

Chapter 1 : Tree of Life Nursery â€œ We Grow â€œ California Native Plants

These tough, beautiful plants can take hot, dry conditions with ease. They're among the best easy-care plants for gardeners in this region.

What plants are they referring to? Chapter IV from Calflora Among fruits native to California, the apple, because of its acknowledged kingship of fruits borne on deciduous trees, may be mentioned first. The tree is generally found on cold, wet land, bordering ponds, streams, and marshes. *Prunus subcordata* The California wild plum [*Prunus subcordata*] has attracted considerable attention ever since the advent of the gold seekers. It was early noticed that there are at least two varieties [A. They are found well distributed over the uplands of the coast and interior, becoming, however, more abundant, and bearing more pulpy fruit toward the northern part of the State. One variety is round, and sometimes nearly an inch in diameter; the other, a little smaller, oblong, and almost the shape and color of a Damson when ripe. The fruit is borne upon scraggy, many branched shrubs, from three to ten feet high, which generally grow in patches at the head of ravines, on rocky hills, and in open woods. The two varieties are found associated, and both are esteemed by Indians and whites. Early efforts were made to domesticate these wild plums, and they showed themselves susceptible of improvement by cultivation to a certain extent. In there was on the Middle Yuba River, not far from Forest City, in Sierra County, a wayside establishment, known as "Plum Valley Ranch," so called from the great quantity of wild plums growing on and about the place. The plum by cultivation gave a more vigorous growth and larger fruit [Report California Agricultural Society, , p. Transplanted from the mountains into the valley they are found to ripen earlier [Cal. Culturist , , p. One variety, moved from the hills near Petaluma, in , was grown as an orchard tree for fifteen years, and improved both in growth and quality of fruit by cultivation [Pacific Rural Press, Vol. The attention of fruit growers was early drawn to the possible value of the wild plum as grafting stock, and it is reported to have done fairly well on trial [Pacific Rural Press, Vol. It is stated [Letter from S. Davidson, Downieville] that in Sierra County the wild plum is the only plum which finds a market at good prices and that cultivated gages, blue and egg plums scarcely pay for gathering. The wild plum makes delicious preserves. It has bark smooth and brown like a plum or cherry. The fruit when ripe is clothed with a handsome blue bloom, and is an oblong, plum-like, pulpy fruit, beautiful, but rather bitter. This species has also been used as grafting stock, with the effect of dwarfing and causing early bearing [Pacific Rural Press, Vol. We have several species of *Prunus*, which may be called wild cherries. The first is commonly called the wild cherry, [*Prunus demissa*, now *Prunus subcordata*] and is an erect, slender shrub, two to twelve feet high, bearing on a raceme a round, purplish-black or red fruit, with a round stone. The fruit is edible, but somewhat astringent. This species occurs throughout the State, except near the coast, extends northward to the Columbia River, and eastward to the Rocky Mountains. This species very closely resembles the choke-cherry and the wild black cherry of the Atlantic States. Some observers, however, protest against calling it a choke-cherry, because it has none of the properties of that cherry. The wild fruit is used to some extent for marmelade [J. Lemmon, in Rural Press, Feb. It has been cultivated to some extent in places near its habitat. In there was quite a plantation of it in the foot-hills east of Marysville. They were used for this purpose in Oregon in because there were no other cherry stocks available. An excellent growth of graft was secured, but the stock was condemned because of suckering. Horticulturist, November,] *Prunus emarginata*, from Calflora There is another species [*Prunus emarginata*] which sometimes becomes a tree twenty-five feet high, bearing fruit in an umbel or true cherry fashion. The fruit is roundish and black, and about one-third of an inch in diameter, very bitter and astringent. From its bearing habit it has been suggested as worth trial as a stock for improved cherries. *Prunus ilicifolia* from Wikipedia The California "evergreen cherry," [P. The fruit was shown at the first horticultural fair in San Francisco, in , and was described as of delicate flavor, with a kernel "almost equal in flavor to the almond. It is described ["Studies in Botany of California" by E. This fruit has been mentioned as worthy of cultivation. It is a low, spreading shrub, one to six feet high. The fruit more nearly resembles the peach than does that of any other of our native species of the genus *Prunus*, and is, in fact, the nearest approach in the American flora to the old genus *Amygdalus* of the Old World, ["California

Botany," Vol. Kellogg contended that the shrub was really a species of *Amygdalus*, but it is stated that this claim cannot be approved. Wild Crabapple *Peraphyllum ramosissimum*: Sierran The following are references in the original chapter:

Chapter 2 : California live oak trees: valuable source of acorn meal for early Californians -

The trees of Southern California are a diverse group that occupy several different ecological regions including a humid temperate domain (South Coast and Transverse Ranges) and a dry domain (Mojave and Colorado Deserts).

California live oak trees: Live oak growing happily on a south facing slope in a chaparral valley. Geographic range of California live oak. California Live Oak *Quercus agrifolia* California live oak, or coast live oak, is an evergreen species from the Fagaceae family. This oak tree has a distinct look. The trunk produces many branches, creating a full, rounded crown. The tree is generally between feet tall. Live oak leaves are dark green and oval. The leaves have a spiny-toothed margin, a serrated look. The acorns of this tree were an important food source for Native Americans. At least 12 different Native American groups in California considered the live oak acorn to be a main dietary staple. Preparing acorn meal from the live oak Acorns were gathered from the end of the summer up to December. Once collected, acorns could then be stored in primitive granaries. These acorns could last up to a year. To prepare the acorns for consumption, native people would grind the seeds into a milled power. A mortar and metate was used to break up the acorn seeds. Tannins were then leached out to improve the taste of the acorns. Once reduced to a flour, the acorn meal could be mixed with water to make a bread or cake or an acorn gruel. This acorn powder was sometimes toasted and brewed with water to serve as a form of coffee. Live oak was considered the primary food source of the Kumeyaay and the Cahuilla. They ground acorns into a fine meal for bread-making. The Cahuilla also boiled acorn meal with water to produce an edible mush. This acorn meat was considered a delicacy. It was used at special ceremonial occasions. Cahuilla people used acorn meat as a means to repay their shamans for services provided. When Cahuilla people were out hunting small game, they would use live oak acorns for trap bait. Luiseno people also gathered acorns extensively. They stored acorns in primitive granaries for long term use. The Mahuna people used the plant as a hemostat, to address newborns and bleeding navels. A non-traditional use of these acorns was as a noisemaker. The Cahuilla occasionally tied acorns to a string, then swung the acorns at their teeth to make a clacking sound. The Kumeyaay made a decoction from the chipped bark of live oak. This preparation was then used as an antiseptic, for cleaning sores. Early European settlers also utilized the live oak. When the Spanish arrived in the 17th Century, they began using live oak wood to fire up their kilns. These kilns were necessary for making adobe bricks, the main structural unit to their homes. Charcoal from burned oak wood was eventually used by Spaniards for baking and gunpowder. Due to the gnarled shape of the trunk and branches, the live oak was not a favorite tree for lumber. In some respects, this fact has preserved the oak. Other, more lumber-friendly trees, got systematically harvested when Americans arrived to build the cities of LA, San Diego and San Francisco. Interestingly, shipbuilders appreciated the crooked branches, as they could use these sections of wood for odd, irregular joints on their boat designs. Curran has a long history as a research biologist: He is currently researching new ways to use plants to address human health issues. One more thing— I talk to a lot of people in the medicinal plant community and I occasionally hear about free trial offers on interesting new botanical supplements. These folks are based in Austin, Texas and they work with scientists to put together powerful combinations of plants and mushrooms. Alpha Brain Alpha Brain is the flagship product that put Onnit on the map. This supplement is filled a blend of many of the plants I discuss on my review of natural brain stimulants. One component to this pill is called huperzine A. Huperzine A is an alkaloid chemical from a strange plant called a Fir Moss. When ingested in small amounts this compound interacts with acetylcholine activity in our brain and is thought to enhance mental performance. Onnit has conducted some clinical trials on Alpha Brain to demonstrate its benefits on verbal memory and mental processing speed. New Mood This supplement is centered around the role of serotonin in our brain. We know that serotonin levels in certain parts of our brain have a significant effect on our overall mood. These capsules are filled with vitamins and other compounds that support various elements of the serotonin pathway. The idea is to naturally boost your ATP production within the cells of your body. Onnit has conducted clinical trials on weightlifting and training performance with this product. The health claims and statements regarding any health supplements mentioned on this page have not been evaluated by the FDA. These products are not

intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. This page contains affiliate links and I will be compensated if you make a purchase after clicking on my links. Read more! EthnoHerbalist email list Add your email below and we will keep you posted on medicinal plants, super-foods and healthy living. Economic Botany 38 2: On our main ethnobotany page, we present a clickable list of the southern California native plants that became a part of the culture of Native Americans and early European settlers. These plants were used for medicine, food, shelter, drink, tools and art. The information about plants on this website is intended for general educational purposes only. Kevin Curran, a biology professor at the University of San Diego. I teach classes on Cell Biology and Ethnobotany. Ethnobotany explores the historical use of plants for medicine and food. My research is currently focused on the search for new medicinal compounds in plants from the Sonoran Desert. Search this site! Chaga Chaga Chaga! Learn all about chaga mushroom tea.

Chapter 3 : Trees 1: Coniferous trees

Some California native plants are in rapid decline in their native habitat due to urban sprawl, agriculture, overgrazing, recreational impacts, pollution, and invasive non-native species (invasive exotics) colonization pressures (animals and other kingdoms of life, as well as plants).

There are dozens of gorgeous choices, so narrowing down the best flowering trees Southern California has to offer can be difficult. Pacific Outdoor Living has used dozens of species of flowering trees over the years. Its latin name is also used as its common name. Glorious displays of purple-blue, fragrant panicles cover the canopy of the Jacaranda tree in late spring. After leaves emerge, a second bloom can sometimes be seen, but in fewer numbers. Jacaranda trees can reach ft in height and width. A knowledgeable landscape designer can help to determine the perfect spot to plant this flowering tree on your Southern California property. These trees will create a beautiful purple-blue carpet underneath after blossoms fall. Make sure to keep these trees far enough from swimming pools or other objects that could be difficult to clean. Jacarandas love sunny spots with well-drained, fertile soil. Stunning color and an amazing fragrance make the Jacaranda one of the best flowering trees Southern California has to offer. This flowering tree is an extremely versatile choice. Varieties range in size from shrub-like cultivars of only a few feet to vase-shaped trees of ft. Abundant blooms persist for several weeks during the summer months. Cultivars can offer flowers in varying whites, purples, pinks, and reds. These Southern California flowering trees also provide great fall interest with brightly changing foliage and a unique, year-round display of their colored, mottled trunk bark. Crape Myrtles are undoubtedly one of the best flowering trees Southern California has to offer. Ask your landscape designer which variety is best for you. Evergreen Pear *Pyrus kawakamii* This semi-evergreen flowering tree reaches a height of ft. This tree has been widely used in Southern California due to its suitability as a street tree and is a favorite for parks and lawns. The Evergreen Pear Tree is one of the best flowering trees for Southern California due to its early bloom time, versatile uses, and amazing autumn foliage color. Mimosa Tree or Silk Tree *Albizia julibrissin* Native to southwestern Asia, this tree has many common names around the world. This Southern California flowering tree grows to ft. Flowers vary in color based on the cultivar, but typically combine white, pink, and red in their delicate, silk-like petals. Blooms begin to emerge in late spring and persist into mid-summer. Golden Rain Tree *Koelreuteira paniculata* Easily grown in a variety of, well-drained soils, this Southern California flowering tree is a great choice for full sun areas. Although native to Asia, the Golden Rain Tree tolerates drought conditions and many air pollutants common to Southern California cities. This specimen is a flowering shade tree, reaching a height and a width of ft. Later in the summer, the blooms develop interesting seed capsules which somewhat resemble small Chinese lanterns. The Golden Rain Tree is one of the best flowering trees Southern California has to offer due to its rare combination of shade provision, unique chartreuse bloom color, and interesting leaves and seed pods. Even landscape designers vary in their opinions of the best flowering trees Southern California can offer. In order to figure out which of these trees is the ideal flowering tree for your Southern California home or business, find a landscaping company with an in-house designer that can explain all the features of each tree and potential challenges. No one flowering tree is perfect. Blooms fall, branches grow, and most plants have some sort of challenges to manage. A caring landscape designer can help you find the tree whose pros outweigh their cons. Our knowledgeable team will help walk you through the design process. Our in-house team of experienced landscapers will make sure your flowering tree is planted in a manner that gives it the best chance to beautify your Southern California property. To find out more, please contact us today!

Chapter 4 : Southern California ethnobotany: traditional use of native plants -

Native trees of California. There are so many native trees in California. I'll try to cover the basics so you can get a feel for what is native in the state and what you can choose from in the trade.

Each of these groups relied on their local plants to survive and flourish. The primary focus of this page is a historical review of plant usage by early settlers. For that reason, we mostly use the past tense when referring to the interactions of people with their plants. However, it should be noted that descendants of these groups are alive and well today throughout southern California. Many people still rely on native plants every day for food, drink, medicine, tools, shelter and art. In that sense, ethnobotany is both a nod to the past as well as an eye to the future. There are many excellent ways to become involved with the vibrant Native American community in southern California. The Malki Museum is a great example. You can learn about upcoming ethnobotany related events happening in and around the museum through the Malki website. EthnoHerbalist reviews the science and health benefits of some of the most powerful medicinal plants. EthnoHerbalist email list Add your email below and we will keep you posted on medicinal plants, super-foods and healthy living. Kumeyaay The Kumeyaay lived in and around the area that is currently the greater San Diego region. Their range also extended south into northern Baja. This territory includes regions of Sonoran and Mojave Desert. During the s, the Cahuilla engagement with anglo-settlers began to increase. This region included area near Death Valley and Las Vegas. They are the most southern branch of the Paiute people. As a strong, hunter-gatherer community, the Tongva were among the most populous of the southern California native groups. The Chumash were a sea faring people. Anacapa Island was also visited, however, due to lack of a water supply, the Chumash never built permanent settlements on Anacapa. Quechan These Yuman speaking people descended from Native American peoples living in southeastern California and southern Arizona. The Quechan were skilled warriors and actively resisted Spanish colonization. This includes land near the Gulf of California. They were a semi-nomadic group with strong ties to the desert and the coast. These people foraged for many desert plants, including the white tepary bean. Young woman of the Cahuilla tribe in the Sonoran Desert of southern California. Quechan people foraging plants in southeastern California. Plant communities of southern California As these various Native American groups spread throughout southern California , they began to adapt their lifestyle and culture based on the availability of local plants in the region that they settled. Each geographic area, whether its the Mojave or the Sonoran Desert, contains its own unique blend of available plants. These plants became crucial resources for the tribes in that region. This is the basis of ethnobotany. People move into an area and make use of the native plants , and in doing so, their lifestyle and culture takes shape. Below, we describe the different biomes, or geographic plant communities, which were available to early settlers in southern California. For the most part, these plant communities are still intact today. Kumeyaay family walks with dog and horse. An Opuntia cactus is seen on the right. Engraving published by Schott, Sorony, and Co. The coast stays cool in the summer and offers close proximity to fishing and shellfish. In the summertime, this coast habitat was a nice change from the hot, dry interior region. The plant community associated with this near-shore habitat is called coastal scrub. Coastal scrub plants tend to be soft-leaved and deciduous. The dominant plants here are the sage species and the sagebrush. Today, much of this biome has been greatly reduced due to urbanization and development. Common coastal scrub plants include: Coastal scrub canyon at Cabrillo Point Chaparral The chaparral is the shrubland biome between the coast and coast mountain range. This plant community is unique to southern California and Baja, Mexico. The plants living here must be drought tolerant to deal with the hot, dry summers. The leaves of these plants tend to have a hard, waxy exterior to minimize evaporation. Wildfires are common in the chaparral region, forcing these plants to adapt to this disturbance. Most chaparral plants can bounce back quickly after a fire. Chaparral plants in the foothills of the coast range. Here, native tribes occupied forests filled with bushy, evergreen trees. The climate is defined as a hot arid steppe, however there is snow accumulation in the winter. The Cedar Creek fires of were the most destructive. These woodland fires encourage the encroachment of chaparral plant community. After the fires, plants in the chaparral biome tend to move in more aggressively than the slower

growing evergreens. Sonoran Desert A portion of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla population spent much of their time in a true desert, the Sonoran Desert. These people adapted to the extreme temperatures and lived comfortably among the cholla cactus and bighorn sheep. A rain shadow east of the coast range creates the Colorado Desert, this is the western section of the broader Sonoran Desert. The climate here is unique. The daytime high temperatures are very hot and the nights almost never drop low enough to generate frost. There are two rainy seasons. However, these days annual rainfall in this region is highly variable. Furthermore, it should be noted that historians speculate that rain in this desert was more common during the time-frame when Native Americans dominated this region. If this is true, it would have certainly made foraging for plants much easier. Common plants in the Sonoran Desert include: This biome sits in the southeastern corner of California, overlapping with southern Nevada and southwestern Utah. This is the tree famously featured on the legendary U2 album. In fact, the boundary of the Mojave Desert overlaps almost perfectly with the geographic range of the Joshua Tree. For this reason, Joshua Tree is considered an indicator species for the Mojave. Geologically, the Mojave is mineral rich. The sparsely vegetated basin and range topography spill into flat, alluvial plain valleys. Much of the bedrock and deposit material is borax, potassium and other salts. This composition has led to an active mining industry in the region. Apparently, a large lake once sat adjacent to the Mojave Desert. This lake was fed by the Colorado River and helped make the area hospitable to settlement. At some point prior to the s, the Colorado River changed course and Lake Cahuilla dried up. Common plants in the Mojave Desert include: Joshua tree *Yucca brevifolia* , Prickly pear *Opuntia* sp. Joshua Tree is the defining plant of the Mojave Desert. Thanks for stopping by and reading this article! Check out more EthnoHerbalist articles on effective medicinal plants. These point the reader towards various domains that house insightful ethnobotanical information. The Native American Ethnobotany Database does an excellent job of curating a vast amount of ethnobotanical information. Their searchable database has been an invaluable resource for this project. Certain publications were especially valuable: Bell, Willis H and Edward F. University of New Mexico Bulletin 5 5: Malki Museum Press p. Economic Botany 38 2: University of New Mexico Bulletin 4 1:

Chapter 5 : Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - The University of Texas at Austin

Enter a California address to see trees native to that location Trees native to. Southern California Black Walnut *Juglans californica* *Juglans californica* + Added;

Spalding Lasca Leaves Making a choice in this situation is sometimes difficult. Aside from such horticultural considerations as location, soil, and exposure there is the attitude of the person making the selection, perhaps the most important consideration of all. None of the trees are perfect, if perfect means being in flower year round and never dropping leaves. Nonetheless, there are a number which, though falling short of this ideal, have, by reason of their adaptability, great value as shade trees. Those discussed in this article are outstanding in this respect. Podocarpus [now *Afroparpus*] *gracilior* Fern Pine This beautiful native of Africa is one of the most outstanding shade trees for a wide range of situations. Often sold in nurseries as *Podocarpus elatior*, it has been grown in Southern California at least for years. It is one of the cleanest trees in that leaf drop is no problem as the leaves are so small and needle-like. In other words, it comes close to being the ideal shade tree for all areas in which it can be grown. Its major drawback, if it can be called one, is that it takes so long to reach its mature growth of feet and a width of feet. Seedling-grown plants are quite upright. Cutting grown or grafted plants tend to be rather supple and floppy. They are fine for espaliers because of their tendency to make horizontal growth. They are often used as a substitute for vines along a fence or arbor. Both types make outstanding evergreen hedges, especially when clipped. As a mature tree it has a billowy outline which is soft and pleasing. The shade is quite dense. It would be very easy to say that this is one of the best all-around trees in existence. Ideal for street or patio use and also excellent for container use when young. Very tolerant of a variety of soils, it can be grown over a wide area. *Schinus terebinthifolius* Brazilian Pepper A native of Brazil, *Schinus terebinthifolius* is another fine, small shade tree for patio or garden. It is one of the best for use as a lawn tree since it thrives on the type of watering program usually given lawns in this area. It heads too low for street use where 14 feet is often required height for the lowest branches. This species of *Schinus* is much heavier and more densely foliated than *Schinus molle*, the long grown and beautiful California Pepper. The leaves are dark green, somewhat shiny, and evergreen. The inconspicuous flowers are followed by scarlet berries. A certain amount of pruning is necessary to develop an open crown and overcome a tendency to cross branching and heavy growth. The ultimate height will be about 25 feet. One caution should be noted during the past year or two there has been some evidence of damage and occasionally outright killing of trees by verticillium wilt. The best control is to watch the watering and feed regularly. In spite of this it is one of the best shade trees for this area. It is a fast-growing tree which tolerates a wide variety of soil and growing conditions. The foliage is bright green and the leaves are bipinnately compound. In spring the tree is covered with fragrant clusters of small lavender flowers that are followed in the fall by yellow fruits often used for beads. Under garden or lawn conditions it will be a messy tree and will tend to send up suckers because of garden waterings. But in the hotter desert areas of southern California where it has been widely planted, the Texas Umbrella Tree is very effective, and those who have enjoyed its shade on a hot summer day in the desert will be ever grateful for it. *Koeleruteria integrifoliola* no common name A small, deciduous tree from China which seldom attains a height of more than 30 feet. The large leaves are bipinnate. The leaflets ovate-oblong about 4 inches long. The entire leaf often reaches 14 inches in length. Flowers are small but produced in large terminal panicles in summer when flowering trees are at a premium. The fruit which follows is bladderlike, somewhat resembling inverted Japanese lanterns. They are green at first turning a beautiful salmon pink with age. This is the smallest of the genus, all of which are worthwhile ornamental trees. In this area it self sows readily and seedlings are easily transplanted. We still do not know the full potential of this tree as it was introduced in the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in The oldest tree there is only 19 years old and until its recent removal to a new location, requiring heavy pruning, was rather broad topped and rather attractive. Like the rest of the genus it is free of disease and insect pests. *Magnolia grandiflora* *Magnolia* Perhaps of the best known of the large evergreen shade trees in Southern California is *Magnolia grandiflora*. It can become an immense tree, growing to feet in its native southeastern United States. It will probably not

reach quite that height here because of the lack of natural rainfall in the quantities needed and because of low atmospheric humidity. Still, we can boast some that are at least feet. Most gardeners in this area prefer the smaller growing varieties such as St. Both the species and its varieties take many years to reach ultimate size. The large leaves can reach 8 inches in length. They are thick, shiny green above, and usually have a rusty tomentum beneath. The showy white flowers are inches in diameter and very fragrant. *Magnolia grandiflora* is most suitable for parks and large garden areas. The named varieties, such as St. Mary mentioned above, may be suitable for smaller areas. It should be kept in mind that the usual watering practices in this area tend to encourage surface roots and the system suggested for *Morus alba* can be used with this tree also. However, surface roots can be removed if done before they reach 1 inch in diameter. Mapleleaf Fruitless Mulberry Among the fastest growing are the fruitless forms of *Morus alba*. The family with a new home can have usable shade in three years or less by planting this species or one of the varieties The Mapleleaf variety is particularly fast. Trees can be purchased, bare root, from December to March in sizes from 4 to 12 feet tall or more, which gets you off to a flying start. With proper care a tree 20 feet tall and 20 feet across is possible in three years. As I mentioned at the outset, no tree is perfect in all respects and this one is no exception. The leaves drop every fall, although in a relatively short period of time. Also, they are very large and easy to rake up. Because the tree grows so rapidly, pruning is a yearly chore, particularly in the formative stage. Branches grow to six feet or more in one year and quickly develop a large top which is sometimes too heavy for the young trunk. So stake well, thin judiciously and head back long branches during the winter months when the structure of the tree is visible. Fill with pea stone or larger and let the water trickle in each section of pipe for several hours. This should be done at varying intervals depending on the type of soil. Surface watering except when first planted and until the tree is established will cause surface rooting and its attendant problems However, this method can be used if the top two inches of soil are cultivated the following day so the soil dries out. This will help to discourage surface roots. If the tile method is used, the tiles will have to be moved outward as the tree grows and additional tiles added as the circumference increases as they should be kept at the drip line. Once the tree is established it is fairly drought tolerant. If you want a dense shade tree 20 x 20 feet in three years, this is your tree. The kids will enjoy climbing in it too. *Cinnamomum camphora* Camphor Tree For those with a real love of trees and the space to grow them, the camphor is one of the finest trees that can be grown in the warmer areas of California. This native of China and Japan can reach a height of 50 feet or so, with an equal or greater spread. It is beautiful in all seasons, The new foliage in spring may be pink, red or bronze, depending on the tree. The foliage becomes light-green and the leaves turn shiny as the tree matures. Old trees lose their lowest branches and often have a rather swollen base with large roots protruding above the soil. There is some leaf drop most of the year but the heaviest is in March. This is a detriment to some people, but there is no such thing as a perfectly clean tree. No special care is needed in growing the camphor, but as with any plant, the better the soil and care it receives the greater the reward in growth. While not usually bothered by pests it is subject to verticillium wilt, one of the root rots. When attacked by this rot, twigs, leaves, branches, and sometimes the whole center of the tree will wilt and die. For many years nothing could be done to control this disease. Recently a new systemic fungicide, Benlate benomil , became available and appears to be of considerable value in controlling verticillium when used as a spray on the foliage. In spite of this, camphors are not difficult to grow. *Jacaranda acutifolia* Jacaranda It almost seems superfluous to discuss this popular and widely planted tree. To newcomers who are not familiar with its beauty some information on its culture may be of value. If a really fine tree is wanted, regular pruning and removal of the water sprouts which occur throughout the tree is necessary It is very tolerant of many types of soils, but of course will not do well in poorly drained or highly compacted soils. The work which may be necessary to develop a well- shaped tree is quickly forgotten when the blooms envelop the tree in a cloud of lavender blue and the ground beneath is carpeted with fallen flowers. This Brazilian native graces the streets and gar- dens of many cities all over the warmer areas of the world.

Chapter 6 : Trees of Southern California

These plants have successfully adapted to the mostly dry and warm climate of the region. Certain southern California native plants evolved to survive in the extreme heat of the Sonoran Desert while others enjoy the cool, sea breeze of the Coastal Sage Scrub plant community.

Their image is meant to conjure up feelings of leisure, relaxation and living the good life. One is, but most hail from Mexico and as far away as the Canary Islands. Palms have adapted well to our growing conditions and thrive in our homes as gorgeous ornamental trees. How Palm Trees Arrived in Southern California Believe it or not, before settlers arrived in our part of the world, California was a semi-arid landscape of native plants. Palms need moisture in the soil to survive so were huddled near sources like the Los Angeles River. Indians used them for sustenance and practical purposes such as using the fronds for basket weaving, shelter and even clothing. An explosion of palm tree planting occurred in the s as Americans associated Southern California with a leisure-like, Mediterranean environment. The Only California Native Palm The *Washingtonia filifera* or California fan palm also referred to as the Arizona fan palm is the only native palm to the United States, specifically the Southwest, and has been seen growing naturally in the wild as far east as Colorado and north to Wyoming. Fossils of the palm have been found dating back to almost million years BP. The California fan palm can live up to years, grow up to 75 feet tall and has leaves shaped like a fan that fold like accordion. The leaves can reach about 6 feet long and wide. Palms for Southern California Many palms will thrive in Southern California with some TLC, but the list below includes types that are fairly low maintenance if placed in the right sun and soil conditions. It can take partial or full sun. They do have sharp thorns at the base of the leaves, need full sun and can be found at Home Depot in small sizes. They are very easy to find at local nurseries. The downside is that they are slow-growers but they also come in a pretty blue variety. Also, we have a post dedicated to growing indoor palm trees , for your reference. When to Plant a Palm Tree Experts suggest that planting palms in the right season based on your location helps guarantee success. While fall is usually an excellent time to plant trees, even in temperate San Diego, palms will fare better when planted in the spring or summer though with care, they can survive planting year-round. Have you ever bought a healthy palm tree and planted it in your yard only to have it wilt away and die? Palms need to acclimate to their environment, especially if they were greenhouse-grown. If you do plant a palm in the fall or winter, be mindful of the watering schedule as too much water can also weaken roots and cause pathogens to grow. How to Plant a Palm Tree Most of the work regarding planting a palm tree happens before the tree touches the ground. Whether or not you add amended soil around the palm tree depends on what kind of soil you have, but what you will want to add is large sand or similar to provide adequate drainage. This will allow water to puddle slightly around the tree. Palms have shallow root balls, so if shoved in the ground, especially in clay soil , the root ball can rise above ground resulting in a weak plant. Pygmy date palms in multiple trunks are subject to sideways growth in certain conditions. Use it or Move it Interestingly enough, many Southern California residents who have palm trees that grow taller than height restrictions or need removal due to renovations have had luck selling palm trees for relocation into other yards. Call a tree removal company to see if yours are saleable for a nice profit. Your Turn! What palms have you had success growing in Southern California?

Chapter 7 : Home > Trees for California

Native to chaparral and coastal scrub in Southern California and northern Baja California Like other salvias, Cleveland sage sends its fragrance on the warm summer breeze, calling all the hummingbirds, native bees, honeybees and butterflies.

Comprised largely of non-native trees like the ficus, magnolia, eucalyptus , and the iconic palm , Greater L. But scattered among these horticultural tourists are some species that grew in Southern California before the first human set foot here: Though still abundant in protected landscapes today, oak trees historically thrived across a much wider range within California. Near Los Angeles, several species -- each adapted to different growing conditions -- graced hillsides, forested mountain slopes, and grew on the savannas of the inland San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Santa Clarita valleys. The coast live oak *Quercus agrifolia* , interior live oak *Q.* The valley oak *Q.* Oaks and the acorns they provided were so essential to life that several indigenous communities placed them at the center of their creation myths. Circa landscape painting by Hermann Herzog of oak trees in a valley near Los Angeles. Courtesy of the Robert B. When Europeans arrived, they noticed the beauty of the oaks and used them as a way to make sense of their novel surroundings. In central California, a later expedition named a oak-shrouded pass El Paso de Robles. Farming, annual husbandry, and the arrival of non-native annual grasses stymied oak reproduction. Mature oaks were cut for lumber or fuel. American land use practices only intensified the destructive processes. Like their Spanish predecessors, Americans would name their communities and streets after the trees Thousand Oaks, Fair Oaks Boulevard, etc. Because of the irregular shape of their trunks, oak trees were rarely felled for lumber, but oakwood came to be prized as fuel. The dense wood and lack of resin meant that the wood and resulting coals burned long and slowly. As the loggers clear-cut thousands of acres of oak woodlands and savannas and delivered the firewood to Los Angeles, bakers tossed the wood into their ovens, feeding a city while denuding the countryside. Oaks also fell to the axe as Southern Californians envisioned more profitable uses for oak-dominated landscapes. In the nineteenth century, citrus growers cleared oak savannas to make way for orchards. Other oak habitats declined as groundwater pumping lowered the water table. Later, real-estate developers uprooted trees to build new houses and commercial properties for the expanding metropolis. Oaks dot the valley floor in Chatsworth in this undated photo. Courtesy of the Title Insurance and Trust, and C. Aerial view of Encino, circa , showing the oak-dotted foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Eventually, as the population of native oaks dwindled, Southern Californians began to appreciate them for more than their consumptive value. Recognizing them as the last-standing sentinels of a lost landscape, some invested the trees with great cultural capital. Some, it was discovered, were several hundred years old. The massive Lang Oak , with a canopy that rose 75 feet in the air and stretched feet wide, had stood in Encino for more than 1, years. When local residents learned that a developer planned to chop it down to make way for a new street, they formed the Save the Oaks Association and rallied for its protection. In , after a six-year campaign, the city designated the oak as Historic Monument No. That tree fell to chainsaws in so that part of a Saturn V rocket, bound for a test site in the Santa Susana Mountains, could pass by on Calabasas Road. Today, many local jurisdictions protect oak trees by law, requiring permits for their removal and punishing violations as a misdemeanor. In some cases, the destruction of designated heritage oaks is banned altogether. Already weakened by a bacterial infection, it fell on the night of February 7, , as torrential El Nino rains softened the ground around its massive trunk. The next day, local residents gathered around the fallen giant to mourn. When Francisco Lopez fell asleep under this tree in , he dreamed of discovering gold. Then when he awoke and began digging up wild onions, Lopez found bits of the precious metal in the soil. The tree became known as the Oak of the Golden Dream. The next year, it was felled to make way for a passing Saturn V rocket. Residents form a protective barricade around an oak tree slated for removal by South Pasadena authorities, Many of the archives who contributed the above images are members of L. Our posts here provide a view into the archives of individuals and institutions whose collections inform the great narrativeâ€™ in all its complex facetsâ€™ of Southern California.

Chapter 8 : About Your Privacy on this Site

Native Cultures: The Seri People at Tree of Life November 3, @ am - pm Tree of Life Nursery is honored to host a group of artisans from the indigenous Seri (ComcÃ;ac) tribe, hailing from the arid coast of Sonora, Mexico.

Chapter 9 : Native plants of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Malibu area.

Native Plants 10 Top Native Plants for Southern California Gardens By Debbie Ballentine Enjoy a fuss-free, water-wise garden by growing plants naturally in tune with the climate and wildlife of Southern California.