

# **CALIFORNIA TREES AND FLOWERS**

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California Trees and Flowers by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**CALIFORNIA TREES  
AND FLOWERS**



## TO OUR PATRONS.

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OUR specialty of dealing in native tree and flower seeds and plants, many imperfectly or wholly unknown to the horticultural public, has led us to prepare the following descriptive notes of the more desirable West American trees and flowers, which we hope may lead to their extending their circle of admirers. Our facilities for obtaining whatever may be desired are excellent, and our reputation as botanists insures the greatest accuracy.

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We offer a great variety of seeds of desirable California wild flowers—both annuals and perennials. Advance orders from the trade for any quantities desired are solicited.

Palm seeds, other ornamental tree and shrub seeds, etc. at lowest quotations. Contracts for growing seeds solicited. We carry also a great variety of choice flower seeds—not native—especially recommended for cultivation in California.

The rose and chrysanthemum receive special attention, and permanent shrubs, vines and trees in choice varieties are always on hand. Correspondence invited.

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TREES AND FLOWERS.

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ROMNEYA COULTERI.



### *CALIFORNIA TREES AND FLOWERS.*

'In all parts of the civilized world, the refinement, innocence and happiness of the people may be measured by the flowers they cultivate,' says an eloquent author. I would add, that the wild flowers of a country must furnish a truthful index to the adaptability of that land as a home for the human race, for, where they abound, there too man may seek for fruitful toil, pleasure and rest.

Where may lovelier flowers, more brilliant tints, or more delicate coloring be found in greater profusion than on the mountains and mesas, in canyon and meadow, throughout the length and breadth of California! And where may a more perfect abiding place be found for man!

It is to the beautiful annuals which in springtime cover the hills and mesas, that California owes her just fame as a land of flowers. Perhaps in no country in the world do the early spring flowers so change the face of the earth from a desolate waste to a beautiful garden, as on the Pacific coast—hills, mesas, mountains and valleys, and the arid plains of the desert, alike, quickly responding to the vivifying rain. California has probably already furnished to the horticulturist a greater variety of beautiful flowers and stately trees than any other State in the Union. Yet many others are awaiting the appreciation of man, or wasting their sweetness on the desert air.

In this essay it is intended to give brief descriptions of those already introduced into cultivation, with reference to the varieties produced by cultivation, together with notes on many that are well worthy of introduction. A few trees and plants, not natives of California, but now closely identified with our flora, either by cultivation or naturalization, are also noticed.

\* An asterisk indicates that the colors have been carefully determined by comparison with Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors.'



ABIES.

The firs are magnificent trees, of pyramidal form and rapid growth.

*A. BRACTEATA Nuttall.* A tall, slender, strictly pyramidal tree, 100 to 150 feet high and one to two feet in diameter. Unknown in cultivation.

*A. CONCOLOR Lindl.* The Silver Fir is a very ornamental tree, growing from 80 to 150 feet high, attaining a diameter of three or four feet. Foliage of a pale silvery green, whence its name.

*A. GRANDIS Lindl.* The White Fir attains a height of 200 to 300 feet, with a diameter of three or four feet, and is distinguished by the glossy, green upper surface of the leaves.

*A. MAGNIFICA Murray.* The Red Fir exceeds 200 feet in height, and reaches a diameter of ten feet. Foliage rigid, bark thick of a reddish brown color, from which it receives its vernacular name in common with the following species.

*A. NOBILIS Lindl.* Red Fir, scarcely distinguishable from the preceding species.

ABRONIA.

The Abronias are charming trailing plants, sometimes called wild verbenas from the resemblance between the verbena and their showy umbels of brilliant flowers, which are of great fragrance, and produced abundantly.

*A. LATIFOLIA Eschscholts.* Waxy lemon yellow flowers, possessing the odor of orange blossoms. A hardy annual in cultivation, perennial in its wild state, like the following species.

*A. UMBELLATA Lam.* The finest species, producing a profusion of large umbels of bright rose-purple flowers.\*

*A. VILLOSA Watson.* A slightly smaller plant, but producing equally large umbels of bright rose-purple flowers.\*

ABUTILON.

The Abutilons are highly prized green-house plants, of elegant habit. California offers one of the most beautiful species, as yet unknown in cultivation.

*A. AURANTIACUM Watson.* A low compact shrub, a foot high, with large, velvety, light green leaves and showy 'golden flowers.' Found near the southern border of the state, in Lower California.

ACACIA.

Several Australian species of Acacia have been extensively grown in California, either for their beauty or utility. Only one species is a native, and that, *A. Greggii*, or Cat's Claw, cannot be recommended for trial. These are mostly small trees or shrubs of rapid growth.

A. *DECURRENS* *Willdenow*. The Black Wattle is one of the most prized, and is largely planted for forest culture, because of its rapid growth, the value of its timber, its beauty and the bark which is rich in tannin.

A. *DEALBATA* *Link*. Silver Wattle. Very ornamental.

A. *FARNESIANA* *Willdenow*. Oppopanax is prized for its delicate, delicious and wonderfully persistent perfume, for which it is often grown. It is valued for other reasons, and is of especial historic interest, since it is credited with having furnished the crown of thorns with which the Savior was crowned.

A. *MELONOXYLON*. Make one of the finest of sidewalk trees, sturdy and symmetrical in form.

A. *PYCNANTHA* *Bentham*. The Golden Wattle is second only to *A. decurrens* in importance for its yield of tanner's bark.

#### ACANTHOMINTHA.

A. *ILICIFOLIA* *Gray*. A showy mint-like annual, abundant on the mesas near San Diego, and well worth attention. A span high, with white flowers marked with purple.

#### ACTINOLEPIS.

A. *CORONARIA* *Gray*. A low annual bearing numerous yellow flowers.

#### ADENOSTOMA.

Evergreen shrubs, belonging to the rose family, two to ten feet high, which produce an effect upon the landscape similar to that of the heaths of the Old World. By studying the natural blending and contrasts of our wild shrubs and trees in their native haunts, the landscape artist could gather some useful hints, and the species of this genus would prove useful in his work.

A. *FASCICULATUM* *Hooker & Arn*. This *Chamisal* often covers large areas of country so densely as to be almost impenetrable. The foliage is very dark green.

A. *SPARSIFOLIUM* *Torrey*. Foliage light pea green; flowers in large terminal panicles, white and fragrant.

#### AGAVE.

The so-called Century Plants are among the best known of the succulent ornamental plants that are in cultivation. California furnishes several beautiful species.

A. *DESERTI* *Engelmann*. A glaucous-leaved species, peculiar to the Colorado Desert. Flower stalk seven to ten feet high, surmounted with a large panicle of flowers of a chrome yellow.\* These plants, also known as Mescal or Maguey, from which the alcoholic liquor *mescal* is made, are useful for their strong fibre.

A. *PRINGLEI* *Engelmann*. A mountain form of *A. deserti*, rare and beautiful.

*A. SHAWII* *Engelmann*. One of the most striking and ornamental species of the genus, prized for its compact dark green leaves.

*A. PARRYI* *Engelmann*. Native of Arizona, as also the following species.

*A. PALMERI* *Engelmann*.

*A. SCHOTTI* *Engelmann*.

#### ALFILARIA.

*Erodium cicutarium* and *E. moschatum* are about equally well known by the name *Alfilaria*, and are valuable forage plants. The foliage is finely divided like a fern leaf, and the rose-purple\* flowers are half an inch across. The two generally grow together so that the seed is generally mixed. A considerable demand has sprung up, and *Alfilaria* is being extensively sown in arid localities for forage.

#### ALLIUM

A large genus, including the onion of the vegetable garden. Some of the wild forms native to California are very pretty, but mostly with small flowers and worthless for cutting. Interesting garden plants.

*A. ACUMINATUM* *Hook*. Usually a low plant, six inches high, with a good sized umbel of pretty rose-purple flowers.

*A. CUSICKI* *Watson*. A dwarf vernal form, with white flowers commonly tinged with purple.

*A. FALCIFOLIUM* *Hook & Arn*. Flowers rose colored.

*A. FIMBRIATUM* *Watson*. A pretty plant, abundant in the mountains of Southern and Lower California, bordering the Colorado Desert. It sends up a stout scape a few inches high, — rarely more than three inches—bearing twenty-five or thirty flowers of a deep rose purple\*, sometimes of a light shade. Its Mexican name is *Lavina*.

*A. HAEMATOCYTON* *Watson*. A small species, six or eight inches high, bearing an umbel of six to twelve small white flowers with greenish stripes and a reddish brown centre. It is a tender plant.

*A. SERRATUM* *Watson*. A showy little plant, about ten inches high, with a naked stem and a many-flowered umbel of dark, bright rose-purple\* flowers half an inch wide.

*A. UNIFOLIUM* *Kell*. A unique little species, with white to rose-purple flowers. Three inches to a foot high.

#### ANTIRRHINUM.

*A. ORCUTTIANUM* *Gray*. A tall, slender annual, with long spikes of either white or violet flowers, discovered in 1882. Perhaps the prettiest of the wild Snapdragons of California.