



NIFTY NATIVES

Getting started with native gardening

Why should you grow native plants? Native plants play an important role in local ecosystems, providing food, shelter, and refuge for wildlife. By growing natives, you are creating important habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Native plants are water-wise and naturally drought-tolerant, saving you money on your water bill by requiring you to water less often (if at all!).

One native can make a difference!

HOW TO GET STARTED

Plant natives in the fall to early spring!

- ✔ Visit these free demonstration gardens for inspiration and to find the ones you like the most.
- ✔ Visit a nursery to see the variety of natives available for purchase and to ask the experts about what natives can work for you.

Desert Canyon Habitat at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

Location: 72425 Via Vale, Rancho Mirage, Free
Details: A 7,500-square-foot garden with more than 100 native plants. Plants are well-marked with a combination of small identifying signs and detailed placards that share information about the plants' uses and the significance of their ecosystem.



Palm Springs Animal Shelter

Location: 4575 E Mesquite Ave, Palm Springs, Free
Details: A pollinator garden and certified Monarch Waystation featuring mostly native plants. It's maintained by UC Master Gardeners. Many of the plants have signage to easily identify the plant that includes the common name, scientific name and family.



Palm Springs International Airport

Location: 3400 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, Free (Easy parking at PS City Hall across Farrell Street).
Details: Includes a variety of native and desert-adapted plants that are all water-wise. The plants lack signage, but you can scan the QR code (<https://bit.ly/3xjBXPB>) to download the plant list and take it with you on your visit. The plant list includes names, growth habit and watering needs.



Don't overwater your natives!

Desert Water Agency

Location: 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, Free
Details: A demonstration garden with signage that wraps around the building and meanders along Gene Autry Trail. A pollinator garden and certified Monarch Waystation with temporary plant signage and pollinator-themed wall art. Park in customer parking lot to easily access both gardens.



The Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center

Location: 51-500 CA-74, Palm Desert, Free
Details: The Ed Haste Garden Trail is an easy 0.2-mile walk around the Visitor Center building with lots of wildlife and a variety of native plants. Inside the visitor center request a plant map to identify and learn about the plants during your stroll.



Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Location: 11055 East Drive, Morongo, Free
Details: This 31,000-acre nature preserve is part of the Sand to Snow National Monument and has two native gardens to explore. Both gardens are well-signed for easy identification. Each sign also lists the pollinators that depend on that plant for survival.



WHERE TO BUY NATIVE

These area nurseries are known to carry plants native to Coachella Valley (not just "drought tolerant" or "desert-adapted" plants). If your favorite nursery doesn't carry natives, ask! They may be willing to order them for you, and it's good for them to know there is a demand.

Cactus Mart
(760) 363-6076 | cactusmart.com
49889 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley

Best known for its selection of native and non-native cacti and succulents, Cactus Mart also carries many different types of native plants. They will usually order what you're looking for if it's not in stock. Cactus Mart also carries a selection of books on desert ecosystems and native plants.

Desert Straw House Native Plant Nursery
760-880-0896 | desertstrawhouse.com
16300 Bennett Rd, Sky Valley

Desert Straw House is a wonderful nursery with many native plants for sale at affordable prices. Only open October - March, the main desert planting season. They also have lush native gardens showcasing how lovely the different plants can look once fully grown. Free garden tours are offered on Fridays, but you must register online or by phone in advance.

Green Desert Nursery
(760) 360-6937 | greendesertnursery.com
9301 Ave 40, Indio

Green Desert Nursery has been serving the Coachella Valley for over two decades. Visit the "Availability List" on their website to see what native plants are currently in stock.

Mojave Desert Land Trust
(760) 366-5440 | mdlt.org
60124 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree

Native plants are available for purchase during annual plant sales in spring and fall. Native plant seeds can be purchased year-round through the website or in person at the Joshua Tree headquarters. If you visit the headquarters, be sure to walk through the Desert Discovery Garden which showcases the beauty and diversity of our desert's native plants.

Moller's Garden Center
(760) 346-0545 | mollersgardencenter.com
72-235 Painter's Path, Palm Desert

Moller's often carries small quantities of native plants, which can be difficult to locate in this large garden center. If you can't find what you're looking for, ask for help!

California Native Plant Society Plant Sales
riverside-sanbernardino.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society holds plant sales in Palm Desert, Riverside, and surrounding areas during the spring and fall. Check the website for details.

Try mulch to retain moisture for your natives!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Calscape:
Help choosing the right plants



Lush & Efficient:
Desert-friendly landscape guide



Calflora:
What grows near you?



California Native Plant Society:

