

None other than Luther Burbank has the distinction of introducing the fast-growing and voracious Himalayan Blackberry that we spend thousands of hours and tens of thousands of dollars removing all over the West Coast. It is very difficult, and frequently painful, to eradicate, lowers plant and animal biodiversity by crowding out and competing with native plants like the native California Blackberry. It does not contribute as much helpful debris to the stream as native plants and does not provide the arching shade which lowers water temperature and helps improve water quality.

Arundo donax is native to Asia and was introduced in California in the 1800's for flood control. It is extremely competitive, crowds out native plants and therefore wildlife, contributes to bank failure and erosion, uses a lot of water, provides no leaf litter to feed aquatic insects, alters the fire patterns along river and waterways, another significant impact. It is almost impossible to eradicate.



Native Plants

At this point you may be wondering what the advantages are of having native plants growing along waterways instead of non-native plants.

Native plants are more beneficial to local wildlife because the wildlife has coevolved with the plant and is aware of its resources. Native species have not adapted to the defenses of invasive plants, which allows the non-native plant to thrive without interference from local wildlife.

Native plants require low or no maintenance in gardens because they are already adapted to local conditions. This adaptation means that native plants usually require less fertilizer, pesticides or irrigation, therefore reducing the plant's impact on the surrounding environment (including any stream or river that may be near it).

Native plants can stabilize soil, reduce erosion and provide more effective storm water filtering, which is also especially beneficial for rivers and riverbanks. Finally, native plants are non-invasive, which supports biodiversity and helps preserve California's natural landscape.



If you live within a mile of any creek or river, please be especially aware of the invasive status of any species you are going to plant. Knowledge is power – do research first before planting. Ask your local nurseries what plants are invasive and which native plants would be best for your garden. Do not plant any non-native invasive plants and try to plant as many native plants as possible. Use the California Invasive Plant Council Database (below) to make sure you are planting natives. Based on the type of habitat you are in, here is a list of a few native plants that grow very well in Sonoma County.

Native species to plant near creeks & rivers

Riparian Woodland

Spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*) tolerates sand or clay

Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*) can tolerate drought and lots of water

California Wild Grape (*Vitis californica*) climbing vine, great fall color

Western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) light shade, some moisture

Mixed Evergreen forest

Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) dark green vertical fronds

Pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) shrub attracts butterflies, hummingbirds

Blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), evergreen shrub attracts butterflies

Western Bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*) light shade, spreading ground cover

Grassland

Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) large bunchgrass, sun

Blue Fescue (*Festuca Californica*) good under oaks, drought tolerant

Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*) blue spring bloomer, year-round leaves

Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), light shade, edible berries



cricket
landscapes

707.753.1575
cricketscapes.com

lic. 855860

connecting with
the land



herbal gardens
wild bird habitats
edible polycultures
rain gardens
water conservation
& drip irrigation

ecological gardens

Heron Fox Farm
Ecological Nursery, Cazadero

Plants & Consultation for:

- Habitat Restoration
- Drought Tolerant Plants
- Low Maintenance Gardens
- Edible, Medicinal Plants
- Hedges for Farms & Vineyards

(707) 847-3320
heronfox@yahoo.com

Call or email for an appointment.
See us at Santa Rosa & Sebastopol
FARMERS MARKETS

To learn more

California Native Plant Society Milo Baker/Sonoma County chapter at <http://www.cnpsmb.org/>
California Flora Nursery in Fulton <http://www.calfloranursery.com/>
California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/>
Calflora <http://www.calflora.org/>

Native photos & editing by Betsy Livingstone

Rose
and
Thorn
Roses &
Perennials

Garden Art • Pottery • Jewelry
Fabulous Lamps • Bath Products
& more than
you can imagine!

Over 90 Local
Artists represented!

Picnic in our
Country
Setting



Fresh Eggs Daily
Goats & Chickens!

11am ~ 5:30pm Thurs ~ Mon

10050 Bodega Hwy.

3 miles West of Sebastopol

707-823-9467

Mariposa
Nursery

Native
Medicinal
& Edible Plants
attract Bees, Butterflies
& Hummingbirds to your garden

Northwest Santa Rosa
707/546-4386 by appointment
janarosa@sonic.net

Yard Art

Stained Glass
Mosaics & Lighting

Tables
Fountains
• Torchieres
• Stepping Stones

Aurora Colors Stained Glass Store & Studio
10 Enterprise Dr., Suite D, Rohnert Park, CA
707-588-1200 www.auroracolors.com