



SacValley CNPS Plant List Native Plants Suitable for Sacramento Area & Native Plant Sources/Nurseries

There are a number of California native plants that do well as landscape plants in Sacramento area gardens. Here is a short list¹ of suggested native perennials for our area, along with a list of references for learning more about gardening with natives and where to purchase them.

TREES

California buckeye, *Aesculus californica*. Deciduous shrub to mounding tree, 15-30 feet high, with smooth, white to gray bark. Deep green leaves are palmately divided into 5-7 leaflets. Flowers are white, fragrant and in showy spike-like clusters. Large pear-shaped, hard fruit/seed (poisonous) in late summer. Summer deciduous (will retain leaves longer if given supplemental water), usually first to leaf out in spring. Native to dry foothills of Sierra and Coast Ranges. Prefers well-drained soil and limited summer water.

Big-leaf maple, *Acer macrophyllum*. Round-topped, deciduous, with open branching and greenish-tan bark, 18-100 feet high. Roundish, deeply lobed leaves, light green, turning pale yellow or golden in the fall, or deeper orange-yellow in the mountains. Flowers in racemes, pale green-yellow. Native to stream banks below 5,000 feet elevation and moist canyons. Does best with some shade or in a north exposure. Once established, can be somewhat drought tolerant.

Western redbud, *Cercis occidentalis*. Deciduous shrub to small tree, 6-16 feet high, developing many branches from the base. Heart-shaped leaves emerge light green. Pea-shaped flowers emerge prior to leaves, March-April, most commonly magenta. Thin seedpods develop shortly after flowering, 2-3 inches long. Native to much of the chaparral and foothill woodlands of central to northern California, foothill and Coast Ranges. Prefers well-drained soils but will tolerate clay conditions. Will accept watering or limited watering in summer and is oak root fungus-resistant.

Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*. A dense evergreen shrub, 8-15 feet high and as wide, or a multi-trunk dome tree, 15-25 feet high. Large leathery leaves, 1-4 inches long. Clusters of small white flowers occur July to September. Large bunches of showy red berries mature December to February. Native to chaparral foothills and has good tolerance of many conditions, including heat, smog, wind, light or heavy soils. Can become highly drought tolerant but will take summer water. Responds well to pruning.

SHRUBS

Wild Lilac, *Ceanothus sp.* There are many horticultural varieties that are suitable for gardens. Some will do well in our area. Forms are from mounding groundcover to large shrubs. They have white or blue flower clusters. Need good drainage.

Coyote Bush, *Baccharis pilularis*. Mounding varieties make a good background. Full sun. Drought tolerant and evergreen. Looks better with monthly water during the summer.

Western Redbud, *Cercis occidentalis*. 6-16 feet high. A good accent shrub with magenta pea-like flowers that bloom before it leafs out in spring. Heart-shaped leaves. Pods are attractive in late summer. Deciduous. Resistant to oak root fungus.

Oregon grape, *Mahonia* or *Berberis sp.* Several species. They have shiny, spine-tipped leaves, yellow flowers and clusters of berries. Foliage turns bronze in the winter. *Berberis (Mahonia) repens*, Creeping Mahonia. Spreading shrub, 1 to 3 feet high. Good groundcover in sun or partial shade. *Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium*. Oregon grape. Shrub to 6 feet. Shown in Sunset. Resistant to oak root fungus.

California Wild Rose, *Rosa californica*. Spreading shrub grows to 4 feet tall with spiny stems. Flowers pink and fragrant followed by colorful red hips. Attracts birds. Partial shade, drought tolerant.

Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, *Ribes speciosum*. Spiny branches 3 to 6 feet long. Red, pendulous tubular flowers attract hummingbirds. Is somewhat summer deciduous, but some summer water will make it nearly evergreen. Partial shade, good drainage.

¹ Original information compiled by: Melinda M. Rivasplata, Plant Sale Coordinator, and updated by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, Co-Chair Old City Cemetery Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Sacramento Valley CNPS. (5/7/03)

Western Spice Bush, *Caulycanthus occidentalis*. Handsome shrub with unusual red bracted flowers and fragrant smelling leaves. Deciduous. Grows well in semi-shaded locations. Will tolerate summer water.

Red-twig dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera*. Small shrub with inconspicuous flowers, deciduous with red twigs making a nice accent in the winter. Likes some summer water. The dogwood probably got its name because its bark was used to treat mangy canines in England. The term may also be a corruption of "dagwood", trees used to make skewers or daggers.

Manzanitas, There are a number of varieties of **manzanitas** (*Arctostaphylos sp.*) suitable for area gardens; from low growing groundcovers to large shrubs. Generally, they have gray-green leaves, are evergreen with small pink bell-shaped flowers in the spring, and small berries in the summer. The bark is red and peeling.

GRASSES

Deer grass, *Muhlenbergia rigens*. This handsome bunch grass forms a clump 4 feet tall and wide. Gray green to straw colored flower spikes last most of the year. Will tolerate some clay in soils. Used as basket making material. Full sun and drought tolerant.

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Books

- Glenn Keator. 1990. Complete Garden Guide to Native Perennials of California. Chronicle Books.
- Marjorie Schmidt. 1980. Growing California Native Plants. University of California Press.
- Judith Lerner Lowry, 1999 Gardening With a Wild Heart, Restoring Calif. Native Landscapes at Home. UC Press.
- Mark Francis & Andreas Reimann. 1999. The California Landscape Garden- Ecology, Culture and Design. UC Press
- Barbara Stevens & Nancy Conner. 1990. Where on Earth: A Guide to Specialty Nurseries and other Resources for California Gardeners. Heyday Books.

Sacramento Valley area native plant sources/nurseries

- **Cache Creek Nursery**, 530-796-3521 Limited selection of natives.
- **Cornflower Farms**, P.O. Box 896, 9811 Sheldon Road, Elk Grove, CA 95759, 916/689-1015. Wholesale nursery w/retail sales the 2nd Saturday of the month.
- **Farwest Bulb Farm**, 14499 Lower Colfax Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945, 530/272-4775, Mail order bulbs, native to central and northern CA. Web site: www.californianativebulbs.com.
- **Flower Mill Nursery**, 9280 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, CA 95650, 916/652-8593 Limited selections of natives.
- **Golden Pond Nursery**, 652-5459 Limited selections of natives.
- **Hartland Nursery**, 13737 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove, CA 95690, hartrestore@citilink.net 916/775-4021. Wholesale and retail nursery, open by appointment.
- **Hedgerow Farms**, 21740 Country Road 88, Winters, CA 95694, 530/662-6847, Wholesale/retail seed, container grasses, sedges, & forbes. Web site: www.hedgerowfarms.com.
- **Maple Leaf Nursery**, 4236 Greenstone Road, Placerville, CA 95667, 530/626-8371 Limited selections of natives www.mapleleafnursery.com.
- **Native Here Nursery**, 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA 94708, 510/549-0211. CNPS run nursery, Open Friday & Saturday, call ahead.
- **Restoration Resources Nursery**, 3868 Cincinnati Ave., Rocklin, CA 95776, 916/408-2990 Web site: www.restoration-resources.net
- **Sierra View Nursery**, 3170 Delmar Ave., Loomis, CA 05650, 916/652-3908, Limited selections of natives.
- **Steve Dowty**, PO Box 563, Diamond Springs, CA 95619, perigyn@directcon.net, 530/626-4833, Foothill annuals and perennials through local CNPS chapter sales and by arrangement.
- **Wapumne Native Plant Nursery Co.**, 807 Mt. Pleasant Road, Lincoln, CA 95648, 916/645-9737



The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, has meetings featuring speakers, books and seeds for sale on the second Wednesday of the month, September through June (except December). Meetings take place at 7pm at the Shepards Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento. The CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter Plant Sale is the fourth Saturday of September at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. Visit the website at www.sacvalleycnps.org for more information and contacts.