

Use of Local Native Plant Species



Native riparian plants of the Santa Clara Valley

Botanical Name	Common Name	Wildlife Value	Wetland Status ¹
TREES			
Acer negundo	Box elder	Fair for songbirds	FACW
Aesculus californica	Buckeye	Toxic, fair	NL
Alnus rhombifolia	White alder	Fair to good	FACW
Platanus racemosa*	Western sycamore*	Good to high, cavity and raptor nests*	FAC*
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	High	FAC
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	High	FAC
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	High	NL
Quercus lobata	Valley oak	High and critical	FACU
Salix laevigata	Red willow	Good to high, least Bell's vireo	FACW
Salix lasiandra	Pacific willow	Good to high, least Bell's vireo	FACW
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo willow	Good to high, least Bell's vireo	FACW
SHRUBS and VINES			
Artemisia californica	California sage	Good to high in chaparral	NL
Baccharis salicifolia	Mulefat	Good to high	FAC
Clematis ligusticifolia	Virgin's bower	Fair	FAC
Cornus glabrata	Brown dogwood	Good to high	FACW
Frangula californica	Coffeeberry	High	NL
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	High	NL
Rosa californica	California rose	Good to high	FAC
Rubus ursinus	California blackberry	High	FAC
Salix exigua	Sandbar willow	Good to high, nesting, least Bell's vireo	FACW
Sambucus nigra	Elderberry	High	FAC
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	High	FACU
HERBS			
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	Fair	FAC
Baccharis glutinosa	Marsh baccharis	Fair, good for insects	FACW
Bromus carinatus	California brome grass	High	NL
Elymus triticoides	Blue wild rye	Fair to good, ground nesting cover	FAC
Euthamia occidentalis	Goldenrod	Fair to poor	FACW
Symphyotrichum chilense	Pacific aster	Fair to good	FAC

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](#)

Riparian woodlands support a higher diversity and density of breeding birds in California than any other habitat (Gains 1980, Gray and Greaves 1984). Riparian and wetland habitats are protected by the United States [Army Corps of Engineers](#) with oversight by the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](#), [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [State Water Resources Control Boards](#), and [Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency](#). Contact the agencies about any activities in creeks, rivers, lakes, ponds, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian habitats.

¹ Wetland status categories for vascular plants (United States Army Corps of Engineers 2018) show the likelihood of the plant growing in wetlands. This gives an idea of how much water, type of habitat (dry, mesic, or wet), 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 when considering planting western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Do not plant seed or try to propagate London planetree (*P. hybrida*), oriental planetree (*P. orientalis*), or other sycamores that are not native to California. Planetrees are common street and landscape trees that may readily hybridize with the native western sycamore.

For information on growing plants that are pest and pathogen free, click here: [Phytophthora species in CA native habitats](#)

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/> and see [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. <http://www.sfei.org/he/HE-publications>

References

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