
Easy Native Plants for Local Gardens

ANTONIO SANCHEZ – NURSERY MANAGER
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ANTONIOSANCHEZ@SAMOFUND.ORG

15 Commonly used and killed plants in landscapes

- White Sage
- Penstemon 'Margairta BOP'
- Deer Grass
- Hummingbird Sage
- California Fuchsia
- Mexican Elderberry
- Sticky Monkeyflower
- Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'
- California Buckwheat
- Conejo Buckwheat
- Island Snapdragon
- Common Yarrow
- Toyon
- Bladderpod
- Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'

OUTLINE FOR TODAY'S CLASS

- Intro to California native plants
- 15 plants commonly killed (I mean used) in landscapes
- 15 tips I wish I knew before killing all those poor plants (pobrecitos!)
- Along the way.....
- Basic Irrigation, Maintenance & Horticultural Techniques for native plants
- Please ask any questions thru chat
- If you like my jokes, feel free to unmute so I can hear your laughter
- antoniosanchez@samofund.org

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(September – October)

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Thank You



Farmers

Cal Flora Nursery

Friends at Theodore Payne
Foundation

Nopalito Nursery

Friends at Rancho Santa Ana
Botanic Garden

Friends at Santa Barbara
Botanic Garden

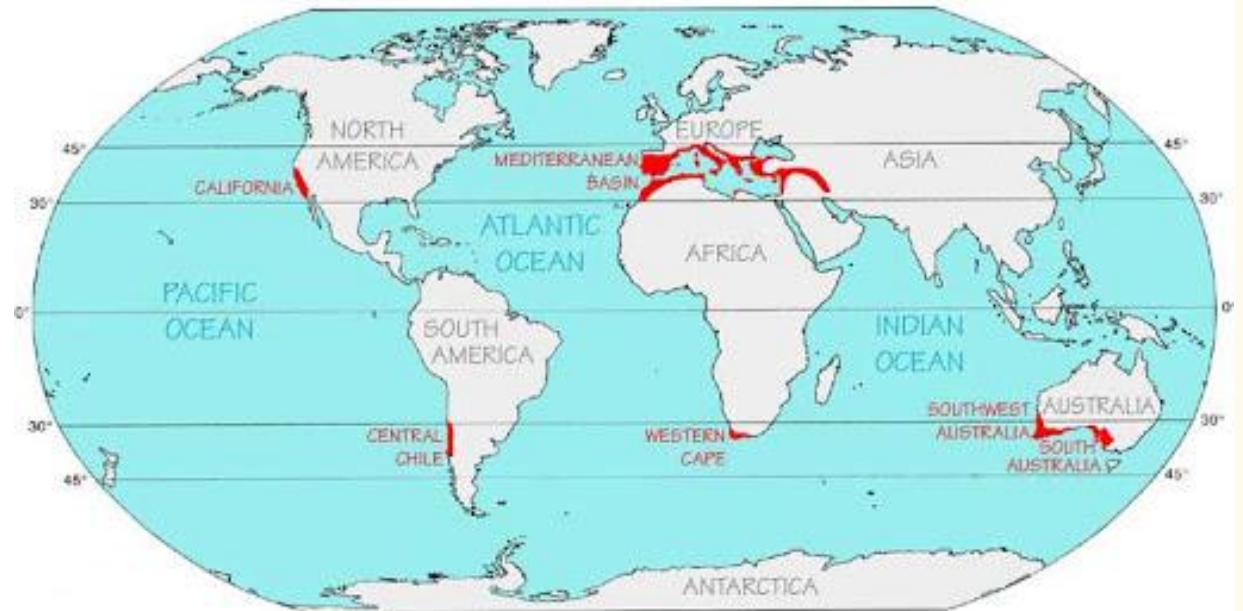
Chia Cafe

Native folks before and now

Santa Monica Mountains
folks

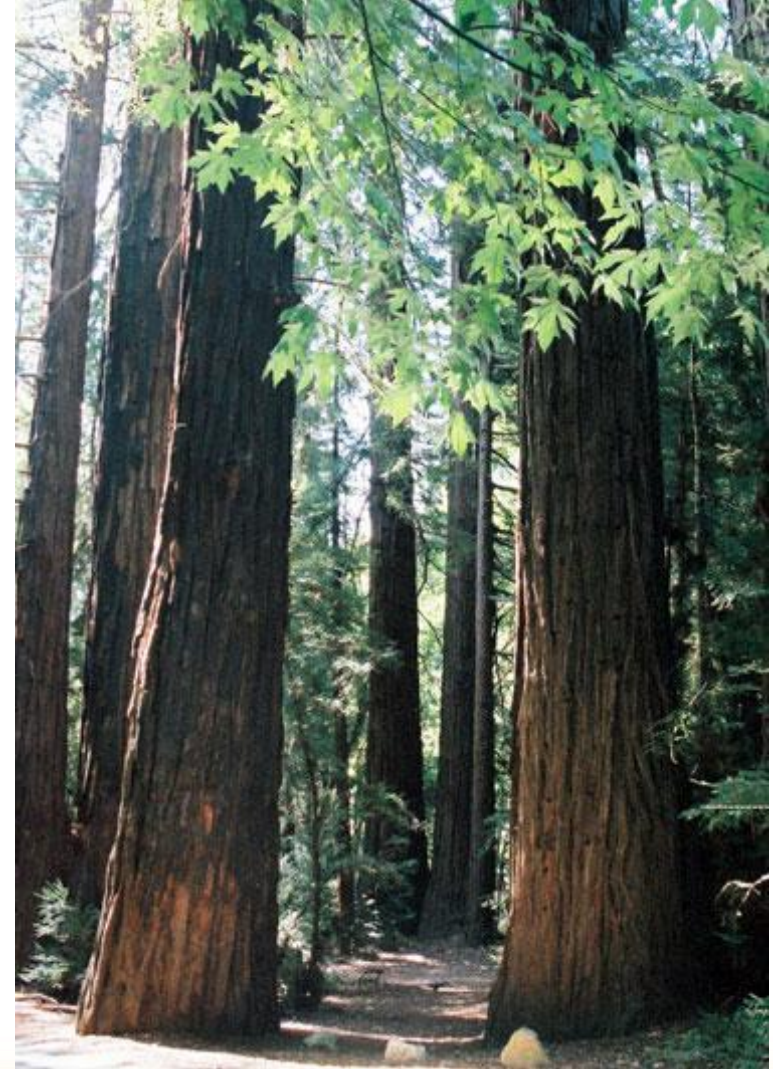
What is a California Native Plant?

-and why are they so ugly?!?!
- Old school genetics, 1000's of years old
- Wet/ kinda wet/ not very wet in the winter (November – March)
- Dry / really dry/ really really dry during the rest of year (April – October)



What is a California Native Plant?

- Over 6000 native plant species in CA
- High deserts, Redwood Forests, Alpine Meadows
- Most natives grown from plants taken straight from the wild
- Rainy Winters, dry Summers

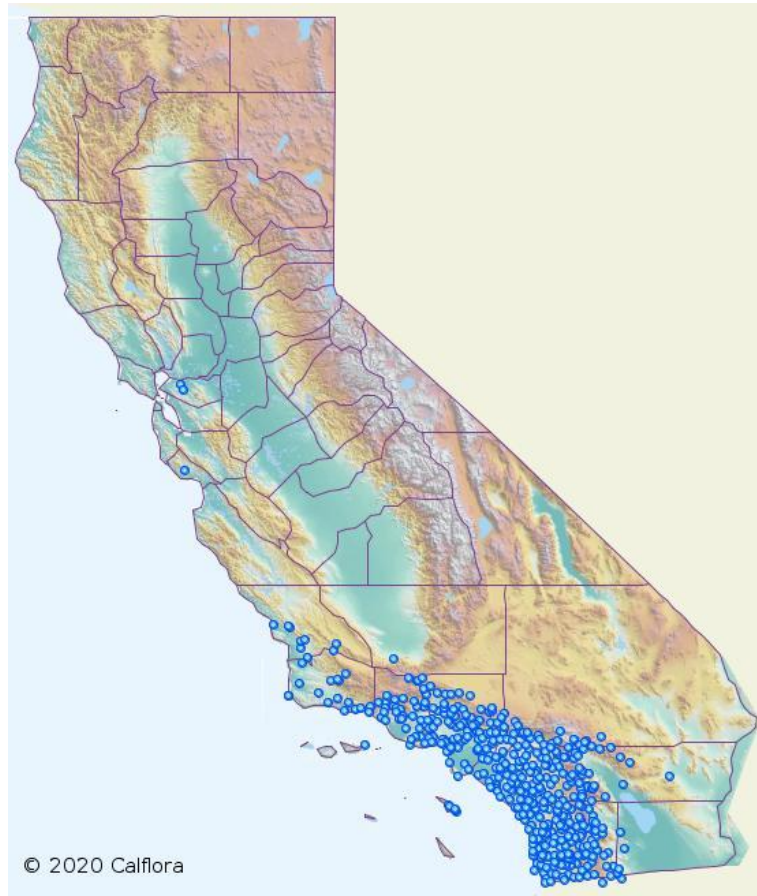


What is a California Native Plant?

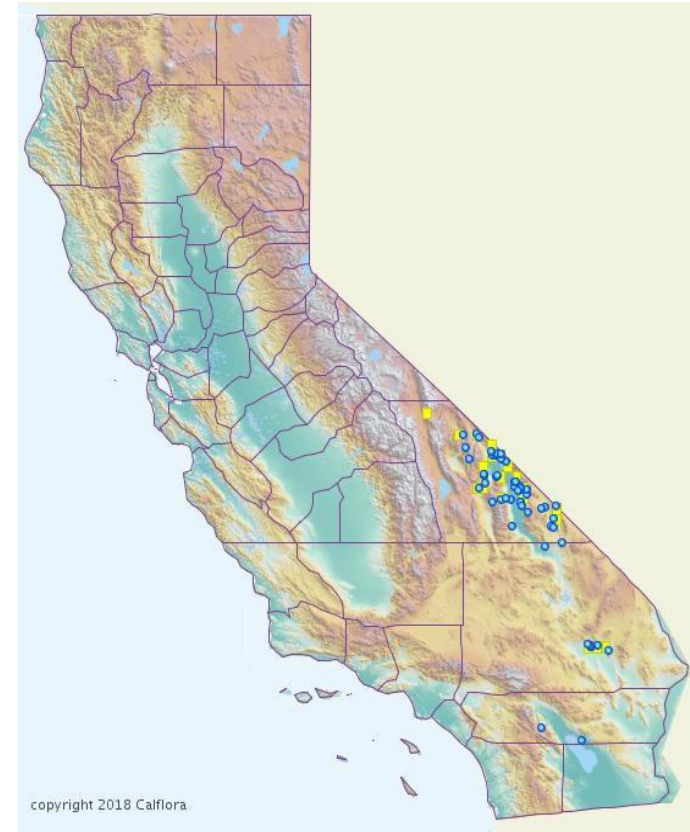
- May be very adapted to fire, to wild swings in weather, variety of soils, sun and shade, etc.
- Why do Aloes, Olive Trees and Eucalyptus grow so well here in SoCal?
- For this talk, we are let's focus on full sun and part shade Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub, Oak Woodland and common local habitat type plants



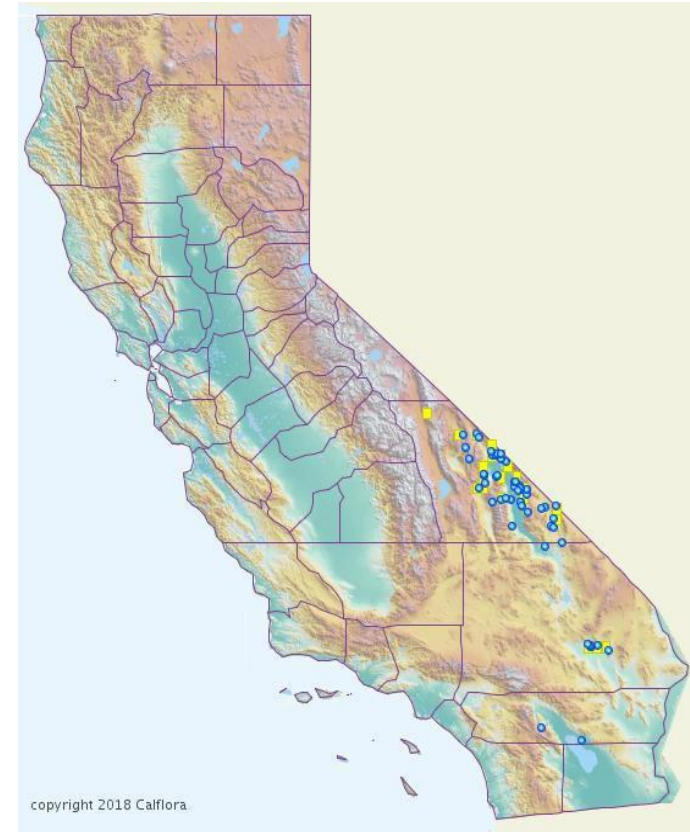
Intro to Cal Flora Website



Time for a guessing game.....



Time for a guessing game.....Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*) and Death Valley Sage (*Salvia funerea*)



A few ideas we'll talk about



- Adaptable
- Dormant/
Deciduous
- Deadheading
- Flexible
- Sun/ Shade

A few ideas we'll talk about



- Coastal/ Inland
- New plants vs Established plants
- Massing plants, in groups of 3's or 5's....
- Dry Season/ Wet Season

What is in my mente when I am working with native plants?



- Watering.....is extra water necessary? Is it considered a treat?
- Fertilizing.....is fertilizing a treat or a necessity?
- Pruning.....how do plants get pruned in the wild and how does it get done in your yard?.....if pruning consistently, do we need to treat the plant differently?
- Do athletes need different nutrition? Are we treating our plants like athletes?

Adaptable plants vs. plants
that require more precise
conditions in the garden



15 Commonly used and killed plants in landscapes

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Rules Not Followed!



Basics of Native Plant Gardening in California

- Time of year to plant
- Size of plants to install
- Your plants are established after how long?

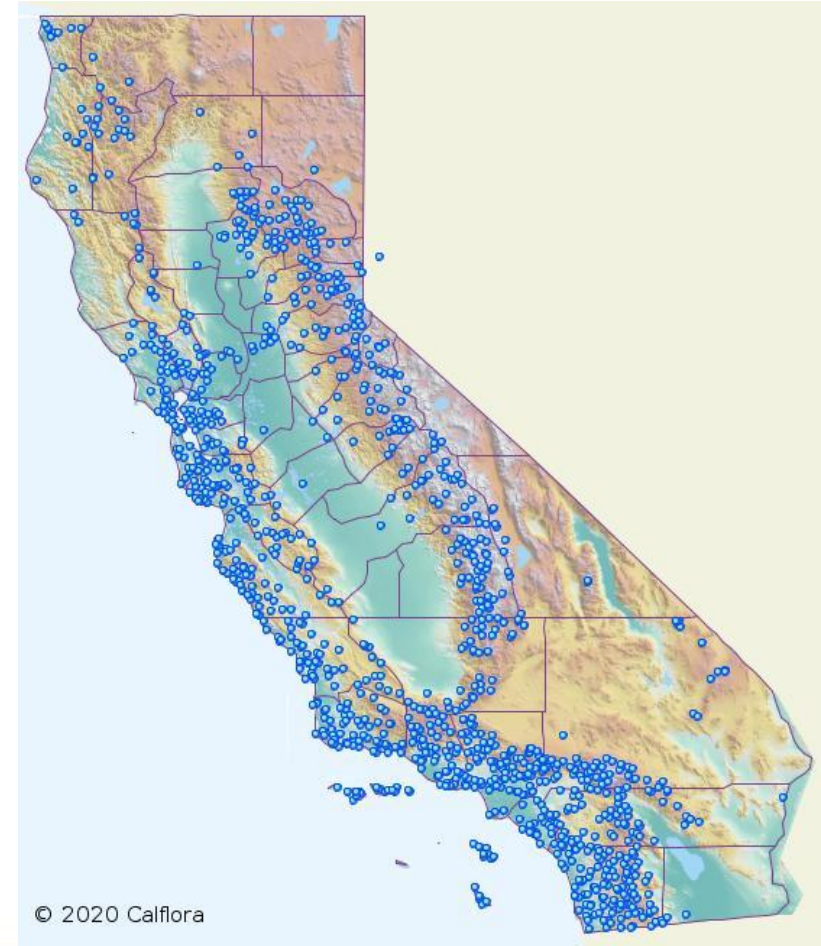


Basics of Native Plant Gardening in California

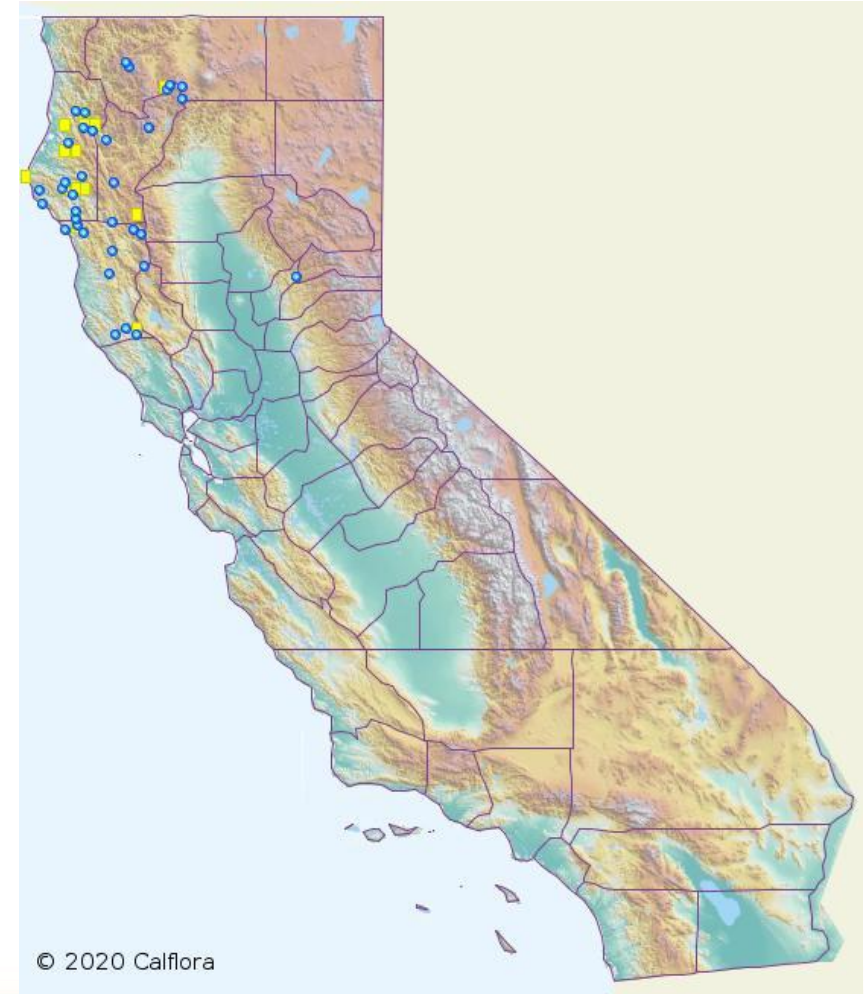
- Once established, why are you watering your garden?
- Time of year to maintain
- How to water in the dry season
- Soils, pests, etc



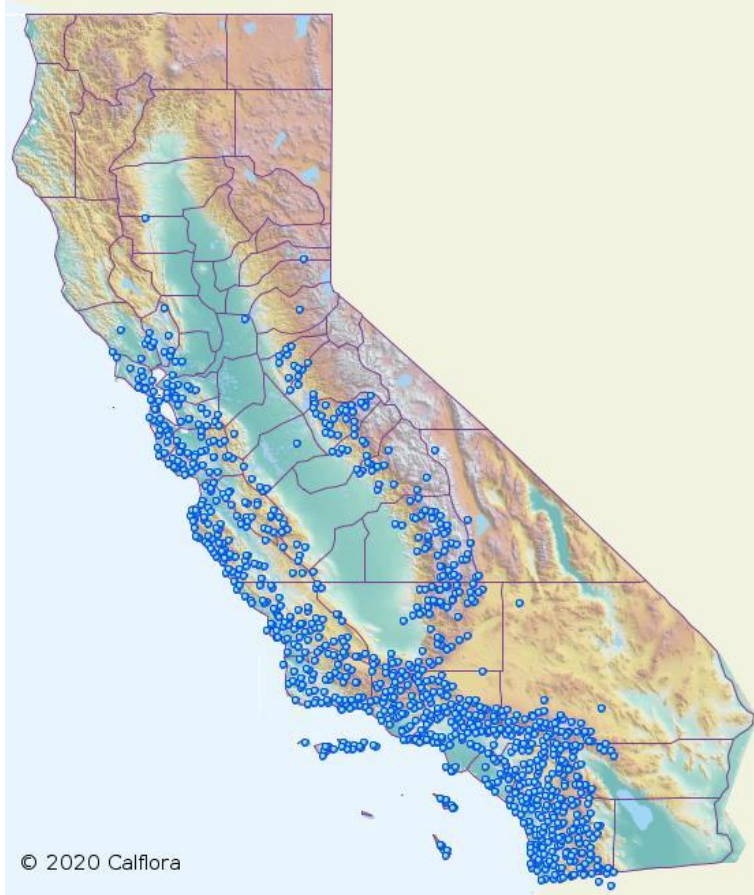
Why do local plants tend to work best in local gardens?.....*Epilobium canum*



Why do local plants tend to work best in local gardens?.....*Epilobium septentrionale*



GOLDEN YARROW – *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*



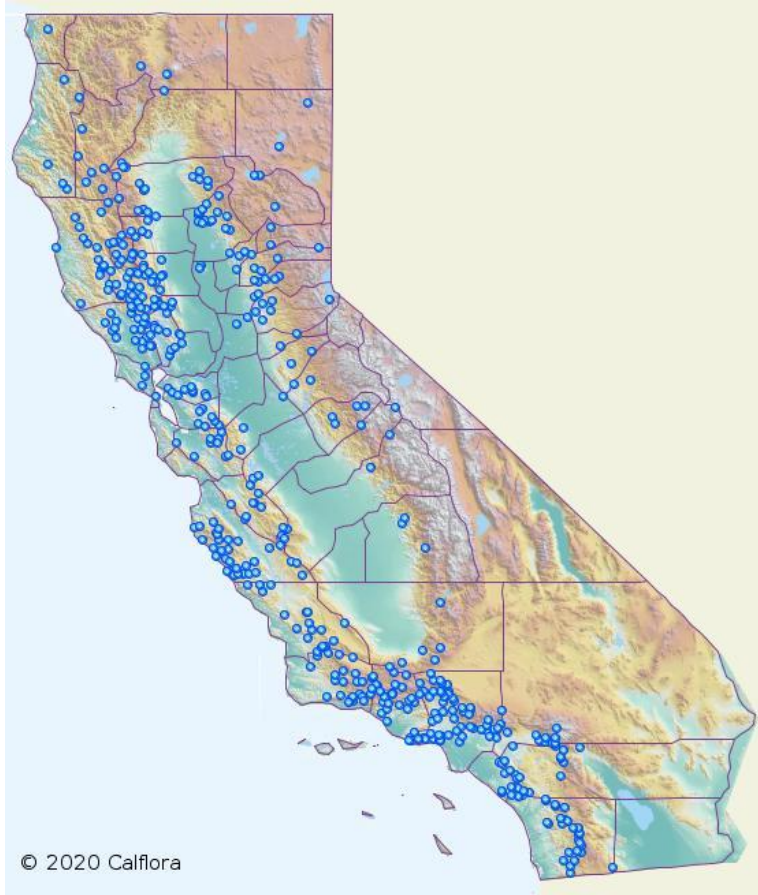
SEASIDE GOLDEN YARROW – *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*



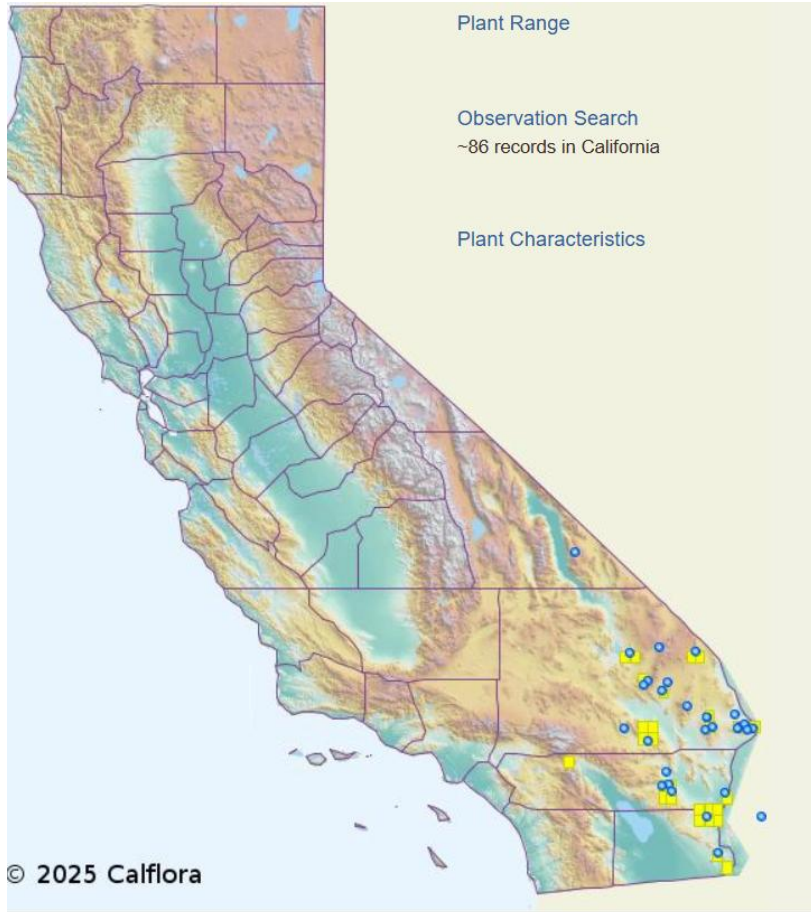
15 tips for native gardening success

- Cal Flora
- Who's afraid of black widows?.....who's afraid of clay soil?.....who cares about drainage?....I care about....
- Wild Horses
- Winter watering
- Large pots suck, small pots don't
- 2-5 gallons first few watering
- 50% - 75% evergreen
- Use more than one source for info
- Nov – March cancel your trip to Mexico
- Beginners.....avoid some plants that will break your heart and wallet
- Compost and Lavender Farms
- Spring is overrated, get some Summer and Fall happening in your garden
- Desert Plants are our compitas
- Summer water 2-3 times a month, why are we watering any more?
- Minimum Goal – 50% natives, no invasives, more edible, ceremonial, medicinal and plantas important to you & your people
- extra....containers are not native

Foothill Penstemon



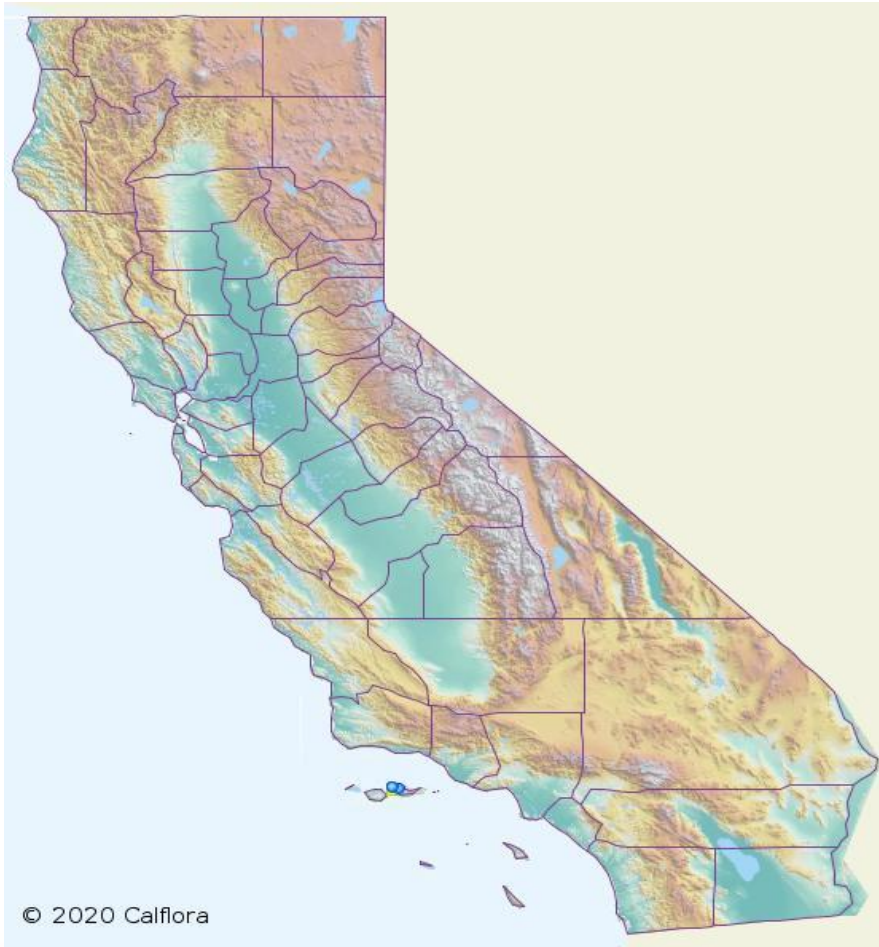
Desert Penstemon – *Penstemon pseudospectabilis*



Name Status:
Accepted by IEE + PLANTS + POWO



Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'



Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'

- Easy to grow if you leave it alone!
- Full sun always
- Tolerant of clay soils if kept dry
- Excellent for cut flowers and foliage
- Birds, bees, butterflies, hippies
- (some cultivars are easy to substitute.....4 inch plants make you cash!....deadhead....too much water....best in groups of 3 or 5)



HUMMINGBIRD SAGE – *Salvia spathacea*

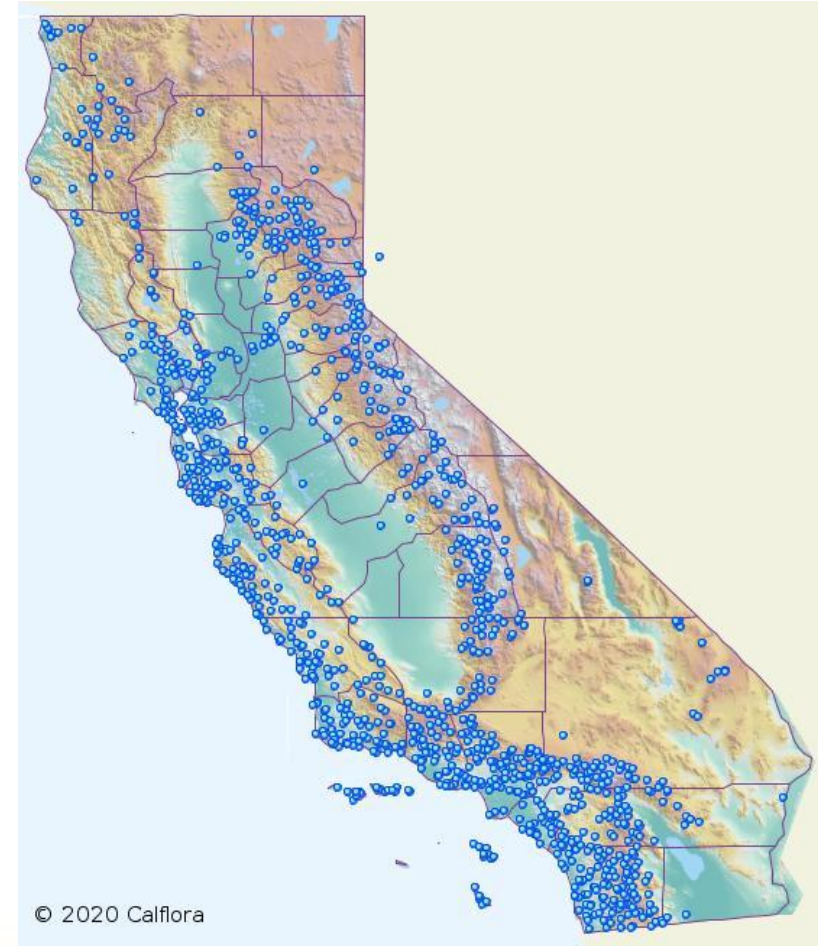


Hummingbird Sage – *Salvia spathacea*

- UC Davis Arboretum All Star
- Excellent Winter and Spring Hummingbird plant
- Easy to grow in light sun or part shade
- Leaves are excellent in tea, honey, or fried with pinch of salt
- Can flower over 5 months
- Can be kept green all year with minimal water
- (WOW in pots....sex sells....when young, cut the first flowers, powdery mildew, adaptable, when shopping look for low and dense not flowering, deadhead)



CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

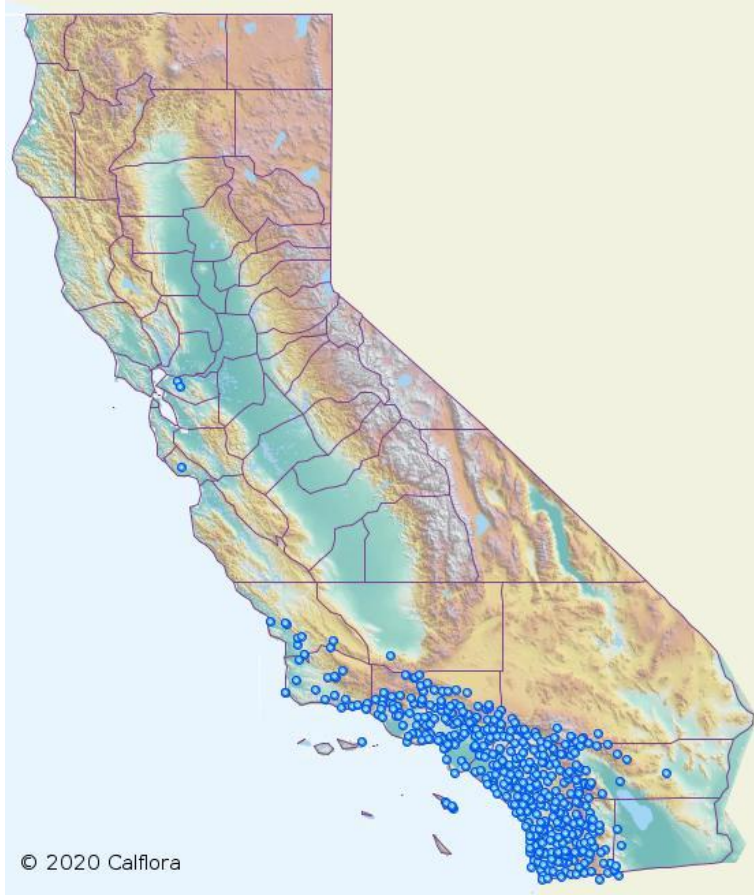


California fuchsia – *Epilobium canum*



- UC Davis Arboretum All Star
- #1 Native plant for attracting hummingbirds in Summer and Fall
- Part Shade – Full Sun
- Cut back hard to ground every Winter after 2nd year
- Spreads underground, good for holding soils
- (Summer flowers are hard.....people are ok with ugly plants.....kill it first year if you are too aggressive....cut back hard after 2nd year.....fertilize.....cultivars and clones matter, Pacific Horticulture)

White Sage – *Salvia apiana*



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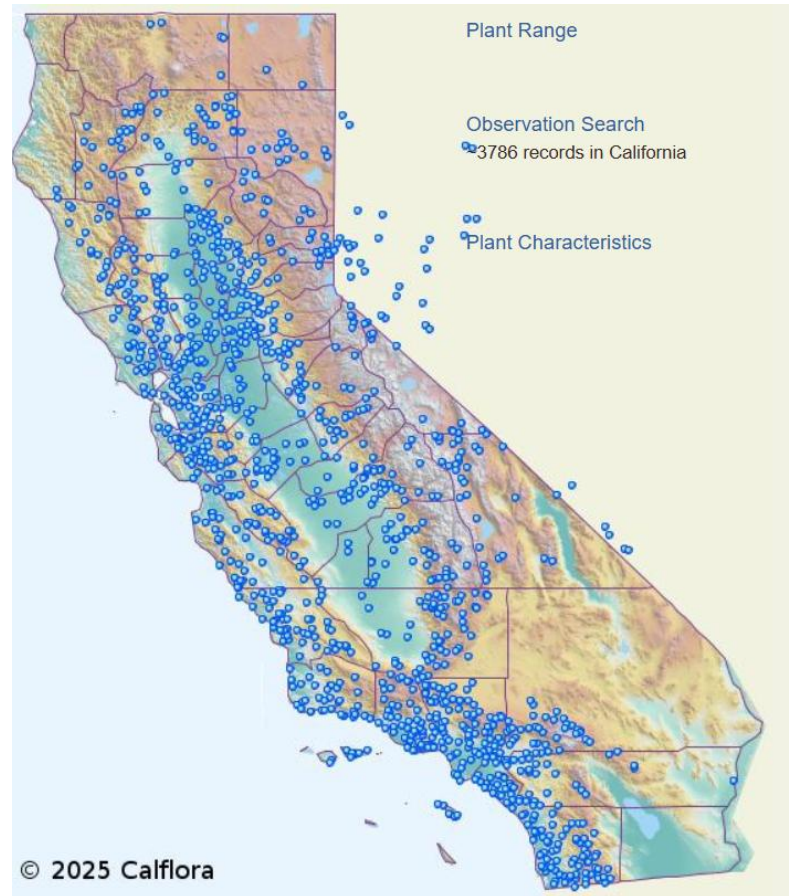
(natives are hard to grow!....not all salvias are the same....not really a pretty flower....but feeds wildlife....contrast in garden is stunning.....)



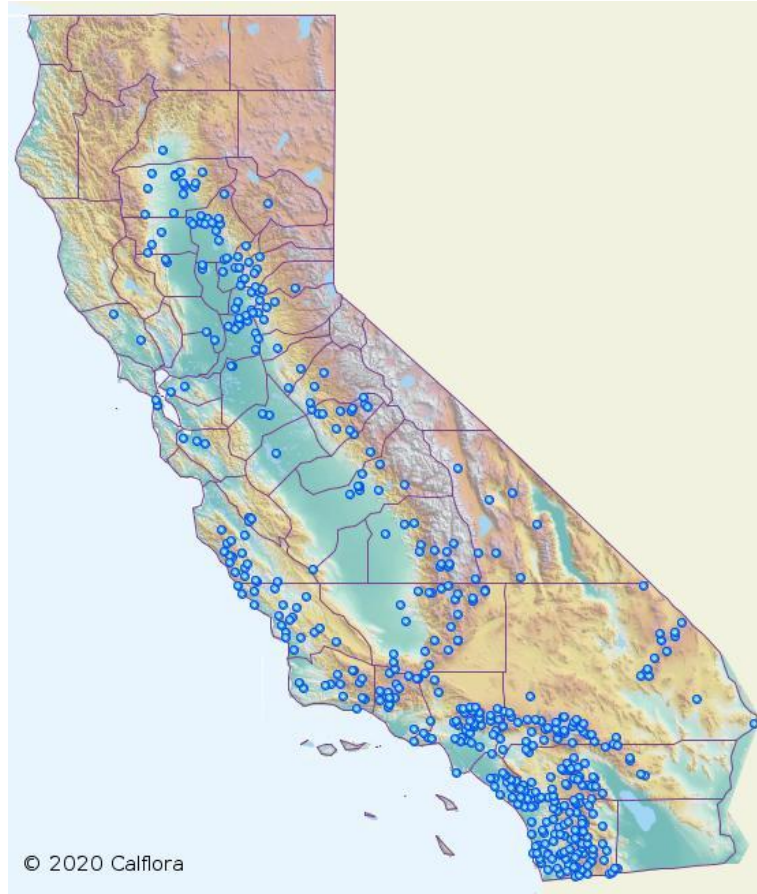
Resources for Local Native Plants and Beyond

- UC Davis Arboretum All Star List
- Las Pilitas Nursery
- Tree of Life Nursery Videos
- Greg Rubin Book and Website
- San Marcos Growers website
- antoniosanchez@samofund.org

NARROWLEAF MILKWEED



DEER GRASS

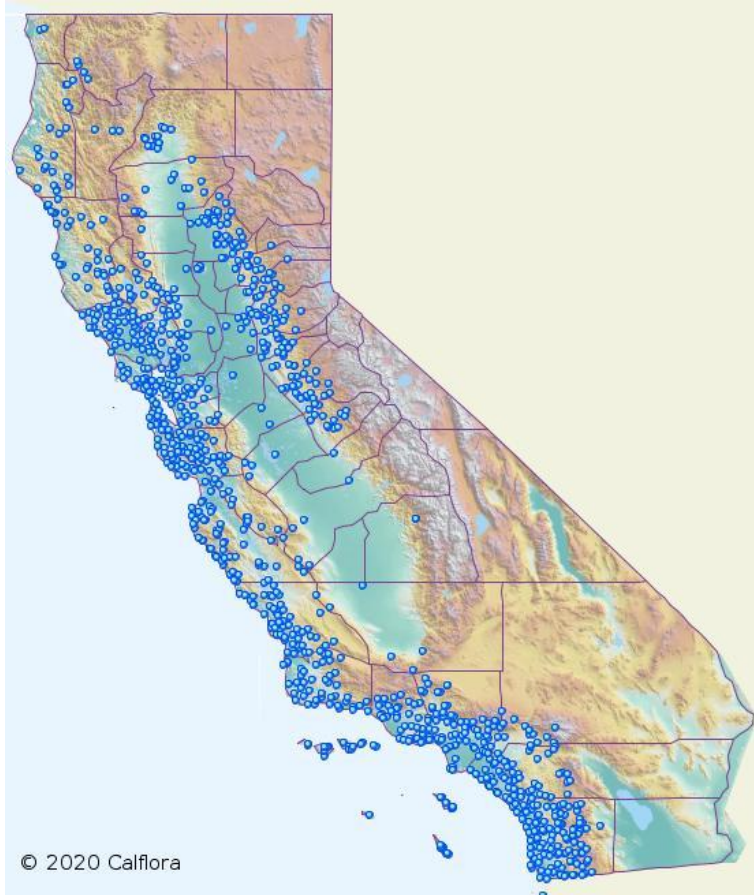


Deer Grass – *Muhlenbergia rigens*

- Most popular bunch grass in native plant landscaping
- UC Davis Arboretum All Star
- I hate this plant!
- EASY TO GROW
- Tolerates part shade – hot sun
- Cut back every few years to clean up
- (grow and know stuff you don't like....sometimes you sacrifice beauty for easy to growness....divide this for 100 more plants.....used as a focal point, especially when flowering, boot camp haircut, this guy is adaptable)



TOYON

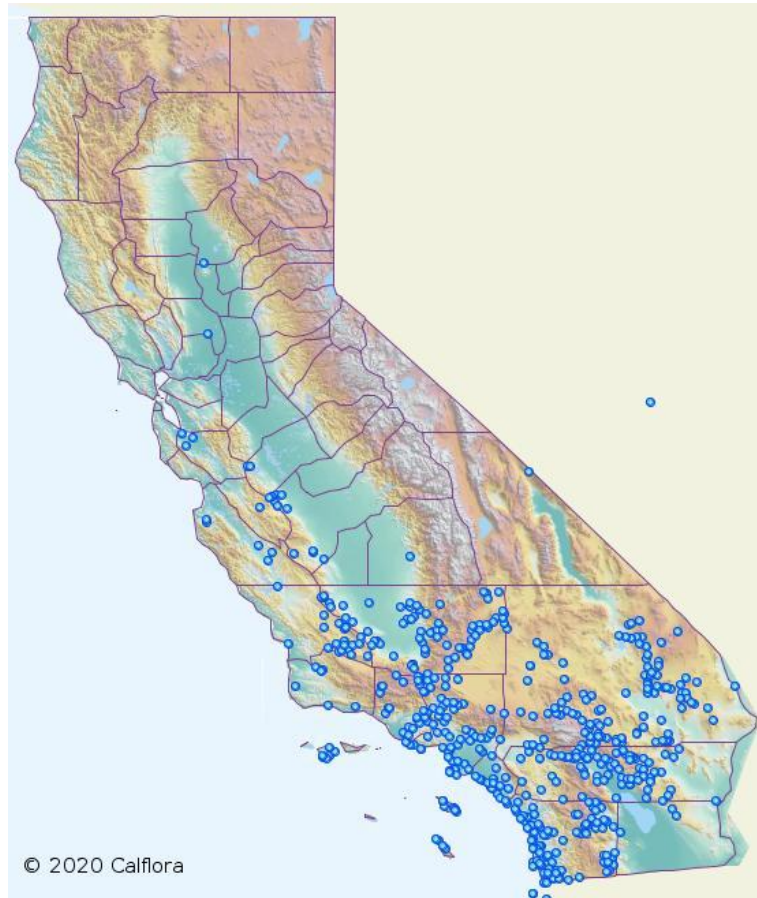


Toyon – *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

- UC Davis Arboretum All Star
- 6 – 20 feet tall and wide
- Full sun – part shade
- Christmas berries loved by birds and humans
- Can be boxed into a formal hedge
- Fast to 6-8 feet
- (30 feet down to 6 feet.....can be fast no matter what they say....excellent for food and wildlife.....good holidays selling point....plant young and it takes off, large pots can be slow)



BLADDERPOD



Bladderpod – *Isomeris arborea*

- UC Davis Arboretum All Star
- Flowers nearly all year
- Excellent hummingbird plant
- Found naturally near oceans and in deserts
- EASY TO GROW AND PRUNE
- Tolerant of shade and sun
- (people are just haters.....smells strong when you touch it....this and island snapdragon, flowers year round.....reflected heat.....combines with shiny ceanothus and blue purple flowers)



Mimulus – Diplacus – Sticky Monkeyflowers



- Beautiful in flower....dry and brown when dormant
- 2-3 feet tall and high
- Loves light sun – part shade
- Responds well to deadheading
- Many colors available
- Excellent as 1-3 year filler
- (STOP PLANTING THIS.....great in pots.....sometimes easy, sometimes not.....expendable)

Mimulus – Diplacus – Whocaresicus – Sticky Monkeyflowers



Some plant species to avoid for beginners

- *Artemisia* 'David's Choice'
- *Penstemon* species (apart from *heterophyllus*)
- Pacific Coast Irises
- *Dudleyas* (except *Dudleya hassei*)
- Giant *Coreopsis*
- *Eriogonum umbellatum* (sulfur buckwheat)
- Red-flowered *Monardella*
- Sticky Monkey Flowers



LOCAL PLANTS I'M NOT SO LOCO FOR

- Dudleya species
- Monkeyflower species
- Lupines
- Wildflowers
- Matilija Poppies
- Woolly Blue Curls
- Island Bush Poppies
- Coyote Bush
- Red Buckwheat
- Encelia.....Artemisia.....Basket Bush
- Manzanitas y Ceanothus????



List of large shrubs and trees to avoid

- Desert Trees if you are in coastal areas
- Desert Willow
- Chitalpa
- Western Redbuds
- Flannelbushes
- Island Ironwoods



Basics of Native Plant Irrigation

- DRY SEASON
- Established Plants Only
- April/ May - October
- Drip – 10 to 15 minutes during the dry season, every 7 – 14 days.....move your emitters away from established plants!
- Overhead – 30-60 minutes during the dry season, every 7-14 days
- Hand Watering – 10-15 gallons a minute from a garden hose = 10 minutes for 150 gallons
- WET SEASON WITH LITTLE RAIN
- Established Plants Only
- November – April/May
- Drip – 20-30 minutes twice a month until rains begin, or every now and then if rains are too sporadic
- Overhead – 45 minutes – 1.5 hours, twice a month until rains begin, or every now and then if rains are too sporadic
- Hand watering – 150 gallons every 10 minutes

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Ceanothus thyrsiflorus

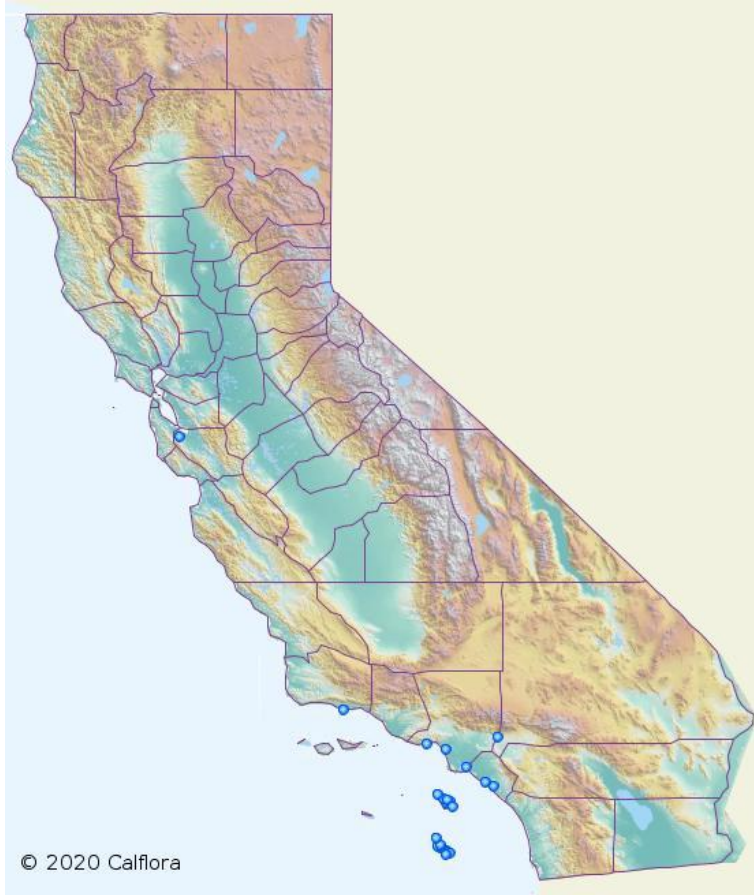


Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'

- EASY TO GROW and maintain
- Tolerant of dry or wet conditions
- Loved by wildlife
- 2-6 feet tall and wide wide wide wide wide
- Full sun – light shade
- Clay, sand, who cares
- (adaptable.....easy.....fast.....rinse leaves.....it will get big)



ISLAND SNAPDRAGON



Island Snapdragon – *Galvezia speciosa*

- Loved by Lowe's and Home Depot
- Easy to grow
- Loved by hummingbirds
- Flowers nearly all year
- Great growing down a hill
- Manicure as a small hedge
- Train up as a small vine
- Gorgeous in a pot
- (Gnome depot has some nice plants!....hillside this can run!....hedge but no flowers.....we are lying when we call this a groundcover)

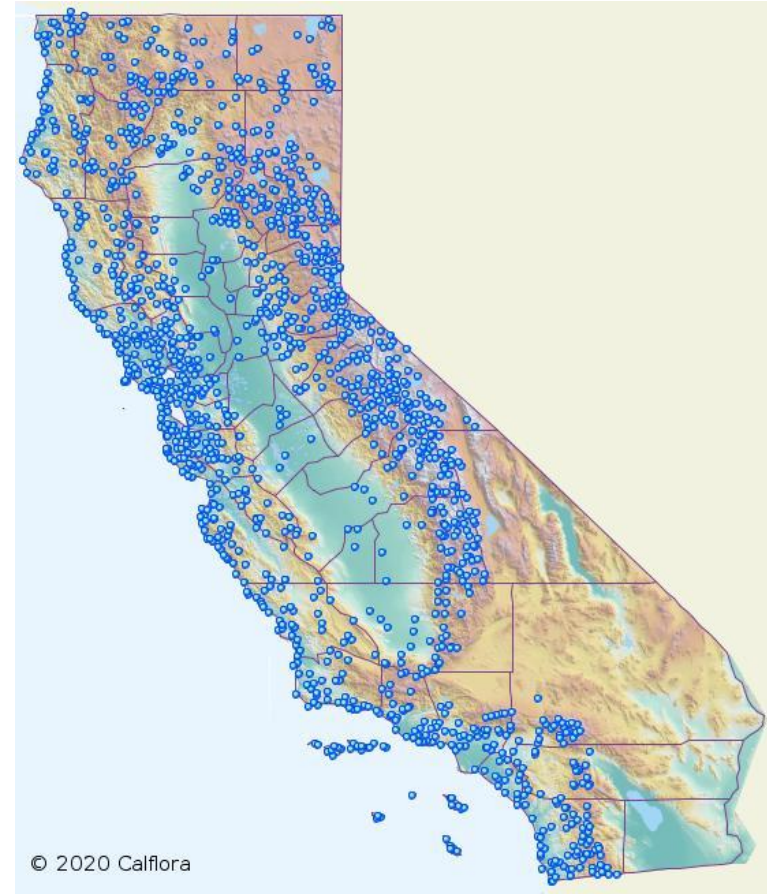


‘Howard McMinn’ Manzanita

- Hybrid plant that we love
- Can grow low when young, but 4-8 feet tall older
- Takes hedging and boxing
- Full Sun and Part Shade
- (don't buy big.....yes it is fast!)



COMMON YARROW



COMMON YARROW – *Achillea millefolium*

- Native to North America, Europe, Asia
- EASY TO GROW!
- Good in full sun, part shade
- Tolerates almost every soil except that one spot where they are gonna build a liquor store
- Spreads underground by rhizome, faster with extra water
- Excellent wildlife plant
- Can help prevent erosion
- Good cut flower
- Found in mountains, deserts, forests, Home Depot, Lowes, etc
- (try this where nothing else grows to test soil.....different than non-native yarrows.....free plants thru divisions!.....cut off the first flowers if you want it to run.....plant seed into plug trays, then use those for a lawn)



2nd Year Maintenance and Beyond

- Deadheading
- Fertilizing
- Pruning and Shaping
- Dividing
- Adjusting Irrigation
- Replacing or Replanting
- November - March



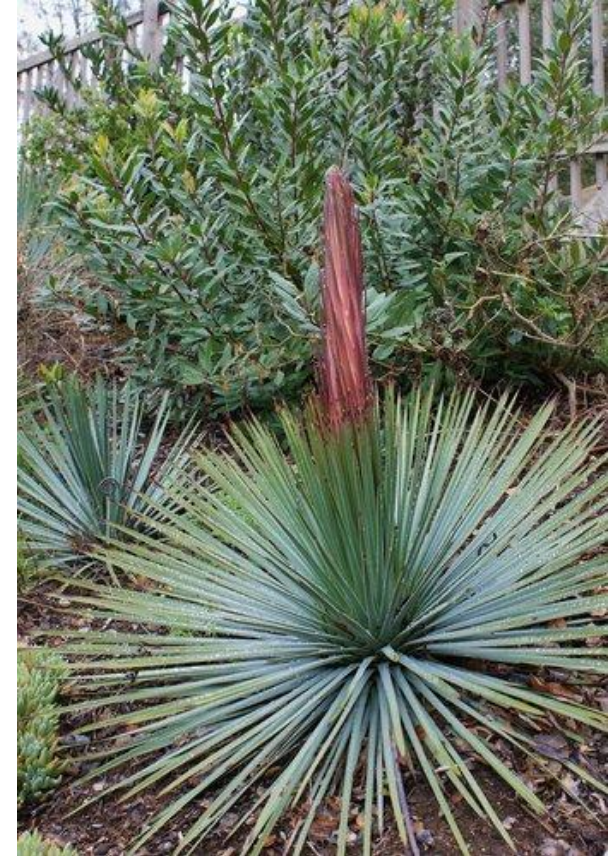
Tips for Maintenance and Growing Natives

- Understand difference between Mediterranean plants, Alpine plants, Desert plants in your garden
- You need to water during winter if.....
- Smaller 4 inch pots take how long to get established?
- 5 and 15 gallon pots take how long to get established?
- Understand the flexibility offered by a plant that occurs in many different parts of the state
- All plants in a Genus don't act alike.....Hummingbird Sage is easy, Blue Sage is expensive and probably dying as we speak

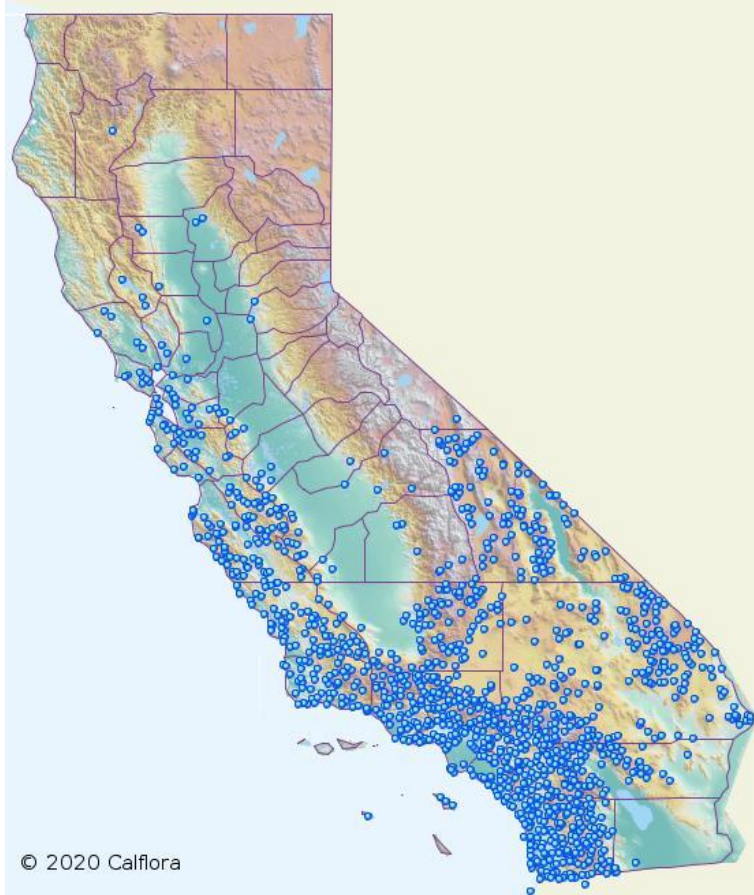


Tips for Maintenance and Growing Natives

- When is it okay to fertilize?
- Try once, try again, try another time.....accept failure but learn from it.....Right Plant, Wrong Place?
- Natives in pots are great, but.....
- Lawn 20 feet from a manzanita or flannelbush?
- Rinse off leaves of your plants during dry season
- Pinch back spreading plants when young
- Many annual wildflowers are like weeds.....stealing water and nutrition from your long-lived plants



CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT – *Eriogonum fasciculatum*



CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT – *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

- 2-4 feet high and sometimes wider
- Full sun best, tolerates light shade
- Excellent plant for Summer flowers
- Makes good cut flowers
- Wildlife love it
- (carne asada.....cultivars.....hedge and hedge and hedge.....2 different cultivars way different look)



CONEJO BUCKWHEAT

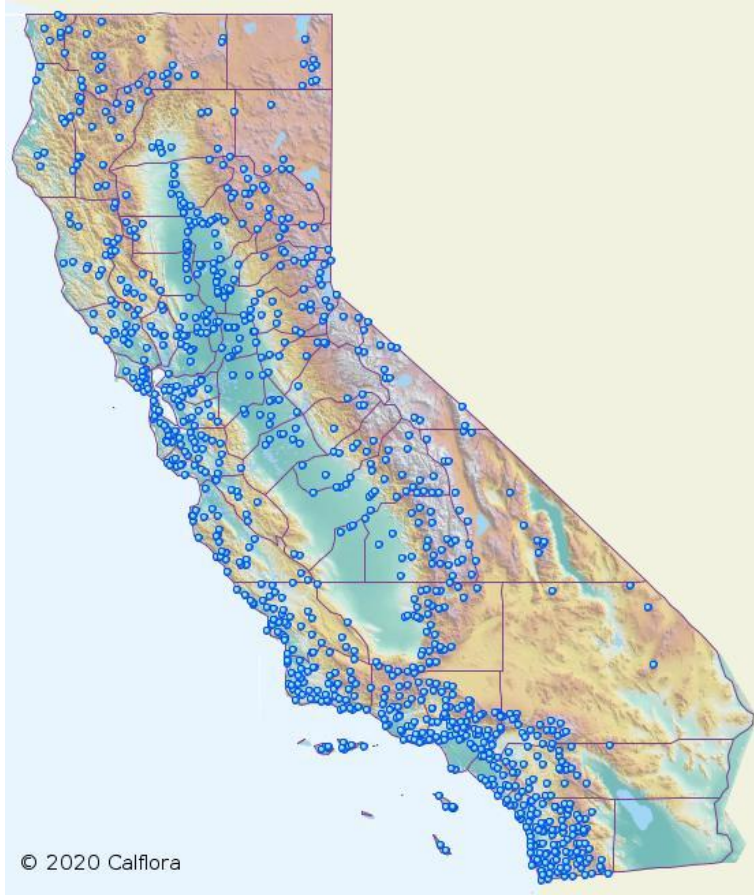


Conejo Buckwheat – *Eriogonum crocatum*

- Only found in the Santa Monica Mountains area
- Beautiful contrast of soft gray leaves and yellow and cinnamon flowers
- Grows naturally in rock and dangerous slopes
- Doesn't mind clay soil!
- Easy to grow if you can keep water away
- Gorgeous cut flower
- (Forget you I won't plant what you tell me.....super rare in wild sometimes = easy in garden.....drainage.....this is an Ishi plant!.....charge extra for this.....*Eriogonum umbellatum* is not the same thing!)



MEXICAN ELDERBERRY



Mexican Elderberry – *Sambucus mexicana*

- EASY TO GROW and maintain
- Tolerant of dry or wet conditions
- Edible fruits and flowers
- Best wildlife tree for small yards
- 8-30 feet tall
- Full sun – light shade
- Clay, sand, who cares
- (road to Ojai.....musical tree....sex sells.....adaptable)



15 tips for success in native gardens

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