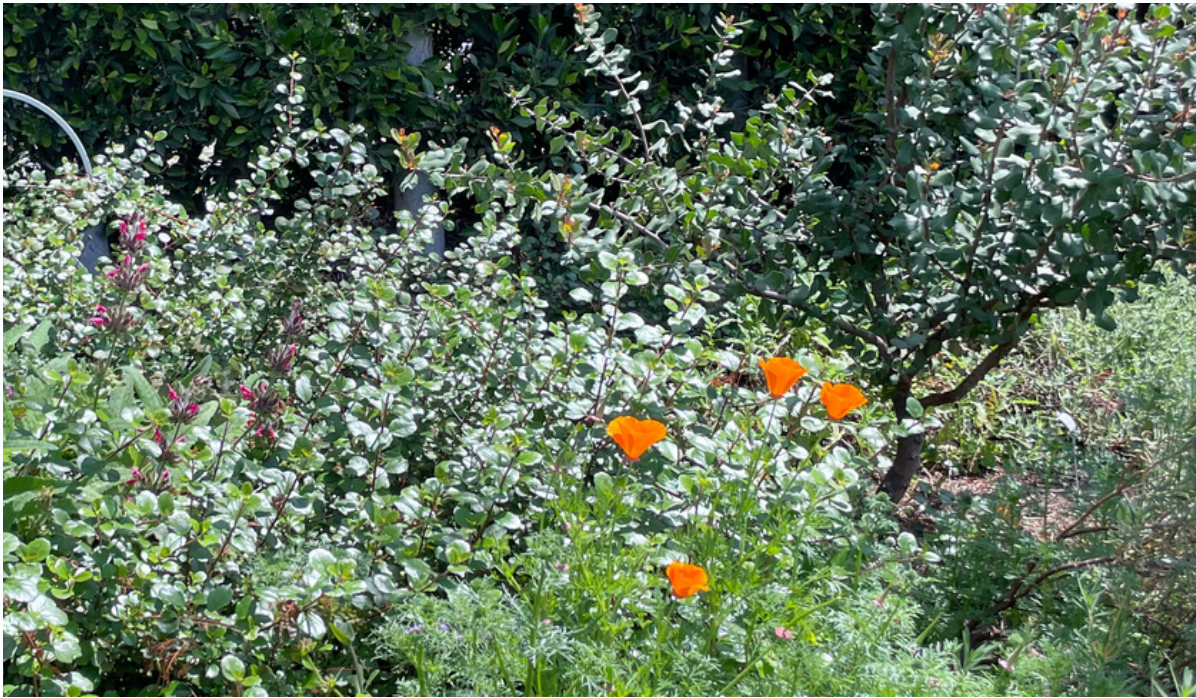


LA BIODIVERSITY GUIDELINES

MAINTENANCE





Select and maintain plants based on their specific maintenance requirements

To ensure your garden thrives, understand species-specific maintenance needs and select plant species that meet the maintenance needs of your site. Take care to plan pruning, dead heading, plant placement, and watering frequency accordingly.



PHOTO: ANDY KLEINHESSELINK



PHOTO: THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION, MARIE ASTRID GONZALEZ

Consider hiring a gardener or landscaper who is trained to care for California native plants

Seek gardening or landscaping professionals who have been certified to care for California native plants and use environmentally-friendly maintenance practices, such as Theodore Payne's [California Native Plant Landscaper Certification Program](#). Or, consider undertaking training or certification yourself.



PHOTO: THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION



PHOTO: THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION, MARIE ASTRID GONZALEZ

Strategically prune and maintain trees

Avoid non-essential pruning or thinning, particularly during hot, dry times, as it can weaken woody plants. Minimizing pruning and thinning will also help [maximize the environmental benefits of trees](#) (e.g., reducing carbon dioxide, mitigating air pollution, etc.). For best results, prune when trees and shrubs are dormant (i.e., before plants start growing during their particular growing season) ([CNPS](#)). For more information on pruning native trees and shrubs, visit the [UC Marin Master Gardeners website](#).



Protect nesting birds

Take precautions to prevent disturbing nests or nesting birds (e.g., avoiding vegetation removal or clearance) during the nesting season, which runs from February - August. [Tree Care for Birds](#) and the [LA Audubon](#) have great tips on how to prevent harm to birds and wildlife when pruning/caring for trees, performing brush management, or doing other maintenance.



PHOTO: NURIT KATZ



Manage weeds and invasive species

Hand weed regularly, particularly in winter and spring before plants go to seed. When weeding, aim to remove the full plant, including the roots.



Reduce ground disturbances & mowing

Avoid or reduce mowing to promote deep root growth and limit habitat impacts for bees, other pollinators, and other wildlife ([USDA Forest Service](#)). When mowing must be performed, consider using a hand mower.

Prioritize the use of organic, biodegradable interventions

Prioritize environmentally-friendly interventions and only use synthetic chemicals in your space as a last resort. If pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers are used, minimize their use as much as possible and avoid application prior to rainfall to avoid polluted runoff that can lead to algae blooms and poor water quality.



Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

[IPM](#) emphasizes using the least toxic methods as the first line of pest defense to limit risks to humans and the environment. Carefully check product labels, understand the inherent [risks of active ingredients](#), and [follow best practices](#) to use pesticides safely and effectively. [Avoid pyrethroids, carbaryl, metaldehyde, and neonicotinoids](#), which can be particularly harmful to wildlife. Be aware of local bans and laws regarding pesticides. California bans certain pesticides, including neonicotinoid pesticides ([AB-2146](#)) and rodenticides. The City of Los Angeles adopted a motion ([CF #07-2342](#)) mandating use of IPM for all City facilities.





Avoid all rodenticides (i.e., rat poisons), including first and second generation products

Adhere to the California Ecosystems Protection Act ([AB-1788](#)) which prohibits the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. LA County is [exploring banning](#) first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides and the State is considering a ban on first-generation diphacinone ([AB-1322](#)). Instead, use [exclusion and sanitation](#) practices to control rodents.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- Select and maintain plants based on their specific maintenance requirements: To ensure your garden thrives, understand species-specific maintenance needs and select plant species that meet the maintenance needs of your site. Take care to plan pruning, dead heading, plant placement, and watering frequency accordingly.
- Consider hiring a gardener or landscaper who is trained to care for California native plants: Seek gardening or landscaping professionals who have been certified to care for California native plants and use environmentally-friendly maintenance practices, such as Theodore Payne's California Native Plant Landscaper Certification Program. Or, consider undertaking training or certification yourself.
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- Manage weeds and invasive species: Hand weed regularly, particularly in winter and spring before plants go to seed. When weeding, aim to remove the full plant, including the roots.
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GET IN TOUCH

LASAN's Biodiversity Program oversees the City's efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity. The program originated in 2017 when the LA City Council adopted the Biodiversity Motion and directed LASAN to lead Citywide biodiversity efforts.

☎ 800-773-2489

➤ lacitysan.org/biodiversity

