

Exploring California Botanic Garden



About

Located in Claremont, the California Botanic Garden features a variety of California habitats within its 86 acre area. Explore chaparral, wildflower, forest, and garden habitats.

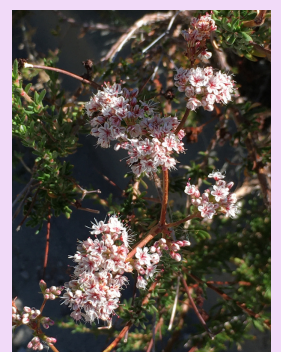
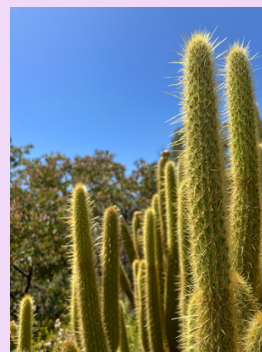
Discover a vast array of plants native to California, some of which are even threatened or endangered. While you're there, observe the abundant birds, lizards, insects, and mammals that call the space home. You're sure to find something truly spectacular here!

What are native plants?

Native plants are plants that grow naturally in the region where they evolved. Animals like birds, mammals, and insects that have lived alongside these plants for thousands of years have adapted to using native plants for habitat, food, and shelter. These animals depend on native plants to keep their populations healthy and maintain biodiversity in the environment. In California, native plants include California Buckwheat, Black Sage, Chia, and California Sagebrush. Trees like Western Sycamores and a variety of oak species are also native to California. Because they are native to the region, these plants are better adapted to living there. In California, that means they require less water and are ideal for the native wildlife living there. When people plant and protect native plants, they are helping to maintain some of what nature intended.



Image from Discover Claremont



Who lives at California Botanic Garden?

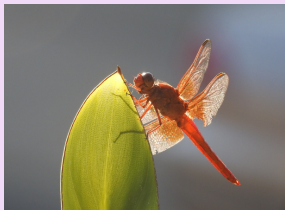
Nature is abundant at the garden, in fact over 400 species have been observed here! These include plants like Shaw's Agave, Snowy Penstemon, White Sage, Milkweed, and Joshua Trees. While many of the plant species growing here were likely planted by humans, wildlife came and started calling the garden home too.

Butterflies

Some 29 butterfly species have passed through the garden. This includes migratory species like the Monarch, Gulf Fritillary, and Painted Lady. Western Tiger Swallows, Gray Hairstreaks, and Cloudless Sulphurs also live at the garden. Find them drinking the nectar of native plants and other flowers.



From top left:
Monarch, Gulf
Fritillary, Western
Tiger Swallow



From top left going clockwise:
Yellow-faced Bumblebee © Stephanie Klem,
Flame Skimmer, Woolly Darkling Beetle ©
Carol Blaney, Cochineal Scale Bugs

Other Insects

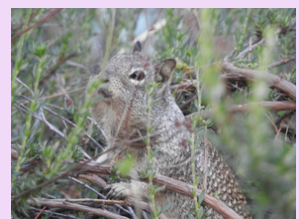
153 insect species (including the 29 butterfly species) have been confirmed at the garden. Find native bee species like the Yellow-faced Bumble Bee, Black-tailed Bumble Bee, Valley Carpenter Bee, and California Bumble Bee visiting flowers. Look for Flame Skimmers at the two ponds, Cochineal Scale Bugs growing on cactus, and Manzanita Leaf Gall Aphids growing on manzanitas. Also discover California Harvester Ants, Woolly Darkling Beetles, and more!

Squirrels

California Ground Squirrels, Fox Squirrels, and Western Gray Squirrel all live at the garden! Find them foraging on the ground amidst leaf litter. Fox Squirrels and Gray Squirrels can also be found in trees, while ground squirrels can be found hiding in large shrubs and cactus.



From top left:
Fox Squirrel,
Western Gray
Squirrel, California
Ground Squirrel





From top left going clockwise:
Western Fence Lizard, Western Whiptail,
Common Side-blotched Lizard, Southern
Alligator Lizard

Lizards

4 species of lizard live at the garden. These are the Western Fence Lizard, Western Whiptail, Common Side-blotched Lizard, and Southern Alligator Lizard.

Lizards, like all other reptiles, are cold-blooded, meaning the surrounding outside temperature determines the lizard's internal body temperature. Find lizards basking in the sun on the paths and on rocks or cooling off under the shade of shrubs and trees. Lizards will release their tail if they feel they are in danger. Can you spot a lizard with a shorter tail?

Birds

171 species of birds have been observed at the garden. These include resident species like Spotted Towhees, Lesser Goldfinches, House Wrens, and California Thrashers. This also includes migratory birds like Rufous Hummingbirds, Hooded Orioles, and a variety of warblers in spring and summer. In the fall and winter, look for birds like Hermit Thrushes and White-crowned Sparrows.



From top left going clockwise:
Lesser Goldfinch, California Thrasher, White-
crowned Sparrow, Hooded Oriole

And while you're there, participate in community science!

Community science is a platform for people to contribute observations of what they see in nature. This data, which can be in the form of photos, audio recordings, or lists, goes on to inform science and conservation-related efforts. There are many community science platforms out there! One popular one is iNaturalist.

iNaturalist is available as both a website and mobile app. It is able to identify plants, animals, fungus, and more! To contribute to iNaturalist, create an account [here](#). Then, submit photos and audio recordings of species you encounter. You can also help ID other people's observations too!



iNaturalist

Handout created by Morgan Gaskell
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