

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGING TO A WILDLIFE HABITAT

1. Check websites and California Native Plant Nurseries to determine what plants you will use.
<http://www.laspilitas.com> <http://www.matilijanursery.com> <http://www.napolitonursery.com>
<http://theodorepaynefoundation.org>
2. Put your plan on paper with taller plants in the back, and space for the plants to grow to their average size.
<http://www.cnps.org> has plans that you can use.
3. 4 to 6 weeks before planting (preferably in the Fall or Winter, start **KILLING YOUR LAWN**. Directions are below or on <http://www.gettingnative.com> (You can use clear plastic sheeting to cook the lawn and seeds, if you live in a hot area.)
4. Place the plants according to your plan; start slowly watering those spots for planting next day. Keep plants moist.
5. Plant according to instructions below:

Dig a hole of a size into which the plant will fit.

Carefully remove the plastic bag or plastic pot from around the plant and recycle bag/pot.

Carefully place the plant into the hole, slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Disturb the root ball as little as possible.

DO NOT ADD AMENDMENTS, just plant in native soil.

DO NOT ADD FERTILIZER.

Backfill the hole with soil.

Water lavishly (lots and lots, like 30 gallons. If it rains, five inches right after you plant, skip.) We water an area for 8-12 hours with a sprinkler if we plant in spring/summer/fall.

How to Water (After the First Watering): DO NOT USE DRIP IRRIGATION. Use microspray emitters or low volume sprinklers instead, so that the plant will be irrigated in a pattern more similar to rainfall. Do not water against the crown (the main stem of the plant at the soil surface) of the plant. Water should fall in the area of the drip line of the plant and beyond. Do not blast the plant's stem for ten minutes and call it a day.

For perennials and subshrubs, place a rock next to the plant, on the west or south side of it.

Place mulch on top of the soil around the plant in a four-foot- diameter circle.

Mulch Types: A. **Desert plants**- use rocks. B. **Perennials and subshrubs**- shredded redwood bark or shredded cedar bark. C. **Long-lived trees and shrubs**- mostly evergreen oak leaf mulch or shredded redwood bark or shredded cedar bark.

The first year-check the soil, down about an inch or two, once a week; if it is dry, water it; if it is moist, don't water it.

The second and succeeding year-water, if needed, during the months of November through April, and try to abstain from watering in the summer (excepting desert plants, which receive summer rain showers, and sprinkling for coastal plants that normally receive fog drip/summer rain showers).

