



# Sage Advice from the Roundhouse....

## Natives for Slope Plantings

In southern California, it seems, the majority of homeowners, landscapers and gardeners have some sort of slope to deal with. In many cases these slopes can be extremely difficult to plant, often with poor, compacted soil and steep grades. There are several variables to consider when choosing plant material for a slope: the location and microclimate involved (inland, coastal, high winds, extreme temperature...), the direction or exposure of the slope, erosion factors and the stability of the slope and soil conditions. Traditional slope plantings have consisted of unbroken stands of iceplant, ivy, turf grasses and other water intensive, aggressive groundcovers and shrubs. These plants add little or no value to a landscape and are not regionally appropriate or sensitive to our dry, arid conditions.

More suitable choices include an assortment of California natives and (other

*A mixed native planting is drought tolerant, attractive, and most importantly will contribute greatly to the stability of a slope by anchoring the soil with a variety of root depths.*

drought tolerant) grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees. These plants are naturally adapted to our environment and require fewer resources and less labor to care for them. By using a variety of plants on your

slope, you can achieve a refreshing, diverse and visually stimulating slope landscape. Be sure to use proper spacing, according to the mature size of each plant. This will cut down on pruning maintenance and competition for moisture.

### Plant List

Genus, species	Plant Name...
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Calif. Sagebrush
<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>	Coastal Quail Bush
<i>Baccharis</i> species	Coyote Bush
<i>Ceanothus</i> species	Wild Lilac
<i>Cercocarpus</i> species	Mtn. Mahogany
<i>Cleome isomeris</i>	Bladderpod
<i>Iva hayesiana</i>	San Diego Marsh Elder
<i>Encelia</i> species	Coast Sunflower
<i>Fremontodendron</i> sp.	Flannel Bush
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Leymus</i> species	Wildrye
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass
<i>Nassella</i> species	Needlegrass
<i>Pinus</i> species	Pine
<i>Rhamnus</i> species	Coffeeberry
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Lemonadeberry
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugarbush
<i>Romneya 'White Cloud'</i>	Matilija Poppy
<i>Salvia</i> species	Sage
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Elderberry
<i>Solanum xantii</i>	Purple Nightshade
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	Wooly Blue Curls
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Our Lord's Candle

A thick (2-4") layer of mulch will cut down on soil erosion, weed germination, conserve soil moisture, and improve soil conditions as it breaks down.