

UC Santa Barbara

Educational Materials

Title

Kids in Nature Native Plant Cards

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Monkey Flower
Mimulus aurantiacus

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 4 feet in height.

Hummingbirds and bees love to visit me.

My leaves are very sticky--touch me and I'll try to hold onto you!

I grow best in coastal sage scrub habitats.

I have yellow tube-like flowers.

My flowers are bilaterally symmetrical.



Blue Elderberry
Sambucus nigra

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 10 feet in height.

I produce sweet-smelling, creamy yellow flowers.

My purplish-black berries provide food for birds during their breeding season and can also be used to make jellies and pies.

My stems are strong even though they are hollow and can be used to make flutes and clapper sticks.



Christmas Berry
Heteromeles arbutifolia

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 8 feet in height.

I am an evergreen shrub with sharply toothed leaves.

I produce red berries that mature in winter instead of spring.

My berries provide food for many birds.

My other name is "Toyon."



Black Sage
Salvia mellifera

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 8 feet in height.

I am very important for the survival of many butterflies and hummingbirds! They drink my nectar.

I produce small white and blue flowers. My flowers and leaves have a distinctive fragrance.

I like the sun and you can find me in coastal sage scrub habitats.



Hummingbird Sage
Salvia spathacea

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 2 feet in height.

My flowers are reddish-pink and tubular.

My flower shape makes it easy for hummingbirds to drink my nectar.

I really like the shade and you might find me in oak woodland habitat.

I have a lovely smell.



California Wild Rose
Rosa californica

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I am a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 8 feet in height.

My stems are coated in sharp thorns -- don't touch!

I produce pink flowers that have a beautiful fragrance.

My fruits (sometimes called rosehips) provide food for wildlife and can also be used to make tea.



Lemonade Berry

Rhus integrifolia

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I am an evergreen shrub and can grow up to 26 feet in height.

My ripe berries are coated in a lemon flavored, sticky substance.

My roots are good at controlling erosion on coastal bluffs.

I prefer oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.

My flowers are pale pink.



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 8 feet in height.

My tiny pink bell-shaped flowers attract lots of bees.

I'm a tough plant because I can tolerate sandy soil and seasonal flooding.

My fruit is a soft, white, round berry.

I am an important winter food source for quail, pheasant and grouse.



California Sagebrush

Artemisia californica

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I am an evergreen shrub and can grow up to 4 feet in height.

I like to be in the sun as much as possible, and never really need much water!

You will find me growing in coastal sagescrub habitat.

I have a pleasant smell.

My leaves are soft and needle-shaped.



Mugwort

Artemisia douglasiana

Classification Facts

I am a perennial herb.

I can grow up to 3 feet in height.

My leaves are green on top, but whitish underneath.

I can tolerate sand and seasonal flooding.

My leaves help relieve poison oak symptoms.

My leaves have a strong aroma.



California Sunflower

Encelia californica

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I am a shrub that can grow up to 4 feet in height.

Look at the flower above; it is actually hundreds of individual flowers.

The yellow flowers are ray flowers and the brown ones in the center are disk flowers.

My flower head has radial symmetry.



Golden Yarrow

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I grow up to 2 feet in height.

I produce flowers in the summer.

My flowers grow in dense clusters on delicate stems.

I love to be in the sun. I prefer to grow on dry slopes.

I have ray, disk, and tubular flowers.

My flowers are a bright golden yellow.



Giant Rye

Elymus condensatus

Classification Facts

I am one of the largest native perennial bunch grasses.

I can grow up to 7 feet in height.

After my leaves are visible, my flower stalks appear and grow one to two feet in height.

I have striking blue-gray foliage.



Sea Cliff Daisy

Malacothrix saxatilis

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 5 feet in height.

My flower is actually hundreds of flowers.

The white petals are ray flowers and the yellow central flowers are disk flowers.

I prefer dry, disturbed soils near rocks and thrive near the coast.

My flowers are white with a yellow center.



California Poppy

Eschscholzia californica

Classification Facts

I am an annual plant but sometimes I live several years.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

My favorite place to grow is in fields. I can grow in seaside conditions and even sand, too.

I am the state flower of California.

My flower is bright orange or yellow.

I have exploding seed capsules.



California Barley

Hordeum brachyantherum californicum

Classification Facts

I am a perennial grass with hairs on my leaves and a reddish flowering stalk.

I can grow up to 2 feet in height.

I am usually found in moist areas along grassy mesas and ocean bluffs.

I prefer dense or compact soils.

I have a noncompetitive nature, so it is difficult for me to grow near weeds.



Miniature Lupine

Lupinus bicolor

Classification Facts

I am an annual plant with many blue and white flowers.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

The top part of my flower is called a banner and the bottom part is called a keel.

Bees pollinate me.

I like to grow in full sun.

My flowers have bialteral symmetry.

Purple Needlegrass

Stipa pulchra

Classification Facts

I am a perennial herb.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

I am not actually purple!

Grasslands are where you can find me and I usually grow about 3 feet tall.

I can live to be over 200 years old because my roots grow down 20 feet into the ground!

I have needle-shaped seeds.



Blue-eyed G rass
Sisyrinchium bellum

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

I am not a grass!

Starting in January, I produce purple flowers.

Even though my flowers may look delicate, I am a tough plant.

I can tolerate sand, clay, seasonal flooding, and foot traffic.

My flowers have radial symmetry.



Coffeeberry
Frangula californica

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow to a height between 8 feet and 12 feet tall.

I am an evergreen shrub with reddish-purple stems.

Inside of my red berries are seeds shaped like coffee beans.

I have small, white, star-shaped flowers.

Birds, bears, raccoons, foxes and other wildlife enjoy eating my berries.



Morning Glory
Calystegia macrostegia

Classification Facts

I am an herbaceous perennial plant.

I can grow up to 30 feet in height.

I am a twining vine with pink and cream colored flowers.

My flowers are trumpet-shaped.

If I don't get enough water during the summer, I will lose all of my leaves.

Bees like to forage in my flowers to collect pollen.

I am a pioneer plant.



California Fuchsia
Epilobium canum

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I can grow 2 feet high and 4 feet wide.

I have slender, grey-green leaves and bright scarlet, tubular flowers with exerted (protruding) stamens.

My flowers are very attractive to Hummingbirds.

I spread by rhizomes. Rhizome means root stalk.



Seacliff Buckwheat
Eriogonum parvifolium

Classification Facts

I am a perennial plant.

I grow to be 2 feet high, by 2 feet wide.

I am an evergreen shrub with reddish-green leaves and reddish-pink flowers.

Even though my flowers are small, I am very important for pollinating insects.

I am also an important food source for small animals.

I prefer to grow in sandy soils.



Purple Sage
Salvia leucophylla

Classification Facts

I am perennial plant.

I can grow up to 5 feet in height.

I am an evergreen shrub with light purple flowers.

My leaves are whitish and fuzzy.

Once established, I need very little water.

Birds and insects are attracted to my flowers.

I am extremely aromatic.



Canyon Sunflower

Venegasia carpesioides

Classification Facts

I am a perennial herb.

I am really happy growing in oak woodlands and by stream banks.

My flowers are beautiful golden sunflowers composed of ray and disk flowers.

I have large, lush, green leaves.

My flowers are radially symmetrical.



Honeysuckle

Lonicera subspicata

Classification Facts

I am a perennial vine.

My flowers are creamy yellow with very long stamens (where the pollen develops).

I have small leaves that are dark green on top and grayish underneath.

My berries are orange and sticky.

I have bilaterally symmetrical flowers.



Gooseberry

Ribes speciosum

Classification Facts

I am a perennial evergreen shrub.

I have beautiful red flowers, but very sharp thorns -- don't touch!

I prefer to live in oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.

Hummingbirds feed on the nectar from my flowers.

I have edible, spiny, red berries.



Deerweed

Acmispon glaber

Classification Facts

I am a small perennial shrub.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

After a fire, I am one of the first species to germinate.

I am a pioneer species.

From spring through summer, I am covered in small yellow blossoms.

My flowers have bilateral symmetry.



Beeplant

Scrophularia californica

Classification Facts

I am a perennial.

I can grow up to 6 feet in height.

My flowers are very small and reddish-brown.

Hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators like my sweet nectar.

Larvae of the Chalcedon Checkerspot butterfly feed on my nectar.

My flowers have bilateral symmetry.



California Aster

Corethrogyne filaginifolia

Classification Facts

I am a perennial herb and can grow in most soil types.

I can grow up to 1 foot in height.

My inflorescence is made up of purple ray flowers and yellow disk flowers.

I flower late in the season and provide valuable food for insects.

Butterflies and bees love my flowers.



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

Classification Facts

I am an evergreen tree and can reach a mature height of 10-25 m.

My flowers are wind pollinated.

My fruits are acorns and are an important food source for many birds, small mammals, and in the past, for many Native Americans.

I am well adapted to fire, and can re-sprout after being burned.

The California Oak Moth (*Phryganidia californica*) subsists entirely on leaves of the Coast Live Oak.



Lanceleaf Liveforever
Dudleya lanceolata

Classification Facts

I am a perennial, herbaceous herb.

I like to grow on steep canyon slopes in chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

Hummingbirds like to feed on the nectar of my orange, red, and pink flowers.

I am a succulent and can survive in dry, rocky soils with little water.

I am also a host plant for the larva of the Sonoran Blue Butterfly (*Philotes sonorensis*).

Classification Facts