



Photo by Arvind Kumar

***Easy-to-Grow and
Drought Tolerant Native Plants :
20+ Proven Winners for Your Garden***

Nancy McClenny, revised from the original version
written by Arvind Kumar, Past President, CNPS-SCV chapter



Tonight's Agenda

- Introduction
- Myths
- Benefits of native plants
- 20 + easy, California native plants



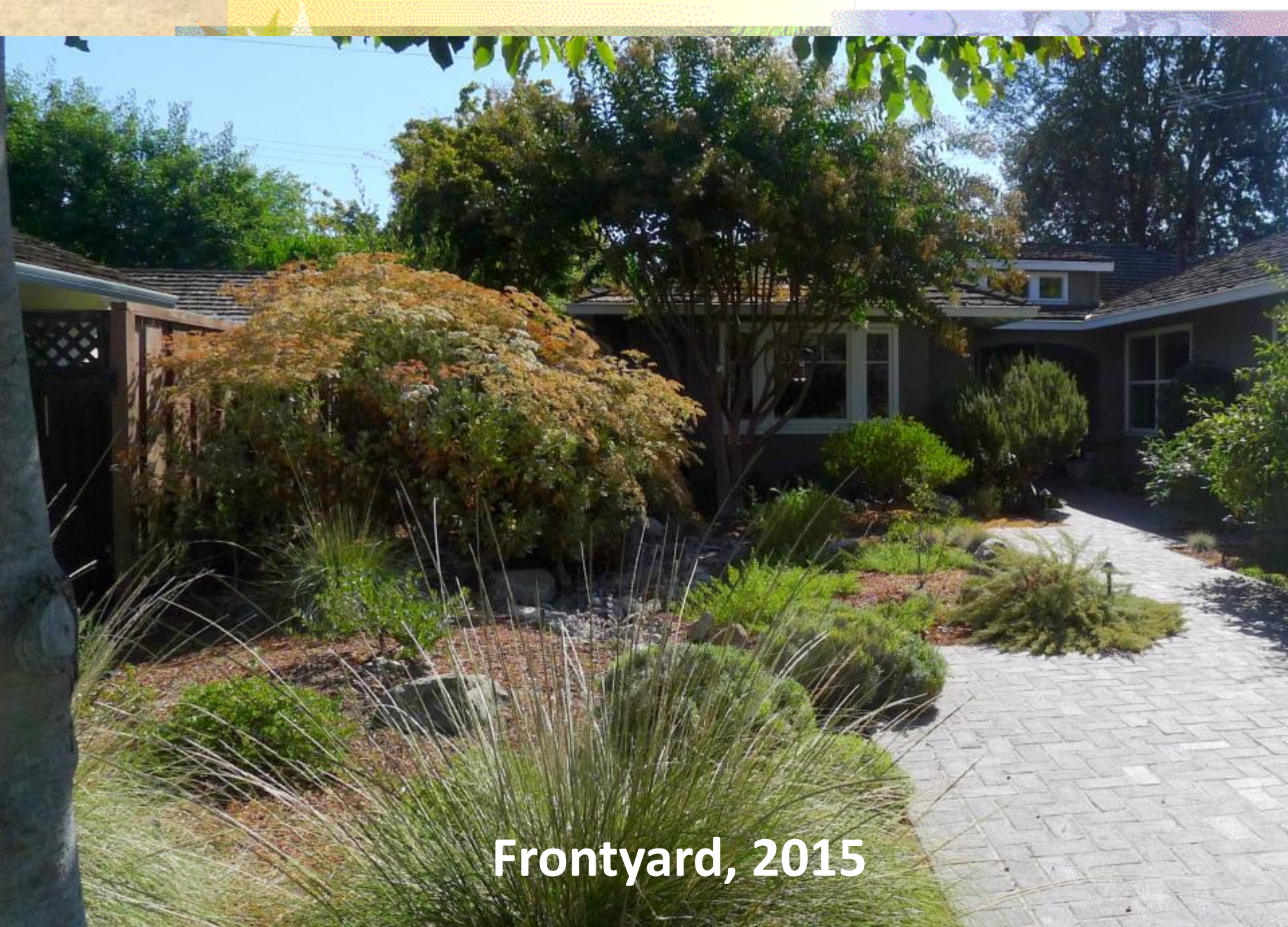
Introduction: The Mission of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is...

To conserve California native plants and their natural habitats.

*To increase **understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.***



Frontyard in 1998



Frontyard, 2015



Backyard in 1998



Backyard, 2015



Myth:

Native plants are unattractive.

- Early settlers wrote glowing accounts of California flora.
- Plant hunters, including David Douglas, started visiting California in the 18th century, documenting its flora and taking seeds back to Europe.
- Appreciation of our native flora was lost to development, agriculture, water-intensive lawns and the imported plants we had learned to love.

Wildflower bloom at Carrizo Plain National Monument

<http://theodorepayne.org/education/wildflower-hotline/>



This image by Lloyd Chambers: <http://diglloyd.com/previous/FlowerMedley.jpg>

Grasses can be gorgeous?



Paseo de Peralta St, Santa Fe, NM, October, 2015

Local Field Hikes: The Best Education



Myth: Native plants are hard to grow.

Any plant does poorly if its needs aren't met!

Plants should be EASY to grow in the ecosystem in which they evolved.

Discover the plants that belong in your local ecosystem:

- CNPS-SCV field trips
- [www. Calflora.org](http://www.calflora.org), click on “What grows here”
- Corelli, *Checklist of...Vascular Plants of SCCo/SMCo*



Myth: Native plants are hard to find...and expensive.

Local CA native nurseries:

- Acterra Nursery, Palo Alto (See http://www.acterra.org/programs/stewardship/native_plant_nursery.html)
- Middlebrook Gardens, 76 Race St., San Jose, call for hours
- Native Revival Nursery, 2600 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos
- Yerba Buena Nursery, 12511 San Mateo Rd. (Hwy 92), Half Moon Bay

General nurseries with some CA natives:

- Almaden Valley Nursery, San Jose
- Annie's Annuals, Richmond (mail order available)
- Payless Nursery near Aborn and King Roads in San Jose
- Summerwinds Nursery in Palo Alto and off Winchester in Campbell

Other sources:

- Seed companies: www.larnerseeds.com and others (mail order available)
- Annual CNPS-SCV plant sales at Hidden Villa, Los Altos, this year on **October 17 2015**
- Free annual CNPS-SCV seed and cutting exchange

For a complete list, go to:

cnps.org/cnps/grownative/nurseries.php#bay



***Myth: If a plant is a California native,
it must be drought-tolerant. Right?***

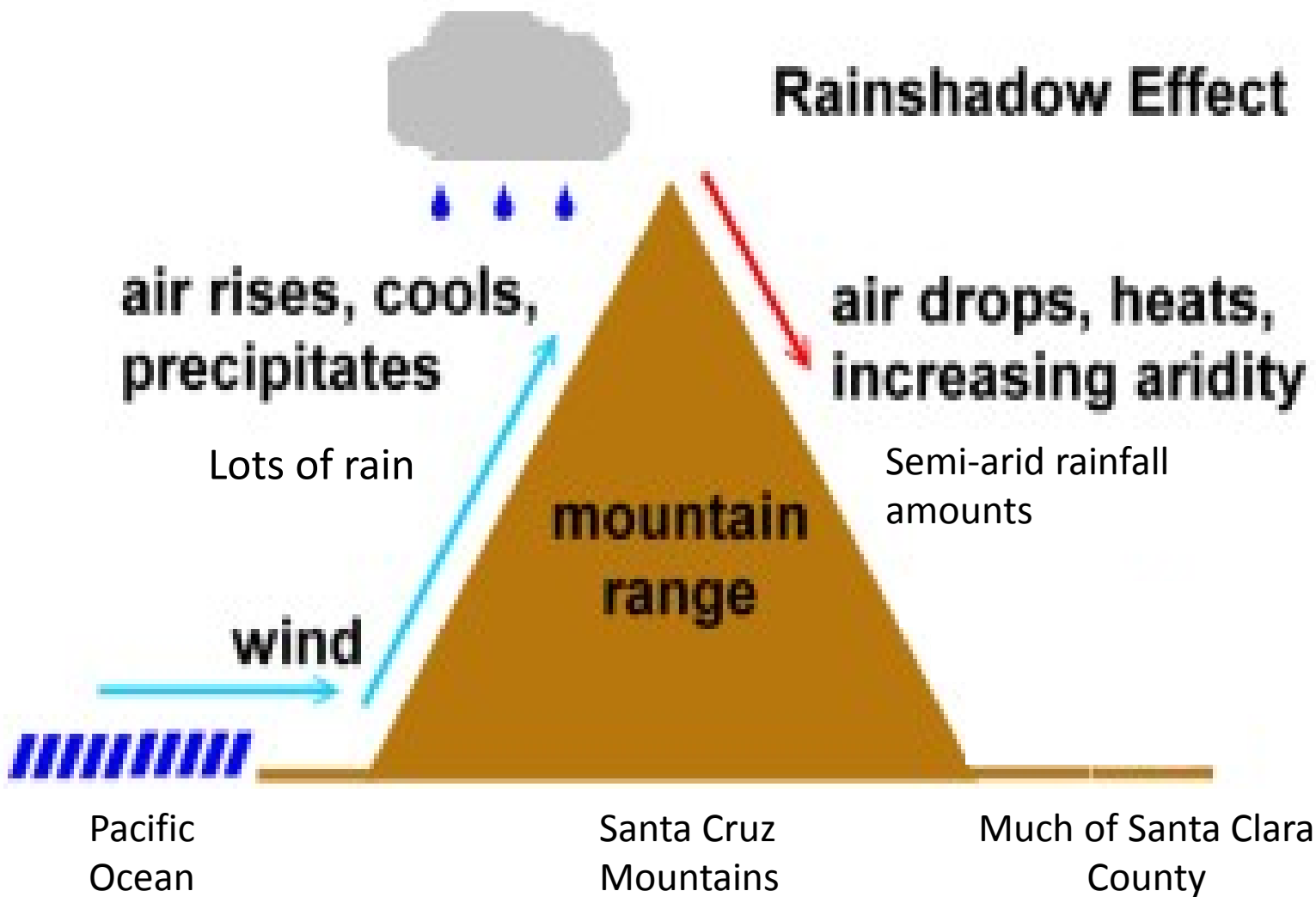
- All young plants, native or not, require “regular” water until established in a garden.
- Once established, native plants have evolved to survive on the natural precipitation **of their native range.**
- A CA native that is drought-tolerant in Eureka, CA (40.0” rain/yr) will likely NOT be drought-tolerant in Bakersfield (6.7” rain/yr).



Summer Watering Schedule for Drought Tolerant Natives*

- 1st year: once a week
- 2nd year: once in 2 weeks
- 3rd year: once in 3 weeks
- 4th year and later: once a month or as needed

* This schedule also applies to recent dry winters.



Select Waterwise Natives

- Many **established native plants** look fine with just **once-a-month** watering in summer.
- **Some native plants resent ANY summer water** (e.g. oak, coyote bush, flannel bush, woolly blue curls), except in exceptionally dry years.
- Summer water for established natives may improve appearance but may **reduce life span**.





Benefits

Less water use! Rebates NOW.

**Naturally diverse, beneficial, and
beautiful ecosystem**

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (SCVWD)

Increased Landscape Rebates --ACT NOW

What is the rebate amount?

- *Temporary* increase in rebates through 12/31/2015.
- 2015 applications are limited to \$50,000.
- Receive \$2.00/sq ft (up from \$1) to convert high-water-use to low-water-use landscape using approved plants and/or irrigation equipment. Some cities, e.g. Morgan Hill, offer higher rebates.

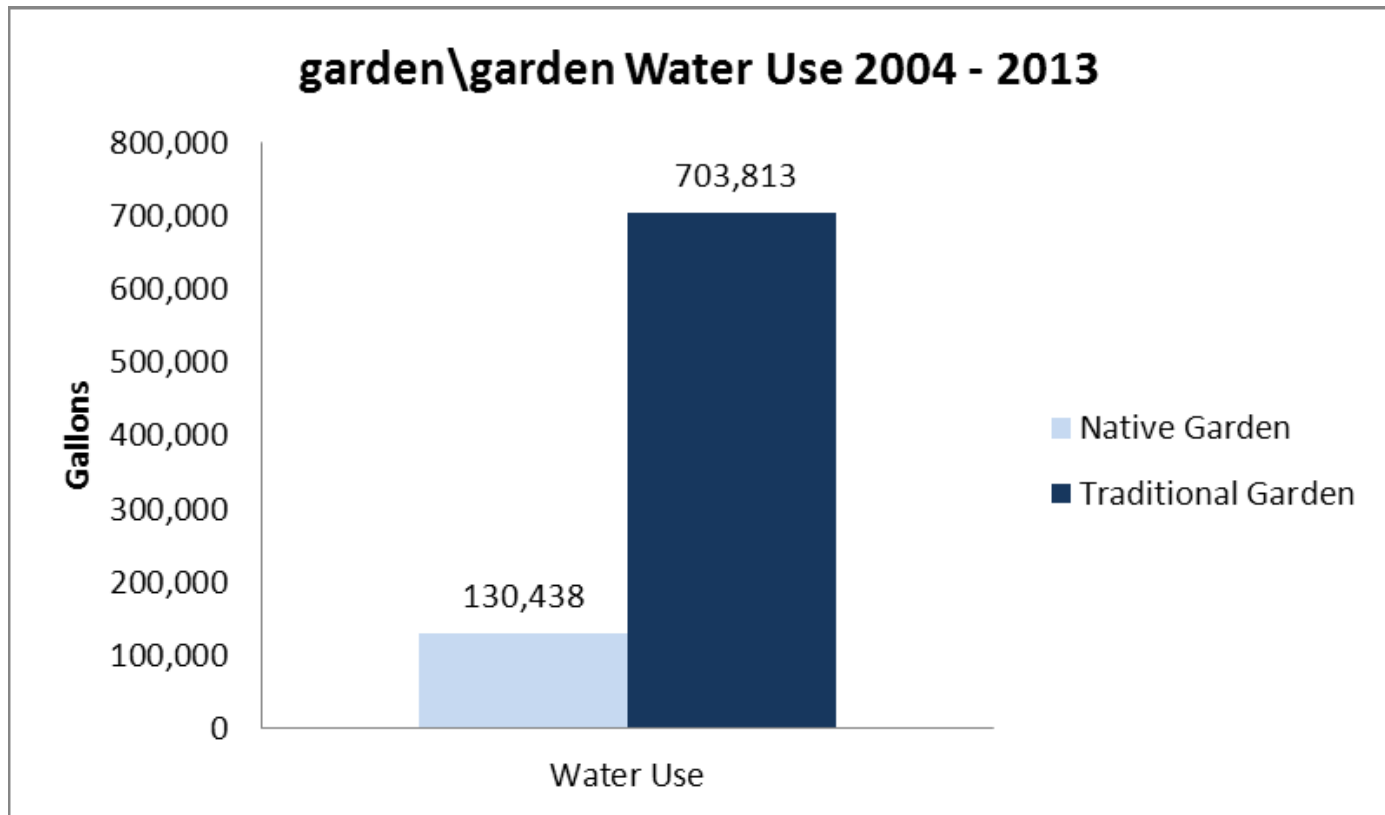
- **How do I qualify?**
- Citizen of Santa Clara County
- Make purchases *after* receiving a “Notice to Proceed” from SCVWD.

How do I start?

- See program details at:
<http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/LandscapeRebateProgram.aspx>
- Call Water Conservation Hotline at **(408) 630-2554** with questions.

I. Lower water bills:

Garden /Garden Study from City of Santa Monica



Reference: Click on “garden-garden 2013” at the end of the first paragraph at:

<http://www.smgov.net/departments/ose/categories/landscape/garden-garden.aspx>



II. A Healthier Ecosystem:

Local native plants generally do not require:

Pesticides


Fertilizers

Herbicides

III. Innate Survival Strategies



Hummingbird Sage
(Hairy, resinous leaves)



Giant Chalk Dudleya
(White, succulent leaves)



Mountain Mahogany
(Leaves vertical when stressed)

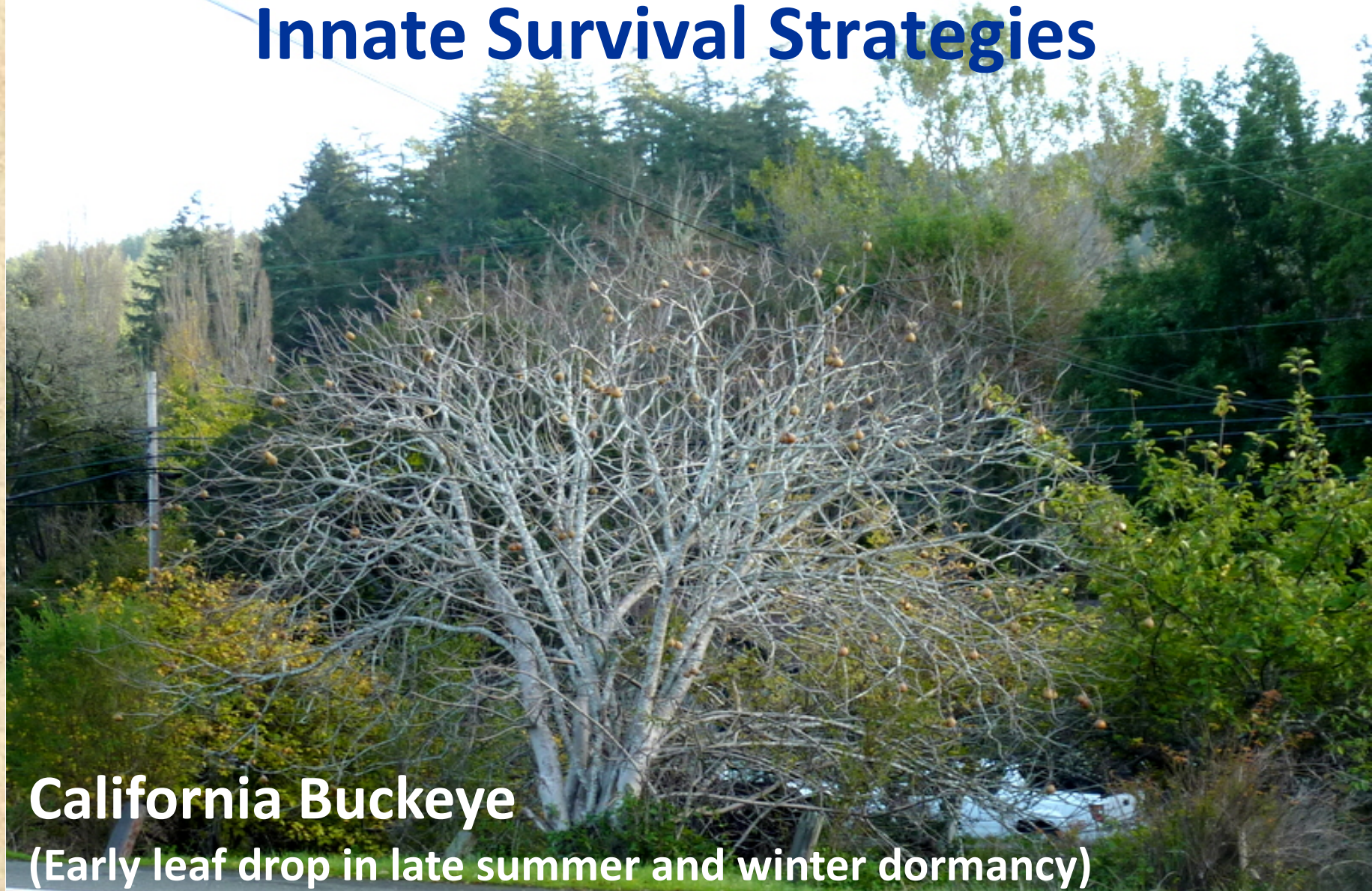


White Sage
(Small leaves in summer, big ones in winter.)



Coast Live Oak
(Edges of leaves curled under when stressed)

Innate Survival Strategies



California Buckeye

(Early leaf drop in late summer and winter dormancy)

IV. Habitat Value

Plants are at the bottom of the food chain.

Native flora have coevolved with native fauna over millenia.

Some types of fauna depend on very specific types of flora.



Photo by Arvind Kumar

**Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar
on the California pipevine, Putah Creek**



Photo by Arvind Kumar

**Pale Tiger Swallowtail
on a narrow-leaved milkweed, Mt Hamilton Range**



**Getting Started:
20+ Easy-to-Grow Plants***



ANNUALS

- **RUBY CHALICE CLARKIA** (*Clarkia rubicunda*)
- **ELEGANT CLARKIA** (*Clarkia unguiculata*)
- **CALIFORNIA POPPY** (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- **GLOBE GILIA** (*Gilia capitata*)
- **MEADOWFOAM** (*Limnanthes douglasii*)



Photo by Arvind Kumar

RUBY CHALICE CLARKIA

Clarkia rubicunda (KLAR-kee-a ru-bi-CUN-da)



Clarkia amoena

Photo by N McClenny



Photo by Arvind Kumar



Photo by N McClenny

ELEGANT CLARKIA
Clarkia unguiculata
(KLAR-kee-a un-gwik-you-LAY-ta)



Photo by Arvind Kumar



CALIFORNIA POPPY

Eschscholzia californica (esh-SHOLE-tzee-a)



Photo by Arvind Kumar



© Charles E Jones, 2003

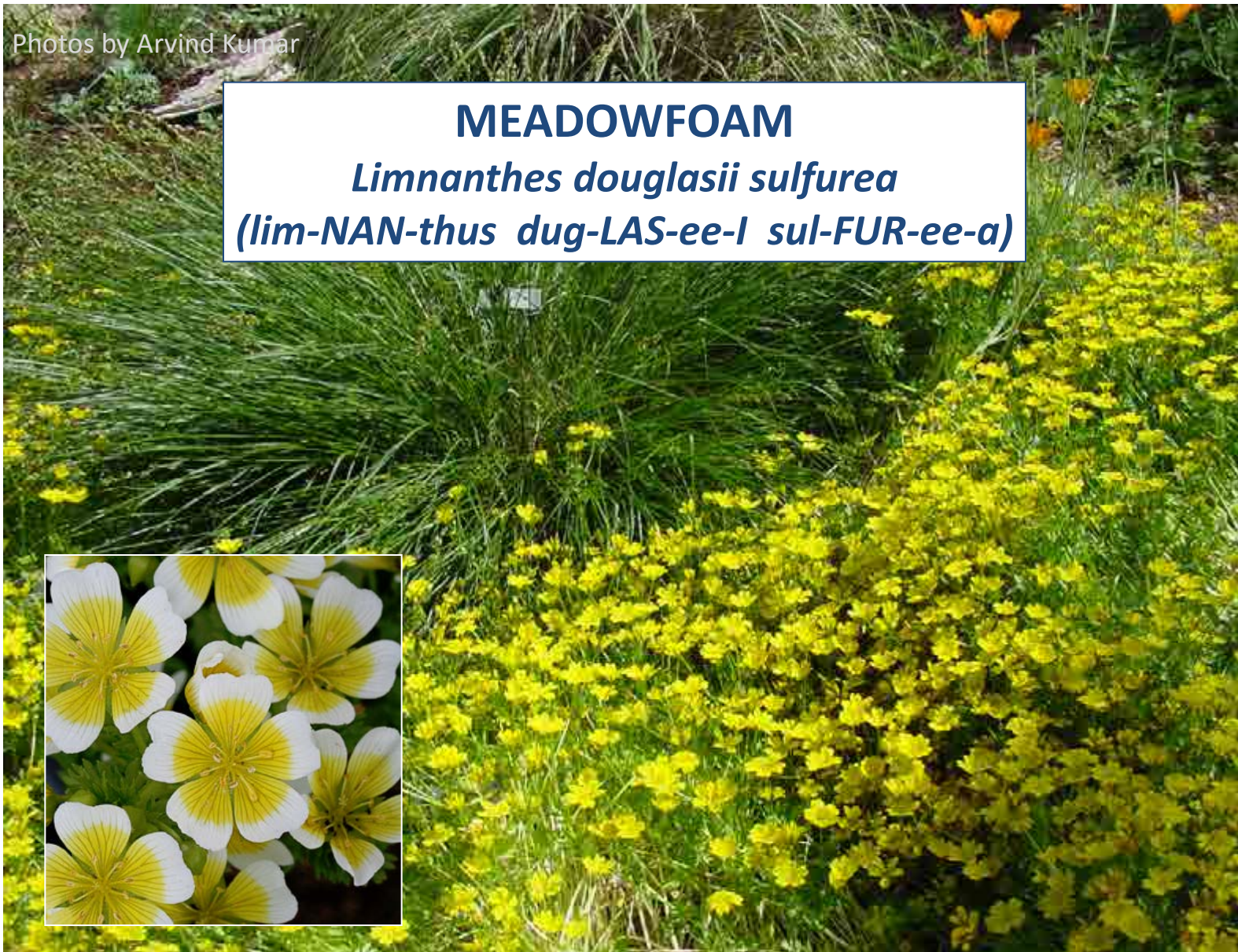
GLOBE GILIA

Gilia capitata (JEE-leea ca-pi-TAY-ta)

Photos by Arvind Kumar

MEADOWFOAM

Limnanthes douglasii sulfurea
(lim-NAN-thus dug-LAS-ee-I sul-FUR-ee-a)



Alternative yellow wildflower:
Layia platyglossa (*Tidy Tips*)



Photo from <http://www.larnerseeds.com/product/tidy-tips>

Photos by N McClenny



BONUS PLANT: COMMON MADIA
(*Madia elegans*) Blooms in summer.



Wildflower Care

- **Water regularly** including winter weeks when there is no rain.
- **Weed regularly.** Native wildflowers can't compete with invasive annual weed species.
- **Guard against snails and slugs** with regular hand-picking, traps (e.g. beer), barriers (e.g. copper strips), and baits (iron phosphate products such as Sluggo)*.
- **Harvest seed** if desirable.

* For details, see <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html>



Perennials

- **YARROW** (*Achillea millefolium*)
- **CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA** (*Epilobium canum* and *E. septentrionale*)
- **WILD NAKED BUCKWHEAT** (*Eriogonum nudum* ‘Ella Nelson’s Yellow’)
- **DOUGLAS IRIS** (*Iris douglasiana*)
- **FOOTHILL PENSTEMON** (*Penstemon heterophyllus*)



'Moonshine'
(non-native yarrow)

Photo by N-McClenny

Photo by Arvind Kumar



YARROW

Achillea millefolium

(ak-ILL-ee-a mil-eh-FO-lee-um)



CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

Epilobium septentrionale 'Select Mattole'

Photo by N McClenny

NAKED WILD BUCKWHEAT

(*Eriogonum nudum* 'Ella Nelson's Yellow')



Photos by N McClenny

DOUGLAS IRIS (*Iris douglasiana*)



Pacific Coast Hybrids

Photos by N McClenny

Photo by Armind Kumar



FOOTHILL PENSTEMON

(Penstemon heterophyllus)



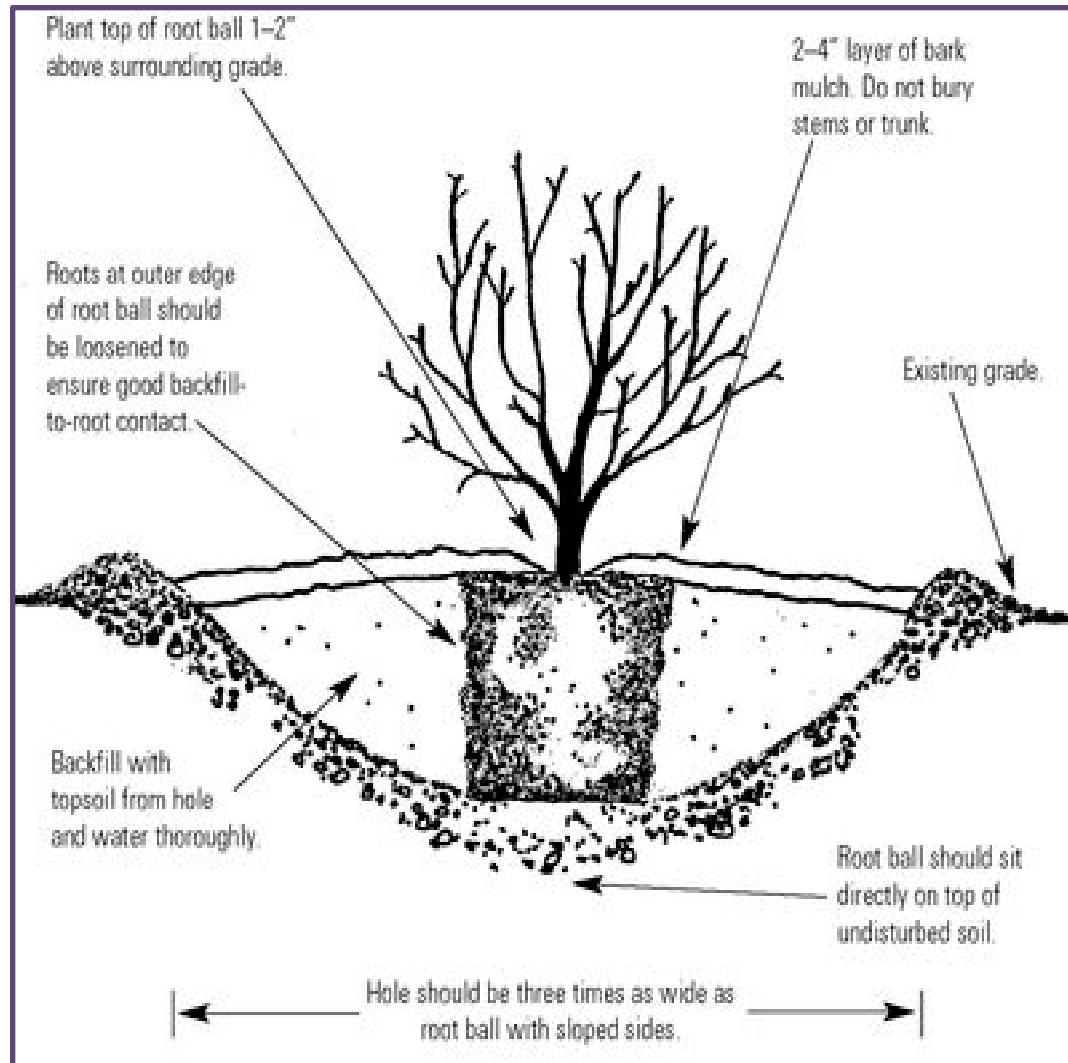
Photo by N McClenny



Photo by N McClenny

BONUS PLANT: Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)

How to Plant Nursery Stock





SHRUBS

- **COYOTE BUSH** (*Baccharis pilularis*)
- **CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT** (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
- **STICKY MONKEYFLOWER** (*Mimulus aurantiacus*)
- **COFFEEBERRY** (*Frangula* [formerly *Rhamnus*] *californica*)
- **WHITE or PINK-FLOWERING CURRANT** (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*)

Coyote Bush

(*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point'
and other cultivars)



Photo by N McClenny



CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

Eriogonum fasciculatum

(Er-ee-OG-an-um fa-sik-yoo-LAY-tum)

Photo by Arvind Kumar

Photo by N McCleenny



Photo by Arvind Kumar



Photo by N McClenny

COFFEEBERRY

*(Frangula californica,
formerly known as Rhamnus californica)*



STICKY MONKEYFLOWER

Mimulus aurantiacus

(MIM-yoo-lus aw-ran-TIE-a-kus)

Photo by Arvind Kumar

Mimulus



'Jelly Bean Orange'



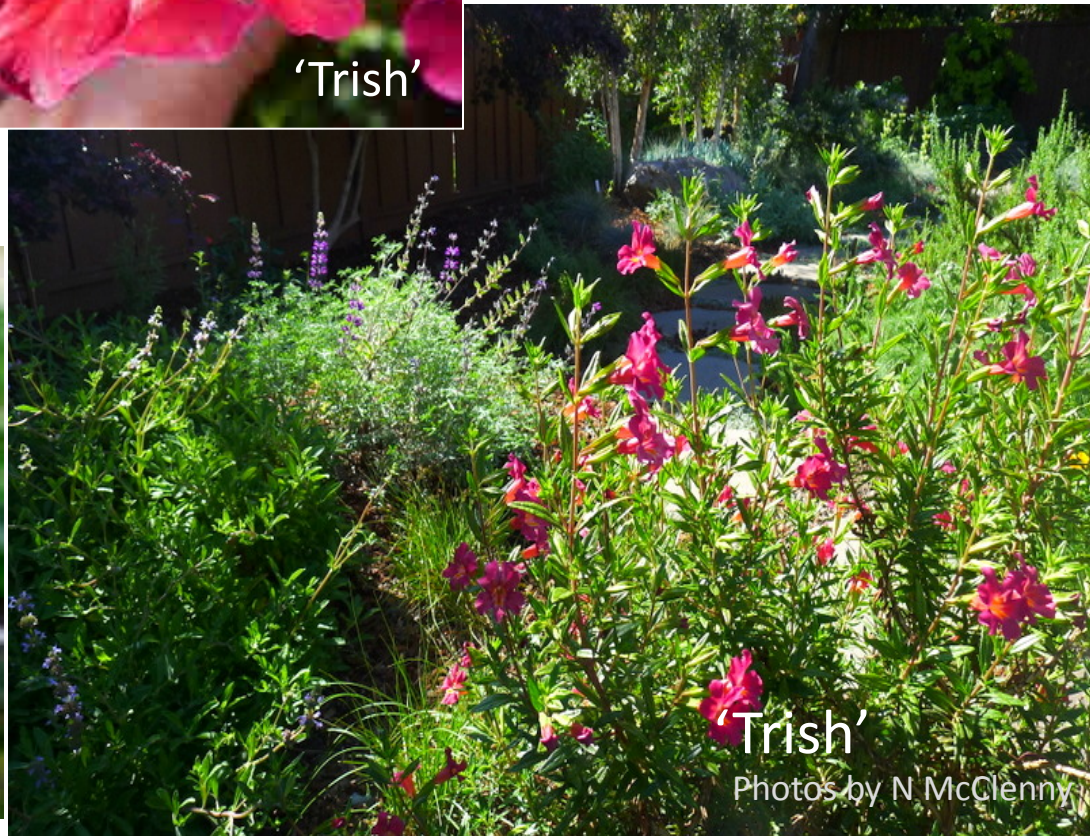
'Trish'



'Jelly Bean White'



M. aurantiacus var *grandiflorus*



'Trish'

Photos by N. McClenny



Pink (or White)-flowering Currant
(Ribes sanguineum v. glutinosum 'Inverness White')

Photos by N McClenny



Trees, Group I

DR. HURD MANZANITA (*Arctostaphylos* 'Dr. Hurd')

CALIFORNIA LILIC (*Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman')

SILK TASSEL BUSH (*Garrya elliptica* 'James Roof')

TOYON (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

HOLLY-LEAVED CHERRY (*Prunus ilicifolia* var *illicifolia*)

DR HURD MANZANITA

(Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd')





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Photo by N McClenny

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'



Silk Tassel Bush

(*Garrya elliptica* 'James Roof')



Photos by N McClenny,
Castle Rock State Park, 2/2011

Photo by Arvind Kumar

TOYON (Heteromeles arbutifolia)

Toyon

On Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto, and
at Foothill College's "Native Hill" (insert below)



Photos by N McClenny

Holly-leaf Cherry

(*Prunus ilicifolia*)



Photos by N McClenny

Holly-leaf Cherry

(Prunus ilicifolia)

IN THE WILD, Santa Monica Mtns



All photos on this slide at <http://www.smmflowers.org/bloom/bloom>.



<http://www.smmflowers.org/bloom/bloom>



Bonus Plant:



TREES, Group II

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE (*Aesculus californica*)

WESTERN REDBUD (*Cercis occidentalis*)

COAST LIVE OAK (*Quercus agrifolia*)

VALLEY OAK (*Quercus lobata*)

BLUE ELDERBERRY (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*)

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE

(Aesculus californica)



Photo by Arvind Kumar

Western Redbud

(*Cercis occidentalis*)



Coast Live Oak

(Quercus agrifolia)



Photo by Arvind Kumar



Photo by N McClenny



Photo by Arvind Kumar

VALLEY OAK (*Quercus lobata*)



Photo by Arvind Kumar

Photo by N McClenny

BLUE ELDERBERRY

(Sambucus nigra ssp caerulea, formerly S. mexicana)



PLAN--AND PLANT FOR A BETTER WORLD.

***J.C.RAULSTON,
Horticulturalist, Professor, and founding
Director of the NCSU J.C. Ralston
Arboretum, Raleigh, N.C.***

