Native plants are adapted to our local climate and soil conditions. Often, these species have also developed symbiotic relationships with local pollinators and other wildlife. Planting native plants can thus provide shelter and food for native wildlife, as well as promote local biodiversity.

Replacing invasive plants with native ones can also decrease fertilizer and pesticide use, save water, prevent erosion and improve groundwater storage!

Enhancing native biodiversity also provides benefits for our creeks and streams! Enhancing riparian (or “creek-side”) cover prevents evaporation loss, supports water filtration, and keeps streams flowing for longer by increasing groundwater storage!

References:
www.cnps.org/gardening/why-natives/benefits-of-california-native-plants
www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening

There are many more species endemic to the Bay Area that are not included in this guide. We encourage you to explore these nurseries to learn more!

Want to dive even deeper? Visit www.calscape.org to explore native plants across California!
Common Yarrow  
*Achillea millefolium*

Yarrow is a widespread native species found across CA. Its flowers attract Checkerspot butterflies and other native pollinators. Since it spreads rhizomatically, it can help stabilize slopes and decrease erosion.

Golden Currant  
*Ribes Aureum*

A deciduous shrub that can quickly grow to 3-6’ in height. Its scented bright yellow flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Golden currants are also drought tolerant and can thrive in a wide variety of soil conditions.

Douglas Iris  
*Iris douglasiana*

A native perennial often found in riparian areas and oak woodlands. Its showy flowers attract native pollinators!

Marsh Gumplant  
*Grindelia Stricta, var. angustifolia*

This variety thrives in wet soils and marshy environments. Along the Bay shoreline, it provides critical habitat for the endangered Ridgeway’s Rail. Gumplants can be identified by the glossy, “gummy” liquid on the flower buds before they open. In fact, this substance was made into chewing gums and adhesives!

Common Aster  
*Symphyotrichum chilense*

Aster’s nectar and seeds provide an excellent food source for native moths, butterflies, and birds! Like yarrow, this species spreads via rhizomes and can assist in slope stabilization. Common Aster grows best in moist soils, and thrives in coastal grasslands, marshes, and riparian zones.

Seaside Daisy  
*Erigeron glaucus*

This low perennial thrives in coastal environments with summer fog. It provides excellent habitat and nectar for native pollinators!

California Mugwort  
*Artemisia douglasiana*

Mugwort thrives in moist, riparian areas. It can be easily identified by its aromatic leaves, which are dark green on top and silvery beneath. Found in virtually every California county, this plant has been used by Native cultures for centuries as a ceremonial component, for treating minor injuries, and as a dream potentiatior.

Marsh Baccharis  
*Baccharis glutinosa*

This shrub is a spreading herbaceous perennial. It can grow up to three feet, and thrives in moist, riparian soils. This plant’s nectar attracts predatory wasps and small native butterflies!

Rosilla  
*Helenium puberulum*

Rosilla, also known as “Sneezeweed”, is a flowering plant belonging to the daisy family. It thrives in moist soils along riverbanks and meadows.