A Guide to Plant Names

Explore. Learn. Be Inspired.

Plants from Around the World

The Arboretum showcases plants from some of Earth’s most important concentrations of biodiversity. These include the rare Mediterranean climate regions found in parts of Australia, South Africa, Chile, the Mediterranean Basin, and our own Coastal California. All share a long, hot dry season; a brief, cool rainy season; fire-adapted ecology; and nutrient-poor soils. Plants from these regions are better adapted to changing climate with warmer and drier weather patterns.

Our gardens also include a global conifer collection, extensive succulent gardens, and 55 acres dedicated to conservation and restoration of California’s native flora.

A Focus on California’s Native Plants

To the northwest of the Arboretum’s central gardens are the California Conservation Gardens which contain specimens of many rare and endangered plants from the Central Coast and beyond, including a very large collection of magnificent manzanitas. The Arboretum’s Native Plant Program (NPP) is host to a robust UCSC student internship program while also conducting native seed banking and vegetation mapping across Northern California.

We also host the Amah Mutsun Relinking Program (AMRP), a collaborative effort between the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Land Trust, the Arboretum, and other partners. This program supports the Tribe’s efforts to revitalize their culture through the relearning of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).

Help the Gardens Grow

The Arboretum is responsible for raising the majority of our funding. We depend upon your admission fees, donations, facility rentals, and purchases at Norrie’s Gift & Garden Shop. Please help us continue to grow and thrive by making a donation, paying admission, and becoming a member today!

Join Us ➤ Members receive free admission to the Arboretum and hundreds of AHS reciprocal gardens across the nation. Other great benefits include: discounts at Norrie’s and other popular local nurseries, a $12 coupon towards an Arboretum nursery plant, guest passes for your friends and family, and discounted entry to Arboretum special events.

Lend a Hand ➤ Volunteers have been the heart and soul of the Arboretum community for over 50 years! Generous volunteers help in the gardens, staff the gift shop, lead tours, create art for sale, propagate plants, and volunteer at events both on and off the Arboretum grounds.

Shop at Norrie’s ➤ Norrie’s Gift and Garden Shop provides visitor information and sells nature-related crafts and gifts, books, garden accessories, and an abundance of unique plants—all cultivated here at the Arboretum.

Rent Facilities ➤ Our meeting hall is a popular space for meetings, trainings, and celebrations of all sorts. It is available for rent to UCSC as well as the greater community, along with the gardens which provide a wonderful, rustic setting for small weddings and memorials.

For more information, visit us on the web at:

arboretum.ucsc.edu

Welcome

MAP
& Visitor Guide

The UCSC Arboretum & Botanic Garden 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.

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 soil types, micro-climates, 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.

Enjoy Your Visit!

Admission:
Adults: $10.00 ➤ Seniors: $8.00
Youth, 6-17: $5.00

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