



## Garden Learning – Sensory – Residential Garden

The Garden Learning education program is a monthly publication that provides volunteers information about a specific area in the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden.

The Garden is the first and only native plant botanic Garden in Solano County. Open to the public in late 2004, the Garden is now recognized as one of the 13 leading collections of native plants in California. The Garden is named after the late Forrest Deaner, founder and first president of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. It is 100% serviced by volunteers, and totally supported by public and private grants and donations.

The Garden is divided into two main areas: the lower elevation consisting of the demonstration gardens; and the upper elevation featuring plants native to Solano County grouped by plant communities. The demonstration gardens were developed in the initial phase of Garden construction (2004-2005) because the Chapter believed they were of paramount importance to the success of the Garden. These gardens constitute the visual front line and the first impression upon entering the Garden. They also demonstrate the commitment & ability of the Chapter to bring together volunteers & donated resources. These gardens include:

- Residential/Sensory
- Memorial
- Native American
- Hummingbird/Butterfly
- Wildflower/Meadow
- Riparian

The upper elevation of the Garden consists of a variety of plant communities found in Solano County. We began developing the

upper elevation in 2009. Plant communities are groups of plants that grow together because of similar adaptations to climate (including microclimates), soils, slopes, and other biotic factors. Plant communities represented are:

- Valley Grassland
- Coastal Prairie
- Chaparral
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Foothill Woodland



This month's edition will focus on the Sensory/Residential demonstration garden. The Sensory/Residential area is the first area of the Garden that people see because it is located along the parking lot and main pathway to the Garden.

We interviewed the Planting Plan Designer, Steve Goetz, for some insight into this demonstration garden:

Q: How did you come up with the name “residential/sensory?”

SG: We decided to put the sensory garden at the main entrance as an attention grabber. The Residential Garden was meant to be oriented to the parking lot for easy viewing. Hence (since the entrance and parking lot are next to each other), the area is called the residential/sensory garden.

Q: Why are these plants good for a residence/home?

SG: The sensory plants may or may not be good for the home – they are only meant to be fragrant or have an interesting texture. The plants in the residential demonstration garden area are good for the home because

they are easy to grow, attractive, and use water much more efficiently than the plants you usually find in a residential garden. Most of these plants I have grown and I find them the most reliable.

Q: I noticed you seem to have lower growing plants along the edge of the parking lot and the higher ones going up the hill. Was that part of the design?

SG: The layered approach was intentional and part of the plan. Layers provide more visual interest.

Q: What about watering native plants?

SG: In my own home, I have a one gallon/hour drip emitter for each shrub and perennial. I run the irrigation for 1 hour per week from May to October.



## **Native Plants of the Sensory/Residential Area**

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The Sensory/Residential Area consists of 33 species of shrubs, trees, and plants native to California. You will notice that there are signs in the area that help you identify the plant. Signs contain the Scientific Name, Common Name, and Plant Family. When you see a sign, the plant will be 45 degrees up and to the right of where the sign is stuck in the ground.

The scientific names are fun to learn. There are 2 parts of every scientific name. Why do you think there needed to be 2 parts to the name?

- ✓ Answer: It makes it easier to find things when you have a large lists of things to name. There are lots of trees, plants, and shrubs in California and the world.

You also have 2 parts to your name (a first name and a last name). With thousands of shrub, plant, and tree species a good system to organize these was needed (there are 254,210 species of flowering plants or more depending on which website you read).

The science that finds, describes, classifies, identifies, and names plants is called **Plant Taxonomy**.

The two parts of the scientific name are shown below:

Genus            Species

Example:

Artemisia      Douglasiana

The common name of this plant is the California Mugwort and is shown below.



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Common names are the name that people of a region or culture call a specific plant. Therefore, there can be many common names for a specific plant (1 scientific name, but several common names). This is true with people too. A boy named Daniel by his parents can have several common names like Dan (by friends) and Danny (by his grandparents).

Let's now take a look at a recent listing of plants currently at the Garden in the Residential and Sensory Area. They are organized in three categories: Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees.

- Note: Perennials are plants which live more than two years. Most perennials have a rest period or dormancy during part of the year. They slow their growth at certain specific times. They remain green, never dying back to their roots. Other perennials lose their leaves either during the dry part of the year or during the cold season. Dry (summer) dormant perennials need to be kept dry, so that neither growth nor rot is encouraged; Cold (winter) perennials require a thorough chilling for best results. Both kinds have underground structures to which water and food are sent for storage during dormancy: these include rootstocks, rhizomes, tubers, corms, and bulbs. [adapted from the "Complete Guide to the Native Perennials of the California", Keator, 1990]

### Perennials:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California Mugwort	Asteraceae
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia	Onagraceae
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote Mint	Lamiaceae

### Shrubs:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i>	Sentinel Manzanita	Ericaceae
<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i>	Carmel sur Manzanita	Ericaceae
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California Sagebrush	Asteraceae
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point'	Dwarf Coyote Brush	Asteraceae
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks'	Dwarf Coyote Brush	Asteraceae
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spice Bush	Calycanthaceae
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	'Dr. Elizabeth McClintok' Bush Anemone	Philadelphaceae
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Concha'	California Mountain Lilac	Rhamnaceae
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> 'Snow Flurry'	Ceanothus Snow Flurry	Rhamnaceae
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	Fabaceae
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Island Buckwheat	Polygonaceae
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	Flannel Bush	Sterculiaceae
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Island Bush-snapdragon	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Rosaceae
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Creambush or Ocean Spray	Rosaceae
<i>Lupinus propinquus</i>	Blue Bush Lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Philadelphus microphyllus</i> ssp. Stramineus	Mock Orange	Philadelphaceae
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific Ninebark	Rosaceae
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffeeberry	Rhamnaceae
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Gray Sage or Purple Sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black Sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Campanulaceae

### Trees:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue Oak	Fagaceae
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	Fagaceae
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	Fagaceae
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific Madrone	Ericaceae
<i>Pinus attenuate</i>	Knobcone Pine	Pinaceae

## Native Plant Featured this Month

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The featured California Native Plant this month is California Mugwort. The California Mugwort can be found in both the Sensory/Residential and the Coastal Sage Scrub demonstration gardens. By now you know the name “California Mugwort” is the common name and its scientific name is “*Artemisia Douglasiana*”. This plant is a perennial herb that is native to California and is also found outside of California, but is confined to western North America (ref: [http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=708](http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=708)).

From the Calflora website:

- Common names:** California Mugwort, Douglas' sagewort, Mugwort
- Communities:** Yellow Pine Forest, Foothill Woodland, Chaparral, Valley Grassland, (many plant communities), wetland-riparian
- Habitat:** disturbed [Walker]
- Wetlands:** equally likely to occur in wetlands or non wetlands [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.]
- Elevation:** between 0 and 6000 feet



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## Puzzlers Page

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### Residential/Sensory Area Plants

C R O B L U E O A K U J M S G B D W Z C P L B  
A I F Z L Q X V D I T S C X Z F J H I G Y I P  
L C S C O A S T L I V E O A K B O S Z Y P B W  
I L U P T S C L E V E L A N D S A G E E O C Z  
F M C U I L V K O M X T T Z Q S F A G O Z C M  
O K O V Q B V A S C E N O F Z I K N L L F I S  
R H F C Y K L G L A I P A H G Z J P Z B L H X  
N D F P K P I U A M G T G P M L K V T U Q U I  
I Y E S X O W R E B A E V Y D Z P S G A I O E  
A R E N B F R T F B C C R F U K H Y B M R W Y  
M V B F V C O A O C U F L A N N E L B U S H Z  
U O E P T Y B L N Z W S P I C E B U S H U Z U  
G D R V O O S O F G Q N H X A R N Y J N O P U  
W L R C X U Y L I X E O D L A O R U A X N C X  
O B Y K C H W O Y C S E D H U L H S E J I X O  
R E F R S M P X N X M S V F N P L K C M I M G  
T W E Z P D D G Z D F K I N R F I Y L T P N V  
S U V Q E N R O N B L U E O A K O N V O K T F  
Q W H Q O W D G K I E U L G I B M G E N E N Y  
R L Y G E S N O W B E R R Y V A O E G Z P M U

Black Sage

Blue Oak

Coast Live Oak

Flannel Bush

Snowberry

Blue Bush Lupine

California Mugwort

Coffeeberry

Mock Orange

Spice Bush

Blue Oak

Cleveland Sage

Coyote Mint

Quercus lobata

Toyon

## Test your Learning

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*Question 1:* How many Demonstration Gardens are there in the Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden?

*Question 2:* What are the 2 names of the 2 parts used for the scientific names of plants?

*Question 3:* Where should you look for a plant if you see a sign planted in the Garden?

*Question 4:* What do we call a plant that does not hibernate in the rainy season?

*Question 5:* What is the difference between sensory and residential in relation to demonstration gardens?

*Extra Credit:* What do we call a plant that comes back each year after the winter rains?



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## Read more about this Month's Topics at these References:

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California Native Plant Society Website: <http://www.cnps.org/>

Calflora website: <http://www.calflora.org/>

Flowering Plant Taxonomy: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering\\_plant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering_plant)

Plant Taxonomy: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant\\_taxonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_taxonomy)

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Gardening with a Wild Heart, by Lowry; 1999, University of California Press