowed 2-4 times each month
- Must be watered 1-3 times each week
- Frequent weeding and fertilizing
- Low diversity of plants

Consider reducing the size of your lawn and planting California native grasses or other drought-tolerant native plants.

**to mow...**

**Traditional Home Lawn**

**or not to mow?**

**California Native Grass Landscape**

California native grass landscapes require much less mowing and water than a traditional lawn and help you connect to California’s natural heritage at home.

- Only needs to be mowed or cut 1-2 times a year
- Only needs to be watered 1-2 times each month
- Periodic hand weeding and thinning
- High diversity of plants
- Well-adapted to the Central Valley’s growing conditions and provides food for native wildlife

Mary Wattis Brown Garden

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Showy red berries last throughout the fall and winter. A yellow-berried form, 'Davis Gold,' originated at UC Davis.

Toyon's red berries attract winter birds to California gardens.

Look for flocks of cedar waxwings and other birds feasting on toyon berries. Cedar waxwings migrate through Davis and the Central Valley during the fall and early winter.

The “Holly” in Hollywood?
Toyon, also known as California holly, is common on the hillsides of California. Could it have inspired the naming of the city of Hollywood?

Mary Wattis Brown Garden

Available for Purchase at UC Davis Arboretum Plant Sales
See our website for more information: http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu • Made possible by a grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Foundation
Rub the leaves of this white sage to activate its fragrant scent. Do you like the smell?

People often like the smell of the aromatic oils found in sage leaves. These same oils actually repel hungry insects, making sages pest resistant.

Let the scent of sages enhance your garden experience.

Smell the leaves of other sages as you walk through the Arboretum to discover your favorite.

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