

Gardening Season

While much of the rest of the country prepares for winter dormancy, here in California it is finally time to get dirty. The best time of the year to plant in the garden is right now. Temperatures are dropping, especially at night, and hopefully more rain will follow. This is also the time of year for native plant sales. [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#) has one of the largest, if not the largest, native plant sale in California. The sale is this Saturday and Sunday. Members can enter at 8 AM (memberships are available at the door), and the general public is welcome from 11 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. The hours on Sunday are 9 AM to 2 PM. If you cannot attend the sale, Rancho sells plants in their Grow Native Nursery on Wednesday through Sunday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Although the Garden now charges an admission fee for non-members, the plant sales are open free of charge. I will be helping out at the sale on Saturday also. For a listing of other native plant sales, check out the [California Native Plant Society](#) website. They have information on plant sales and nurseries who sell natives year around.

I spent all day Monday at the Garden helping out with the plant list and labels. You can register on the Rancho website to download the list. If you have trouble with this, try calling Rancho (909-625-8767), or let me know and I'll see if I can email you a list. The list will continue to change right up until the sale, so check often. When I left on Monday evening there were over 15,000 plants on the 24-page list, with over 1,000 lines (there are often several lines for a given taxa representing different sizes and sources). I'd estimate there are many more than 700 taxa, including native and non-native plants. Some orders were not yet in, and the seeds and bulbs were not listed yet.

The other activity that has kept me from posting on Wild Suburbia was a talk I gave at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Lili Singer's Thursday morning Garden Talk (as I mentioned in the [last post](#) I uploaded the talk on [WeedingWildSuburbia](#)).

Today I finally got to spend some time in the garden. I spent several hours chipping and shredding green waste. Here's what we are up to now.

The deck - mostly torn out. Go Jim!

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All About Gardening with California Native Plants

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Chipper/shredder and a big pile of green waste.

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Here I am all protected - except for my thumb, which got smashed **really** badly.

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Got to go now - there's coffee ice cream calling to me...