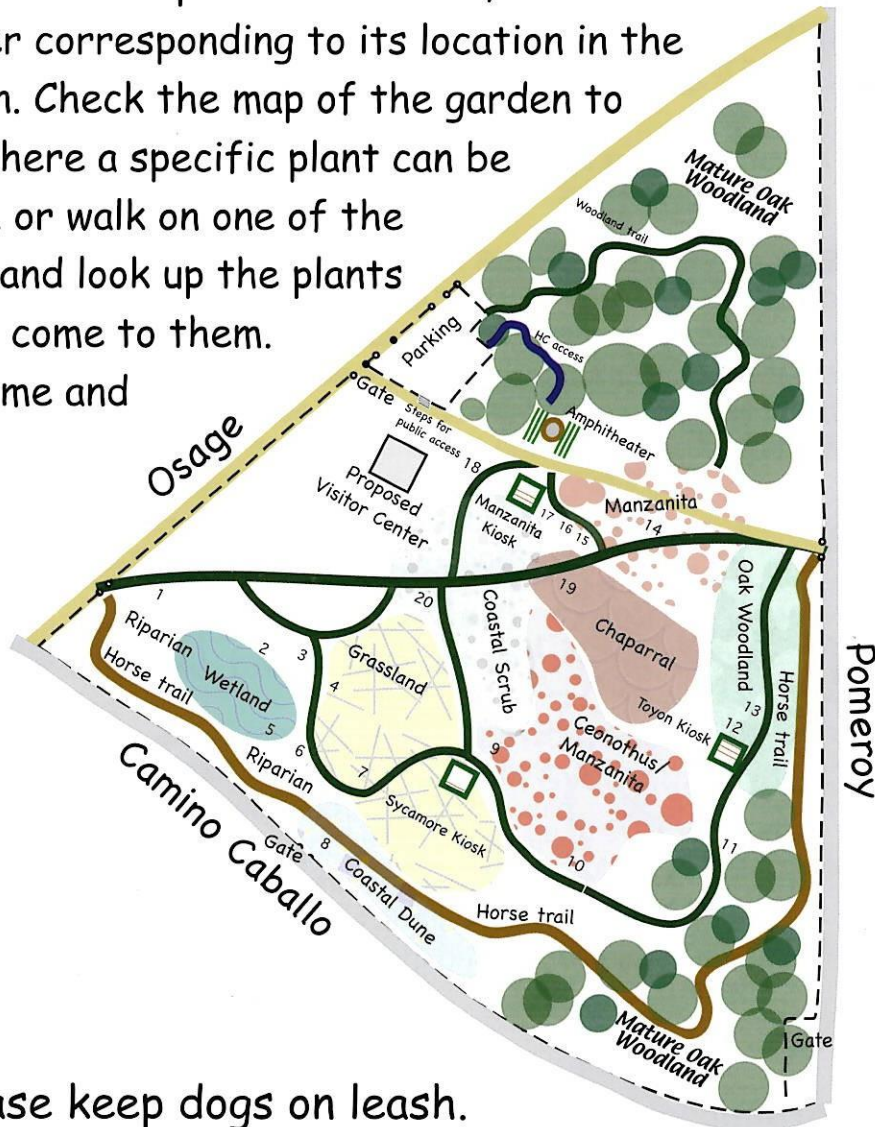




# Nipomo Native Garden Walk

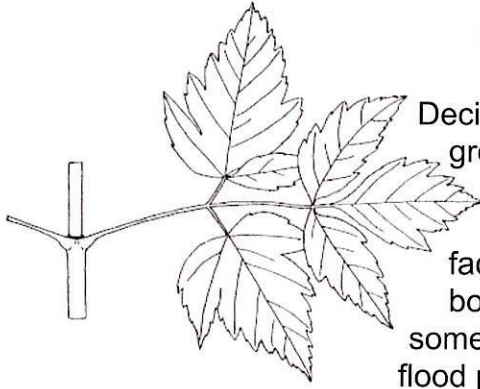
This guide is designed to inform you about some of the plants located in the garden. The plants are listed here in alphabetical order, but each has a number corresponding to its location in the garden. Check the map of the garden to find where a specific plant can be found, or walk on one of the paths and look up the plants as you come to them. Welcome and enjoy.



- Please keep dogs on leash.
- Horses on the horse trail only.
- Bags are available at the entrances to clean up after pets.

[nipomonativegarden.org](http://nipomonativegarden.org)

**Acer negundo  
(Box elder) (5)**



Deciduous tree to 50 ft. Fast-growing and fairly short-lived, often with multiple trunks. Common name derived from fact that it's wood is similar to boxwood and leaves resemble some species of elder. Grows in flood plains and other disturbed areas with ample water. Can be used as a landscape tree. Wood is soft and used to make fiberboard.

**Adenostoma fasciculatum  
(Chamise) (19)**

Evergreen shrub from 3-8 ft. Small white flowers at branch ends from April to June. One of the most frequently found shrubs in dry areas of southern California. Burns easily because of its high resin content and often contributes to the start of brush fires.

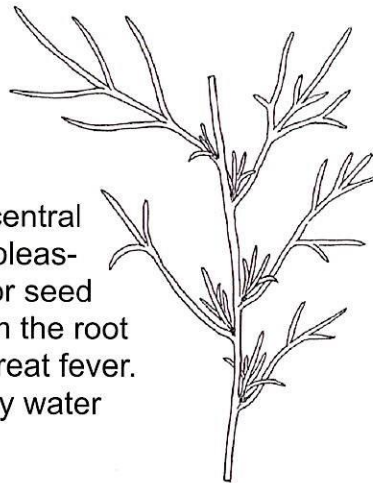


**Arctostaphylos rudis  
(Sand Mesa Manzanita  
or ShagBark M.) (10)**

Evergreen shrub from 3-7 ft. Bell-shaped flowers, white to pink, blooming from February to April. Native to sandy coastal areas. Mahogany-red berries are an important food source for some kinds of birds. Chumash Indians also used the berries for food.

**Artemisia californica  
(California sagebrush) (16)**

Woody shrub from 3-4 ft. Native to central and southern California. Resinous, pleasant smelling foliage. Relies on fire for seed germination and will also sprout from the root crown after a fire. Tea was used to treat fever. Good wildlife plant. Does not like any water in the summer.



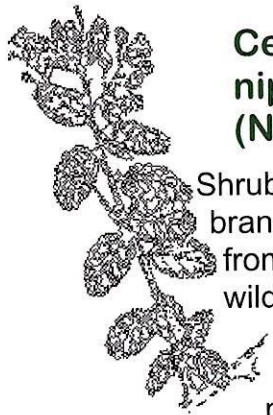


**Baccharis pilularis  
(Coyote Brush or Coyote Bush) (6)**

Evergreen shrub from 3-12 ft. Flowers from Aug. to Dec. Seeds mature with short, hair-like bristles. An important source of nest-building material for hummingbirds. Flowers are a source of nectar for many native predatory wasps, butterflies and flies. The Chumash use a tea made from the leaves to treat poison oak. Deer-proof.

**Carex praegracilis  
(Clustered Field Sedge) (4)**

A creeping rhizomatous grass. Forms dense clumps. Tolerant of sun or shade, dry or wet conditions. A good substitute for traditional lawn grass. Can be mowed.



**Ceonothus impressus var.  
nipomensis  
(Nipomo Mesa Ceanothus) (9)**

Shrubby plant to 12 feet tall and as wide, densely branched. Usually blue flowers, lightly fragrant, from March to May. Source of food for various wildlife species including deer, porcupine, and quail. Chumash Indians used the branches for digging sticks and poles. Flowers were made into a lather used to wash hair.

**Croton californicus  
(California Croton) (20)**

Small silver-green perennial plant. Leaves have small white hairs that give the plant a frosty look. This is thought to give the plants some protection from the sun and reduce their need for water. Flowers are yellow-white, inconspicuous. Foliage has a lemony smell when crushed. Thrives in areas that have been scraped or disturbed in some way. Likes sandy soil.



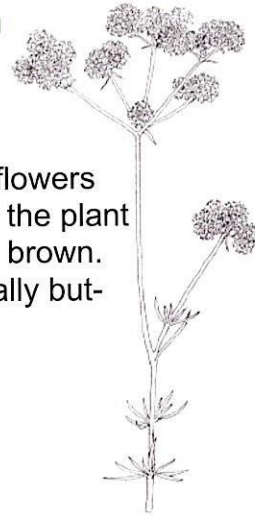


**Ericameria ericoides**  
**(Mock Heather or Heather Goldenbush) (17)**

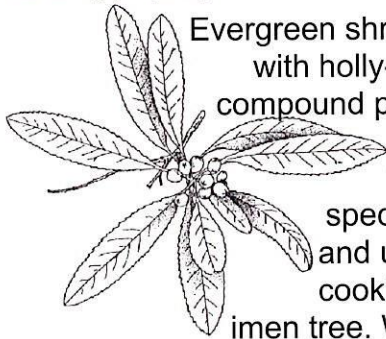
Compact shrub to 4 ft. Leaves needle-like and resinous. Showy yellow flowers August through November. Often found growing with coyote brush and silver dune lupine. Useful for soil and dune stabilization. Acts as a nursery for other perennial plants since it can tolerate strong winds and soil piled against its branches. Member of the Sunflower family.

**Eriogonum parvifolium**  
**(Dune Buckwheat or Bluff Buckwheat) (7)**

Perennial shrub to 3 ft. White to rose-tinged flowers from July to Dec. Flowers last a long time on the plant changing color as they age from light to dark brown. An important nectar plant for insects, especially butterflies. Very drought tolerant.



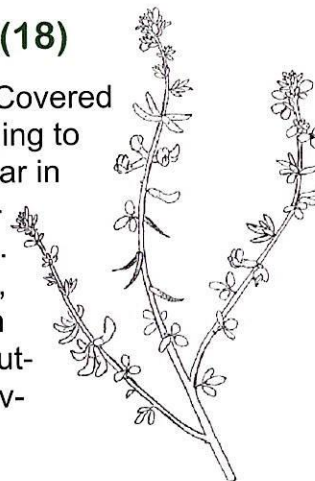
**Heteromeles arbutifolia**  
**(Toyon, California Holly, Christmas Berry) (13)**



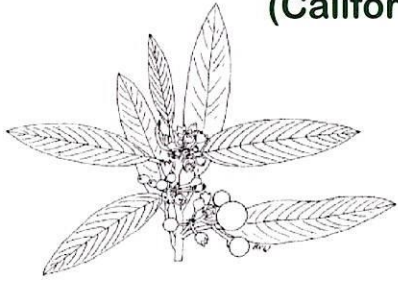
Evergreen shrub to medium-sized tree from 8-20 ft. with holly-like leaves. White flowers in large compound panicles, blooming June to July. Red berries in winter are an important food source for many bird and animal species. Native Americans ate the berries and used the wood for making tools and cooking implements. Good screen or specimen tree. With its stiff evergreen foliage and dense clusters of berries, it is a favorite material for Christmas wreaths. It is the plant that gave Hollywood its name.

**Lotus scoparius**  
**(Deerweed, California Broom) (18)**

Short-lived perennial in the pea family. Covered in summer with small yellow flowers, aging to red. Usually the dominant plant to appear in the second year after a fire. Helps fertilize the soil by fixing nitrogen in its roots. Once other species appear and mature, Deerweed gradually disappears. It is an important larval food plant for several butterflies, and the nectar is enjoyed by several species of native bees.



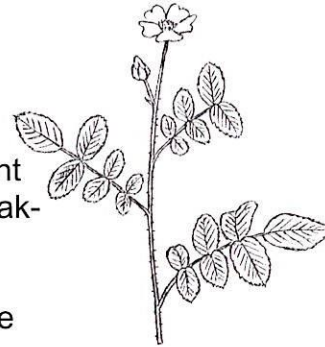
**Rhamnus californica**  
**(California Coffeeberry) (14)**



Evergreen shrub up to 15 ft. Likes to grow in the shade of trees such as the Coast Live Oak. Flowers are white and not very showy with reddish black berries following. Called Coffeeberry

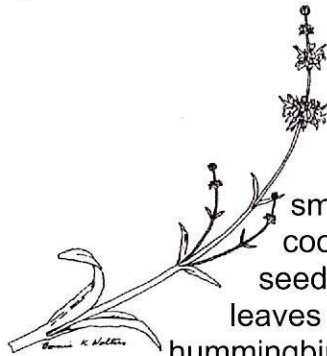
because its berries contain seeds that look like coffee beans. Chumash Indians used the dried bark as an herbal laxative, but only after it had been stored for a year to decrease its potency. Very strong and tidy plant which should be used more in home landscaping.

**Rosa californica**  
**(California Wild Rose) (2)**



Deciduous shrub 1-3 ft. tall. Pink fragrant flowers followed by red hips good for making tea. Likes moist areas, and with enough water will form a dense thicket. Good as a barrier because its thorns are hooked. Creates good habitat for birds and small mammals because larger predators such as cats cannot get to them. Hips are also an important food for wildlife. Chumash Indians used the crushed dried flower petals for baby-powder and made a tea out of the flowers to use as an eyewash.

**Salvia mellifera**  
**(Black Sage) (15)**

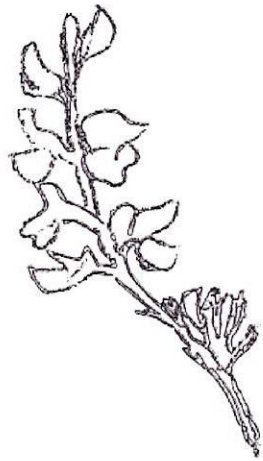


Evergreen shrub to 3 ft. Fragrant white to light blue flowers March to July. Leaves emit a strong sage smell when crushed and can be used in cooking. Native Americans toasted the seeds for food and made a tea of the leaves to treat flu. Important butterfly and hummingbird plant. Quail also eat the seeds.

**Toxicodendron diversilobum**  
**(Poison Oak) (11)**

A perennial shrub to 8 ft. or a twining vine climbing up to 20 ft. into trees. All parts of the plant will induce a severe skin rash in most people, caused by urushiol, a substance that is toxic to humans. Mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) is used to counteract the toxin if rubbed on the skin shortly after contamination and is often found growing nearby.





**Lupinus chamissonis**  
**(Silver Dune Lupine) (8)**

Bushy perennial shrub from 4-6 ft high and 4 ft. wide. Blue flowers on a 4 in. spike. Very showy in the spring. Fragrant. Lupines were thought to be stealing nutrients from the soil because they flourished where other plants failed. Their name, "lupine", means "wolf" in Latin and was meant to refer to the fact that wolves stole chickens away from farmsteads. Lupines, members of the pea family, actually improve the soil by fixing nitrogen. This can be used by other plants. Native Americans used the roots to make cords and rope.

**Myrica californica**  
**(Wax Myrtle) (3)**

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 15 ft. Blooms April - July. Flowers are catkins changing from green to red and then brown followed by small purple berries coated with a white wax. Considered one of the best looking native shrubs for the garden because of its neat habit and dense foliage which can be pruned to shape. The bark and leaves have historically been used to treat gastrointestinal ailments. Nitrogen fixing.



**Platanus racemosa**  
**(California Sycamore) (1)**

Deciduous tree to 90 ft. Peeling bark creates a mottled appearance on the trunk that is very striking. Leaves turn yellow in the fall. Mainly found in riparian areas.

**Quercus agrifolia**  
**(Coast Live Oak) (12)**

Evergreen tree up to 75 ft. tall. One of the most common trees seen in the coast ranges of California. They live to be hundreds of years old. The dominant plant in the oak-woodland habitat. Acorns were a dietary staple of the Chumash as well as other Indian cultures. The bark was used as a dye and for curing animal skins. Used medicinally as an astringent and drying agent to treat many types of illnesses.

