



Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants

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Grow a Super Bloom at Home

Pro-Tips: How to create a native Californian garden at home

LOS ANGELES - As wild flowers capture imaginations and star in photos across Los Angeles, the Theodore Payne Foundation offers gardeners advice on creating a super bloom at home.

Purple hills and electric orange roadsides, the result of heavy rains this winter, are a reminder of the diversity of plant species that are unique to Southern California.

Creating your own “super bloom” at home or in the parkway outside your apartment is not difficult, and following a few simple tips can help you find the right seeds that will increase your chances of an Instagram worthy bloom.

“This stunning wild flower bloom really makes us appreciate the amazing spectacle that is California: We all want a piece of that!” says Kitty Connolly, executive director of Theodore Payne Foundation. “To bring that beauty and diversity home, plan now for planting of California native wild flowers in the fall. That way, you can have your own super bloom every year.”

Tips from the Theodore Payne Foundation for a Super Bloom at Home:

1. **Plant native.** By planting species that are suited for the Los Angeles climate, you will do much more than create a beautiful garden, you’ll create a natural home for plants and animals that live here, too.
2. **Know before you go.** Planning out a few types of plants that match the colors (orange, pinks, purples, etc.) that you want as well as your goals (attract butterflies, support bees, etc.) will help you to know what to look for at your neighborhood nursery or plant store.
3. **Watch out for plants that don’t belong.** A few common species do more harm than good. Sweet alyssum, for example, quickly gets out of cultivation and choke out native species. By avoiding these plants your garden will be healthier and you’ll make the Southern California landscape stronger, including addressing the negative effects of climate change.

Plant these:

- California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*): The state flower.
- Lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*)
- Chia (*Salvia columbariae*)
- Baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)

- Tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*)
- California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*)

But not these:

- Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos* species)
- Pincushion flower (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
- Corn poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)
- African daisy (*Dimorphotheca sinuate*)
- Crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*)

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants works to transform Southern California into a sustainable, healthy community through educating all people about the role native plants play in the local ecology, their place in our gardens, and how everyone can take part in making Southern California more life sustaining.

Learn more at theodorepayne.org

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