

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the TreePeople Native Garden Kit?

The Native Garden Kit Program is designed to make native landscape transformation accessible, affordable, and hassle-free. This program will help residents reduce water usage, beautify the urban environment, and support native plant nurseries across Southern California. Each kit will provide a selection of curated native plants to replace 100 square feet of lawn. The kit will contain up to 10 plants with a “plant by number” guide to aid in the planting process. Additionally, the kit includes a guide on how to care for the plants, their water requirements and pruning suggestions to support the plant’s health.

How Do I Get My Plants?

Kits will be available in late October or early November to pick up. Distribution will take place at multiple locations across Southern California including TreePeople’s campus at Coldwater Canyon Park. Dates and locations for pick up will be made available at least 2 weeks in advance. If you have any questions, please nativegarden@treepeople.org.

What if I can’t pick up the kit during the times offered?

You can arrange for someone to pick up the plants on your behalf. Complete the sign up using the link. In the note section indicate the first and last name of the person who will be picking up the kit. Please also provide us with a cell phone number for that person in case we need to reach them. However, it is important that someone pick up the kits given these are live specimens that need to be cared for and planting them in the ground before the heat returns is vital.

What if I miss my pick up time?

All unclaimed kits will stay at our Calabasas location. Please email us at nativegarden@treepeople.org or call 818.432.5079 as soon as possible. Since these are live specimens, it is imperative to pick them up and plant them as soon as possible. We do not have the capacity to care for the plants at our site, so please arrange for their retrieval as soon as possible.



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When should I plant my kit?

Plant the kits as soon as possible. Establishing deep roots is essential ahead of the summer heat. Ample (though not excessive) watering, either by hand or via drip irrigation, will help establish deep roots. Slow watering that allows the water to percolate and not runoff is ideal. CNPS's website provides the following guidance:

- During the rainy season, you might not have to water at all, but if there's no rainfall after planting, you'll probably have to water 1-2 times per week during this period. After the first three months, start less frequent, but deeper watering. Make sure the root ball is only slightly moist before each new deep watering, usually every 2-3 weeks if there's no rain. Then give it a good soaking. During the rainy season, you can usually rely mostly or entirely on natural rainfall.
- After the first year, and after it's doubled in size, the plant should be fairly established. If the plant is properly sited, you should be able to cut watering back to once per month or stop artificial watering entirely. When you do water your plants, it's always best to water in cooler temperatures [like the morning or evening].
- Once your plants are established in your garden, it's usually best to avoid all direct artificial irrigation.

Is there someone that I can hire to remove my lawn and install my native garden?

At this time TreePeople does not have the staff to support this, nor do we maintain a list of certified installers. In the coming months we plan to develop a workforce of skilled installers that will be available for hire. Please check back occasionally for updates. If you would like to see this offered, please feel free to reach out via email (nativegarden@treepeople.org) and let us know as we gauge public interest.

What is your return or refund policy?

Refunds are available up to 2 weeks (14 days) prior to the initial pick up event. Due to the nature of the product, we need to be able to ensure these live specimens will be planted in the ground. There will be no refunds within 2 weeks of the first pick up event of the season. For issues with individual plants, refer to the Replacement Plant policy below for plant-health related issues.



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What if my plants fail?

The TreePeople Native Garden Kit contains living specimens grown in local nurseries. We aim to include hearty varieties that will survive transport, but occasionally some do not thrive as well as others. If one of the plants in your Native Garden Kit does not survive, notify us immediately (within 48 hours of pick up) via email (nativegarden@treepeople.org) or phone (818.432.5079). Include a photo of the plant and its name (scientific and common) and we will reach out to the nursery to determine if replacements are available. After the first 48 hours in your possession, we are unable to replace the plants. Remember to follow the care instructions in your kit.

What do I do if I have a large, existing tree in my yard?



Mature trees require space for their vast root systems. Additionally, they provide an extensive amount of shade. Some mature trees can influence the soil and prohibit growth (competition) of other plants. Use this handy [infographic](#) to determine the “drip line.” Make sure to plant outside of that zone.


Where do the plants come from?

We work with Growing Works in Camarillo to source a majority of our plants. Additional specimen were sourced from El Nativo in Azusa. As our program grows we plan to collaborate with other growers in the southern California region.

What incentives are available to me?

While this list is not exhaustive, some rebates available to homeowners are listed below. Please keep in mind that many programs have stipulations (approval before work begins, photo documentation, receipts, etc).

In addition to rebates, some local water utilities provide discounts on water monitors like Flume, which attaches to your water meter and syncs to an app that allows you to track how much water your home uses at any given time. Many local water utilities have secured funding to help offset the cost of the kits. To determine your eligibility please complete the survey on our website, also found [here](#) for your convenience. Please allow 2 business days to receive a confirmation email if you are deemed eligible. Thank you to our water utility partners!



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Available Incentives

Turf (Grass) Replacement

Depending where you live and your water provider, there are varying rebates available. Please research your options thoroughly and be aware that pre-approval is required before starting your project. Do not remove any turf prior to receiving conditional approval if you plan to apply for the rebate. Retroactive rebates are not available.

LADWP Turf Replacement
SoCal Water Smart
CalWater

Water Monitors



Inspired by California's record drought, Flume empowers homeowners to better understand their use and conserve water. By providing real-time water use information, Flume protects the home, puts the power of water consumption and conservation in the customer's hands, and improves the relationship with our most precious resource. The Flume® Smart Water System consists of an easy-to-install sensor that adapts to most existing home water meters, which communicates water use to the homeowner in real-time. To date, Flume has tens of thousands of devices installed across the United States. Learn more at www.flumewater.com.

If you are interested in purchasing and installing a Flume monitor, several local water utilities offer discounts on the device.

LADWP - <https://flumewater.com/partners/ladwp/>
CalWater - <https://flumewater.com/partners/calwater/>
Golden State - <https://flumewater.com/partners/gswater/>
Walnut Valley - <https://flumewater.com/partners/wvwd/>



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