Native & Drought Tolerant Plant Gardens and Landscapes on the Palos Verdes Peninsula



Bladder pod (Peritoma arborea)



Toyon (Hetereomeles arbutifolia)



Lemonade berry (Rhus integrifolia)



Sticky Monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus)



Pigeon point dwarf coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis "Pigeon Point")

Not Pictured:

Yankee Point California Lilac (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus "Yankee Point")

Mule fat, for wetter areas (Baccharis salicifolia)

Willows, for wetter areas (Salix spp.)

California sycamore, if properly pruned (Platanus racemosa)

There are five native plant gardens and landscapes accessible to the public on the Palos Verdes Peninsula which can serve as a living resource in demonstrating the beauty, utility and economy of native and drought-tolerant plants in private gardens and landscapes.

Native Plants Help Solve Landscaping Problems

Erosion- Native plants can be used to re-vegetate barren slopes to help control erosion. Once established, these plants help hold soil in place and act as vegetative buffers to prevent erosion of canyons and drainage courses and improve stormwater quality by allowing natural soil processes to decompose pollutants.

Eliminate Fertilizer and Pesticide Use- Native plants typically require less maintenance because they are inherently equipped to survive in the Southern California environment. These plants often possess natural defenses against local diseases and pests. They don't require costly fertilizers and pesticides and therefore don't contribute toxins and excess nutrients to local surface waters, which can harm the environment and cause pollutant violations.

Lower Water Bills- Many California native plants have drought resistant qualities and require minimal irrigation beyond natural rainfall. This preserves a valuable resource, saves money and can reduce dry weather water flows to storm drains that result from irrigation overspray. Storm drains discharge to our local waterways and the ocean and can cause beach water quality issues during the summer.

Support California's Natural Landscape- Beneficial native insects, birds and other critters depend on native plant species as their food and shelter. Native plant species on private property will attract native fauna that provide benefits such as pollination of plants, insect pest control, and the simple pleasure of hosting California's natural beauty.

Fire Hazard- To help protect property from wildfires, owners of property in wildland areas should follow recommendations for landscaping and regular maintenance, including brush clearance guidelines. All plants will burn, although, when managed appropriately some have lower fuel value than others. According to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Brush Management Plant ID Guide, the Peninsula native plants on the cover of this brochure have relatively low to moderate flammability. See websites below for plant characteristics and information.

Self-Guided Tour of Native and Drought Gardens & Landscapes on the Palos Verdes Peninsula:

- George F Canyon Nature Center and Preserve http://www.pvplc.org/lands/george-f-canyon.asp
- Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm
- South Coast Botanic Garden http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/
- White Point Nature Preserve http://www.pvplc.org/lands/whitepoint.asp
- Vicente Bluffs Reserve http://www.pvplc.org/ lands/vicente bluffs.asp

Resources and Websites for more information on native plants:

- County of Los Angeles Fire Department-Forestry Division http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/forestry-fuel-modification/
- S.A.F.E. Landscapes: Southern California Guidebook—Sustainable and Fire-Safe Landscapes in the Wildland Urban Interface http://ucanr.edu/sites/safelandscapes
- California Native Plant Society—South Coast Chapter www.sccnps.org
- Cal-IPC's Responsible Landscaping website: http://www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/index.php
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy http://pyplc.org/ education/native plants.asp

Special thanks to:

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, South Coast Botanic Garden, PVE City Forester, Los Angeles County Fire, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, City of Palos Verdes Estates, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, City of Rolling Hills and City of Rolling Hills Estates.











