

Plants for Southern California Homes



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Acknowledgements

This class was developed for
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
by WaterWise Consulting



Plants for Southern California Homes

Descriptions and uses of plants in the seminar

This book includes the 25 plants covered in the seminar. These are not necessarily the best plants for you, but all are good plants for Southern California climates. Most are dependable, adaptable and do not need very much water.

Key to the plant sheets

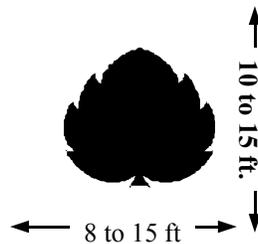
Arbutus unedo. The first name of each sheet is the scientific name (genus and species) and is usually written in italics. When the name includes the genus and is followed by the word 'species', *Acacia* species for example; this means that several species in the genus are covered in the class.

Strawberry Tree. The second name on each sheet is the common name for the plant. In some cases, common names can be ambiguous making it important to use the scientific name when ordering plants.

Each plant sheet includes one of the following symbols and indicates its growth habit.



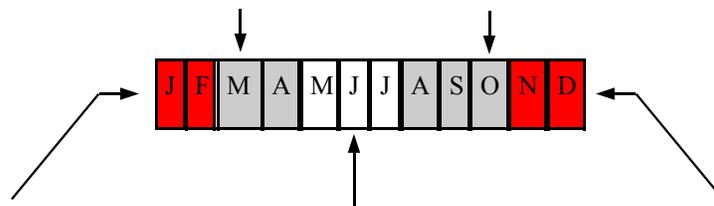
The average height and width is also given.



This graphic shows which month the plant produces flowers and/or fruit.

J F M A M J J A S O N D = Month

Gray indicates months with no color



Colored blocks (white and red) indicate month and color of flower or fruit.

This page was purposely left blank

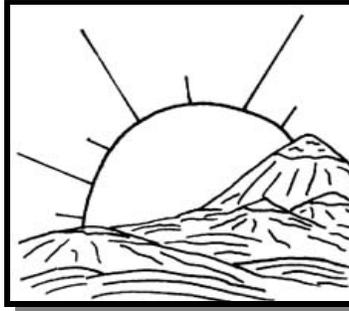
Table of Contents

<u>California Native Plants</u>		6
Benefits of using native plants		7
Plant Selection Tips		8
Planting Guidelines		9
Maintenance Recommendations		10
 <u>Shrubs</u>		 11
<i>Cistus</i> species	(Rockrose)	12
<i>Eriogonum</i> species	(Wild Buckwheat) .(Native).	13
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	(California Poppy) .(Native).	14
<i>Fremontodendron</i> species	(Flannel Bush). .(Native).	15
<i>Limonium perezii</i>	(Statice)	16
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	(India Hawthorn)	17
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	(Lemonade Berry) .(Native).	18
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	(Cleveland Sage) .(Native).	19
 <u>Groundcover</u>		 20
<i>Artemisia</i> species	(California Sage Brush) .(Native).	21
<i>Baccharis</i> species	(Coyote Brush) .(Native).	22
<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	(Bearberry Cotoneaster)	23
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	(Trailing Lantana)	24
 <u>Trees</u>		 25
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	(Strawberry Tree)	26
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	(Australian Willow)	27
<i>Prunus ilicifolia lyonii</i>	(Catalina Cherry) .(Native).	28
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	(Coast Live Oak) .(Native).	29
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	(California Fan Palm) .(Native)	30
 <u>Multi-Category Plants</u>		 31
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> species	(Manzanita) .(Native).	32
<i>Bougainvillea</i> species	(Bougainvillea)	33
<i>Ceanothus</i> species	(Wild Lilac) .(Native).	34
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	(Toyon) .(Native).	35
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>	(Catalina Ironwood) .(Native).	36
<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i>	(Pink Melaleuca)	37
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	(Sugar Bush) .(Native).	38
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	(Evergreen Currant) .(Native).	39

California Native Plants

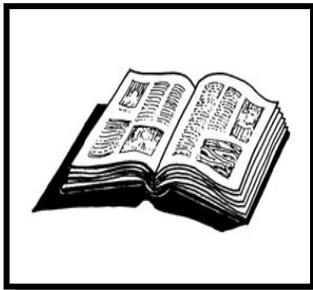
Native Plants—The New Trend

There is a new trend in Southern California gardening, and you can become part of it. Southern California offers the ideal climate and conditions for a vast array of plants. Let's take advantage of the local climate and the wide selection of native plants as we plan and install our garden. Often we change the conditions in our garden to fit the plant material.



Why attempt to establish a plant that is not naturally adapted to local conditions? Why not help the local ecosystem by selecting the right plant material. More and more Californians are doing it, and we hope that soon you will too. It's time to change our way of thinking.

"It's time for your garden to go native."



This Handbook

This handbook will provide you with useful information on using Southern California native plants. You will find detailed information on specific native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, as well as general information on the planting and maintenance of native plants.

Topics in the handbook include:



Introduction – The benefits of using Southern California native plants

Plant Selection – Tips to help you select the right plant

Planting Guidelines – When and how to plant natives

Maintenance Recommendations – Watering and maintenance

Native Plant Resources – Books, nurseries, gardens, and clubs

List of Potential Plants – Native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers

***The Native
Plant
Handbook***

***Benefits of
Native Plants***

Plant Guidelines

Plant Selection

***Maintenance
Ideas***

List of Plants

***Resource
Information***

Benefits of Using Native Plants

For thousands of years, native plants of California have adapted to the same conditions in which other plants need significant watering, fertilizers, and constant care. Think of it this way, when we visit a different part of the world where customs and local conditions are different, it takes work for us to adapt. Yet the locals don't seem to have trouble adapting...they live there. Our native plants are the same...they live here! Following are some of the benefits native plants provide.

Reduced Water Use

Natives only need supplemental water to become established and need very little in the summer. Water use in your garden accounts for more than half of your total water use at home. By using natives in your garden, along with proper watering techniques, you'll be on your way to a reduction in your water bill.



Less Maintenance

If you choose the appropriate native plants to fit your landscape use, maintenance of your garden will be minimal. Make sure you choose the plant with the growth habit you need. For example, if you're looking for a low-growing shrub, don't install a plant that requires pruning to keep it low growing. Also, native plants don't need fertilizer.

Less Use of Chemicals

Native plants are less likely to develop disease or pest problems, hence less use of chemicals to combat those problems. Along with that, you will also be reducing pollution, through a reduction of chemical use, and irrigation runoff, that eventually goes to the ocean.

Less Green-Waste

Native plants generally produce less green-waste compared to other garden plants. This helps by reducing the amount of pruning that needs to be done. It also helps our landfills where it is estimated that 30% of space is green-waste produced by our landscapes. The use of native plants will also improve and provide a healthier ecology.

***The Native
Plant
Benefits***

Water Saving

***Reduction on
your Water Bill***

***Less Garden
Maintenance***

***Less Use of
Chemicals***

***A Reduction in
Green-Waste***

***Healthier
Ecology***

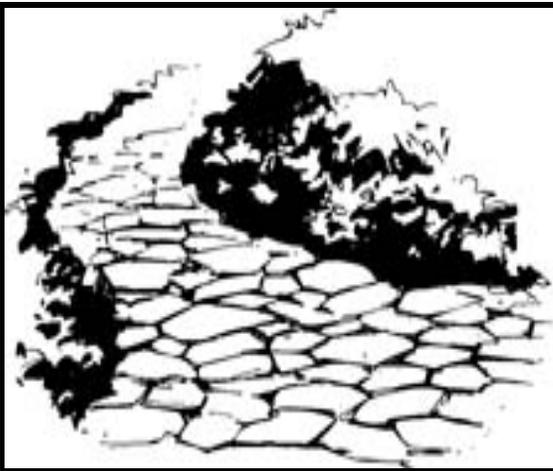
Plant Selection Tips

Now, that you're aware of the many benefits of native plants you're probably eager to start incorporating native specimens into your garden. But before doing so, let's go over some plant selection tips.

Develop a list of possible plants before actually purchasing any plants. The list should be divided into categories of trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers. Remember, as your list of candidate plants increases, so does your chance of finding them at your local nursery.

Grouping Plants Together

To have a successful native garden, find out how plants should be grouped together. Grouping is easy. Simply observe native plants either in their natural habitat, in botanical gardens, or other home gardens. Then compare their natural habitat to the conditions you have at home. Each plant should be placed in the location that best resembles their natural habitat. This will be the community or group to which the plant belongs.



Selecting Plant Groups

In creating a community or group of plants, consider specific information such as sun exposure, adaptation to drought, growing season, growth rate, size, and visual character. Group plants with similar needs. For example, plants native to coastal regions may perform better in partial shade if located in a warm inland location.

Plan Ahead – Plan in Stages

Your garden is a living and ever changing entity, and it will be changing throughout the years. How is your garden going to look in five or ten years? When planning for your native garden, plan for the future and allow for your garden to grow and mature. Know the growing habits of the plants in consideration. Because of their large size and visual character, trees, become important to the overall garden effect and conditions. A large shady tree provides a cool microclimate under its canopy, which may then ask for a particular type of undergrowth.

Plant Selection

Observe Plants In Natural Habitat

Develop a list of Plants

Group Plants according to Needs

Provide Plants with Proper Conditions

Plan in Stages

...and have fun

Planting Guidelines

Most California native plants may be planted all year in coastal areas and from spring to summer in hot climates. Some people have the most success with fall planting while others think spring is best. If planting by seed, try to replicate nature by sowing seeds when natives plants do.

The Right Plant in the Right Spot

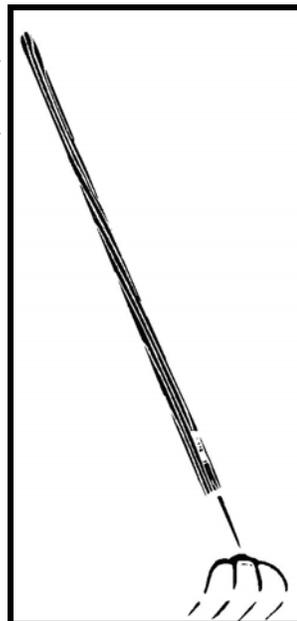
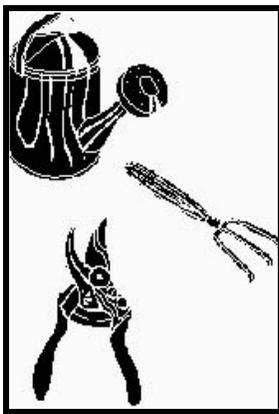
Although you have created plant groups or communities, it becomes necessary to provide the plant with the best growing conditions. Find out if the plant prefers a dry and sunny area, sun with water, dry shade, or shade with water. Also consider the soil when selecting your plants. Many soils have poor deep water drainage. Others are very shallow.

Most native plants don't need the soil to be amended, as it is easier for these plants to tap into the native soil more quickly. Amendment, for the most part, should only be provided as a top dressing in the watering basin to reduce water lost to evaporation and provide a time released feeding. Remember that adding compost may reduce the amount of fertilizer you need to apply, for it too will provide nutrients.

Planting Tips

Planting holes should be 2-3 times the diameter of the container, but equal in depth. The rootball may be set slightly higher than the surrounding soil level. A water basin may be formed with excess soil. To avoid diseases, do not apply mulch immediately near the plant base.

Plants must be watered immediately after installation. A 3 - 4 inch layer of mulch material may cover the surrounding soil, including leaf litter, chipped branches, or rock. Avoid planting in hot summer temperatures.



**Plant
Guidelines**

Fall Planting

**Well-drained
Soil**

**Soil
Amendments**

**Slow release
Fertilizer**

**Planting hole
2—3 times
wider**

**Mulch on
surrounding
Soil**

Maintenance Recommendations

Watering Your Natives

Plants will benefit from irrigation from November through March for the first two years. Most native plants establish successfully within two years, and will need little supplemental watering after that. Once established, native plants may go through the entire summer with only two waterings. More frequent watering in the summer, as well as overhead irrigation, may lead to root rot and fungus problems.

If supplemental water is applied in excess, plants will grow faster and larger and may need to be pruned more often. It will take some practice to learn the right amount of water needed by a species planted in your garden.



Fertilizer for Native Plants

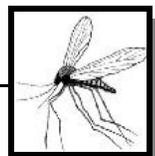
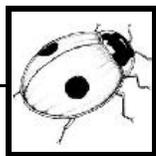
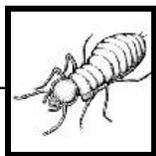
Fertilizer may be applied at the time of planting only. Native plants will not benefit from fertilizer application after that. In fact, over-fertilizing encourages weeds and may lead to rapid growth from the native plants. Native plants are naturally adapted to soils of low fertility.

Pruning Natives

Pruning should be provided after a plant completes its flowering cycle and the new foliage shoots are in the beginning stages of growth. Be sure to prune dead or broken branches, especially in fire hazard areas. Young plants will benefit from pruning and shaping to develop a good form.

Pests and Diseases

If given the proper growing conditions, native plants will experience few pest and disease problems. Proper growing conditions include proper exposure (amount of sunlight), appropriate watering, good drainage, and pruning to avoid overcrowding of plants. Native plants are not susceptible to pests and diseases, but many times we make them susceptible through inadequate maintenance. Become acquainted with your plants and know the requirements of your garden.



Maintenance
Tips

Watering
Natives

Plant
Establishment

Fertilizer

Pruning
Natives

Pests and
Disease

Shrubs



Cistus species

Fremontodendron species



Limonium perezii

Cistus species

Rockrose
Cistaceae family



← 2 to 5 ft. →

↑
2 to 6 ft.
↓

Flowers & Fruit

White or rose colored flowers,
depending on species.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Little or no water once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

Perennial flower beds, background shrub masses, slopes.

PROBLEMS?

Basically pest free. Short lived plant. Will have poor appearance toward the end of its life span. Needs well drained soil.

COMMENTS

Several species available that vary in flower color and growth habit.

C. purpureus – pink with 5 spots. Maybe the most reliable rockrose.

C. hybridus – white, 3 to 5 feet.

C. salviifolius – white, low and spreading.

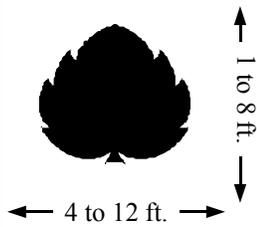
Use as a ground cover.



Eriogonum species

Wild Buckwheat

Polygonaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Most types bloom during the spring but dried flowers may linger into autumn months.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Needs very little if any irrigation. Avoid overhead watering in the summer which may lead to disease.

LANDSCAPE USE

Most buckwheats have a rather 'wild' look to them that makes them hard to fit into a manicured landscape. Use in natural areas or mixed with other natives.

PROBLEMS?

Very hardy and drought tolerant. Most types look good for 2 to 3 years and then become too leggy. Some types cannot tolerate clay soils.

COMMENTS

- E. arborescens* – 3-5 ft tall; 4-6 ft wide.
- E. fasciculatum* – 2-3 ft tall; 2-3 ft wide.
- E. giganteum* – 5-8 ft tall; 6-10 ft wide.
- E. grande rusbescens* – 1 ft tall; 2 ft wide.
- E. 'Shasta Sulfur'* – 1 ft tall; 2-3 ft wide
- E. parvifolium* – 2 ft tall; 2 ft wide



Eschscholzia californica

California Poppy

Papaveraceae family



↑
12 to 18 in.
↓

← 12 to 18 in. →

Flowers & Fruit
Blooms from spring to summer. Flowers vary from deep orange to more yellowish.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Needs no irrigation once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

Use for outlying planters or perimeter and natural areas. The dry flowers can make them look dead when viewed up close.

PROBLEMS?

Since these plants will often self-seed, they can spread and become a weed in planters where they are unwanted.

COMMENTS

Plant seeds in early fall. If there's no rain-fall keep soil moist until seedlings emerge, no water afterward.



Fremontodendron species

Flannel Bush

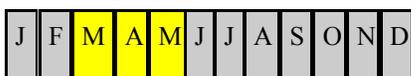
Sterculiaceae family



↑
4 to 20 ft.
↓

Flowers & Fruits
All types produce large amounts of bright yellow flowers in the spring.

← 10 to 20 ft. →



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

No irrigation once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

California native gardens, revegetation projects, any planter where the goal is no irrigation.

PROBLEMS?

May not perform very well in heavy, poorly drained soils. Fast growing but only lives about 10 years.

COMMENTS

Avoid any irrigation or fertilizer. If planted together with plants that require water, soil must be light and well drained.

F. californicum – 10 to 20 ft tall and wide.

'California Glory' – 15 to 20 ft tall and wide.

'San Gabriel' – Deeply lobed leaves.

'Ken Taylor' – 4 to 6 ft tall; 12 ft tall.

'Pacific Sunset' – 12 to 15 ft tall and wide.



Limonium perezii

Statice

Plumbaginaceae family



↑
1 to 2 ft.
↓

Flowers & Fruit

Large deep blue to purple flower clusters on long stalks rising above foliage.

← 2 to 4 ft. →



HARDINESS

Best near the coast, may freeze in colder inland valleys.

Full sun; part shade inland.

Needs low amounts of water.

LANDSCAPE USE

Dramatic border plant, gives good color through summer. Large dramatic leaves provide tropical look and foliage contrast.

PROBLEMS?

Not long lived. Needs good soil drainage. Older plants produce dead undergrowth.

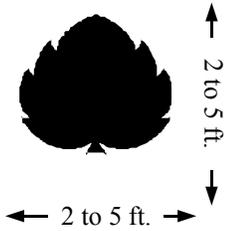
COMMENTS

Reproduces from seed near the coast. Good maintenance plan is to replace older plants with new seedlings in early spring.

Rhaphiolepis indica

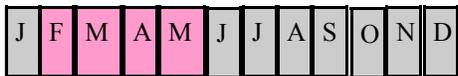
India Hawthorn

Rosaceae family



Flowers & Fruit

Good flower production in late winter and early spring. Sporadic in late spring. White flower variety also available.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun to part shade.

Infrequent to regular watering, depending on the location.

LANDSCAPE USE

Give good flower in winter when little else blooms. Great low maintenance background shrub.

PROBLEMS?

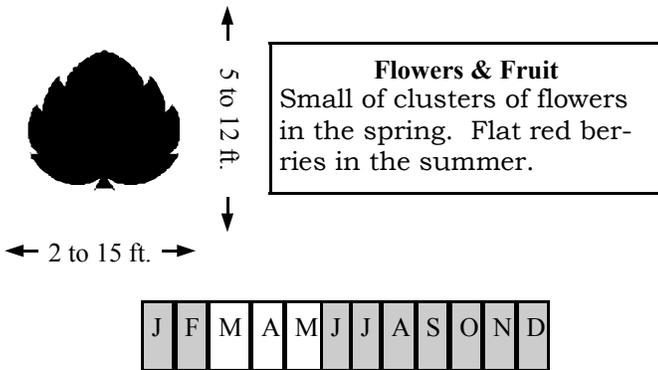
Pest and disease free. Very little pruning is necessary except to control size.

COMMENTS

One of the most dependable and useful shrubs for Southern California. Several varieties available that grow to different heights. White flower type (Clara) blooms more prolifically but for shorter time period.



Rhus integrifolia
Lemondade Berry
Anacardiaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Small of clusters of flowers in the spring. Flat red berries in the summer.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones but may not flourish in hot climates.

Full sun.

Little to no water once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

California native gardens, large slopes, revegetation projects, background shrub.

PROBLEMS?

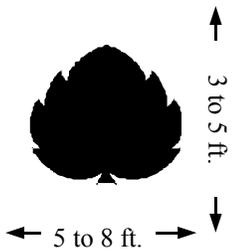
May get verticillium wilt, especially if there is regular irrigation.

COMMENTS

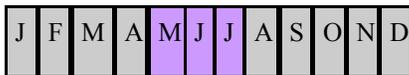
Native to Southern California coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. Upright branches have a somewhat stiff growth habit. Berries can be used to make a lemonade-like beverage. If planted where there are regular ocean breezes it tends to grow lower and more prostrate.



Salvia clevelandii
Cleveland Sage
Lamiaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Fragrant one inch long pale to deep purple flower whorls on long stems.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Very little water once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

California native gardens, revegetation projects, background shrub in low water use planter bed.

PROBLEMS?

May not perform well in heavy clay soils. Do not use in planter beds mixed with plants that need regular water.

COMMENTS

‘Winnifred Gillman’ – 3 ft high and wide.
‘Aromas’ – larger darker blue flowers.
‘Allen Chickering’ – flowers abundantly.
‘Poza Blue’ – Tolerates cold (10 degrees).



Groundcover



Artemisia species

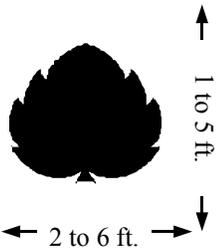
Cotoneaster dammeri



Artemisia species

Sagebrush

Asteraceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Flowers are small and inconspicuous.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Little to no water on the coast, more inland.

LANDSCAPE USE

California native gardens, foliage contrast, ground cover, revegetation projects, low water use flower beds.

PROBLEMS?

May not tolerate regular watering. Some types may lose their leaves in the summer or in freezing weather.

COMMENTS

Native California Sagebrush is not very useful in a landscape. Hybrids have nicer foliage and keep their leaves all year.

'Canyon Grey' – 1 ½ ft tall; up to 12 ft wide

'Powis Castle' – 3 ft tall; 4 ft wide.

'Montara' – 2 ft tall; 5 ft wide

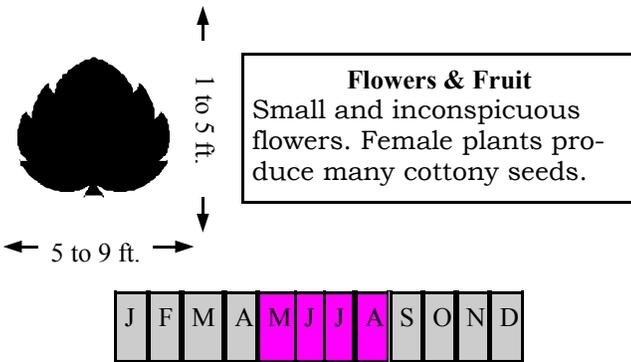
Several other sagebrush species may be available.



Baccharis species

Coyote Brush

Asteraceae family



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Little to no irrigation.

LANDSCAPE USE

Ground cover or base shrub. Good for poor soils, erosion control and revegetation projects.

PROBLEMS?

Cannot tolerate regular watering, especially near the coast. Cottony flowers can be unsightly.

COMMENTS

B. pilularis – Most popular and dependable. Popular cultivars:

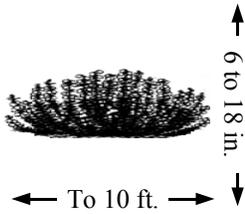
‘Centennial’ – 3 ft tall; 5 ft wide.

‘Twin Peaks’ - 2 ft tall; 6 ft wide. ‘Pigeon

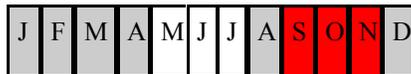
Point’ - 3 ft tall; 9 ft wide.

B. sarathroides – Used mainly for revegetation projects. Can spread readily by seed and become a problem in unwanted areas.

Cotoneaster dammeri
Bearberry Cotoneaster
Rosaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Small white flowers in the spring; bright red fruit in the fall and winter.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun to part shade.

Little to moderate amounts of water.

LANDSCAPE USE

Low growing ground cover, looks good in small or large planter beds. Will drape over walls or cascade down slopes.

PROBLEMS?

Dependable plant in coastal or inland areas.

COMMENTS

Varieties:

Coral Beauty: grows to 6 inches tall.

Eichholz: grows to 10 - 12 inches tall; some leaves turn red-orange in the fall.

Lowfast: to one foot tall.

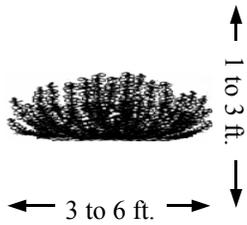
Skogsholmen: to 1 ½ feet tall.



Lantana montevidensis

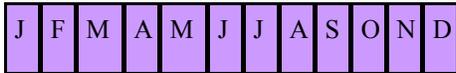
Trailing Lantana

Verbenaceae family



Flowers & Fruit

Blooms more in the spring and fall months; no winter bloom in colder climates. White variety also available.



HARDINESS

Coastal, Inland Valley (will die back during colder winter periods).

Full sun to part shade. Providing protection in interior areas will reduce cold damage.

Needs low to moderate amounts of water.

LANDSCAPE USE

Colorful border ground cover. Hanging Baskets. Large slope plantings. Winter color in coastal areas.

PROBLEMS?

Very dependable in coastal areas. Needs to be pruned severely at least once a year to reduce thatch buildup. Some people find odor of leaves objectionable.

COMMENTS?

One of the better and most colorful ground covers for coastal areas. Some interior areas may be too cold for this plant. Check with your local nursery.



Trees

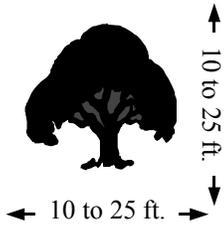


Quercus agrifolia

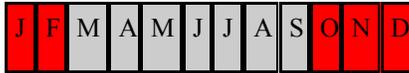


Geijera parviflora

Arbutus unedo
Strawberry Tree
Eriaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
White urn shaped flowers in small clusters hang from branch ends. Fruit is small, red and edible (if not flavorless).



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Takes low amounts of water, but tolerates lawn watering also.

LANDSCAPE USE

Great small patio tree. Fruit provides color in the winter. With age, twisted trunk adds great interest and emphasis to the landscape.

PROBLEMS?

Pest free. Fruit may be a nuisance near patios. Suckers need regular removal.

COMMENTS

Grows slowly so plant a large one if time is a factor. Can be easily trained into a multi-trunked tree or large shrub. Smaller true shrub varieties are also available.



Geijera parviflora
Australian Willow
Rutaceae family



↑
20 to 30 ft.
↓

← 15 to 25 ft. →

Flowers & Fruits
Small, creamy white, non-showy
flowers in clusters along
branches.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones. Full sun.

Needs water when young to speed growth.
In deep soils will go 2 to 3 weeks without
water in summer.

LANDSCAPE USE

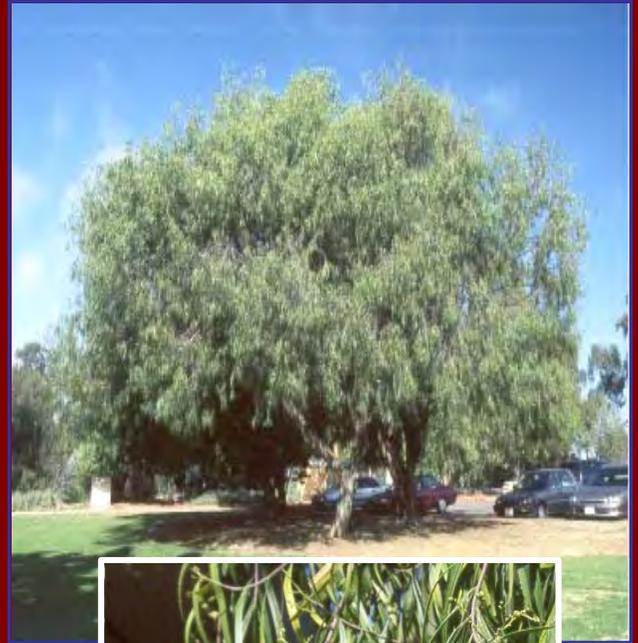
Beautiful tropical looking tree. Will not grow
huge making it very good for small yards and
patio areas. Weeping growth habit fits with
tropical and Mediterranean styles.

PROBLEMS?

Basically trouble free. Sometimes looks a
little sparse when young. Better to buy lar-
ger tree when possible. Take the time to
prune to form when young.

COMMENTS

One of the better small trees for Southern
California. Low maintenance once estab-
lished. Very little pruning needed after first
few years.



Prunus ilicifolia lyonii

Catalina Cherry

Rosaceae family

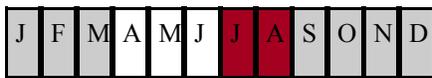


↑ 20 to 50 ft. ↓

← 20 to 30 ft. →

Flowers & Fruit

Long spikes of small white flowers. Red to black berries follow in the summer.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

No irrigation near the coast, periodic deep waterings in hotter climates.

LANDSCAPE USE

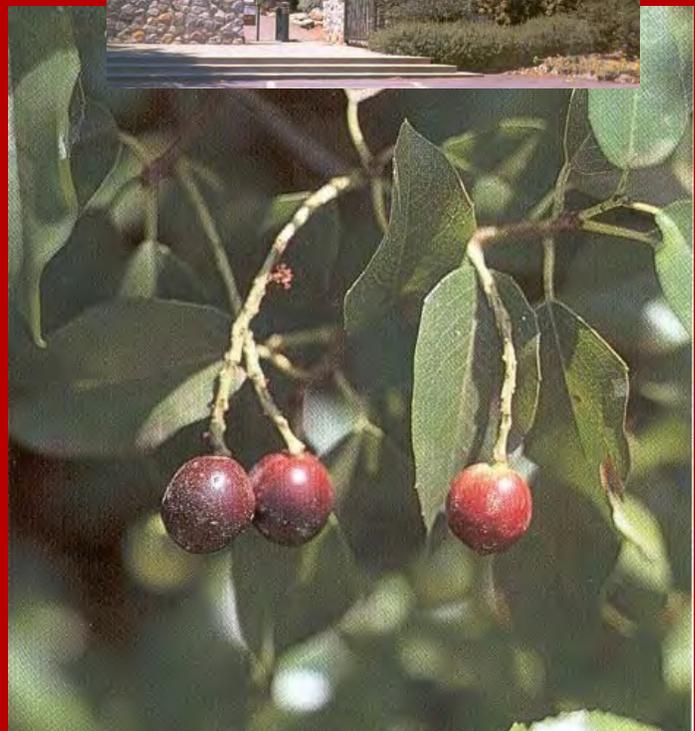
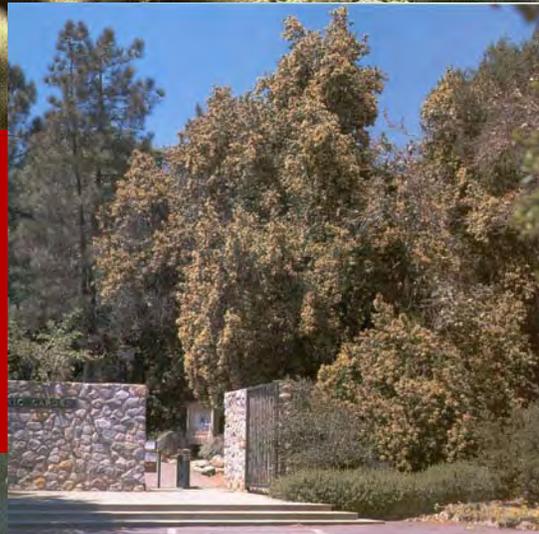
California native gardens, large perimeter screen, accent tree.

PROBLEMS?

Fruit drop may be a nuisance on pavement, patios and sidewalks.

COMMENTS

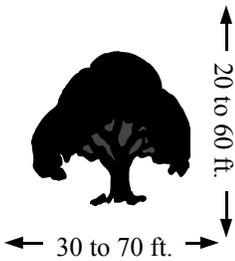
Native to Southern California channel islands. In nature it does not grow on dry exposed areas. When planted near the coast it may not need any irrigation in deep soils with some sun protection but plants in hotter areas with shallow rocky soils will need periodic deep waterings, even near the coast.



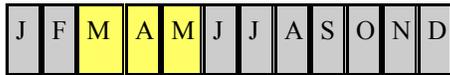
Quercus agrifolia

Coast Live Oak

Fagaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Small creamy yellow clusters of flowers. Conical, 1 inch acorns.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun to part shade.

Do not water natural trees. Planted ones can take regular irrigation or no water.

LANDSCAPE USE

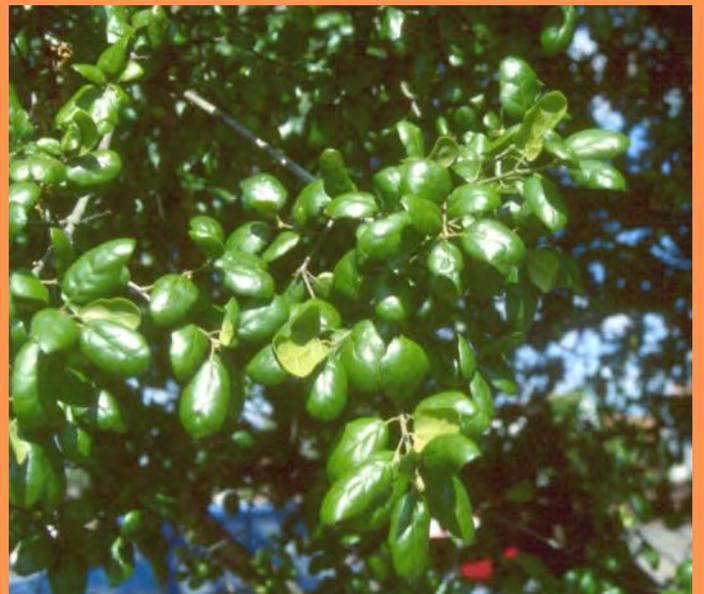
Large tree for California native gardens, slopes, perimeter areas. Growth habit makes it look out of place in formal gardens.

PROBLEMS?

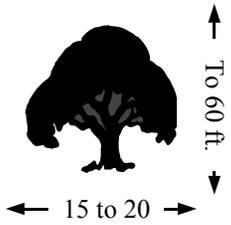
Oak moth larvae eat leaves. Aggressive roots make it hard to plant underneath. Messy in the spring due to leaf drop.

COMMENTS

Live oak and sycamore are the two most majestic native trees in Southern California. Very important not to irrigate natural trees, many have been killed after receiving summer irrigation. Young trees need training to ensure good mature form. They usually do not look very good until they reach a larger size.

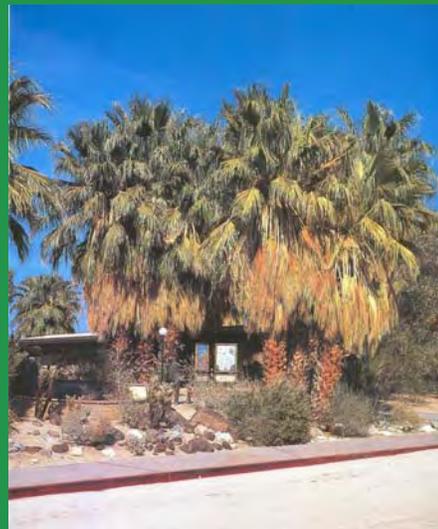


Washingtonia filifera
California Fan Palm
Arecaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
White flowers on up to 10 foot long spikes. Black berries that follow.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.
Full sun.
Needs occasional water in the summer.

LANDSCAPE USE

Mediterranean landscapes and large vertical accent.

PROBLEMS?

Eventually grows too tall for most smaller suburban landscapes.

COMMENTS

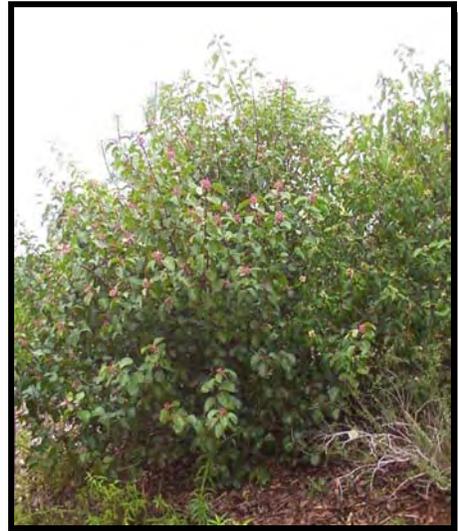
Looks similar to much more popular Mexican Fan Palm (*W. robusta*) but is more stout in both the trunk and the foliage canopy.

Multi-Category Plants



Arctostaphylos species

Rhus ovata

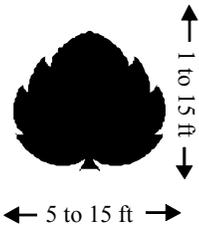


Melaleuca nesophila

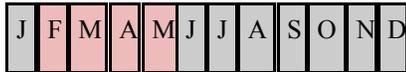
Arctostaphylos species

Manzanita

Eriaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Most manzanita species have pinkish-white flowers in the spring months.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones, however some species perform best near the coast.

Full sun near the coast, some afternoon protection from the sun in hot areas.

LANDSCAPE USE

Ground cover for prostrate types, background and filler shrub for upright types.

PROBLEMS?

Needs to be planted in an area that receives little to no summer water.

COMMENTS

A. densiflora 'Howard McMinn'
4-6 ft tall; 5-7 ft wide.

A. edmundsii – Little Sur Manzanita
2-3 ft tall; 8-12 ft wide

A. 'Emerald Carpet'
1 ft tall; 4-5 ft wide

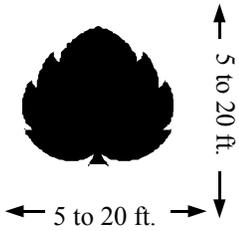
A. manzanita – Common Manzanita
6-15 ft tall; 5-10 ft wide



Bougainvillea species

Bougainvillea

Nyctaginaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Prolific brilliant blooms in many different colors (depending on variety). Color from flower bracts (like Poinsettia).



HARDINESS

Best near the coast. May be cold damaged in interior areas. Older plants have more cold tolerance.

Full sun to partial shade in hotter areas.

Very little water once established. Excess water lessens flower production.

LANDSCAPE USE

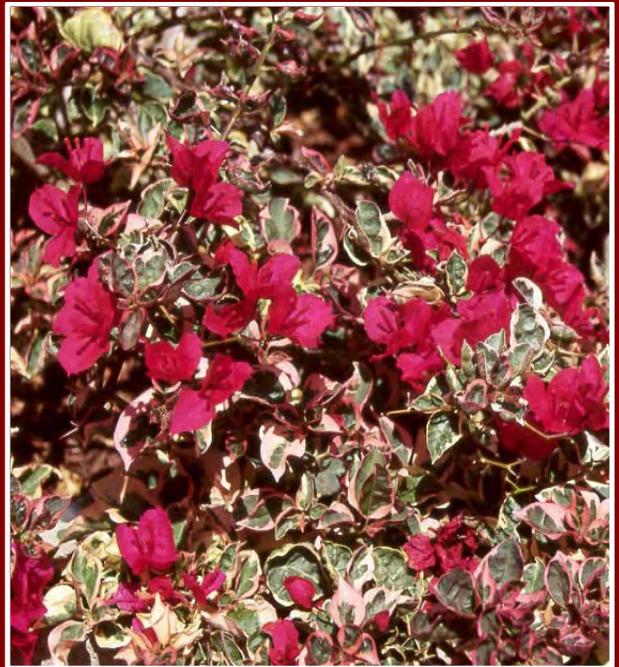
Large vine to cover wall or drape down from roof. Ground cover for large areas (make sure to select proper variety).

PROBLEMS?

Pest free. Take care not to disturb roots when planting from container.

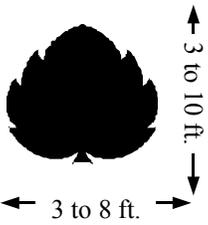
COMMENTS

Make sure to select the correct variety to fit your landscape. Some grow vigorously and tend to climb any support. Others stay relatively small and shrub-like.



Ceanothus species

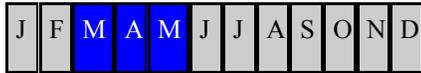
Wild Lilac
Rhamnaceae family



Flowers & Fruit

Deep blue flowers resemble small lilacs. Blooms profusely in spring. White varieties are also available.

Varies by type.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Little or no water on coast, more inland.

LANDSCAPE USE

Great background shrub or ground cover.
Gives rich green and blue colors.

PROBLEMS?

Short lived, only 5 to 10 years. Aphids or whiteflies are sometimes a problem. The biggest cultural concern with Ceanothus is root rot due to summer watering. Water infrequently or not at all if possible. Choose varieties that tolerate summer water in heavy soils or areas where water is necessary other plants.

COMMENTS

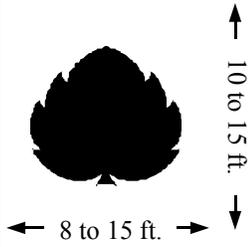
Several species and varieties are available and changing often. Varieties vary in plant and leaf size, and flower color. Check with local nurseryman to determine best one for your situation.



Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon, Christmas Berry

Rosaceae family



Flowers & Fruits
Small white flowers in showy clusters. Clusters of brilliant red berries in winter.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones

Full sun (part shade in hot areas).

Needs very little water once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

Colorful large background shrub. Winter color. Good for large slope areas and native restoration. Tolerates poor and rocky soils.

PROBLEMS?

Relatively pest free. Aphids may become a problem. Strong winds may cause branch breakage.

COMMENTS

Can easily be trimmed into small multi-trunked tree. Fruit attracts birds in winter. A great plant for large areas and re-vegetation projects. Native to Southern California coastal canyons and north slopes.



Lyonothamus floribundus

Catalina Ironwood

Rosaceae family



← 12 to 15 ft. →

↑
20 to 40 in
↓

Flowers & Fruit
One inch wide flowers appear during spring and fall. Flowers are colorful but not prolific.



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones

Full sun. . May need shade from the sun in hot climates.

Needs occasional deep watering.

LANDSCAPE USE

Small tree or large background shrub.

PROBLEMS?

Does best in well drained soils. May show chlorosis (yellow new growth) in heavy wet soils. Dry flower clusters linger for several months and may be unsightly.

COMMENTS

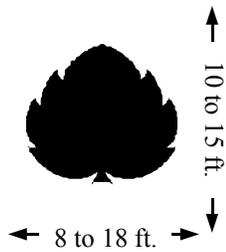
Sub-species *L. f. asplenifolius* has attractive fern-like foliage.



Melaleuca nesophila

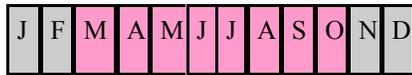
Pink Melaleuca

Myrtaceae family



Flowers & Fruit

Pink bottle brush type flowers on branch terminals most of the year. Seed capsules persist for long time.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Full sun.

Very little to no water once established.

LANDSCAPE USE

Slope plantings, perimeter planters, accent large shrub or small tree. Good for areas where very little irrigation is the goal.

PROBLEMS?

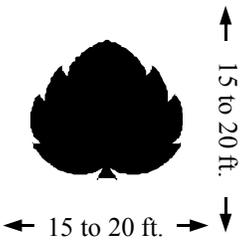
No pest or disease problems. Tends to have an erratic growth habit that makes it look somewhat untidy if not selectively pruned.

COMMENTS

Grows naturally as a tree, needs pruning to maintain shrub form. Does well in poor soils and tolerates salt spray from the ocean. With age, develops a picturesque form as the large branches lay down.



Rhus ovata
Sugar Bush
Anacardeaceae family



Flowers & Fruit
Small white and light crimson flower clusters followed by black berries.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.
Full sun.
Very little to no irrigation.

LANDSCAPE USE

Large shrub for California native gardens. Can be pruned into a small tree that reveals attractive bark.

PROBLEMS?

May not perform well in heavy soils in areas that require irrigation.

COMMENTS

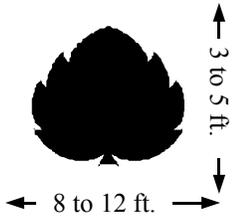
This plant is native to Southern California chaparral and sage scrub habitats. Once established it may need no irrigation.



Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen Currant

Saxifragaceae family



Flowers & Fruit

Clusters of small flowers late winter to spring, red berries follow in spring to summer.



HARDINESS

Hardy in all zones.

Does best with partial shade on the coast, partial sun inland.

Needs no additional water but tolerates some irrigation.

LANDSCAPE USE

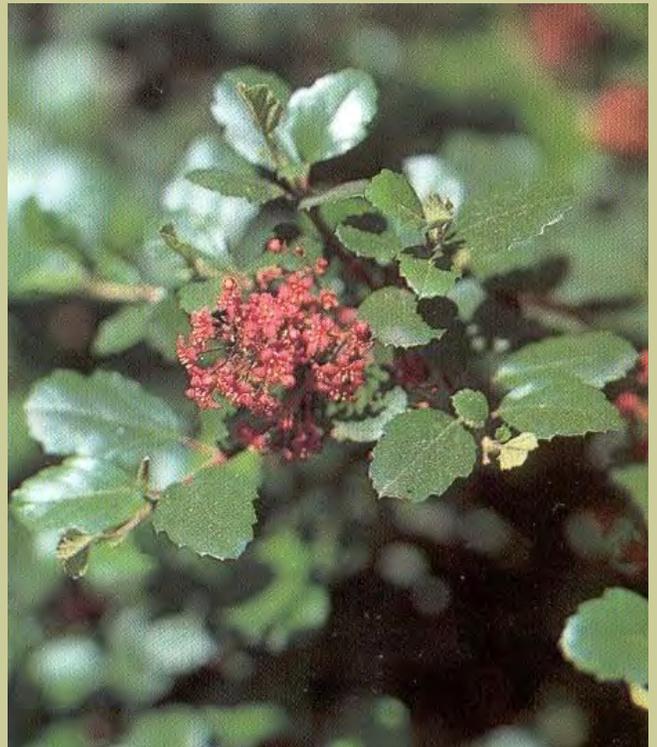
California native gardens, ground cover for large areas, under trees in hot climates or under native trees in irrigation-free planters.

PROBLEMS?

Very dependable.

COMMENTS

Native to canyons and partial shade areas on Catalina Island. Growth habit and flowers are different than other currants. Avoid shearing to allow plant to develop long arching branches which give it distinct character.



Resources

The list below is comprised of resources to help you learn more about how you can incorporate native and drought-tolerant plants into your own garden.

Botanic Gardens Displaying Native Plants

Descanso Gardens
(818) 949-4200
www.descanso.com

Friends of the Regional Parks Garden
www.nativeplants.org/

Fullerton Arboretum
(714) 278-3579
www.arboretum.fullerton.edu

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
(909) 625-8767
www.rsabg.org

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
(805) 682-4726
www.santabarbarabotanicgarden.org/

UC Riverside Botanic Gardens
(909) 787-4650
www.gardens.ucr.edu

Native Plant Organizations

California Native Plant Society
www.cnps.org

California Oaks Foundation
www.californiaoaks.org

Theodore Payne Foundation
(818) 768-1802
www.theodorepayne.org

Additional Botanical Resources

Cal Flora
www.calflora.org/

Native Plants for a California Garden
www.mynativeplants.com/

Wildflower Hotline
(March to May)
(818) 768-3533

Nurseries specializing in native and drought-tolerant plants

Dean's Greens (Etiwanda)
(909) 899-1820

El Nativo Growers, Inc. (Azusa)
(626) 969-8449
www.elnativogrowers.com

Garrison Foothill Nursery (Upland)
(909) 949-9878

Las Pilitas Nursery (Escondido)
(760) 749-5992
www.laspilitas.com

Matilija Nursery (Moorpark)
(805) 523-8604
www.matilijanursery.com

Mockingbird Nursery (Riverside)
(909) 780-4571

Mt. Fuji Nursery (Upland)
(909) 985-2219

Native Sons (Arroyo Grande)
(805) 481-5996
[//nativeson.com](http://nativeson.com)

Perrson's Nursery (Pasadena)
(626) 792-6073

San Marcos Growers (Santa Barbara)
(805) 683-1561
www.smgrowers.com

Suncrest Nurseries, Inc. (Watsonville)
(831) 728-2595
www.suncrestnurseries.com

Tarweed Nursery & Landscape (Chatsworth)
(818) 888-2318

The Garden (Pomona)
(909) 629-2062

Tree of Life Nursery (San Juan Capistrano)
(949) 728-0685
www.treeoflifenuresery.com

***Native Plant and Water Conservation Demonstration Gardens
Los Angeles County***

Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden
301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: 626-821-3222

Xeriscape Garden
164 West Magnolia Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91503
Phone: 818-238-3730

Soka University Botanical Research Center and Nursery
26800 W. Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302
Phone: (818) 878-3763

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: 909-625-8767

Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada, CA 91011
Phone: 818-952-4403

Long Beach Water Department Xeriscape Garden
1800 East Wardlow Road, Long Beach, CA 90807
Phone: 562-570-2308

El Alisal: Charles F. Lummis Home
200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles, CA 90031
Phone: 213-222-0546

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
Phone: 310-544-6815

Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
Pico Boulevard and Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: 310-458-2227

Orange County

Anaheim's Waterwise Garden
2150 East Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92806
Phone: 714-765-4256

Mesa Consolidated Water District Water Wise Garden
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Phone: 949-574-1031

Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831
Phone: 714-278-3579

Riverside County

Western Municipal Water District's Landscapes Southern California Style
450 Alessandro Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92508
Phone: 909-789-5087
www.wmwd.com/landscape.htm

U.C. Riverside Botanic Garden
At the University of California Riverside, CA 92521
Phone: 909-784-6962

San Bernardino County

E. Rowley Demonstration Garden
4594 San Bernardino Street, Montclair, CA 91763
Phone: 909-626-2711

San Diego County

Chula Vista Nature Center
1000 Gundpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Phone: 619-409-5903

Sweetwater Authority Demonstration Garden
505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Phone: 619-422-8395

The Water Conservation Garden
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92109
Phone: 619-660-1684

Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone: 760-436-3036

Xeriscape Demonstration Garden
1920 North Iris Lane, Escondido, CA 92026
Phone: 760-745-5522

Balboa Park
1549 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619-239-0512

Famosa Slough Wetlands Preserve
Famosa Boulevard at West Point Loma Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92107
Phone: 619-224-4591

Point Loma Native Plant Garden
Mendocino and Green Street, San Diego, CA 92107
Phone: 619-236-1462

San Diego Native Plants Garden
3250 Palm Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154
Phone: 619-424-6473

Ventura County

Ojai Community Demonstration Garden
Behind City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023
Phone: (805) 646-5581

City of Oxnard Water Division Demonstration Garden
251 South Hayes Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: (805) 385-8136

References

Additional material was used from the following sources in the making of this handbook:

Growing Native

Copyright Louise Lacey
PO Box 489
Berkeley, CA 94701
510-232-9865
ladylfab@growingnative.com
<http://www.growingnative.com/>

Landscape Plants for Western Regions

Perry, Robert C.
Claremont, CA.
Land Design Publishing 1992

Sunset Western Garden Book

Menlo Park, CA.
Sunset Publishing Corporation 2001

Master Gardener Sonoma County

Originally created by Milo Baker Chapter of California Native
Plant Society
<http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu/Gardener/pdfmg26gardeningwithnativeplants.pdf>

California Native Plant Society

San Diego Chapter
PO Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
619-685-7321
info@cnpssd.org
<http://www.cnpssd.org/>

Tree of Life Nursery

<http://www.treeoflife.com>

Las Pilitas Nursery

<http://www.laspilitas.com>