A Guide to Plant Names

Explore. Learn. Be Inspired.

Help the Gardens Grow

Visitor Guide & Map

Scientific name

Common Name

Our Gardens
The Arboretum showcases plants from some of the most important concentrations of biodiversity on our planet. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and California are all home to biodiversity hotspots—the most biologically rich and critically endangered ecosystems in the world. The Arboretum collects plants from these regions to study, display and protect from possible extinction.

Our gardens also include an extensive collection of world succulents and an Aroma Garden, where you can take in nature’s sweetest scents. North of the central gardens are plantings of particular importance including a broad collection of rare conifers and research gardens used for the study and conservation of California’s native flora.

Touring the Collections
We invite you to wander on your own or follow a self-guided tour. The Hummingbird Trail is one of our most popular. This ½ mile loop takes you to one of the best spots in California to view Anna’s hummingbirds and passes through our beautiful Australian Rock Garden. The World Tour visits each of the Arboretum’s central gardens, and includes the Hummingbird Trail for a ½ mile round trip.

There’s More...
The Arboretum is a hub for activities and information related to plants and our environment. Be sure to visit our website to learn about docent-led tours, special events, lectures and workshops—all open to the public.

Enjoy Your Visit!

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum is largely self-supporting and depends on the generosity of individuals and community partners to keep the gardens growing. Please consider making a donation today. Here are some other ways you can help:

Join Us • Members of the Friends of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum receive free admission to the Arboretum and other reciprocal gardens; discounts at our gift shop, local nurseries, and Arboretum events; early admission to our wildly popular Spring and Fall Plant Sales, and more!

Lend a Hand • Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Arboretum community. Each year, hundreds help in the gardens, lead tours, staff the gift shop, create art for sale, volunteer at events and on committees, and propagate plants for our biannual sales. Arboretum volunteers work closely with our expert curators and participate in many casual and fun social gatherings.

Shop at Norrie’s • Norrie’s Gift Shop is also our Admissions Office, providing visitor information and selling garden accessories, nature-related gifts and toys, and plants. All proceeds support the Arboretum.

Rent Facilities • The Arboretum is a wonderful place for a party or wedding. Host your next event in the gardens. Our meeting hall is also available to rent.

For more information, visit us on the web at: arboretum.ucsc.edu

Welcome.
The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum is a conservation garden of rare, endangered and extraordinary plants from around the world. These vast collections are an outdoor classroom, a resource for scientific study and a destination for gardeners, artists and nature lovers of all ages.

The Arboretum was founded in 1964 as part of the early development of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Today, we are strongly rooted on 135 acres overlooking the Monterey Bay. This exceptional site provides a unique combination of micro-climates, soil types and topography, making the Arboretum a premier location for growing and sustaining a wide variety of plants, many of which are threatened in their native habitats.

We invite you to stroll through the gardens, enjoy a picnic lunch and wonder at the remarkable diversity of the world’s flora.