

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS





## CA Native Plants



Produced by: Green Media Creations

## Workshop Agenda

- **Importance of plant selection**
  - Water consumption
  - Other selection factors
- **Low water use plants**
  - California natives
  - Water-efficient plants
- **Benefits**
  - California natives - re-establish native habitats
  - Water-efficient plants - more availability



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# Plant Selection

## Items to Consider in Plant Selection

- Planting
- Pruning
- Watering
- Nomenclature
- Hydrozoning
- Climate
- Proper Size and Spacing
- Growth Rate
- Hardiness
- Root System
- Flower and Fruit
- Pest and Diseases

# Plant Selection

- Proper Size & Spacing





## Planting Guidelines

### Planting

- Water the plant before planting
- The Planting holes must be twice the diameter of the container and 1-2 inches higher than the root-ball.
- When planting, the top of the root-ball must not be lower than grade level.



### Backfilling

- Do not compact the soil after filling the hole.
- Add compost or fertilizer after planting
- Add mulch around plant or tree
- Water the plant immediately



## Planting Guidelines

### Proper Planting

- The proper technique can make for the best results



## General Watering Guidelines

- **Water plants immediately before and after planting.**
  - Watering the day before is ideal
- **Do not create a berm around the base of plant**
  - California native plants do not like water puddling up around the base of the trunk
- **Water plant material daily or every other day so the root-ball does not dry out.**
  - The soil should not be soggy, just moist



## Nomenclature

- **Binomial System**
  - Genus
  - Species
  - Cultivar vs. Variety
  - Common name
- **Example:**
  - Botanical Name: *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'
  - Common Name: Japanese Maple



## Indian Hawthorn (Genus: *Raphiolepis* Species: *indica*)



*Raphiolepis indica*



*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara'

## Nomenclature

- **Variety**

- Naturally occurs in nature
- *Cercis canadensis* alba (white flower) or *Cercis canadensis* var. alba



- **Cultivar:**

- Intentionally bred
- *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (Purple spring foliage & pinkish purple flowers)





# Hydrozoning

- **Group plants with similar water use**
  - Refer to WUCOLS (Water Use Classifications of Landscape Species)
  - A plant's drought tolerance can be measured with a plant factor (Kc)

High Kc = .70 - 1.0	Turf & other plants
Medium Kc = .40 - .60	Shrubs
Low Kc = .00 - .30	Drought Tolerant

# California Native Plants

## Benefits

- Plant communities
- Establishing
- Water requirement
- Different seasonal watering
- Reestablishing native habitats
- Little or no watering required
- No fertilizing needed
- No need for chemical pest control
- No soil amendments required



# California Native Plants

## Using California Native Plants

### Native plant communities

- Look at nearby plant regions for selecting plants. Consider local influences and try to mimic the natural landscape.



# California Native Plants

## Common Plant Communities in Southern California

- **Coastal Salt Marsh** - wetland plant community that occurs sporadically along the Pacific Coast from Humboldt Bay to San Diego
- **Coastal Strand** - plants that form along the shore in loose sand just above the high tide line, on the coast
- **Creosote Bush Scrub** - In California it occurs in the south eastern deserts
- **Chaparral** - It is shaped by a Mediterranean climate and wildfire, featuring summer-drought-tolerant plants
- **Coastal Sage Scrub** - found in coastal California and northwestern coastal Baja California
- **Freshwater Marsh** - Some freshwater marshes are vernal, filling with winter and spring rains and drying out in the summer.

Chaparral is represented in most of the populated coastal communities



## California Native Plants

### Establishing

- The best time to plant is in the fall through the winter, but planting can be done year-round.
- If planting in the summer, make sure to water or treat it like a normal plant.
- Make sure to water the plant well for the first year, especially if it was planted during the summer.
- Reduce watering the second year, then it should be able to go without irrigation.



## California Native Plants

### Water Requirement

- Once plants are established, little or no water is required.
- Consider that some natives come from wet or soggy areas; ponds, creeks, rivers, marshes, seeps, etc.
- Some natives may require seasonal watering.



## California Native Plants



## Native Trees





# Cercis occidentalis

## Western Redbud

**Height:** 10 - 20 ft.  
**Width:** 10 - 15 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Magenta  
**Flowering Season:** February, April



# Western Redbud





## Arctostaphylos sp.

### California Manzanitas



## A. edmundsii 'Little Sur'

- This is petite, low-lying manzanita.
- It forms mounds and patchy mats in sandy soil.

**Height:** 1 - 4 ft.  
**Width:** 3 - 12 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Pink, White, Red  
**Flowering Season:** Winter, Spring

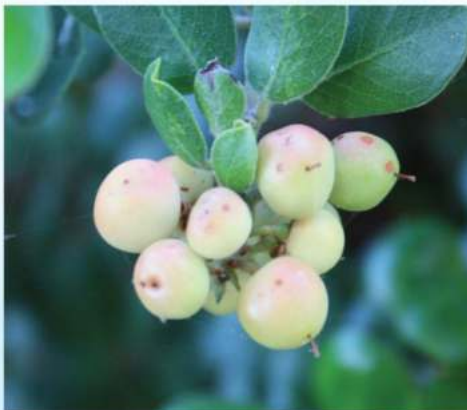


## A. edmundsii 'Little Sur'

- It likes sandy soils and beach sand.
- It will tolerate clay and adobe.



## A. edmundsii 'Little Sur'



Fruit



Foliage

## A. edmundsii 'Little Sur'

- This plant grows moderately fast.
- It will grow to 10" high and 5' across.



## A. hookeri 'Monterey Carpet'

**Height:** Less than 1 ft.  
**Width:** 4 ft.  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Flowering Season:** Winter, Spring





# Calliandra haematocephala

## Desert Willow

**Height:** 5 - 26 ft.  
**Width:** 10 - 20 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Purple, Lavender, Pink, White  
**Flowering Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall



## Desert Willow



## Desert Willow



## Native Shrubs



## Ceanothus sp.

### California Lilac



## Skylark Blue Mountain Lilac

**Height:** 3 - 6.5 ft.  
**Width:** 6.5 - 12 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Blue  
**Flowering Season:** Spring, Summer





## Skylark Blue Mountain Lilac



1 year after planting from a 1-gallon pot



3 years later

## Concha

**Height:** 3 - 6.5 ft.  
**Width:** 3 - 6.5 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Deep Blue  
**Flowering Season:** Spring, Summer



## Concha



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## Snow Flurry

**Height:** 8 - 12 ft. or more  
**Width:** 8 - 12 ft.  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Flowering Season:** Spring



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## Snow Flurry



## Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'

### Coyote Bush 'Twin Peaks'

**Height:** 2 - 4 ft.

**Width:** 6 - 8 ft.

**Flower Color:** White

**Flowering Season:** Spring





## Coyote Bush 'Twin Peaks'

- This is one of the fastest, toughest, densest evergreen native large-scale groundcovers.
- It was discovered on Twin Peaks in San Francisco.
- It can easily grow up to 8 ft. wide and 2 - 4 ft. tall
- It is extremely drought-tolerant along the coast, but it is best in moderate to occasional summer water inland



## Coyote Bush 'Twin Peaks'



Foliage

## Coyote Bush 'Twin Peaks'



## Coyote Bush 'Twin Peaks'





# Dendromecon harfordii

## Island Bush Poppy

**Height:** 3.5 - 20 ft.  
**Width:** 8 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Flowering Season:** Winter, Spring



# Island Bush Poppy





## Island Bush Poppy



Flower



Foliage

## Island Bush Poppy



## Island Bush Poppy



## Salvia leucophylla

### Purple Sage

**Height:** 2 - 5 ft.  
**Width:** 3 - 10 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Light Purple  
**Flowering Season:** May- July





## Purple Sage



## Purple Sage



Flower



Foliage



## Salvia greggii - Autumn Sage

**Height:** 1 - 4 ft.  
**Width:** 1 - 3 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Magenta  
**Flowering Season:** Spring - Fall



## Autumn Sage



## Autumn Sage



Flower



Color

## Salvia leucantha - Mexican Bush Sage

**Height:** 3 - 5 ft.  
**Width:** 4 - 6 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Purple  
**Flowering Season:** Year Round





# Trichostema lanatum

## Wooly Blue Curls

**Height:** 3 - 4 ft.  
**Width:** 3 - 4 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Violet  
**Flowering Season:** May- August



# Wooly Blue Curls





## Woolly Blue Curls



## Native Groundcovers



# Carex praegracilis

## California Field Sedge

**Height:** 4 - 19 inches  
**Width:** 4 - 10 inches  
**Flower Color:** Brown  
**Flowering Season:** Spring



# California Field Sedge

- Plant in a boggy area or water once a week
- Sedges can handle standing water and full sun
- They handle shade and drought poorly
- Plant grows to 2.5 ft. height
- Perennial with rhizomes





## California Field Sedge



## California Field Sedge



## California Field Sedge

- Native stone
- Native plants
- Both used together create a sense of harmony
- The turfgrass is *Carex praegracilis*.
- Using manzanita as an edging will blossom in spring w/ urn shaped flowers



## Eschscholzia californica

### California Poppy

**Height:** 3/4 " - 2 ft.  
**Width:** 1 - 2 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Orange, Yellow  
**Flowering Season:** Spring





## California Poppy



## California Poppy



## California Poppy



## Fragaria californica

### Woodland Strawberry

**Height:** 0.1 - 1 ft.  
**Width:** 3 ft. (Spreads by stolon's)  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Flowering Season:** Winter, Spring





## Woodland Strawberry



## Woodland Strawberry



Flower



Color

# Heuchera micrantha

## Coral Bells

Height: 1' - 3 ft.  
Width: 1 ft.  
Flower Color: Green, Pink, White, Purple  
Flowering Season: Spring, Summer



# Coral Bells





## Coral Bells



## Coral Bells - Purple Palace



## Coral Bells - Purple Palace



## H. Americana 'Alumroot'

**Height:** 1.5 - 3 ft.  
**Width:** 1 ft.  
**Flower Color:** Red, Green, Purple, Brown  
**Flowering Season:** March - August







Thank You  
*for*  
**ATTENDING**



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