

Native Plants of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook



Created by Andrew and Allison Tsau





The Coastal Sage Scrub Community

The plant community stretches from Baja California to Southern Oregon. However, the explosive urbanization of California, where much of the natural habitats reside in this community, causes a constant problem. With the disappearance of many integral plants, like the prickly pear cactus and mulefat, the natural community is falling apart. It is important to inform visitors of the importance of preserving one of the last coastal sage scrub communities in the area.





Shrubs and Scrubs

- Sages- White and Purple
- Toyon
- Mulefat
- Prickly Pear Cactus
- Purple Needle grass
- Plantain
- California Goldfield
- Dune Primrose
- Bush Sunflower
- Golden Yarrow
- Blue-Eyed Grass
- Giant Wild Rye
- California Aster
- Heart-leaved Penstemon
- Arroyo Lupine
- California Poppy
- Popcorn Flower

Purple Sage (*Salvia Officinalis*)

and

White Sage (*Salvia Apiana*)

- Piquant aroma
- Leaves were eaten by the Tongva Native American Tribes; also used as hair ointment/wash
- Not to be used by pregnant women due to presence of thujone, which can trigger epileptics.
- White sage was known as *kasili* to the Tongva



Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



- Looks like holly-
common in the Santa Monica Mountains,
hence the naming of
“Hollywood”
- Berries provide an
important source of food
for birds
- Also known as Ashwet in
the Tongva language.
Wood was used for
arrows, men’s hairpins,
and dye (from berries)

Mulefat

(*Baccharis salsifolia*)

- Named by gold miners, who let their mules graze on these
- Flexible, sways with the wind
- Tongvas, who knew mulefat as *mahar*, used the stems for arrows, and boiled leaves/stems to treat bruises, insect bites, and as an eyewash.



Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia x occidentalis*)



- Fruit is reddish, and is sometimes turned into jams
- The cactus wren, which depends on this plant as its natural habitat and nesting site, has not been seen in the area for a decade.
- The spines are very sharp, and can grow up to 1 –1.5 inches

Purple Needlegrass (*Nassella Pulchra*)

“California’s State Grass”

- Beautiful, native alternative to fountain grass (often used in landscaping)
- Can live 100+ years.
- Important food source for many animals
- Hardy and drought resistant



Dune Primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*)

also known as Beach Suncup, Beach Evening Primrose

- Can withstand salty environments
- Root systems help prevent soil erosion
- Immense flexibility allows it to survive the strong winds along the coasts



California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)

- Known to Tongvas as *Pawots*
- Many medicinal uses- treated asthma, fevers, coughs, toothaches, burns, and wounds.
- Pungent odor
- $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 inch long leaves



Arroyo Lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*)

- Native to California
- Soil and rain determine height of plant; this species is the most water tolerant of all Lupines
- Leaves are about 6 cm long, flowers about 1-2 cm long and clustered in whorls



Bush Sunflower

- Protected by law
- Stem can be chewed to ease pain
- Dark center-distinguishable from the invasive chrysanthemum



Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium Bellum*)

Also known as Star Grass

- Not a true grass-in the iris family
- Perennial-each flower sheds a seed capsule that have tiny black seeds



California Poppy

(*Eschscholzia californica*)

“California’s State Flower”



- 5-60cm tall plant
- Drought tolerant
- Self seeding
- Petals close at night, and when weather is rough
- Each petal is 2-6 cm long

Giant Wild Rye (*Leymus condensatus*)

- Seeds provide a source of food for birds
- Drought resistant
- Flowers-blue, in springtime



Close up of
seeds

California Aster (*Lessingia Filaginifolia*)

- Nectar is eaten by moths and butterflies- important food source
- One-inch wide flowers with yellow centers
- Perennial
- Drought resistant
- Tolerates salt



Popcorn Flower

- Small, white flowers, in tight bunches-looks like popcorn
- 2 to 10 inches tall
- Leaves are narrow, green-grayish and hairy
- Flowers bloom in February and March



Golden Yarrow

(Eriophyllum confertiflorum)

- Grows 12 to 24 inches tall
- Blooms in March- August
- Drought resistant
- Perennial



California Goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*)

- Nicknamed “fly-flower” as many small flies feed on its pollen
- Can cover an entire field or meadow, hence its name
- Can grow to about two to ten inches tall



Heart-Leaved Penstemon

(Keckiella cordifolia)

- A 36 to 72 inch long sprawling bush
- Flowers – red and tubular, May to July
- Needs little watering-drought resistant-shiny green foilage
- Cold-tolerant to under 0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Important hummingbird plant



Plantain



- Adds nitrogen to the soil

Trees

- Coastal Live Oak
- Black Walnut
- Laurel Sumac
- Western Sycamore



Coastal Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

Tongva name: Weht-used
as primary food source
from acorns

- Acorns would be picked, dried, opened, and peeled
- Ground into fine meal
- Leaching process to get rid of toxic tannin



Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)



- *Shavar*-Tongva name
- Bark Tea-used as blood tonic, cure for asthma, and aid in childbirth.
- Wood was used for construction of homes, sweathouses
- Usually found along streams and other water sources

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)



- Shells used as black dye for hair, and handicrafts
- Heartwood-dark colored, highly prized

Laurel Sumac (*Malosuma Laurina*)

- Waxy, curved leaves help create drought resistance
- 10 to 15 feet tall
- Used in landscaping in frost free areas (is not frost hardy)
- Aroma is very strong
- In its own genus *Malosma*





FIN

Photographs and Powerpoint
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