

An Ecoregional Approach to Plant Recommendations

Presentation to the EBMUD Landscape Advisory Committee, October 5 2020 Andrea Williams, Director of Plant Science, CNPS



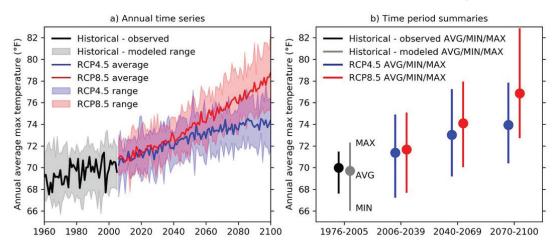


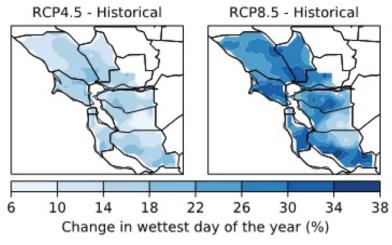
What we will cover

- Climate/hydrologic history and projections
- Current delineations
- Ecoregional approach
- Habitat Revolution
- Local lists
- Calscape.org

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Climate Change in the Bay Area



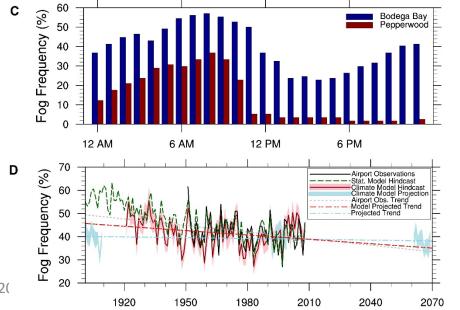


- Temperature increasing; projected to keep increasing
- Total precipitation may not change but wet season compressing, extremes more likely
- Water shortages projected to escalate



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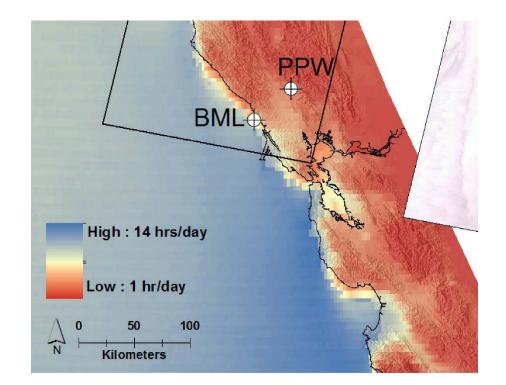


Shoulder seasons warming faster:

https://qz.com/1727717/what-climate-change-will-doto-three-major-american-cities-by-2100/

Fog decreasing, particularly inland:

https://eos.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/12/004776_TORREGROSA-F02_rgb_lc.jpg



Implications

- Plants will "experience" drought more
- Increased high degree-days mean people water more
- Compressed rainy season, less snowpack=storage shortage
- Loss of fog=increased summer demand in bay-side cities

Well-designed landscaping of yards, parkways, and green infrastructure can help with both demand management and flood risk reduction.

In three Easy Steps

Healthy Living Soil captures Rainwater.



Healthy living soil is made by adding compost to your soil, covering your garden with mulch, and by avoiding soil disturbance as much as possible. Compost boosts soil organisms that reduce diseases and pests. There's no need for adding fertilizers or nestricities on water-ched wive partiens.

Maintaining 2" - 4" of small-size organic mulch on top of every open space in the landscape keeps the garden looking clean while slowly building the soil. The mulch holds in water, so less irrigation is required (see p. 40).

When downspouts are directed to these landscapes, living soil becomes a giant sponge that helps keep plants healthy and happy, whether it's raining or we're in a drought (see p. 42).

Climate-appropriate Plants Reduce Irrigation needs



Selecting climate-appropriate plants like those from Mediterranean climates and, even better, from Marin County's own native plant communities, makes your garden automatically adapted to the seasonal summer drought, wet winter months, and various Marin microclimates (see p. 30). Many plants from the five Mediterranean climates, (South Africa, area around the Mediterranean Sea, Chile, Australia, and certain regions of California) are apreceptable for yet aurience.

Local native plants benefit the local native birds and insect species by providing food and nesting materials! There are many dry-adapted evergreen and long-flowering California native plants. When you te them in your garden, you get year-long interest and a garden filled with life, on reduced



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Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS)



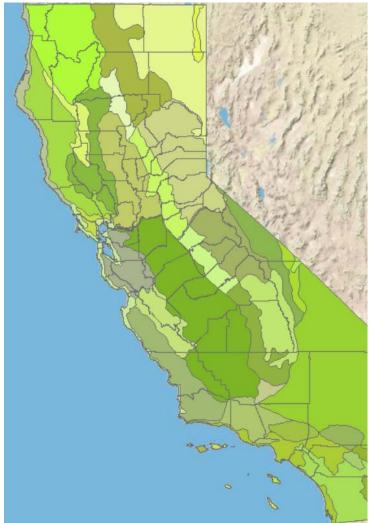
California is partitioned by WUCOLS into 6 Regions

- All of Alameda and Contra Costa are in the North Central Region
- Alameda and Contra Costa have 5 Evapotranspiration Zones
- WUCOLS is meant to determine irrigation needs of plantings
- What if your plants were so adapted to the local climate they didn't need much, if any, irrigation?

Purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) still green in mid-summer at the top of a southfacing slope

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An Ecoregional Approach



California is partitioned by the Jepson Manual of California Plants into 11 Regions, 33 SubRegions

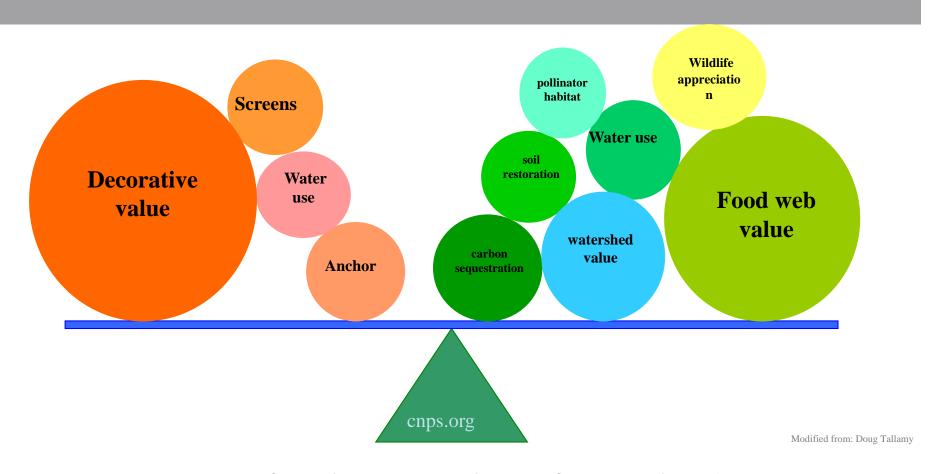
- Coastal Alameda and Contra Costa are in the Center West Region; Inland are in the Great Valley Region
- Alameda and Contra Costa have Coastal, Central, Inland zones
- Plant communities shift along coastal-inland AND north-south gradients
- An ecoregional approach adapts locally common plant communities and species to landscaping recommendations

A meadow of California poppy,
(Eschscholzia californica), purple
needlegrass, California brome
(Bromus carinatus), Valley gumplant
(Grindelia camporum) contains many
locally common, drought-tolerant,
long-blooming plants in a Contra
Costa County yard



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Habitat Revolution



New criteria for choosing plants for our landscapes

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Native plants are the foundation of our ecosystems.
Research shows that native wildlife depends on native plants to thrive and survive.

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plants are adapted to local conditions. That means fewer pesticides and fertilizers that can runoff into local waterways.

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What are the necessary qualities?

- Grows well in a landscape setting
- Uses minimal water
- Locally common—in nurseries and in the wild
- Does not harbor pathogens
- As a collective list, provides floral resources to pollinators and wildlife benefit throughout the growing season
- Is not likely to intermix with area rare plant populations



- Low barrier to adopting native plants in the garden
- Plants with natural drought tolerance will be able to adapt in an uncertain climate future (Kew State of the World's Plants Report)
- Plants can be vectors for diseases or suffer from pathogens like Phytophthora
- Even relatively small yards can provide pollinator benefits

Why lists?

Lists can lower the "barrier to entry"

- People can trust certain organizations to do the background research for them
- They may not want to engage more deeply with databases or other info
- Simplicity can still allow for introducing broader concepts



Is gardening like cooking?

What ingredients go together?

How many portions?

What do you already have on hand?

Do you want local ingredients?

What's your skill level?

Order out

Meal kit

Follow a recipe

Good cook

Master chef

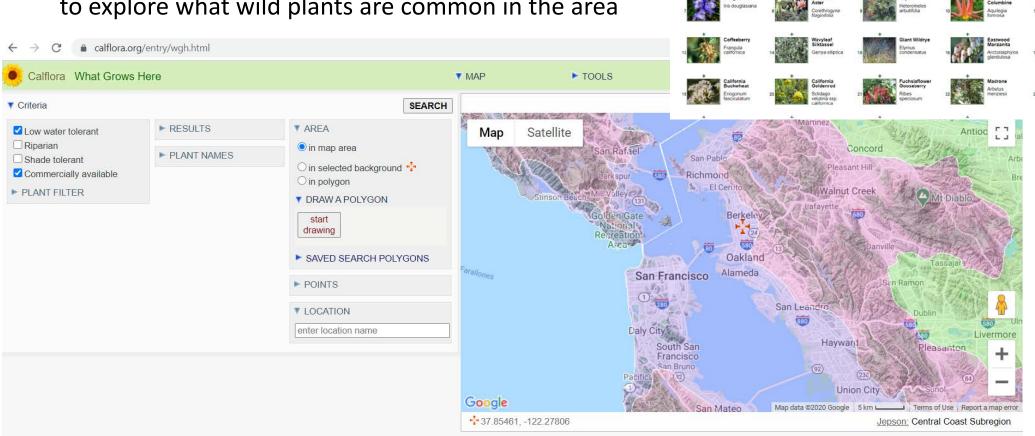


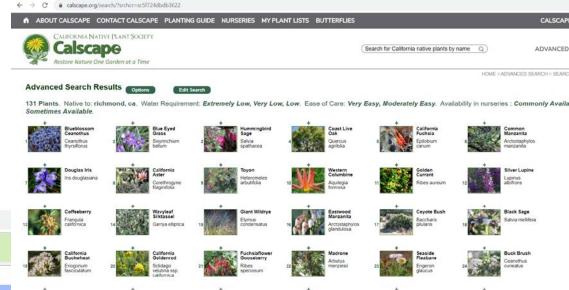


List foundations

Major databases

- Calscape.org relies on specimen data and climate compatibility to make recommendations
- Calflora.org's "What Grows Here?" tool allows you to explore what wild plants are common in the area





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List refinement

- Comparison of downloaded lists shows overlapping species
- 'Pests and Pathogens' database reveals potentially problematic plants
- Understanding of species biology allows for refining based on fire-related characteristics (flammability, thatch production, need for pruning)

Understanding of ecology and local plant communities allows for groupings

based on vegetation type

Coastal prairie and woodland at Point Molate, Richmond Photo by David Amme



- Sample lists
 Coastal Contra Costa, Alameda: Representatives of coastal prairie and woodland
- Shrubs and smaller trees, vines, grasses, groundcovers, perennial and annual flowers

Draft East Bay Coastal list

30 plants

Options



Common Yarrow millefolium



California Buckeye Aesculus californica



Douglas' Sagewort Artemisia douglasiana



Coyote Bush Baccharis pilularis



California **Brome Grass** Bromus carinatus



Purple Western Morning Glory

Calvstegia purpurata ssp. purpurata



Purple Clarkia Clarkia purpurea



California Aster Corethrogyne



California Oatgrass Danthonia californica



Nude Buckwheat Eriogonum nudum



California Poppy Eschscholzia californica



Woodland

Strawberry Fragaria vesca



Wavyleaf Silktassel Garrya elliptica



Great Valley Gumweed Grindelia camporum



Telegraph Weed Heterotheca grandiflora



Bolander's Goldenaster Heterotheca sessiliflora ssp. bolanderi



Cream Bush Holodiscus discolor



Hairy Honeysuckle





Silver Bush Lupine Lupinus





Flowered **Platycarpos** Lupinus microcarpus

var. densiflorus



California Melicgrass Melica californica



Flower Mimulus aurantiacus

Bush Monkey



Coast Live Oak Quercus agrifolia



Valley Oak Quercus Iobata



Blood Currant Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum



Black Elderberry Sambucus



Bluewitch Nightshade Solanum umbelliferum



Needlegrass Stipa pulchra



Tomcat Clover Trifolium willdenovii



Mule Ears Wyethia angustifolia

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- Inland Contra Costa: More chaparral, oak woodlands; some overlap with coastal
- Presumes more spacing and hardscape for fire safety

Draft Inland CoCo

30 plants

Options



Common Yarrow millefolium



California Buckeye Aesculus californica



Dutchmans Pipe Aristolochia californica



Mahogany Cercocarpus



Elegant Clarkia Clarkia unguiculata



Chaparral Clematis Clematis lasiantha



Blue Wildrye Elymus glaucus



Big Squirreltail Elymus múltisetus



California Fuchsia **Epilobium** canum



California Poppy Eschscholzia californica



Great Valley Gumweed Grindelia



Cream Bush Holodiscus discolor



Junegrass Koeleria macrantha



White Pitcher Sage Lepechinia

calycina



Hairy Honeysuckle Lonicera

hispidula



Sky Lupine Lupinus nanus



Spring Madia Madia elegans



California Melicgrass

californica

Melica



Foothill Penstemon Penstemon heterophyllus



Lacy Phacelia Phacelia tanacetifolia



One Sided Blue Grass Poa secunda



Blue Oak Quercus douglasii



Valley Oak Quercus lobata



Hollyleaf Redberry Rhamnus

ilicifolia



Black Sage Salvia mellifera



Yellow Stonecrop Sedum spathulifolium



Grass Sisyrinchium



Nightshade Solanum



California Goldenrod Solidago californica



Purple Needlegrass Stipa pulchra

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Questions about potential plants

- Purple needlegrass, yarrow, California poppy: broadly useful
- Buckeye, ceanothus: good for pollinators but can be finicky
- Coast live oak, toyon: excellent wildlife supporters but prone to pathogens
- Coastal sage, coyote bush: needs pruning to lower fire risk
- California aster, silver bush lupine: Subspecies make all the difference



Lupinus albifrons: var. collinus (left); var. albifrons (right)



2010 Barry Breckling

Calscape.org

Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

California

7095 plants native to California















Grasses







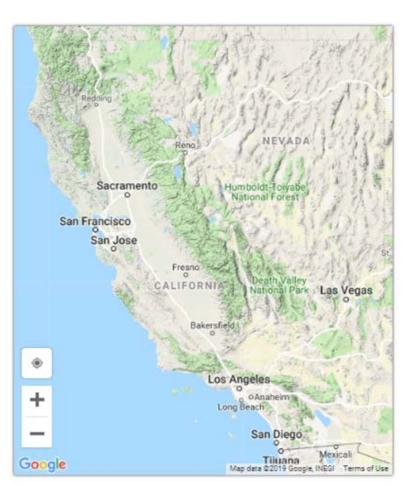












- Enter any address to learn what plants are native to that location
- Detailed plant profiles and characteristics
- Thousands of photographs
- Gardening information
- Nursery availability cnps.org



ADVANCED SEARCH Search for California native plants by name Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

7095 plants native to California



Annuals 2180

Fems





Grasses



California









Groundcovers 253



Deer Resistant



Very Low Water 497



Shrubs 1054



Succulents







Damp Soils

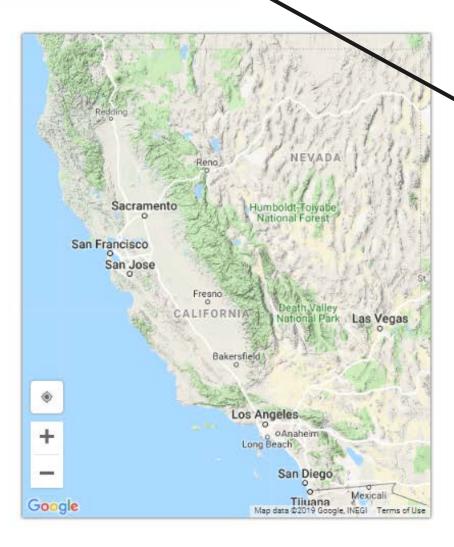






217





Search for a specific plant

Or enter your address, city, or zip code



Search for California native plants by name

ADVANCED SEARCH



Long Beach

244 plants native to 33.7701,-118.1937 (Long Beach)



ABOUT CALSCAPE



Trees















Sun

163





Part Shade





Deer Resistant









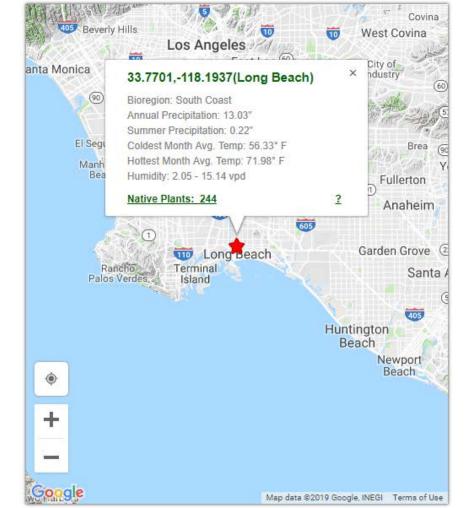






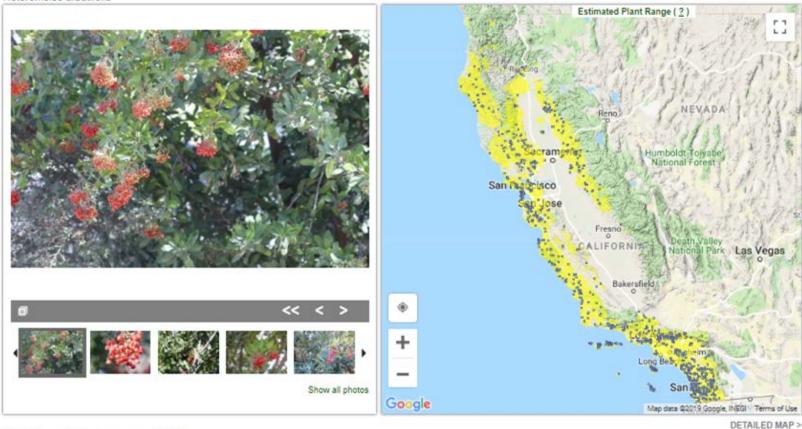






Generates helpful lists of regionally appropriate plants.

Heteromeles arbutifolia



About Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)

Toyon is a beautiful perennial shrub native throughout the western part of California and the Sierra foothills. It is a prominent component of the coastal sage scrub plant community, and is a part of drought-adapted chaparral and mixed oak woodland habitats. It is also known by the common names Christmas berry and California Holly from the bright red berries it produces. The city of Hollywood was name for this plant.

It often grows to about 8 feet tall, but there are some spectacular specimens in the Los Padres National Forest that are over 30 feet tall. Its leaves are evergreen, alternate, sharply toothed, and are 5 cm in length and 2 cm wide. In the early summer it produces small white flowers 6mm diameter in dense bunches. The five petals are rounded. The fruit is small, bright red and berry-like, produced in large quantities, maturing in the fall and persisting well into the winter. The flowers are visited by butterflies and other insects, and have a mild, hawthorn-like scent. The berries are consumed by birds, including mockingbirds, American robins, and cedar waxwings. Mammals including coyotes and bears also eat and disperse the berries. Note that the berries contain a cianide compound that is toxic to humans.

Toyon are beautiful plants and easy to grow. If properly situated, they can grow very quickly, up to 10 feet in three years. They like sun or part shade, though they tend to do better in part shade in the southern, drier part of their geographic range. They can handle a wide variety of soils, including clay, sand and serpentine, but need more moisture than most chaparral shrubs. They do well near seasonal creeks, seeps, bottom of slopes, or near irrigated areas. These plants tolerate a fair amount of summer water, up to 1x per week if the drainage is good. Toyon can be planted near houses since they are fire retardant when given enough moisture. They are an excellent hedge plant.

Plant Description

 Plant Type
 Shrub

 Max. Height
 6 - 30 ft (1.8 - 9.1 m)

Detailed plant profiles

Search for California native plants by name

CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield

ADVANCED SEARCH

Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

California

7990 plants native to California

















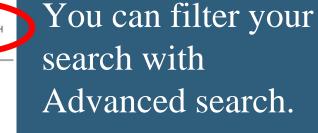












Advanced	Search (Search	Clear

Select desired plant characteristics and then click 'Search' to see matching plants

Native To	California		
Гуре		Annual herb Fern Grass Perennial herb Shrub Succulent Tree Vine	
Sun		☐ Full Sun ☐ Part Shade ☐ Full Shade	
Drainage		☐ Fast ☐ Medium ☐ Slow ☐ Standing	
Vater Requi	irement	Extremely Low Very Low Low Moderate - High	
Ease of Care	е	Very EasyModerately EasyFairly DifficultVery Difficult	
Common Us	ses	☐ Bank Stabilization☐ Bee Gardens	

Common Uses	Bank Stabilization Bee Gardens Bird Gardens Bogs and Ponds Butterfly Gardens Butterfly Host Plants Deer Resistant Groundcovers Hedges Hummingbird Gardens		
Availability in Nurseries	Commonly Available Sometimes Available Rarely Available Never or Almost Never Available Available Through Seed Stores		
Nurseries	3 Rivers Blooms Ackerman Native Plant Nursery Annie's Annuals and Perennials Antelope Valley Resource Conservation Nursery Artemisia Nursery Aspen Hollow Nursery Back to Natives Nursery @ Santiago Park Bay Natives Baylands Nursery Belmont Nursery Belmont Nursery Berkeley Horticultural Nursery Blossom Hill California Native Plants CNI Native Plant Nursery		
Fragrance	☐ Fragrant - Pleasant ☐ Fragrant - Unpleasant ☐ None ☐ Slight		
Flower Color	Black Blue Brown Cream Green Lavender Orange Pink Purple Red White Yellow		
Flowering Season	Spring Summer Fall Winter		
Height	- ● Feet ○ Inches		
Genus			

You can filter the plants by a variety of traits



Search for native butterflies by name

Enter a California address to see butterflies & moths native to that location

California

1368 butterflies & moths native to California

Options

Host Plants

What is a host plant?

Select any species to see host plant info



Monarch



Painted Lady Vanessa cardui



Common Buckeye Junonia coenia



Anise Swallowtail Papilio zelicaon



Variable Checkerspot Euphydryas chalcedona

You can also see

local pollinators

and host plants!



Gray Hairstreak Strymon melinus



Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta



Mylitta Crescent Phyciodes mylitta



Common Checkered-Skipper Pyrgus communis



Acmon Blue



Boisduval's Blue



Pale Tiger Swallowtail Papilio eurymedon



Mourning Cloak Nymphalis antiopa



Hoary Comma Polygonia gracilis



Northern Checkerspot Chlosyne palla



Lorquin's Admiral Limenitis lorquini



Queen Danaus gilippus



California Sister



Silvery Blue



Edith's Copper Lycaena editha



Umber Skipper



Hydaspe Fritillary Speyeria hydaspe



California Tortoiseshell Nymphalis californica



Clodius Parnassian Parnassius clodius



Search for California native plants by name

ADVANCED SEARCH

Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

Long Beach

244 plants native to 33.7701,-118.1937 (Long Beach)



244







Groundcovers





Deer Resistant

Very Low Water





Succulents





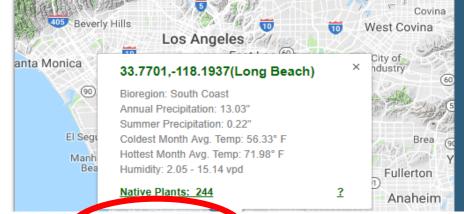
Hedges





Perennials





Blue Eyed Grass Sisyrinchium bellum



Bank Stat



Very E



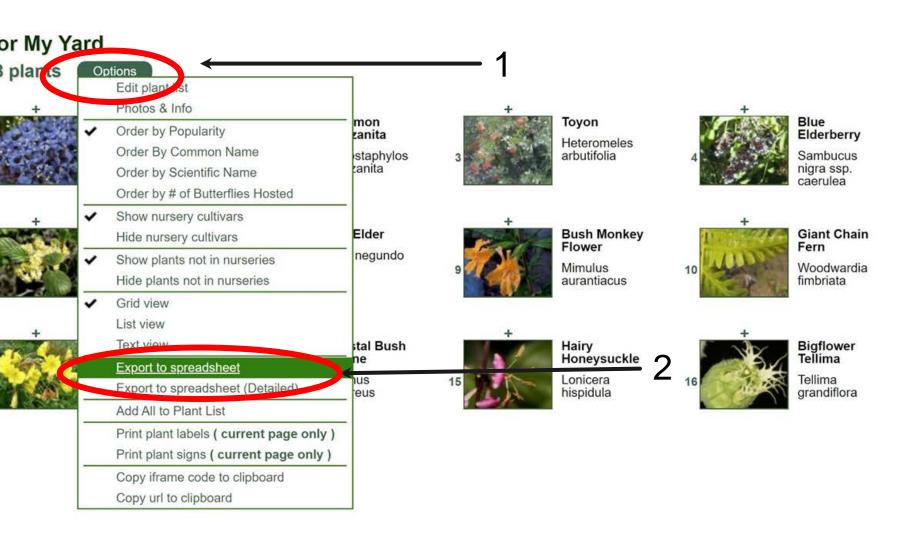
Add to My Plant List

Create a Calscape account

then...

Create a customizable "My Plants" lists by adding plants.





Here is how to export your plant list to an excel spreadsheet to print and bring to your local nursery

Search for California native plants by name Q

ADVANCED SEARCH

Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

Mill Valley

743 plants native to 37.906,-122.545 (Mill valley)















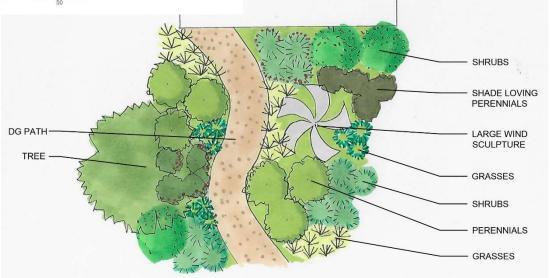








California Natural Entryway Design



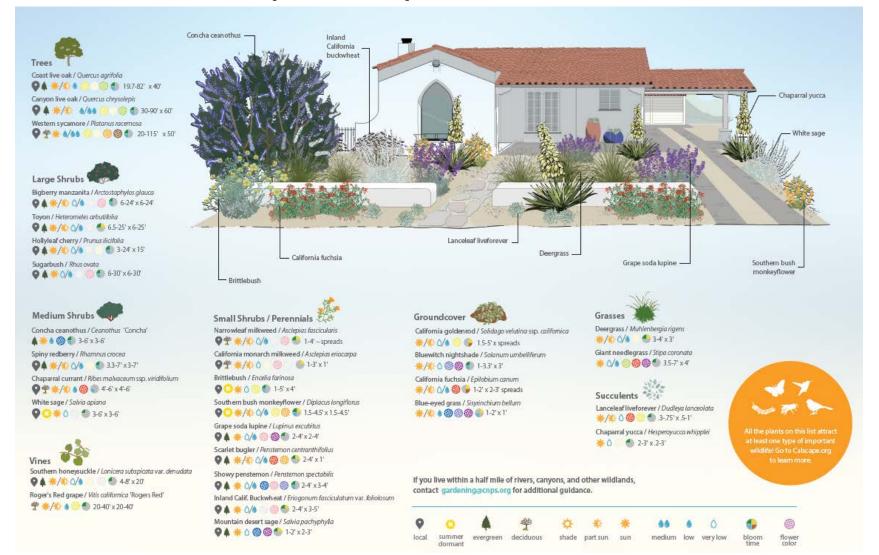
Coming soon...

Calscape Garden Planning Wizard

Generates garden designs based on design preferences!

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Graphic representations: Plants in context



Southern California work

- Showing recommended plants in a garden setting
- Providing useful information in stylized form

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Supporting more work

- More ecoregional lists, fire/defensible space recommendations
- Calscape improvements
- NorCal Nursery and Landscaper Trainings
- Increasing availability of native plants and promoting their use



Pictured above: American lady on coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*). Photo by Pete Veilleux

September 25, 2020 Villosa). Photo by Pete Veilleux 30

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