

# Soboba Reservation Native Plant Species



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## Black Sage     *Salvia mellifera*



Black sages grows quickly up to 3 feet in height, but mature specimens can reach up to 6 feet in height and 10 feet in width.

The plant has attractive dark green leaves, with raised texture that looks somewhat like a fingerprint pattern when viewed closely. The leaves are 1-3 inches long. The upper surface of the leaf is somewhat smooth, while the lower surface of the leaf is hairy.

The plant is highly aromatic. Flower occurs in .5-1.5" wide clusters. Flower colors vary from white, to pale blue, to lavender, or rarely to pale rose color.

Black sage is able to grow on a variety of different soils, including sandstone, shale, granite, serpentinite, and gabbro or basalt. It requires a minimum of 15" and a maximum of 40" of rain per year.

The plant flowers are an important food source for butterflies and hummingbirds. The seeds are an important food for quail and other birds.

Wildlife Supported: Insects, especially bees and butterflies, and hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers. Quail, Towhees and other birds are attracted to the seeds.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Flats, mesas, foothills, canyons, shallow slopes, and slope bottoms as part of coastal sage scrub and chaparral

## **Black Willow** *Salix gooddingii*



Black willow grows in an upright form to a height of 15-40 feet, with active growth during the spring and summer.

Flowers are green and bloom in the early spring. Leaves are medium green and deciduous.

It tends to grow in stream sides, at elevations from sea level to 2,000 feet.

It performs in a wide variety of locations, from the south coast to the central valley and perennial streams in desert areas. It tolerates some alkalinity and salinity as well as generally poor water quality.

Due to its size and water requirements, this is not a common garden tree but is useful in restoration projects, bioswales, and other constructed wetlands. Like other willows it is an important wildlife plant.

**Wildlife Supported:** Plants in the genus *Salix* are host to a wide variety of pollinators including the Dreamy Duskywing, Viceroy, Lorquin's Admiral, Wiedemeyer's Admiral, Mourning Cloak, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Sylvan Hairstreak, various moths, and some gall-forming wasps. Some birds, such as the Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, prefer to nest in large, dense willow thickets.

**Common uses:** Bogs and Ponds, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

**Site Type:** Streamsides, marshes, seepage places, washes, meadows



## Blue Elderberry     *Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*



Blue Elderberry, Mexican Elderberry, or Tapiro is a deciduous shrub or small tree, growing up to as tall as 30 feet.

It has cream or yellow flowers in the spring and purple berries in the fall.

Its berries are one of the most important source of food for birds in California.

It handles a variety of different soil moisture levels once established. It can handle permanently moist soil near stream sides or seeps, and will thrive next to or in regularly irrigated areas.

Common uses: Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Streambanks, slope bottoms, canyons, slightly moister places throughout the state. It occurs in conjunction with a variety of vegetation types including chaparral, sage scrub, grassland, and wetland-riparian.

## Brittlebush     *Encelia farinose*



Brittlebush grows to 1 meter tall, with fragrant leaves 3-8 centimeters long.

Has green-white grayish leaves and becomes covered with yellow daisy flowers.

The flowers will attract butterflies and birds eat the seeds.

The common name Incienso refers to the aromatic, resinous sap which has been used as an incense substitute in Mexico.

Wildlife Supported: Many desert birds, small mammals and insects

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Native to the Colorado and Mojave Deserts, it is found in very arid slopes, canyons, washes and alluvial fans in fast draining sandy, gravelly soil, often among boulders but also in pure sand



## California Black Oak      *Quercus kelloggii*



California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), also known as simply Black Oak, or Kellogg Oak, is an oak in the red oak section (*Quercus* sect. *Lobatae*), native to western North America.

In open areas the crown is broad and rounded, with lower branches nearly touching the ground or forming a browse line.

In closed stands, the crown is narrow and slender in young trees and irregularly broad in old trees.

Trunks are usually free of branches for 6-12 meter (20-40 feet) in closed stands. Trunks are often forked, and usually decayed and hollow in older trees.

The bark is thin and smooth in young trees, becoming moderately thick, deeply fissured, and platy with age. The bark of older trees is dark, giving rise to the common name.

This oak grows from one to several vertical roots which penetrate to bedrock, with large, laterally spreading roots extending off from vertical ones. It also has a number of surface roots.

Acorns are relatively large in this species, from 2.5-3 centimeter (1-1.2 inches) long and 1.5-1.8 centimeter (0.6-0.7 inches) wide and take two years to mature. **They were considered the best acorns for food by the Native Americans.**

The deeply lobed leaves are typically 10-20 centimeters (4-8 inches) long.

California black oak can live up to 500 years of age.

Wildlife Supported: Numerous types of wildlife are attracted to oaks. Many insects are attracted to Oaks generally, including the following butterflies which use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Slopes and valleys between 2,000 and 8,000 ft. in the Coast Ranges, Transverse Range, Peninsular Range, and lower elevations of the Sierras, where it is found as part of deciduous oak woodland, mixed evergreen forest, or other woodland/forest ty



## California Buckwheat     *Eriogonum fasciculatum*



Known by the common name California buckwheat.

It is variable in appearance, forming a patchy, compact bramble or a spreading bush approaching two meters in height and three across.

The leaves grow in clusters at nodes along the branches and are leathery, woolly on the undersides, and rolled under along the edges.

Flowers appear in dense, frilly clusters which may be anywhere from a few millimeters to 15 centimeters wide. Each individual flower is pink and white and only a few millimeters across.

This plant is particularly attractive to honey bees and is a good source of nectar over many months in drier areas.

Wildlife Supported: Bees, Butterflies

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Bee Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Deer Resistant, Groundcovers

## California Holly/Toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia*



Toyon is a beautiful perennial shrub native throughout the western part of California and the Sierra foothills.

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.

Toyon berries are acidic and astringent, and contain a small amount of cyanogenic glycosides, which break down into hydrocyanic acid on digestion. This is removed by mild cooking. **Raw berries are mealy, astringent and acid, though were eaten fresh, or mashed into water to make a beverage by Native Americans.**

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Toyon is a common plant in chaparral and is found along creek sides, bottoms of slopes, north facing slopes, and canyons

## California Scrub Oak      *Quercus berberidifolia*



The California Scrub Oak is a small evergreen or semi-evergreen shrubby oak in the white oak section.

It grows up to 6 meters in height.

It has variable, dull green leaves which are 1.5-3 centimeter long and 1-2 centimeter broad, leathery on their top surfaces and somewhat hairy underneath.

Flowers are yellow but inconspicuous.

The solitary or paired brown acorns are 1-3 centimeters long and 1-2 centimeters broad, and pointed or egg-shaped with thin caps when mature; they mature in about 6-8 months after pollination.

Wildlife Supported: Numerous birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Many insects are attracted to Oaks generally, including the following butterflies which use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Dry slopes, canyons, foothills, marine terraces, from coast to inland, mostly below 5,000 ft from Shasta County to San Diego County and into Baja California, Mexico.



## California Wild Rose      *Rosa californica*



The California Wild Rose is a beautiful rose species that grows through the coast and foothills of California, and in the mountains up to elevations of 6000 feet.

It is a deciduous thicket-forming shrub with prickly, curving stems.

Each rose is open-faced and generally flat, with five petals in any shade of pink from almost white to deep magenta.

The fragrant flowers may grow singly or in flower clusters of several blooms.

It produces typical rose hips containing yellow seeds.

The plant is native to arid regions and can survive drought, but it grows most abundantly in moist soils near water sources.

Berries may or may not happen.

Wildlife Supported: Bees, butterflies and birds

Common uses: Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Moist places and streambanks, springs, seeps, seasonal drainages



## Canyon Live Oak/Maul Oak *Quercus chrysolepis*



Canyon live oak is a species of evergreen oak that is found in the southwestern part of North America, notably in the California Coast Ranges. It is the most wide-spread oak in the state.

Its leaves are a glossy dark green on the upper surface with prominent spines; a further rapid identification arises from the leaves of Canyon live oak being geometrically flat.

**Native Americans used the acorns of this species as a food staple, after leaching of the tannins; moreover, its roasted seed is a coffee substitute.**

Wildlife Supported: Many insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals are attracted to oaks. Many insects are attracted to Oaks generally, including the following butterflies which use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Because this tree is so widely distributed around the state, its natural setting can vary considerably. It is most often found in foothills and canyons up to 9,000 ft., sometimes on north facing slopes or among boulder fields. Climates varies from very wet to semi-arid

## Chamise *Adenostoma fasciculatum*



Chamise or Greasewood, a member of the Rose family, is a flowering plant native to California and northern Baja California.

It is an evergreen shrub growing to four meters tall, with dry-looking stick-like branches.

The leaves are small, 4-10 millimeters long and one millimeter broad with a pointed tip, and sprout in clusters from the branches.

The leaves are shiny with flammable oils, especially in warmer weather. It is said to be highly flammable but can be kept fire-resistant by occasional watering.

The branches terminate in bunches of white tubular flowers five millimeters in diameter, with five petals and long stamens.

Wildlife Supported: Various birds and insects

Common uses: Hedges, Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Bird Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bee Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Dry slopes and flats, usually higher than coastal sage scrub and below woodlands, from the coast to desert transition

## Chia      *Salvia columbariae*



Salvia columbariae is an annual plant of the Lamiaceae (Mint) family.

Stem hairs are generally short and sparse in distribution.

Oblong-ovate leaves are 2 to 10 centimeter long and form a distinct basal rosette.

Flower stalks rise from the base and grow to 10 to 50 centimeters.

Flower color can be pale to bright blue or purple tipped.

The fruit of *S. columbariae* is a nutlet, tan to grey in color, and 1.5 to 2 millimeter in length.

**Once an important food for Native Americans.**

Wildlife Supported: Birds, butterflies, bees, and other insects

Common uses: Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Typically arid or semi-arid places on coastal Bluffs and plains, foothills, mountains and deserts



## Chokecherry *Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*



Western Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*) is a native tree or shrub that grows in northern, southern and central California.

It grows in an upright form to a height of 20 feet, with active growth during the spring and summer.

Flowers are white and striking, and bloom in the spring.

Leaves are medium green and deciduous.

It tends to grow in rocky slopes, at elevations from 0-8200 feet.

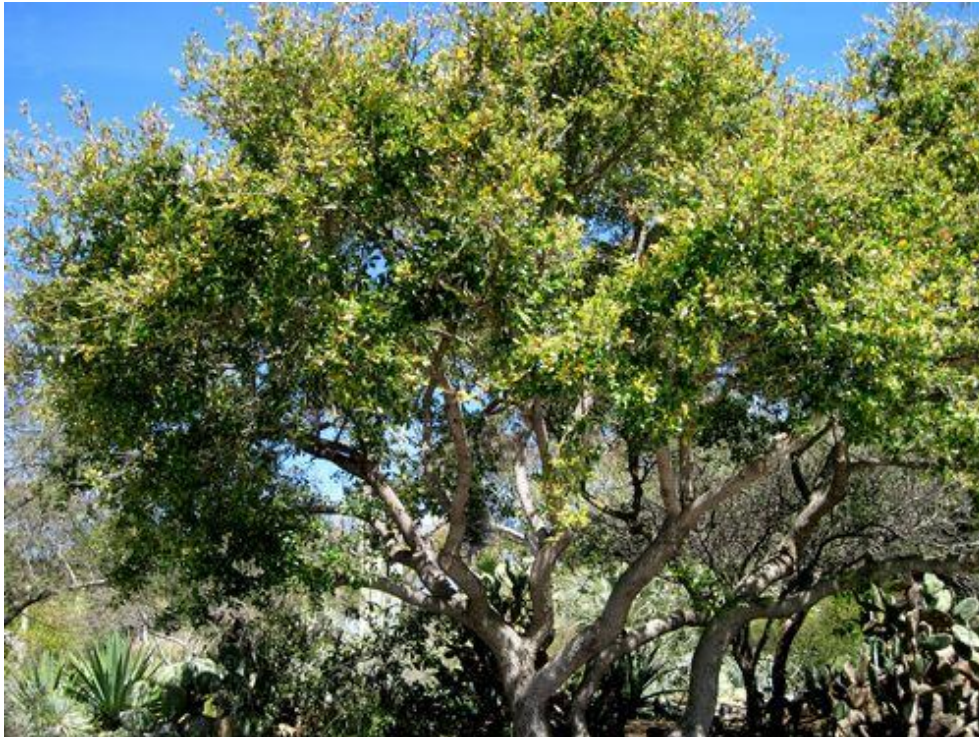
Wildlife Supported: Birds, bees, butterflies and insects

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Bird Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Rocky slopes



## Coast Live Oak      *Quercus agrifolia*



The Coast Live Oak is a beautiful evergreen oak that grows predominantly west of the central valleys, as far north as Mendocino County, and as far south as northern Baja California in Mexico.

This tree typically has a much-branched trunk and reaches a mature height of 10-25 meters. Some specimens may attain an age exceeding 250 years, with trunk diameters up to three or four meters.

The leaves are dark green, oval, often convex in shape, 2-7 cm long and 1-4 cm broad; the leaf margin is spiny-toothed, with sharp thistly fibers that extend from the lateral leaf veins.

Flowers are produced in early-to-mid spring; the male flowers are pendulous catkins 5-10 cm long, the female flowers inconspicuous, less than 0.5 cm long, with 1-3 clustered together.

The fruit is a slender reddish brown acorn 2-3.5 cm long and 1-1.5 cm broad and matures about 7-8 months after pollination

Wildlife Supported: A great many birds, mammals, reptiles and invertebrates utilize oak trees and oak woodlands. Oaks are among the most important wildlife plants. The following butterflies use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Coast live oak occurs in a number of natural settings over a large part of the state, usually below 3,000 ft.. It is often seen in valleys and slopes near (but not in) streams where it is the dominant species in live oak woodland. Chaparral or coastal sage scrub are frequently upslope, with riparian vegetation in the stream. In other areas it is found among numerous other tree species (including other oak species) as part of foothill woodland or mixed evergreen forest. It is occasionally found in native grassland savannahs.

## Cottonwood *Populus fremontii*



The Fremont Cottonwood is a cottonwood native to North America, growing in riparian areas near streams, rivers, and wetlands in the southwestern part of the United States, and downwards into Mexico.

It is a large tree growing from 12-35 meters in height, with a trunk up to 1.5 meter diameter.

The bark is smooth when young, becoming deeply fissured with whitish cracked bark on old trees.

Flower cluster consists of a long drooping catkin, which blooms from March to April.

The fruit is a wind dispersed achene, that appears to look like patches of cotton hanging from limbs, thus the name cottonwood.

The leaves are heart-shaped with white veins and coarse crenate teeth along the sides.

Wildlife Supported: Insects, especially butterflies, and birds

Common uses: Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Almost always found in riparian or other wetland habitats such as alluvial bottom lands, streamsides, and seeps throughout the state, up to 6,500 ft. Usually found adjacent to chaparral, valley grassland, and several types of woodland vegetation communities. In desert riparian areas it occurs adjacent to creosote bush scrub or desert transition chaparral.

## Creosote *Larrea tridentate*



Larrea tridentata, known as Creosote Bush is a flowering plant in the family Zygophyllaceae.

It is a prominent species in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts of western North America, including portions of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and western Texas in the United States, and northern Chihuahua in Mexico.

It is an evergreen shrub growing to 1-3 meter tall, rarely 4 meter.

The stems of the plant bear resinous, dark green leaves with two leaflets joined at the base, each leaflet 7-18 millimeter long and 4-8.5 millimeter broad.

The yellow flowers are up to 25 millimeter diameter, with five yellow petals. The plant is extraordinarily tolerant of drought, saline or alkaline soils, and adapted to desert conditions.

It reproduces by seed and also by sending up new shoots from the roots. The latter results in the creation of clonal rings, some of which are among the oldest known plants at around 11,000 years.

Galls may form by the activity of the creosote gall midge. The whole plant exhibits a characteristic odor of creosote (especially when wet), from which the common name derives.

Native people use the plant for medicinal purposes.

Wildlife Supported: Numerous insects are attracted to the flowers. Various birds are attracted to the seeds.

Common uses: Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Mountains, valleys, and washes of the southern California deserts



## Deer Grass     *Muhlenbergia rigens*



Deergrass is a large perennial bunchgrass found in sandy or well drained soils below 7000 feet in elevation in the southwestern United States and parts of Mexico.

The plant is characterized by dense, tufted basal foliage consisting of narrow pointed leaves that reach lengths of about 3 feet and range in color from light silver-green to purple.

The spike-like stems are less than half an inch wide and 3 to 4 feet in length.

During bloom, the numerous flower bunches often reach heights of five feet.

Wildlife Supported: Seed eating birds will be attracted to it in summer

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant

Site Type: In southern California and along the central coast it is found in sandy gravelly places, canyons, and washes as part of the chaparral community. In inland mountain areas it may occur with Ponderosa Pine and other trees in yellow pine woodland or foothill woodland. In a few locations it may be found on seasonal stream banks or other wetland areas.



## Desert Agave *Agave deserti*



Agave deserti (Desert Agave, Mescal, Century Plant or Maguey) is native to desert regions in southern California, Arizona, and Baja California.

It forms a rosette of fleshy gray-green leaves 20-70 centimeters long and 4.5-10 centimeters broad, with sharp spines along the edges and at the tips.

It flowers at maturity (20-40 yrs), sending up an flower cluster 2-6 meters tall.

The inflorescence grows extremely fast at this time, up to 1 ft. per day.

The stems bear numerous yellow, funnel-shaped flowers 3-6 centimeters long which attract numerous birds and insects.

Native people ate the flowers and also roasted and ate the "heart" of rosettes that had just begun to send up a flower stalk.

Wildlife Supported: When in bloom, hummingbirds and other nectar-loving birds are attracted to the masses of flowers. This species is also host plant to the Bauer's Giant Skipper and California Giant Skipper butterflies.

Common uses: Deer Resistant, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Rocky slopes, canyons, desert washes

## Desert Willow      *Chilopsis linearis*



It is a small tree native to the southwestern United States and Mexico.

Ranging from 1.5 to as much as 8 meters in height, it can have the general appearance of either a shrub or a small tree. The linear curved leaves, ranging from 10-26 centimeter in length and 2-4 millimeter broad, are deciduous. It has fragrant pink flowers that hummingbirds love.

Because it is winter deciduous, it will be leafless half of the year. However, in Spring and Summer its flowers justify inclusion in a sunny, inland garden.

Wildlife Supported: Hummingbirds and bees are highly attracted to this plant when in bloom

Common uses: Hummingbird Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Perennial desert streams, or sandy washes or canyons where there is likely to be subsurface water for most of the year. In the low desert it is typically surrounded by creosote bush scrub. In higher desert, Joshua tree woodland



## Hollyleaf Cherry     *Prunus ilicifolia*



Hollyleaf cherry or Evergreen cherry is a species in the Rosaceae (Rose) family that is native to coastal California and northern Baja California.

It is an evergreen shrub or small tree up to 15 meters tall, with dense, sclerophyllous foliage.

The leaves are 1.6-12 centimeter long with a 4-25 millimeter petiole and spiny margins, somewhat resembling those of the holly, they are dark green when mature and generally shiny on top, and have a smell resembling almonds when crushed.

The flowers are small (1-5 millimeters), white, produced on racemes in the spring.

The fruit is a cherry 12-25 millimeter diameter, edible and sweet, but contains little flesh surrounding the smooth seed. Great for birds.

Wildlife Supported: Many birds and some small mammals are attracted to the fruits

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Slopes of the coast-facing mountains, extending inland to the desert transition and 1,600 m elevation

## Honey Mesquite    *Prosopis glandulosa*



[Prosopis glandulosa](#), commonly known as Honey Mesquite, is a species of small to medium-sized flowering tree in the legume family, Fabaceae

Honey Mesquite has a rounded crown and crooked, drooping branches with feathery foliage and straight, paired spines on twigs.

In some settings it will remain a low growing shrub forming dense thickets that are used as refuge by rabbits, quail, and other animals. In other settings it grows as a tree that reaches 20-30 feet, rarely as tall as 50 feet.

The fruit is a nutritious "bean pod" that is valued by many animals and was eaten by native people of the desert.

Wildlife Supported: Mesquite attracts a wide variety of animals including insects, rabbits, rodents, quail, roadrunners, thrashers, coyotes, and many others. The *Prosopis* genus is host plant to the Marine Blue and Leda Ministreak butterflies. This species is host to the Palmer's Metalmark and Reakirt's Blue butterflies.

Common uses: Deer Resistant, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Flats and washes in arid regions with underground water



## Pacific Blackberry *Rubus ursinus*



Pacific Blackberry is a species in the Rosaceae (Rose) family that is native to a large part of western North America from Baja to Canada and from the coast to the Rocky Mountains

This is a wide, spreading shrub or vine-bearing bush with prickly branches, white flowers and edible fruits

The sweet-tart fruits are dark purple to black and up to 2 centimeters in length.

Wildlife Supported: Pacific Blackberry is attractive to a wide ranges of wildlife, from butterflies to bears.

Common uses: Groundcovers, Hedges, Bird Gardens

Site Type: Moist places such as stream banks, canyons, often as part of woodland understory

## Prickly Pear Cactus *Optunia*



A species of prickly pear cactus known by the common name coastal prickly pear.

It generally occurs in dense clumps spreading several meters wide and up to a meter tall.

The branches are made up of orbicular flat segments up to 22 centimeters long.

It is covered in clusters of yellowish spines 2 to 4 centimeters long.

The flowers are yellow.

The fruit is purplish red, up to 5 centimeters long,

Wildlife Supported: Butterflies and moths

Common uses: Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens

Site Type: Slopes



## Mulefat *Baccharis salicifolia*



Baccharis salicifolia is a flowering shrub native to the desert southwest of the United States and northern Mexico, as well as parts of South America.

This is a large bush with sticky foliage which bears plentiful small, fuzzy, pink or red-tinged white flowers.

The long pointed leaves may be toothed.

Wildlife Supported: This is an important butterfly and bee plant. Also attracts other beneficial insects

Common uses: Hedges, Butterfly Gardens, Bird Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: sandy washes, streambanks, valley grasslands



## Red Willow     *Salix laevigata*



Red Willow is one of the most common riparian trees in California, usually growing in or very near creeks, at elevations from 0-5000 feet.

It is an extremely fast growing tree - growing up to about 50 feet in height, and often more than 50 feet in width within 10 years

The bark is ridged and grayish, though it sometimes turns reddish with age.

Its form is variable, but it will often grow from multiple winding trunks, some more or less straight up, and some growing out far away from the base, even horizontally, and laying along the creek bottom before growing upwards again.

Twigs are reddish and flexible when young.

Leaves are 3-4 inches long, lanceolate and shiny green on top, dull whitish green underneath.

Yellow flowers grow in drooping catkins.

In female red willows, the catkins turn into tufts of cottony seeds, which are windborn,

Wildlife Supported: Bees, butterflies

Common uses: Bogs and Ponds, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Creeks or damp areas

## Sagebrush     *Artemisia californica*



California sagebrush, of the Asteraceae family, is a highly aromatic shrub that grows in coastal sage scrub, coastal strand, chaparral, and dry foothill communities, from sea level to 1000 meters (3300 feet).

The plant branches from the base and grows out from there, becoming rounded.

Plant height varies significantly, ranging from low growing forms as little as .3 meters (1 foot) tall up to towering forms of up to 2.5 meters (8 feet) tall.

The stems of the plant are slender, flexible, and smooth (hairless) or canescent (fuzzy).

The leaves range from one to 10 centimeters long and are divided with 2-4 threadlike lobes less than five centimeters long. Their leaves are hairy and light green to gray in color; the margins of the leaves curl under.

The flower clusters are leafy, narrow, and sparse. The pistillate flowers range in number from 6 to 10 and the disk flowers range from 15 to 30, and they are generally yellowish in appearance, but sometimes red.

The fruits produced are resinous achenes up to 1.5 millimeters long.

It can get weedy, but its foliage is a beautiful silvery color when backlit by the sun.

Wildlife Supported: California Gnatcatcher, Quail, various other birds, insects

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Butterfly Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens

Site Type: Dry slopes and flats, often south facing.

## Sugar Sumac *Rhus ovata*



Rhus ovata, also known as Sugar Bush or Sugar Sumac, is an evergreen shrub to small tree that grows in chaparral in dry canyons and slopes below 1300 meter in Southern California, Arizona and Baja California

Its size ranges from 2 - 10 meter tall and it has a rounded appearance, often growing wider than tall.

The twigs of Rhus ovata are thick and reddish in color.

Its foliage consists of dark green, leathery, ovate leaves that are folded along the midrib. The leaf arrangement is alternate.

Its flower clusters which occur at the ends of branches consist of small, 5-petaled, flowers that appear to be pink, but upon closer examination actually have white to pink petals with red sepals.

The fruit is a small reddish, sticky drupe, about 6 - 8 millimeter in diameter that is said to be edible.

The biggest downside of this plant is that it can get huge, often more than 30 feet wide

Wildlife Supported: Insects are attracted to the flowers. Birds are attracted to the fruits.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens

Site Type: Chaparral slopes, often south facing, often very hot and dry, from just inland of the coast to the mountains and desert transition



## Sycamore *Platanus racemose*



Western Sycamore is a species of plane tree known by several other common names, including California sycamore, California plane, and Aliso.

It is native to California and Baja California, where it grows in canyons, floodplains, and along streams in several types of habitat

This large tree grows to 35 meters in height, but is more commonly 20-25 meters, with a trunk diameter of up to one meter.

The trunk generally divides into two or more large trunks splitting into many branches.

The bark is beautiful, with areas of white, pinkish gray and pale tan, with older bark becoming darker and peeling away.

The leaves can be extremely large, up to 10 in. wide.

The plant is deciduous, with leaves turning an attractive yellow and orangish brown in the fall.

The rather plain-looking flowers are 1 in. spheres that becomes seed balls.

Wildlife Supported: Important for Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly and other butterflies, hummingbirds,

Common uses: Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Almost always found in wetland-riparian settings such as stream sides, canyon bottoms with more moisture below 4,000 ft. from northern Central Valley to coastal San Diego County and Baja. It is often found adjacent to drier habitats such as chaparral, valley grassland, mixed woodlands or evergreen forests

## Thickleaf Yerba Santa    *Eriodictyon Crassifolium*



*Eriodictyon crassifolium*, or thick-leaved Yerba Santa, is a shrub in the Borage family (formerly in the Hydrophyllaceae or Waterleaf family).

It is endemic to California, where it grows in several types of habitats in the coastal and inland hills and mountains below 6,000 ft., mainly in the southern part of the state.

It is a hairy to woolly shrub growing one to three meters tall.

The leaves are up to 17 centimeters long by 6 wide, gray-green with a coat of woolly hairs, and sometimes toothed along the edges.

The lavender, bell shaped flowers consisting of 5 fused petals are held in a cluster at the top of the upright stems.

Wildlife Supported: Hummingbirds, several types of butterflies, other insects

Common uses: Hedges, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Slopes, washes, canyons, mesas, and bluffs as a component of shrub lands from the coast to the foothills between Santa Barbara and San Diego Counties. At higher elevations inland, also found with Pinyon-Juniper woodland

## White Alder *Alnus rhombifolia*



White Alder is a member of the Birch family (Betulaceae) native to western North America, from Washington east to western Montana and south to San Diego County, occurring at altitudes of 100-2400 meters.

It is a medium-sized deciduous tree growing to 15-25 meters (rarely to 35 meters) tall, with pale gray bark, smooth on young trees, becoming scaly on old trees.

The leaves are alternate, rhombic to narrow elliptic, 4-10 centimeters long and 2-5 centimeters broad, with a finely serrated margin and a rounded to acute tip; they are thinly hairy below.

The flowers are produced in catkins. The male catkins are pendulous, slender, 3-10 centimeter long, yellowish, and produced in clusters of two to seven

The female catkins are ovoid, when mature in autumn 10-22 millimeter long and 7-10 millimeter broad, on a 1-10 millimeter stem, superficially resembling a small conifer cone.

Wildlife Supported: Butterflies and moths

Common uses: Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

Site Type: Usually found in wetland such as permanent stream edges, often adjacent to other vegetation such as chaparral, redwood forest, pine forest, and foothill woodland



## White Sage     *Salvia apiana*



White sage, bee sage, or sacred sage, is a cornerstone species of the coastal sage scrub habitat of Southern California and Baja California.

White sage is fragrant, with silver-white leaves, and clusters of white flowers with lavender streaks. Young leaves start off green and turn white as they get older.

White sage is deeply rooted in the cultures and lifeways of indigenous communities of Southern California and northern Baja, the only region this sage naturally occurs in the world.

It is also an important food source for bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Larger bees, notably carpenter bees, are the predominant pollinators of white sage.

Wild white sage populations are currently under intense threat by development, smudge stick poaching, climate change, drought, and wildfire.

Common uses: Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens

Site Type: Dry slopes, foothills, canyons, and mesas of Southern California and Baja California, Mexico, in the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges. A major component of chaparral, coastal sage scrub and inland sage scrub plant communities, including desert transition zone. At higher elevations it is sometimes found in openings in pine forest.

## Yucca     *Hesperoyucca whipplei*



*Hesperoyucca whipplei* (syn. *Yucca whipplei*) (chaparral yucca, Our Lord's candle, Spanish bayonet, Quixote yucca, common yucca, foothill yucca) is a species of flowering plant closely related to, and formerly usually included in, the genus *Yucca*.

It is native to southern California, United States and Baja California, Mexico, where it occurs mainly in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland plant communities at altitudes of 300-2500 meter.

It produces a stemless cluster of long, rigid leaves which end in a sharp point. The leaf edges are finely saw-toothed. It often grows in sandy washes in the desert or inland valleys.

The spikes bear a spectacular display of hundreds of bell shaped white to purplish flowers. The fruit is a dry winged capsule, which splits open at maturity to release the seeds.

**It was used extensively by Native Americans.** Fiber from the leaves was used for sandals, cloth, and rope.

Young flowers are edible but may be bitter.

The Kumeyaay of San Diego County boil them in water and then pour off the water three times before eating them. The stalk of the plant can be eaten. Fruits can be eaten raw, roasted, or pounded into meal. Seeds were roasted and eaten whole or ground into flour.

Wildlife Supported: Attracts the Yucca Moth, which co-evolved with this plant. Also attracts California Thrashers

Common uses: Groundcovers, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens

Site Type: Dry slopes