



**SIERRA CLUB**  
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



## GROW TREES

### Expand the urban tree canopy

As the climate crisis worsens, extreme heat events will continue to threaten our health. People in areas with little tree shade canopy will suffer more. Trees and large shrubs are an important and easy way to reduce these 'heat-island' effects. Trees are an affordable way to shade and cool your home.

#### CONSIDER THAT TREES:

- When mature, can sequester 40-80lbs of carbon per year
- Provide cooling equal to up to 10 room-sized AC units
- Reduce a city's heat island effect by as much as 10-15 degrees
- Are critical for wildlife and biodiversity
- Prevent erosion and retain water, 1000 gallons/year per mature tree
- Absorb air pollutants
- Improve well-being, offer other health benefits and are beautiful

Native trees and large shrubs are better for biodiversity and are adapted to our region. Native plants support local birds, insects, and pollinators. They better support migrating and resident birds, are culturally important, and are likely to survive. Which tree is the best for you? If you have room, the very best tree to plant is a native oak tree. If not, there are many small and medium trees that will work well. Trees and large shrubs planted on the south and west side of buildings will provide the best shade from the hottest sun. Always avoid planting near power lines.

The best source of information on native plants is [www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org). Type in your address to get a list of suitable options including: Oaks (come in many sizes) / Native Cherry / Desert Willow / Toyon / Lemonade Berry / Redbud / Wild Lilacs (Ceanothus) / Manzanita / Velvet Ash / Ironwood

### Take Action

- 1 Purchase native trees/shrubs at a native plant nursery like Moosa Creek and Tree of Life. 1-5 gallon size is best.
- 2 Look for native plant sales in October and plant from November-January, the best time to plant.
- 3 If you live in Escondido, you can apply for a free native tree: [www.escondido.org/request-a-free-tree](http://www.escondido.org/request-a-free-tree)
- 4 SDGE Rebate tree program: [www.sdge.com/trees/community-tree-programs/community-tree-rebate-program](http://www.sdge.com/trees/community-tree-programs/community-tree-rebate-program)
- 5 Kate's Trees: [www.katestrees.org](http://www.katestrees.org)
- 6 If you don't have room for a tree or want to help others, join our Sierra Club Tree Team to volunteer and help others plant trees. <https://forms.gle/DeGbSwiR6hNZxrdC9>

For more information visit our website: [www.sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project/](http://www.sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project/)

