

# FAQ:

## Why should I grow native plants?

- Growing native plants instead of invasives in your home ornamental gardens helps protect the biodiversity of your surrounding ecosystems
- They help conserve water because they are already perfectly adapted to California's climate and conditions

## Any tips on growing these at home?

- Try growing these plants from seeds. It's a fun and inexpensive way to start your own native garden
- All of the plants featured thrive in full sun and some will tolerate partial sun
- They require less water average garden plants, so only water them very rarely. Don't water the cacti and agave, as they will be very happy with strictly San Diego's rain

## How do I read this guide?

### Common Name

*Genus and species*

Family

Description of plant, where it's found or any other important facts

# SAN DIEGO NATIVE SPECIES

Plants to observe at preserves and plant in your water-wise gardens!

### Opuntias

*Opuntia oricola, Opuntia engelmannii, Opuntia chlorotica*  
Cactaceae

These cacti have yellow, orange or pink flowers in the spring depending on the species. They all have edible fruit in the spring.



### Oaks

*Quercus kelloggii, Quercus agrifolia, Quercus lobata*  
Fagaceae

Twenty oak species are native to California, and all have been important to indigenous cultures in the region. The easiest way to identify these trees is to look for their acorns.



### Toyon

*Heteromeles arbutifolia*  
Rosaceae

Toyon is the only species in the Heteromeles genus, and is a chaparral shrub. It has long-lasting red berries that develop in the autumn.



### Sacred Datura

*Datura Wrightii*  
Solanaceae

Sacred Datura or Western Jimsonweed, has white flowers sometimes with purple edging. Historically, it has been used for medicinal purposes, but can be very poisonous.



### Coastal Sunflower

*Encelia californica*  
Asteraceae

This species in the sunflower family is quite common in southern California's coastal sage scrub.



### Agaves

*Yucca schidigera, Yucca baccata, Hesperoyucca whipplei*  
Agavaceae

In spring, above the long spears of foliage, a big bunch of cream colored flowers open, followed by pods full of round black seeds.



# INVASIVE SPECIES

Avoid planting these in your gardens!

## Periwinkle

*Vinca major*  
Apocynaceae

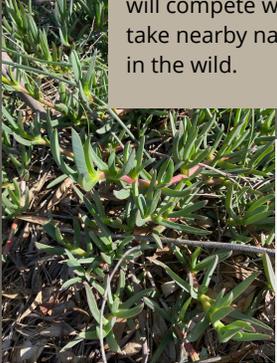
A vigorously invasive ground cover, periwinkle will compete with and overtake nearby native plants in the wild.



## Highway Ice Plant

*Carpobrotus edulis*  
Aizoaceae

Ice plant quickly forms thick mats near roads and along the coast. It gets pink or yellow flowers in the spring or summer.



## Spanish Broom

*Spartium junceum*  
Fabaceae

*Spartium junceum* is an invasive perennial, planted first to prevent erosion in Southern California, but has since gotten out of hand.



## Invasives continued...

## Fennel

*Foeniculum vulgare*  
Apiaceae

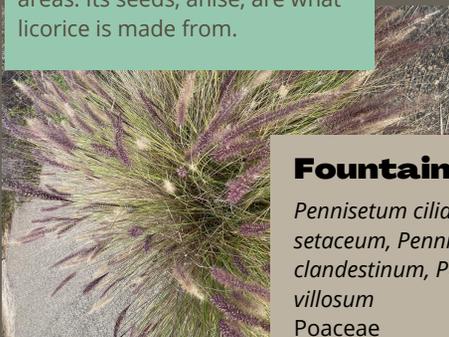
Fennel is often found by the sides of roads and in other disturbed areas. Its seeds, anise, are what licorice is made from.



## Fountain grass

*Pennisetum ciliare*, *Pennisetum setaceum*, *Pennisetum clandestinum*, *Pennisetum villosum*  
Poaceae

Fountain grasses grow and spread viciously. Patches of them can even be found growing out of cracks in concrete sidewalks or roads.



## Eucalyptus

*Eucalyptus tricarpa*, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, *Corymbia citriodora*  
Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus species were brought to California in the 1850s, grown for timber and railroad ties, but proved to be unsuccessful for both uses. As well as being invasive, they are also highly flammable.



# San Diego County's Native and Invasive Plants

## Colette Rossow

From Plant a Seed

