

COMMON BUCKEYE

Aesculus californica



Beautiful tree with gray bark which may get moss covered. Bright green, palmate leaves appear in early spring, then drop in late summer. Fragrant pink-tinged, white blossoms emerge in spring. Large, shiny "buck's eye" seeds persist until the fall. Birds, bats, and butterflies are attracted to this tree.

INTERESTING FEATURE:

While ingesting parts of the plant can be toxic, the raw buckeye seeds are used by Indigenous peoples for fishing. Or, after removing the skin, roasting, and leaching the toxins out, made into a flour that is eaten. Squirrels and some other animals do consume the buckeyes with no impact (the flowers are toxic to honeybees).



BIODIVERSITY VALUE

Common buckeye supports at least **16** species of butterflies, moths and birds

BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

11 including Western Tiger Swallowtail, Bay Checkerspot, Monarch and Polyphemus Moth

BIRDS

Yellow-breasted Chat



YELLOW-BREASTED
CHAT



WESTERN TIGER
SWALLOWTAIL



BAY CHECKERSPOT



TYPE Tree



SIZE 13-39 ft. tall
Fast growing
(can grow 10 in. per year)



SUN Slopes, canyons,
riversides and along streams.
Partial shade to full sun areas.



WATER Low.



SOIL Clay and even
serpentine areas.

Learn more at: cnps-yerbabuena.org & goldengatebirdalliance.org

2025 Golden Gate Bird Alliance & CNPS Yerba Buena

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

Photo credits: Eric Hunt; Kevin L. Cole, Eddie Bartley; Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Service



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EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY

Vaccinium ovatum



This shrub is a slow grower for the first few years; it makes a great hedge or tall groundcover. Shiny green leaves with bronze new growth; white-pink bell-like flowers appear in the winter and spring. Easy-to-care-for plant that attracts bats, caterpillars, birds, butterflies, and mammals (rabbit, deer, fox). Also called California Huckleberry.

INTERESTING FEATURE:

The berries are also edible so this is a kid friendly plant. Indigenous peoples collect and eat the berries which are a good source of vitamin C.



BIODIVERSITY VALUE

Evergreen huckleberry supports at least **106** species of butterflies, moths and birds

BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

Host for up to **50** moths and butterflies

BIRDS

Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers; White and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, CA Scrub and Stellar's Jays, CA Towhee, Thrushes, and others consume the berries



CHESTNUT-BACKED
CHICKADEE



ANNA'S
HUMMINGBIRD



WESTERN
BLUEBIRD



TYPE Shrub



SIZE 2-8 ft. tall / 18 in. wide



SUN Partial shade to full sun on slopes, ridges and as an understory plant. Lives in fog zone.



WATER Moderate 3x month until established.



SOIL Well drained, acidic, sandy soil.

Learn more at: cnps-yerbabuena.org & goldengatebirdalliance.org

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

Photo credits: Neal Kramer; Lynn Watson; Eddie Bartley; Noreen Weeden



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MOCK HEATHER

Ericameria ericoides



Fast growing, mound-shaped shrub with attractive, bright yellow flowers and fine, fan-shaped leaves. Seeds disperse via white plumes. Grows from San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles along the coast. Attracts birds, bats, caterpillars, and butterflies. Also called Goldenbush.

INTERESTING FEATURE:

This plant is in the daisy family and is deer resistant. Coast Miwok use this plant medicinally for skin ailments.



BIODIVERSITY VALUE

Mock heather supports at least **28** species of butterflies, moths and birds

BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

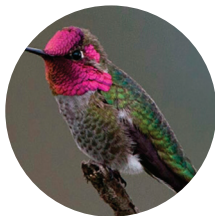
Includes the Northern Checkerspot

BIRDS

Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds



ALLEN'S
HUMMINGBIRD



ANNA'S
HUMMINGBIRD



NORTHERN
CHECKERSPOT
BUTTERFLY



TYPE Flowering Shrub



SIZE 2-4 ft. tall / 3-4 ft. wide



SUN Full sun. Does well in coastal areas including dunes and hills.



WATER Low



SOIL Sandy soil.

Learn more at: cnps-yerbabuena.org & goldengatebirdalliance.org

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

Photo credits: *Neal Kramer*; *Vernon Smith*; *Ingrid Taylor*; *Eddie Bartley*



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YERBA BUENA

Clinopodium douglasii



Fragrant, green groundcover that also grows in containers, rock gardens or over edges. Small white flowers in spring. It is deer and fire resistant. Bats, caterpillars, bees, and butterflies use this plant. Light pruning encourages denser growth.

INTERESTING FEATURE:

Yerba Buena means good herb in Spanish. It was the name of the first Spanish settlement in the San Francisco area due to the plant's abundance. This plant has been used as a tea, medicinally, in cooking and to make an essential oil.



BIODIVERSITY VALUE

Yerba buena supports at least **20** species of butterflies, moths and birds

BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

4

BIRDS

Sparrows and Finches



TYPE Groundcover, Perennial Herb



SIZE 4-7 in. tall / 3 ft. wide



SUN Full sun to partial shade. Grows on slopes.



WATER Low to moderate, 1x week in summer once established.



SOIL Adapts to a variety of soil types.



GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW



PURPLE FINCH

Learn more at: cnps-yerbabuena.org & goldengatebirdalliance.org

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

Photo credits: Jean Pawek; John Doyen; Eddie Bartley; Noreen Weeden



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