

SacValley CNPS Demonstration Gardens

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

Willows for Wildlife Oasis



About the Willows for Wildlife Oasis

The Sandbar Willow and Dusky Willow are two of the smaller, local members of the genus, making them suitable for small gardens and tight spaces such as the edge of a pond or bioswale. However, its tendency to spread by basal shoots should be considered as it will eventually spread to occupy any wet soil that it can reach. The Sandbar is already spreading. The Dusky didn't survive initially but will try again.

An oasis is defined as, "something that provides refuge, relief, or pleasant contrast", and this wildlife oasis can be just that for you too! Take a moment to unwind from everyday life with us at SacValley CNPS Demonstration Gardens Willows for Wildlife Oasis and watch birds come in for a drink and a bath. This garden demonstrates one direction Sacramento residents can take to make a huge difference for pollinators

by using willow trees and other valuable native plants in a sustainable way while also creating a tranquil water feature in their backyard.

Maintenance

Prune willows for size. Saturate designated irrigation areas for approximately 10 minutes a week during dry seasons with bubblers, soakers, or targeted sprinklers. Riparian plants such as our willows will be best-planted adjacent, while semi-riparian plants can be planted a minimum of three feet away but can be planted farther away to encourage more extensive root growth.

General Info

Habitats for indigenous species continue to be destroyed and at risk. Pollinator populations are dropping at a huge rate, insects of all kinds are endangered, and species worldwide are going extinct at unprecedented rates. While it may seem like you can't make an impactful difference on an individual level, there are indeed many ways you can. A man-made wildlife oasis mimics a natural irrigation system that, when used with native plants, allows roots to pull water and transfer it laterally to other plants, creating sustainable, durable, and efficient root connections just beneath our feet. These irrigation systems are especially useful in fire-prone areas and are easily maintained. Ensuring that the native plants surrounding the oasis provide food, water and cover for critters is essential for their survival. Cultivating this wildlife-friendly oasis in your yard is just one way you can easily provide a sanctuary, while also creating a welcoming and peaceful space for yourself. Willows are host to a wide variety of pollinators including the Dreamy Duskywing, Viceroy, Lorquin's Admiral, Mourning Cloak, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Sylvan Hairstreak, various moths, and some gall-forming wasps.

November 2022

Fun Fact: Salix spp, willow trees, according to entomologist Doug Tallamy, willows support the third-highest diversity of lepidopteran caterpillars of any plant, with at least 455 species using it as a host plant. Also, willows supply nectar-rich flowers adored by bees and other wildlife.

Note the expanse of Foothill Penstemon. We planted 3 plants in May

Common Name	Scientific Name	H N S	Butterflies & Moths
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	HNS	Sept-Jan. Easy to grow shrub; extremely valuable for wildlife; variable forms; blooms into winter larval host to 11 moths
Lemmon's Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus lemmonii</i>	HNS	Apr-May. Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, and Bee Gardens. It is valued for providing pollen and nectar for many beneficial insects. Butterflies & moths hosted: 73 likely
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	HNS	Apr-Sept. Tough, easy to grow, prefer good drainage larval host to 15 butterflies and moths
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	HN	Jun-Sept. Sacramento delta endemic (native to limited area). Takes inundation in the winter and needs little water in summer. Butterflies & moths hosted: likely host for 5.
Foothill Penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	HNS	May-July. Perennial evergreen herb. May need pm shade in valley Butterflies & moths hosted: 17 likely
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>	HNS	Feb-May. Likes marshes/wet areas; spreads by root runners; deciduous larval host to 13 butterflies and moths + likely 211
Dusky Willow We will be re-planting this in late Fall 2022.	<i>Salix melanopsis</i>	HNS	May-Jul. Constant moisture; spreads by basal shoots to any moisture likely larval host to 218 butterflies and moths



Nov, 2022

Features: A Swale Garden also good for pollinators, flood basin a bit, plants are in ascending order of water needs with roots sharing and spreading water.



Hibiscus with posing Praying Mantis