Use of Local Native Plant Species

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Native tidal marsh and transition or ecotone plants of South San Francisco Bay

Botanical Name	Common Name	Wildlife Value	Wetland Status[1]
HERBS			
Atriplex patula	fat hen	good, butterflies	FACW
Baccharis glutinosa	marsh baccharis	high	FACW
Cressa truxillensis	alkali weed	low to fair	FACW
Eryngium aristulatum	Jepson's button celery	good, native bees, butterflies	OBL
Euthamia occidentalis	western goldenrod	good, native bees	FACW
Frankenia salina	alkali heath	good, butterflies	FACW
Grindelia stricta	gumweed	good, native bees	FACW
Heliotropium curassavicum	salt heliotrope	good, native bees	FACU
*Hordeum brachyantherum**	meadow barley	poor to moderate, small mammals, waterfowl	FACW
*Hordeum depressum**	alkali barley	low to fair	FACW
Jaumea carnosa	marsh jaumea	low to fair	OBL
Juncus effusus	bog rush	good for birds to low for small mammals	FACW
Lasthenia glabrata	yellow rayed goldfields	good, butterflies	FACW
Limonium californicum	western marsh rosemary	good, beneficial insects	FACW
Plantago subnuda	Mexican plantain	good, butterflies	FACW
Salicornia depressa	Virginia glasswort	low to fair	OBL
Salicornia pacifica	perennial pickleweed	fair for waterbirds to high for saltmarsh harvest mouse	OBL
Schoenoplectus americanus	chairmaker's bulrush	fair to good	OBL
Triglochin maritima	arrowgrass	good, birds	OBL
SHRUBS			
Atriplex lentiformis	big saltbush	good, birds	FAC
Isocoma menziesii	Menzies' goldenbush	good, butterflies	FAC
GRASSES			
Deschampsia caespitosa	tufted hairgrass	good, native bees, butterflies	FACW
Distichlis spicata	salt grass	fair to good	FAC

* *Salt-tolerant form*

Click on the wildlife value link for the plant to see a USDA Forest Service description of the plant or search here for more information from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Click on the botanical name for more information on each plant from CalFlora

More freshwater wetland plants are included on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's list of native riparian plants of Santa Clara Valley

Wetlands are among the most important and productive ecosystems on Earth (Mitsch and Gosselink 2007). Creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, riparian and wetland habitats are protected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Boards, United States Army Corps of Engineers with oversight by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency. Contact the agencies about any activities in creeks, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, including their banks and floodplains, riparian and wetland habitats.

[1] Wetland status categories for vascular plants (United States Army Corps of Engineers 2014) show the likelihood of the plant growing in wetlands. This gives an idea of how much water, type of habitat, and position on the bank or slope the plant prefers. Species listed as OBL, FACW, and FAC are considered wetland plants.

Wetland status category	Symbol	Probability of occurrence in wetlands
Obligate	OBL	Greater than 99 %
Facultative Wetland	FACW	67 - 99 %
Facultative	FAC	34 - 66 %
Facultative Upland	FACU	1 - 33 %
Upland	UPL	Less than 1 %
No Indicator	NI	Insufficient information exists to assign indicator status
Not Listed	NL	Plants generally not considered to be found in wetlands and, therefore, not listed

The three facultative categories are subdivided by (+) and (-) modifiers to show a tendency toward either wetter (+) or drier (-) conditions.

* Please consult with native plant experts or the Santa Clara Valley Water District about planting cattails (*Typha* spp.). Cattails tend to take over wetlands and establish dense stands, so other valuable plants cannot compete, which lowers biodiversity. Wetlands dominated by cattails and cattail stands are valuable habitat for mammals, water fowl, blackbirds, and other marsh birds. However, extensive monotypic stands are usually poor habitat (Snyder 1993).

Click here to read the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Guidelines For Landscaping To Protect Native Vegetation From Genetic Degradation

Like CNPS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District strives to protect, conserve, maintain, and reestablish watershed specific native plants. If natural revegetation from surrounding areas or the native soil seed bank is inadequate, actively assist revegetation by planting seeds or plants grown from seeds, cuttings or divisions collected locally. If planting is necessary, please use plant materials collected from the project site first, adjacent or nearby sites second, and the same watershed at the same approximate elevation and slope aspect as the project site.

Please talk to your local native plant and nursery experts! The local CNPS Santa Clara Chapter's website is http://www.cnps-scv.org/.

Click here for information on CDFW's California Native Plant Program

For useful advice, read the Water Resources Protection Collaborative Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams: A Manual of Tools, Standards, and Procedures to Protect Streams and Streamside Resource in Santa Clara County, and the Water Resources Protection Manual.

Information on historic riparian habitats can be found in the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) historical ecology reports. Look for the Santa Clara Valley and Santa Clara County at: http://www.sfei.org/he/HE-publications

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