



The demonstration garden of California native plants along the path of the Mariposa Creek Parkway on Stroming Road, between 6th and 8th Streets, continues to evolve. The purpose of the garden is to demonstrate the beauty and hardiness of California native plants in home landscaping. California natives are often overlooked by home gardeners in favor of exotic imports that do not thrive as well in our foothill environment. Most of the plants in this garden are drought tolerant, many are fire resistive, some attract birds and butterflies. Most are not attractive to deer. More than 30 varieties of California natives suitable for home landscaping may now be seen. Plant species and varieties are labeled for your information. A brochure for self-guidance is available from a literature box attached to the permanent signage at 8th Street. We invite you to take a stroll down the path and see how many of the plants you can identify. Among the plants you'll see are Flannel Bush, Leopard Lily, Buckeye, western Columbine, western Blue Flax, Emerald Carpet Manzanita, and Redbud. There are many others. Funding was provided by the Elvenia J. Slosson Endowment Fund, which is dedicated to the advancement and promotion of the science and practice of horticulture, particularly including ornamental horticulture for the home gardener.

Mariposa Creek Parkway

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN GUIDE

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BIGELOW'S SNEEZEWEED

Helenium bigelovii



- Plants are coarse looking but valuable for profuse late summer and autumn bloom. Does require regular moisture with good drainage. These plants grow from 2-3 ft tall and 1 ft. wide. Yellow blossoms are 2 ½ in.

BUSH ANEMONE

Carpenteria californica



- ❑ Grows in a restricted area of the foothills, endemic to Fresno County. It is a formal looking shrub which grows slowly to 4-6 ft. tall and wide. The older bark is light colored and peeling; new shoots are purplish. In late spring and summer clusters of scented 1 ½ -3 in. flowers bloom. It is resistant to oak root fungus and deer resistant.

BUSH LUPINE

Lupinus albus



- ❑ This is a 3-5 ft perennial. The flowers are 3 in. blue spikes on a white-silver bush. It needs full sun, good drainage and will tolerate some water but best on the dry side. Deer avoid it, but it is attractive to butterflies.

BUTTON WILLOW

Cephalanthus occidentalis



- These deciduous plants are usually seen as 3 ft. bushes but can grow larger. They like full sun, water and tolerate most soils. Flowers are 1-2 in. creamy white in spherical clusters. Fall color is bright yellow with some orange. This is a good streamside plant.

CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL

Umbellularia californica



- Along the windy foothills of the coast, this plant is a huge gumbdrop-shaped shrub. But in the forests, it is a tree that grows upward to 75 ft. tall and 100 ft wide. Its leaves may be substituted for sweet bay leaves in cooking, although a lot more pungent than sweet bay. They grow best in deep soil with regular water, but tolerate many other conditions, including aridity. This plant is deer resistant.

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE

Aesculus californica



- This is a deciduous, small tree, normally growing to 15 ft. The showy 6 in., creamy, scented flower spikes appear in April-May. It is native to the central coastal ranges and the Sierra in partial shade to full sun. It is tolerant to drought but needs regular water for the first few years. The pear-like fruits are poisonous and they were used as a fish poison by some Native Americans such as the Yana and Yokut (Kroeber, 1925). This tree goes deciduous early if allowed to get too dry.

CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

Eriogonum fasciculatum



- This shrub is native to the foothills and desert slopes of California. It has pinkish head-like clusters of flowers from May-October. Good for erosion control. It is drought tolerant and deer resistant.

CALIFORNIA FESCUE

Festuca californica



- ❑ Native to the coastal ranges, It grows in a loose clump 2-3 ft high and 1-2 ft wide. It blooms in late spring and early summer. Long lived and does well in various soil types. Tolerates summer droughts in cooler climates. Makes a good ground cover.

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

Zauschneria (Epilobium) californica



- It has deep red long tubular flowers throughout the summer. Looks best in informal, natural gardens, also does well on banks and hillsides. It is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Plants die back in winter but the rhizomes are hardy to 20°F and will re-emerge in the spring. Responds well to pruning after its bloom cycle. Can be invasive.

CALIFORNIA POPPY

Eschscholzia californica



- The California Poppy grows well in gardens with dry soil and lots of sun. It is a perennial often grown as an annual. The flowers remain closed during wet or cloudy weather. Seedlings are somewhat difficult to transplant and self-seeded volunteers may be off-types of inferior quality. Direct seeding into the garden is preferred. Our State Flower.

COFFEEBERRY

Rhamnus californica



- This is an evergreen shrub that grows fast to 6-8 in. It likes sun to part shade and has low water requirements. The berries turn red, then black. Attractive in all seasons. This plant is one of the most deer proof of all.

DEER GRASS

Muhlenbergia rigens



- Deer Grass is a significant basketry material to central and southern California Native Americans who utilize the flower stalks in the foundations of coiled baskets. Once established, Deer Grass is quite drought-tolerant. Contrary to its name, deer seem to avoid it. Attractive seed heads.

FLANNEL BUSH

Fremontodendron californicum



- This California native grows up to 20 ft. tall and 12 ft wide. Its rich yellow flowers bloom in the spring and are 1-3 in. across. The plants are completely drought tolerant and will accept occasional moisture during their normally dry period in summer only if drainage is excellent, such as on a hillside. Careful when handling, leaf fuzz may cause skin irritations. In most areas this plant is deer resistant.

IRIS DOUGLASIANA

Douglasiana “Pacific Coast Hybrid”



- This plant is widely used in the nursery trade, both as Douglas Iris and as a parent stock for many successful hybrids. It is a vigorous, highly successful iris, common and widespread in coastal areas.

LEOPARD LILY

Lilium pardalinum



- ❑ This plant can reach 3 ft. tall and have flowers that are 3 in. across. Needs some sun and regular water. Though it looks like a lily it is really an iris. The leaves look like iris leaves. The flowers are usually spotted with a darker color.

MANZANITA “EMERALD CARPET”

MANZANITA *arctostaphylos* “emerald carpet”



- ❑ This is one of the greenest and most uniform of the ground cover Manzanitas. It forms a dense carpet 8-14 in tall and spreads about 5 ft. It needs deep irrigation very 2-3 weeks. It is considered to be a fire-safe Manzanita. It is also deer resistant.

MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortas venustus



- The Mariposa Lily is native to central and southern California coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada foothills. Flowers are 3-3 1/2 inches wide, white or yellow to purple, dark red, often with peacock eye at the base of the petals. Stems are 10 in. or more. It blooms May-July. This corm requires moistness in spring and dry summers. Can be lifted during summer months to dry out. It can grow in pots.

MATILIJA POPPY

Romneya coulteri



- This perennial can grow to 8 ft. tall and has 4-6 in. flowers that are white with a yellow center. Some call it the “fried egg plant”. The plants can be difficult to start in heavy soil but thrives in sand. It spreads by rhizomes, grows very well in the foothills.

MOCK ORANGE

Philadelphus lewisii



- ❑ This is a deciduous shrub. It has white and fragrant flowers in late spring. Plants have a spreading and fountain like habit and can grow up to 6 ft. tall. Prune plant to shape right after bloom cycle.

MONKEY FLOWER

Mimulus aurantiacus



- Showy flowers. Plants are short-lived, therefore even though it is a perennial, Monkey Flower is often treated as an annual. If given plenty of water, will tolerate hot climates. Does well in pots with good drainage.

MOUNTAIN STRAWBERRY

Fragaria virginiana



- ❑ This evergreen ground cover grows best in part shade. The leaves take on red tints in winter. It has large (1in. wide) white flowers in spring and bright red seedy fruits in fall. Needs regular watering. Attractive to birds.

PENSTEMON

Penstemon newberryi



- This native is also called “Mountain Pride”. It is perennial and has tubular flowers in bright reds and blues but also soft pinks through salmon, peach deep rose, lilac, deep purple and white. Grows best in full sun. Needs fast drainage and grows best in loose, gravel soil with infrequent watering.

Rabbitbrush

Chrysothamnus nauseosus



- This is an erect freely branching shrub. Grows to 6 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide. It blooms in late summer or fall. Leaves and stems are strongly aromatic. It is useful for roadside or natural plantings. Deer avoid it. Flowers are bright yellow. A quintessential plant associated with High Desert climates, such as Northern New Mexico.

REDBUD

Cercis occidentalis



- The Western Redbud is native to California. It is most frequently found in our foothills below 4,000 ft. It is both a shrub and small tree that grows 10-18 ft. tall and wide. The magenta flowers bloom in spring before the blue-green leaves appear. The Redbud is very drought tolerant and is excellent for seldom-watered banks. Generally it is deer resistant.

SAGE

Salvia chamaedryoides



- Grows to 1-2 ft. tall and spreads 2-3 ft. by underground runners. Has brilliant true blue 1 inch flowers that bloom in late spring and fall. Deadhead flowers to encourage re-bloom. Drought tolerant but will bloom longer and showier with more water.

SIERRA CURRANT

Ribes nevadense



- The plants without spines are called currants and those with spines are known as gooseberries. This local plant grows erect to 4-8 ft tall and 6-10 ft. wide and has deep crimson flowers borne from winter to spring. The flowers are drooping and fuchsia-like, with long, protruding stamens. Excellent barrier. Needs no irrigation, but moderate water keeps it nearly evergreen. Deer resistant.

SPICE BUSH

Calycanthus occidentalis



- ❑ This is a deciduous shrub with fragrant, reddish-brown flowers April-August. It likes sun to partial shade and looks good if given regular water, native to stream banks and moist slopes. Easily grown from seed.

TOYON

Heteromeles arbutifolia



- This shrub is also called the Christmas Berry or California Holly. It is an evergreen shrub native to Sierra Nevada foothills. It has small, whitish flowers in June-July and bright red berries from November-January and birds love them. This shrub is drought tolerant and deer resistant.

WESTERN BLUE FLAX

Linum lewissii



- ❑ This plant is drought resistant and likes full sun and good drainage. It has erect branching stems and abundant 5-petal flowers blooming from late spring into summer or fall. Deer seem to avoid it.

WESTERN COLUMBINE

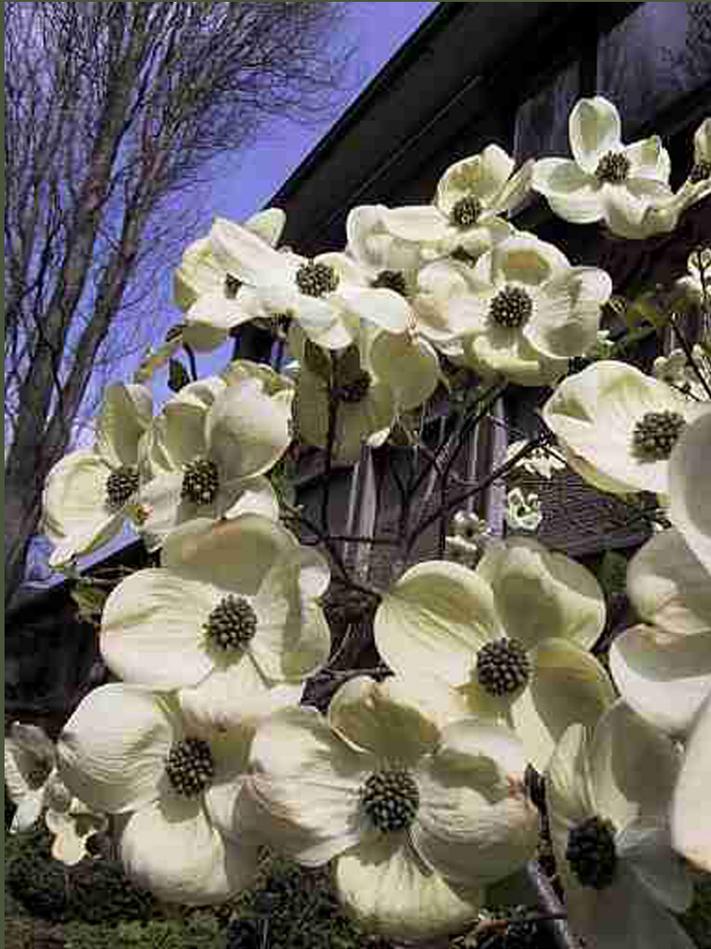
Aquilegia formosa



- Plants are erect and grow up to 1 ½ -3 ft tall and 1 ½ ft wide. They have nodding red-and-yellow flowers which are 1 ½-2 in. across, with stout, straight red spurs. Plants are not fussy about soil as long as it is well drained. These are short-lived plants and will need to be replaced every 3-4 years unless they have reseeded themselves. Bloom season comes in spring and early summer. Plants prefer light shade and are deer resistant.

WESTERN DOGWOOD

Cornus nuttallii



- This deciduous tree can grow to 65 ft. with many branches giving it an irregular look. The “flower” is actually an inflorescence of many small flowers bordered by 4-7 large white bracts. The actual flower has petals that are about 2.5 mm long, whitish or greenish in color and often are purple-tipped. The fruits have clusters of bright red berries (drupes), each of which is about 1/3 in. in diameter, usually bearing 2 seeds. The wood was considered good for bows, arrows, implement handles and clothing hooks. The bark has been boiled for a dark-brown dye.

CALIFORNIA LILAC “DARK STAR”

Ceanothus griseus “Dark Star”



- In the wild, plants grow on rocky slopes. They need light, well-drained soil. Some demand total dryness, but others need occasional summer water. C. Dark Star grows up to 5-6 ft. tall and 8-10 ft. wide. The flowers are dark cobalt blue in 1½ in. clusters. Attractive in all seasons. Very deer resistant.

WILD ROSE

Rosa californica



- This is a 3 ft. deciduous shrub with 1-2 in. pink flowers. It has red, smooth, large hips of good quality for tea. Flowers, hips, cut branches are all fragrant. It likes shade to part shade in the interior but at high elevations (6000 ft.) or coastal areas it prefers full sun. It tolerates some drought but likes moisture. An upright grower, it forms thickets on north slopes and next to streams.

YARROW

Achillea “moonshine”



- ❑ This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds and is resistant to deer. It is drought tolerant and blooms profusely from early spring until hard frost.