

# SacValley CNPS Demonstration Gardens

EACH GARDEN IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE, SHARE AND EDUCATE!

## UNDER OAKS



### About Under Oaks

The Under Oaks Garden is designed to showcase an opportunity for homeowners to use native plants underneath their oak trees, not only to bring color and dimension to their yard but to also support essential pollinators and other wildlife.

Oak trees are a keystone species, meaning they exert a large and critical stabilizing influence throughout an ecological community, despite its relatively small population. There are 21 oak trees native to California and they provide tremendous benefits for homeowners and the environment. By mimicking the natural structure of a forest, you can choose from a diverse selection of adapted natives to plant underneath your oak. By adding native plants underneath, you can provide a safe haven and food source for fallen caterpillars while they complete their lifecycle. If you don't already have a

stunning oak in your yard, there are many benefits to having one including shade, shelter, increased property value, food, fuel, and more! So, plant an oak tree and accessorize with our shade tolerant, oak adapted natives!

### Maintenance

- **Don't disturb roots.** Keep the area from the trunk to the edge of the canopy (the root zone) as natural as possible. Avoid heavy foot traffic, parked cars, trenching, construction, or anything that compacts the soil or raises the grade. This includes solid hardscape surfaces. Choose gravel or other permeable surfaces instead.
- **Don't remove dropped leaves:** which support microorganisms that help protect oaks from disease as well as many butterflies find shelter in the leaf litter, either in egg, pupal, or adult form, to safely wait out the winter and emerge in the spring. Leaf litter provides food and shelter to an amazing variety of invertebrates who break down the leaves, which feeds the soil and other wildlife.
- **Don't irrigate near the base of Oaks.** Oaks want it wet in winter and dry in summer. Oak bark is not adapted to summer moisture, and wet summer roots are prime candidates for deadly diseases.

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- Prune deciduous oaks when dormant in winter.

**Shade-loving (or merely shade-tolerant) perennials are the best types of plants to grow under oak trees.**

Oak companions must thrive in partial sun to full shade without robbing key nutrients from the soil.

If you're looking to plant shrubs or ground covers under your oak tree, it's best to choose plants that thrive in the shade without stealing all the water and nutrients from the soil.

Should be planted 10 feet or as far away from trunk as possible.

## Plant list for UNDER OAKS in the SacValley CNPS Gardens

(Find more information about each plant at Calscape.org)

Common Name	Scientific Name
<a href="#">Showy milkweed</a>	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>
<a href="#">Creeping Oregon Grape</a>	<i>Berberis aquifolium var. repens</i>
<a href="#">Sonoma sage</a>	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>

## A few Alternative plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Form
<a href="#">Field Sedge</a> (a shorter grass than Santa Barbara sedge)	<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	Grass
<a href="#">Soap Plant</a>	<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	Bulb
<a href="#">Miner's Lettuce</a> (Indian Lettuce)	<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	Annual
<a href="#">Common Yarrow</a>	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Perennial
<a href="#">California Mugwort</a>	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Perennial
<a href="#">Island Alum root</a>	<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Perennial
<a href="#">Crevice Alum root</a>	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	Perennial
<a href="#">Foothill Penstemon</a>	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Perennial
<a href="#">Pine Bee Flower</a>	<i>Phacelia imbricata</i>	Perennial
California <a href="#">Dutchmans Pipe</a>	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	Vine
<a href="#">Virgin's Bower</a>	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Vine



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*On the American River Parkway, under these **Interior Live Oaks** grow Santa Barbara sedge, Dutchman's Pipevine, California Grape vine and California Mugwort.*