

# COMMON MANZANITA

*Arctostaphylos manzanita*



Beautiful red branches in gracefully twisting forms. Foundation plant in bird and pollinator gardens: winter blooms are white, urn-shaped flowers with pinkish base. Reddish berries ripen in summer. Attracts native bees, provides cover and food for birds. Deer resistant.

Native Americans use the fruit to make a cider; ash as medicine, and leaves to counteract Poison Oak.



## BIODIVERSITY VALUE

**MEDIUM**

## BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

68

## BIRDS

Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, California Quail and several species of Sparrows



**ANNA'S  
HUMMINGBIRD**



**CALIFORNIA  
QUAIL**



**WHITE-CROWNED  
SPARROW**



**TYPE** Shrub



**SIZE** 6-20 ft. tall / 10 ft. wide  
(Note: typically slow growing at first)



**SUN** Full sun, part shade



**WATER** Low.



**SOIL** Prefers good drainage, tolerates clay.

Learn more at: [cnps-yerbabuena.org](https://cnps-yerbabuena.org) & [goldengatebirdalliance.org](https://goldengatebirdalliance.org)

2024 Golden Gate Bird Alliance & CNPS Yerba Buena

Resources: Calscape, Doug Tallamy, Kathy Kramer Bringing Back the Natives

Photo credits: Arlene Devitt; Noreen Weeden; Fernando Pérez Peralta; Steven Smethurst; Dario Taraborelli



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# TUFTED HAIRGRASS

*Deschampsia cespitosa*



Beautiful fountain-shaped grass grows in clumps called tussocks. Delicate wands of golden-green-purple flowers emerge in spring. Green with winter rains, leaves turn golden brown in summer and fall. Deer resistant.

Larval food for butterflies. Can handle some saline water.



## BIODIVERSITY VALUE

**MEDIUM**

## BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

6

## BIRDS

White-crowned Sparrows, American and Lesser Goldfinches and House Finches



**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**



**LESSER GOLDFINCH**



**HOUSE FINCH**



**TYPE** Grass



**SIZE** 3 ft. tall / 3 ft. wide



**SUN** Full sun, part shade; component of meadows as well as near ponds or streams.



**WATER** Maximum of 1 time per week once established.



**SOIL** Sand or clay soil tolerant.

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Photo credits: David Lazarus; Peter de Lange; Dario Taraborelli; Irene; Diana Foreman



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# CALIFORNIA ASTER

*Symphyotrichum chilense*



Cheerful, light purple blooms, summer to fall in the San Francisco Bay Area. Butterflies and moths consume the nectar and birds eat the seed after blooms have departed. Spreads easily. Deer resistant. Also called Pacific Aster.

This plant is a member of the sunflower family.



## BIODIVERSITY VALUE MEDIUM

**BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS**  
53

**BIRDS**  
Northern Mockingbirds, House Finches, California Thrashers, orioles, Cedar Waxwings, Oak Titmice, nuthatches, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, American Crows, California Scrub and Stellar's Jays, vireos, Bewick's and House Wrens, White-crowned Sparrows, Downy, Hairy and Nuttall's woodpeckers



CEDAR  
WAXWING



CALIFORNIA  
SCRUB JAY



DOWNY  
WOODPECKER



**TYPE** Perennial herb



**SIZE** 1.3-3.5 ft. tall / 3 ft. wide



**SUN** Full sun or part shade. A wandering border flower or groundcover, decorative near grassy areas. Cut back after blooms have seeded.



**WATER** Low



**SOIL** Loamy clay

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Resources: Calscape, Doug Tallamy, Kathy Kramer Bringing Back the Natives

Photo credits: Noreen Weeden; Irene; Steven Smethurst; Dario Taraborelli; Andy Wilson



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# OCEAN SPRAY

*Holodiscus discolor*



Bright green, fragrant bush with cream-colored flowers. Provides cover and food for birds and small mammals. Very easy to care for, can survive drought times. Deer resistant. Also called Creambush.

Native Americans use parts of the Ocean Spray plant for medicinal needs, hunting, and sewing.



## BIODIVERSITY VALUE

**MEDIUM**

## BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

38

## BIRDS

Material from Ocean Spray is used by nesting birds. Chickadees, Bushtits, White-crowned Sparrows and Song Sparrows, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds.



**CHESTNUT-BACKED  
CHICKADEE**



**SONG  
SPARROW**



**ANNA'S  
HUMMINGBIRD**



**TYPE** Shrub



**SIZE** 3-16 ft. tall / 10-15 ft. wide  
Can be pruned.



**SUN** Shade or part shade.  
Can be used to stabilize banks  
or as tree understory.



**WATER** Low, medium to high.



**SOIL** Clay, garden and  
serpentine soils.

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Resources: Calscape, Doug Tallamy, Kathy Kramer Bringing Back the Natives

Photo credits: Kyle Nessen; Noreen Weeden; bobhunter2; Dario Taraborelli; James Adney



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