

A detailed botanical illustration serves as the background for the cover. It features several elements: in the upper left, a cluster of green, lanceolate leaves with reddish-brown tips; in the center, several tall, slender, light green grass-like stalks; and in the lower right, a branch with green, serrated leaves and clusters of small, round, red berries. The entire illustration is rendered in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes.

Grizzly Ranch Landscapes

*A Selection of Native Plants
of the Sierra Valley Region*



guardianship + restoration + knowledge



Grizzly Ranch Landscapes

A Selection of Native Plants of the Sierra Valley Region

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Grizzly Ranch Landscapes

A Selection of Native Plants of the Sierra Valley Region

This botanical identification guide was produced for the Grizzly Ranch community to encourage knowledge and interest in native plants of the Sierra Valley region. Although it is not a comprehensive guide, it does showcase a broad selection of native plants for a homeowner's landscape that reflect the spectacular natural beauty at Grizzly Ranch. We hope you enjoy this book - whether it's while you're on a hike and you see a flowering plant you've always wondered about, or at the nursery when you're shopping for that special native plant.

Enjoy!

Grizzly Ranch Conservancy Board of Directors

July 2008





Trees





“In the blossom time of early spring, when the dogwood and the first buttercups were blooming and the wormwood was in green leaf, then the women prepared lots of food – game and fish, acorn bread and soup – and the men got out their feather finery, their eagle-feather bustles and their yellow hammer-feather headstalls. For several days, rubbed with wormwood leaves for the fragrance, bedecked with garlands of flowers and foliage, the people sang and danced, rejoicing in the return of clement weather. And, on the last day, they all ran down to the river and threw their garlands in, imploring the rattlesnakes to stay away.”

TREES

<i>Abies concolor</i>	white fir
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	mountain maple
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	big-leaf maple
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	incense cedar
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	redbud
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	curl-leaved mountain mahogany
<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Pacific dogwood
<i>Pinus contorta</i> ssp. <i>murrayana</i>	lodgepole pine
<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>	Jeffrey pine
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	ponderosa pine
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>trichocarpa</i>	black cottonwood
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	quaking aspen
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	California black oak



Abies concolor

white fir

With its conical shape and bluish tint, it's easy to see why the white fir has become a popular landscape tree. At Grizzly Ranch, look for the exceptional blue foliage that provides diversity in the green winter color of other evergreens. Depending on your sense of smell, a citrus or camphorous smell exudes when the needle is broken. White fir is one of the best drought tolerant and heat resistant evergreen trees; it adapts to a wide range of soil conditions; and it establishes best in partial shade.

Distinguishing Features

Needles: Flattened, not easily rolled, blue-green with silver lines on the bottom

Bark: Smooth, grayish, with deep, irregular furrows as tree matures

Cones: 3"-5" cylindrical, found in the top part of the tree, and tend to fall apart before maturity

Height: 60'-200'

Crown Width: 4'-10'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

The winged seeds provide food for songbirds and small mammals; deer eat the foliage and porcupines the bark. Two types of parasitic mistletoe can cause major damage, but the most damaging pest is the fir engraver beetle.

Did You Know?

White fir can bear cones from the age of 40 years to beyond 300 years old. Extracts from the bark have shown anti-tumor activity with their tannin composition.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, kinnikinnick, greenleaf manzanita, snowberry, California brome, blue wildrye, arnica, and rockcress.



Acer circinatum

vine maple

This small, deciduous tree spectacularly announces fall at Grizzly Ranch with the vibrant scarlet color of its changing leaves. Most commonly the vine maple grows as a shrub, but this fire resistant plant can become a small tree in the sun. To retain the smaller size, prune the long, arching branches that form roots when they touch the ground. A samara, or winged seed, appeals to the young nature lover with its effortless spiral as it falls to the ground.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Opposite, deciduous, fan-like lobes with toothed margins, tinged red when new and turn scarlet in fall

Bark: Thin, greenish, often covered with mosses and lichens

Flowers: Small, loose clusters of purple-red flowers

Fruit/Seed: Samara with divergent wings, 1" long

Height: 3'-20'

Crown Width: Varies

Habitat: Forest openings



Light

Water

Growth

Attracts

A favorite browse food for deer; squirrels, chipmunks and various birds thrive on the samara seeds.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used the stems and wood for baskets, baby cradles, snowshoes, and carved items; and sap from branches was used as a love potion.

Pair With

Douglas-fir, dogwood, willow, thimbleberry, fescue, wheatgrass, delphinium, and monkeyflower.



Acer glabrum

mountain maple

The striking red to gray bark, contrasting green leaves and slender, spreading branches make the mountain maple a great small tree to add to your landscape at Grizzly Ranch. It is particularly eye-catching in the autumn as its leaves turn yellow to red and the winged samaras spin like helicopters as they drift down from the tree. This maple is a good one to help improve wildlife habitat and stabilize slopes. Red blotches, or galls, are caused by mites and are commonly present on the leaves.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Usually three lobed, coarsely serrated margins

Bark: Smooth, red to gray or brown

Flowers: Yellowish green in small clusters

Fruit/Seed: Two-winged samaras, 1" long, hanging in clusters

Height: 6'-30'

Crown Width: Slender or grows as clump of stems

Habitat: Forest openings



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

As an important winter food source, deer browse the twigs and foliage. Many small birds and mammals, especially squirrels and chipmunks, eat the seeds, buds, and flowers.

Did You Know?

The easily bendable stems were used by Native Americans to make drying racks, drum hoops, spears, toys and masks; and a bark brew was used as a poison antidote.

Pair With

White fir, black cottonwood, cinquefoil, chokecherry, snowberry, spike redtop, buttercup, and Nuttall's larkspur.



Acer macrophyllum

big-leaf maple

True to its common name, big-leaf maple can have leaves up to 12 inches across, making it an excellent shade tree for your landscape at Grizzly Ranch. Although more typically found along streambanks and canyons, in the lower Sierra Nevada it can be found scattered in upland areas with Douglas-fir and other mixed-evergreen forest species. It is usually a long-lived deciduous tree, but is not hardy in harsh winter years so plant in a protected location. Fabulous red foliage heralds in the fall; and raked leaves make a great pile in which to jump!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Five deep-cut lobes with smooth margins, gold or brown in fall

Bark: Green and smooth in younger trees; brownish gray with ridges in older trees

Flowers: Drooping clusters of aromatic yellow flowers in early spring

Fruit/Seed: Clusters of paired winged seeds that resemble butterflies

Height: 15'-95'

Crown Width: 10'-30'

Habitat: Forest and riparian



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

Seeds provide nutritious food for birds and small mammals including mice, squirrels, chipmunks, finches, and grosbeaks; mule deer like the seedlings.

Did You Know?

The wood is used for furniture, especially piano frames; and the sap can be made into syrup. Native Americans used the bark for making rope.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, Douglas-fir, wild rose, willow, hairgrass, mat muhly, bracken fern, and waterfall buttercup.



Calocedrus decurrens

incense cedar

The fragrant wood, cones that resemble a duck's bill, and flattened, fanlike sprays of foliage make it easy to identify the incense cedar. Tolerant of shade, but more often observed in open forest canopies, it is found in mixed-forest habitats and rarely in pure stands. Incense cedar is an attractive landscape tree and forms a dense, narrow, pyramid-shaped crown. It is a good conifer for your yard if you are looking for fast results as it quickly grows to 20' tall (slow after that) and does well in a variety of soil and temperature conditions.

Distinguishing Features

Needles: Flattened branchlets covered with elongated closely overlapping lustrous dark-green scales in whorls of 4

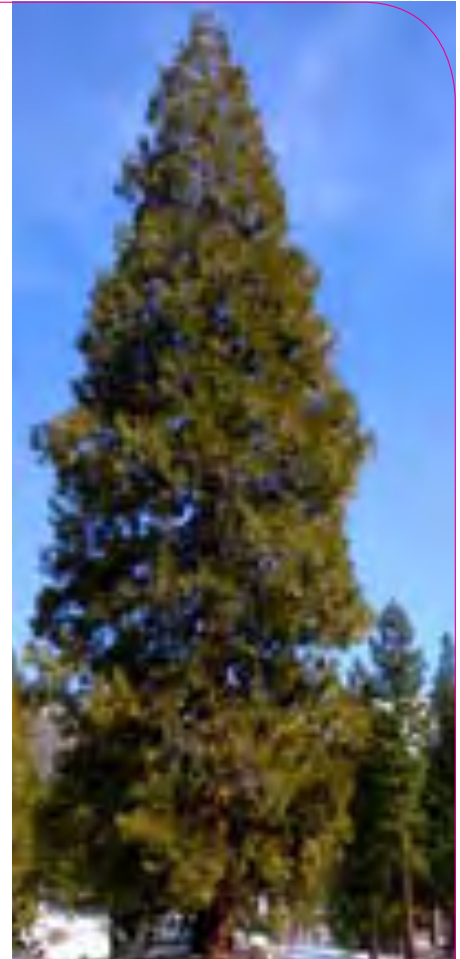
Bark: Cinnamon brown, deeply furrowed

Cones: Oblong, 1½" long bright green, turning brown in fall

Height: 50'-150'

Crown Width: 5'-15'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Browsed moderately by mule deer, its seeds are eaten by small mammals, but are not a preferred food.

Did You Know?

Grab a pencil and you're probably holding a piece of cedar! As the wood is resistant to decay, it is very desirable for outdoor use. Native Americans used branches and twigs for sweatbaths, and steam from an infusion of needles was inhaled for colds.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, California black oak, manzanita, chinquapin, creeping snowberry, California fescue, yarrow, and lupine.



Cercis occidentalis

redbud

This stunning tree, with its brilliant pink pea shaped flowers, heralds the beginning of spring at Grizzly Ranch. Its clusters of flowers continue to bloom as heart shaped leaves develop. With its showy red and orange fall color and handsome branch structure in the winter, it makes a very attractive deciduous understory tree to add as an accent in your landscape. Although it may not be hardy in a harsh winter, it is drought tolerant, sun-loving, and grows in a wide variety of soils. Planting this tree under an eave or along the south-facing wall of a structure will increase the chance of survival following a harsh winter.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Heart shaped with 7 to 9 prominent veins

Bark: Thin, scaly, and brown

Flowers: Striking pea-like flowers appear before the leaves in clusters of vibrant pink or red

Fruit/Seed: Flat, 2"-4" leathery pods, hanging in clusters

Height: 12'-36'

Crown Width: 10'-20'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

Flowers provide nectar for bees, and butterflies and other insects collect pollen. Deer browse the young shoots, leaves, and seedpods. Trees offer cover and nesting sites for a variety of wildlife.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used redbud extensively in their basketry; peeled stems were used as coarse twine and wine-red branches were incorporated in basketry design.

Pair With

Douglas-fir, chokecherry, current, brome, Plumas bluegrass, California poppy, Brown's peony, and bracken fern.



Cercocarpus ledifolius

curl-leaved mountain mahogany

A small tree or shrub with an intricately branched form and a spreading crown, mountain mahogany is also called mountain ironwood because of its beautiful hard wood. Adaptable, hardy, tidy, and trouble free, this is a good small tree to plant at Grizzly Ranch, especially for revegetation and wildlife habitat. Mountain mahogany appears silvery in the late summer through fall, due to the feathery, plumed fruits, the white bark, and the dark green leaves with white undersides.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Slender, lanceolate with curled edges and a prominent midrib

Bark: Young branches reddish and pubescent, turning to grayish with age

Flowers: Solitary, whitish, but not showy

Fruit/Seed: Hairy, topped with a small feather-like plume

Height: 6'-9'

Crown Width: 3'-8'

Habitat: Meadow edges



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

An important source of winter protection and forage for mule deer; and birds eat the seeds and leaves.

Did You Know?

Historically, a powder or paste was made from the bark or wood and applied to burns, sores or cuts; leaves were used as a laxative; and the inner bark was used to treat lung problems.

Pair With

White fir, big sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, pinemat manzanita, sulphur buckwheat, Plumas bluegrass, blue flax, and arnica.



Cornus nuttallii

Pacific dogwood

One of the most handsome native ornamental trees, the Pacific dogwood is a graceful, horizontally tiered branching species. May or June brings out the showy white blossoms of this small, deciduous tree – a welcome salute to spring! Late in the summer, flowers mature into clusters of bright, red fruit highly sought by birds. With the fall, the leaves turn rosy red, making bright contrast with the dark greens of the pines and firs. Its only drawback as a perfect addition to your landscape is that it may not be hardy in a harsh winter at Grizzly Ranch unless protected under an eave or planted against a south-facing wall.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Deciduous, oval, pointed tip, pale green

Bark: Ashy brown, smooth, becoming finely ridged with age

Flowers: Small, inconspicuous flower with 4-8 showy petal-like bracts that are white or pinkish-tinged, flowering in spring and often again in the fall

Fruit/Seed: Fleshy, bright red berries

Height: 12'-30'

Width: 5'-15'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Fruits attract songbirds, squirrels and deer. Dogwood is susceptible to dogwood anthracnose that can be fatal to the plant.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used bark in remedies to purify the blood and treat stomachaches. Nowadays, strike a key on your piano keyboard and it might be made from this tree!

Pair With

Lodgepole pine, serviceberry, bitter cherry, creeping snowberry, ticklegrass, Idaho fescue, yarrow, and gilia.



Pinus contorta ssp. *murrayana*

lodgepole pine

Tall and arrow straight with a narrow top, this evergreen tree, often called the Sierra lodgepole pine, is long-lived and can be found on a variety of sites having little correlation with a particular soil type. Caution however, as very little understory thrives under their dense shade, leaving your landscape with a spartan ground plane. The culprit for spring allergies is often the pollen from this (and other pines) drifting in the air or collecting on the ground in yellow piles.

Distinguishing Features

Needles: In bundles of two, stiff, dark green and sharp on ends

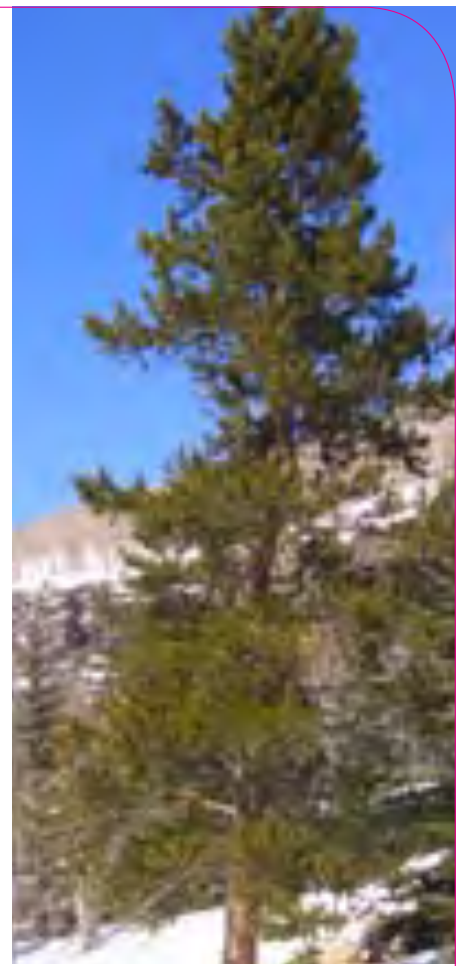
Bark: Grayish brown, cornflake-like, pitchy

Cones: Pitchy 1"-2" long, scales sharp on end, some remain closed until extreme heat opens them

Height: 80'

Width: 30'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Cones are a favorite of chickadees, chipmunks, crossbills, nutcrackers and gophers; and porcupines browse on seedlings and feed on pine needles during the winter.

Did You Know?

Native Americans constructed lodges with poles fabricated from lodgepole pine; in the spring, strips of bark were peeled and eaten fresh or crushed to make bread, or chewed to aid sore throats. Today, this tree is harvested for lumber.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, currant, wild rose, willow, dry habitat sedge, tufted hairgrass, arnica, and small flowered huechera.



Pinus jeffreyi

Jeffrey pine

Another statuesque tree found at Grizzly Ranch is the Jeffrey pine. It is often confused with the ponderosa pine, but can be distinguished by a vanilla scent exuding from bark crevices. Ponderosa pine, on the other hand, has a resin scent. If you can't tell the difference based on scent, pick up a cone and remember the old adage "prickly ponderosa, gentle Jeffrey."

Distinguishing Features

Needles: Evergreen, blue-green bunches of 3

Bark: Scaly, brown young bark, mature has thick, flat, scaly plates with cinnamon color

Cones: 5"-9" long, beehive shape and reddish brown when mature

Height: 80'-100'

Crown Width: 15'-30'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

Birds and mammals use Jeffrey pine as a food source and as wildlife cover. Seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals such as mice, chipmunks, and squirrels. During harsh winters or drought, large mammals such as deer will browse on the needles and bark.

Did You Know?

In the early 1800s, resin distillers suffered from random explosions during distillation. It was caused by the use of Jeffrey pine resin that contains large amounts of the explosive chemical heptane.

Pair With

Incense cedar, ceanothus, bitterbrush, bearberry, brome, fescue, arrow-leaved balsam-root, and California poppy.



Pinus ponderosa

ponderosa pine

Ponderosa pine is a stately coniferous tree found extensively in western North America. Like the iconic “Wolf Tree” at Grizzly Ranch, it can be found towering dramatically over open meadows or can be found in a mixed conifer forest setting. Another common name, “yellow pine,” alludes to the yellow tint in the wood. It is an important timber tree, shade intolerant and commonly regenerated by fires. The tips of the pinecones can prick your fingers with their sharp edges, so be careful if you collect those beautiful specimens.

Distinguishing Features

Needles: Evergreen, usually 3 per bunch

Bark: Cinnamon to brown in a jigsaw pattern

Cones: Ovoid, 3"-6" light reddish-brown with sharp tips on each bract

Height: 60'-100'

Crown Width: 15'-30'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🟤🟤🟤🟤🟤

Attracts

Squirrels, voles, chipmunks, gophers, mule deer, and various birds forage on pine; bark beetles can infest and slowly kill pines.

Did You Know?

When crushed, needles have a turpentine or citrus odor depending on your sense of smell. Native Americans used the pitch from the bark to keep their hair groomed!

Pair With

California black oak, Pacific dogwood, pinemat manzanita, mountain spiraea, serviceberry, brome, blue flax, and mules ears.



Populus balsamifera ssp. *trichocarpa*
black cottonwood

Naturally occurring along streams, this large and fast growing deciduous tree can be spotted near Big Grizzly Creek. Make sure you plant this tree away from your house at Grizzly Ranch as they love water and have strong, invasive root systems that can crack water pipes in their search for moisture. Cottonwoods provide almost year round interest: in the spring, a beautiful fragrance emerges from the buds, in the summer seeds float by gracefully like tufts of cotton, and in the fall, leaves turn bright gold.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Oval, finely toothed

Bark: Smooth, yellowish white, becoming ashy gray with rough fissures

Flowers: Catkins mature into grape-like clusters and release cottony seeds

Height: 40'-125'

Width: 10'-40'

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and riparian



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Birds forage and nest in the trees; deer browse on stems; beavers use young trees to build dams; and it is an important food plant for butterfly larvae. Cottonwoods also provide valuable shade along streams for fish habitat.

Did You Know?

Bees collect resin for their hives to act as a disinfectant against bacteria. Native Americans heated winter buds in oil to make a salve to apply on infected wounds.

Pair With

Quaking aspen, mountain alder, redbird dogwood, wild rose, willow, slender wheatgrass, monkeyflower, and lupine.



Populus tremuloides

quaking aspen

The name of this sensational tree references the “trembling” of the leaves that happens in even a slight breeze. A soft, soothing, rustling sound high in the treetops is a comforting sound as you walk through a stand of these quaking aspen. With its light bark and wonderful autumn yellow colors, the aspen is a pleasing contrast to dark conifers and a welcome addition to the Grizzly Ranch landscape. It can grow on a variety of sites, often rapidly and in stands, and is most commonly found in moist soils.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green above and paler below, heart shaped with a fine-toothed margin

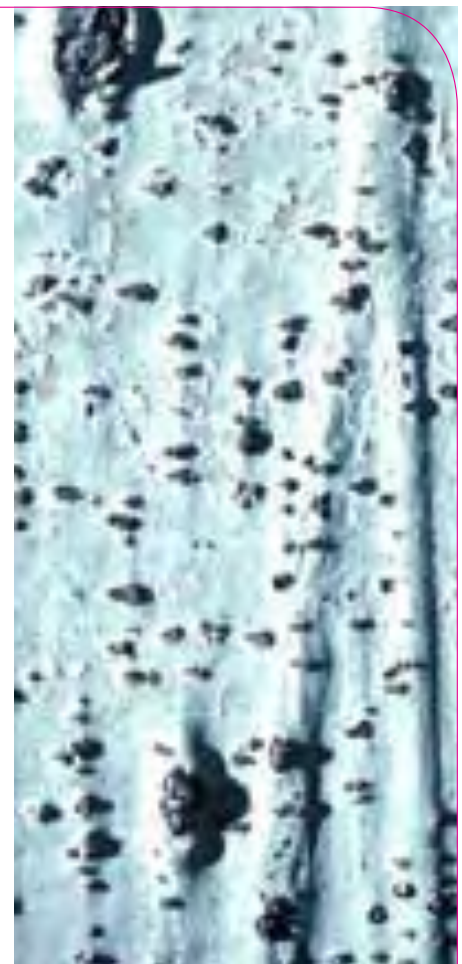
Bark: Smooth, papery, white to grayish

Fruit/Seed: Catkin, 2"-4", releasing many small, hairy seeds.

Height: 30'-40'

Width: 5'-15', per tree

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and riparian



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

Meadow mice, snowshoe hares, and beavers eat the bark and deer browse twigs, buds, and leaves. Beavers use saplings and logs for their dams and lodges.

Did You Know?

Stands of aspen are usually from the same stock as the roots sucker profusely, creating genetic clones of multiple trees! Signature black "eyes" on the trunks are a result of different fungi getting in the bark.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, vine maple, willow, serviceberry, chokecherry, wet habitat sedge, monkeyflower, and cinquefoil.



Pseudotsuga menziesii

Douglas-fir

The natural occurrence of Douglas-fir in widespread stands is a tribute to its ability to survive wildfires better than other trees. It is a prevailing feature in old growth forests, and is most commonly found on north-facing slopes. An important timber resource, it is used for construction materials, window frames and even Christmas trees! Along with the giant sequoia and coast redwood, these towering trees are some of the tallest trees in North America and may be found within the mixed conifer forest at Beckwourth Crossing and the Bathtub Springs Open Space Area.

Distinguishing Features

Needles: Very fragrant, yellow-green to blue-green single needles, blunt tips

Bark: Red-brown with ridges and deep furrows

Cones: Oblong shape, 3"-4" long with unique rounded scales

Height: up to 250'

Width: 10'-40'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light

Water

Growth

Attracts

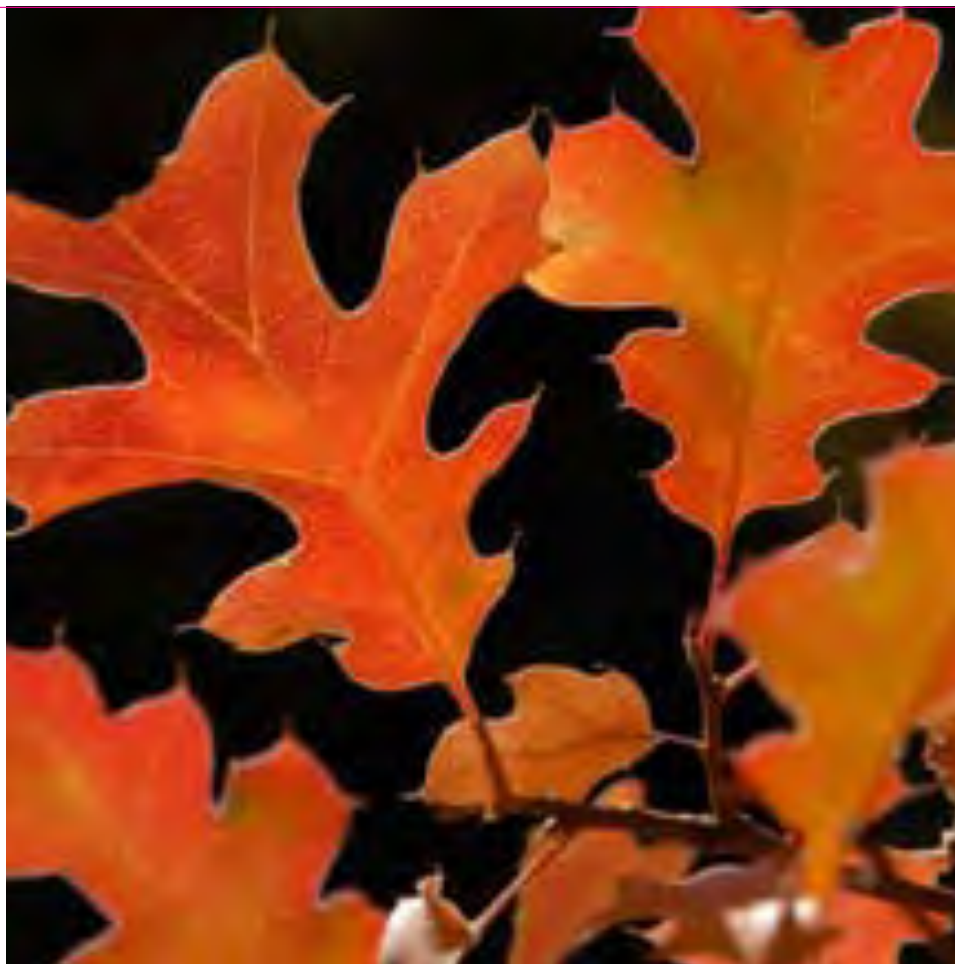
Seeds and plant material attract small mammals, deer, and various birds. Douglas-fir tussock moth and spruce budworm can defoliate or turn the needles a reddish-brown.

Did You Know?

A Native American myth tells of mice using the Douglas-fir cones as a safe haven during forest fires. You'll see why when you look at the bracts of the cone - it looks like the tail and tiny back legs of mice scrambling for cover!

Pair With

California black oak, Oregon grape, mountain strawberry, dry habitat sedge, yarrow, lupine, and bracken fern.



Quercus kelloggii

California black oak

The deep green color and artistic form of the California black oak make it a highly desirable landscaping tree at Grizzly Ranch. It also provides additional beauty in the fall when its golden leaves carpet the ground. If you are a nature lover, black oak provides food and cover for many animals that make Grizzly Ranch their home. One quarter of California's hardwood timber comes from oak — you might be sitting or walking on a piece of black oak furniture or floors!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Deciduous, deeply lobed

Bark: Thin and smooth in young trees; thick, deeply fissured with age

Fruit/Seed: Acorn, with a bowl-like, scaly cap covering the lower third

Height: 30'-80'

Crown Width: 10'-50'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🟤🟤🟤🟤🟤

Attracts

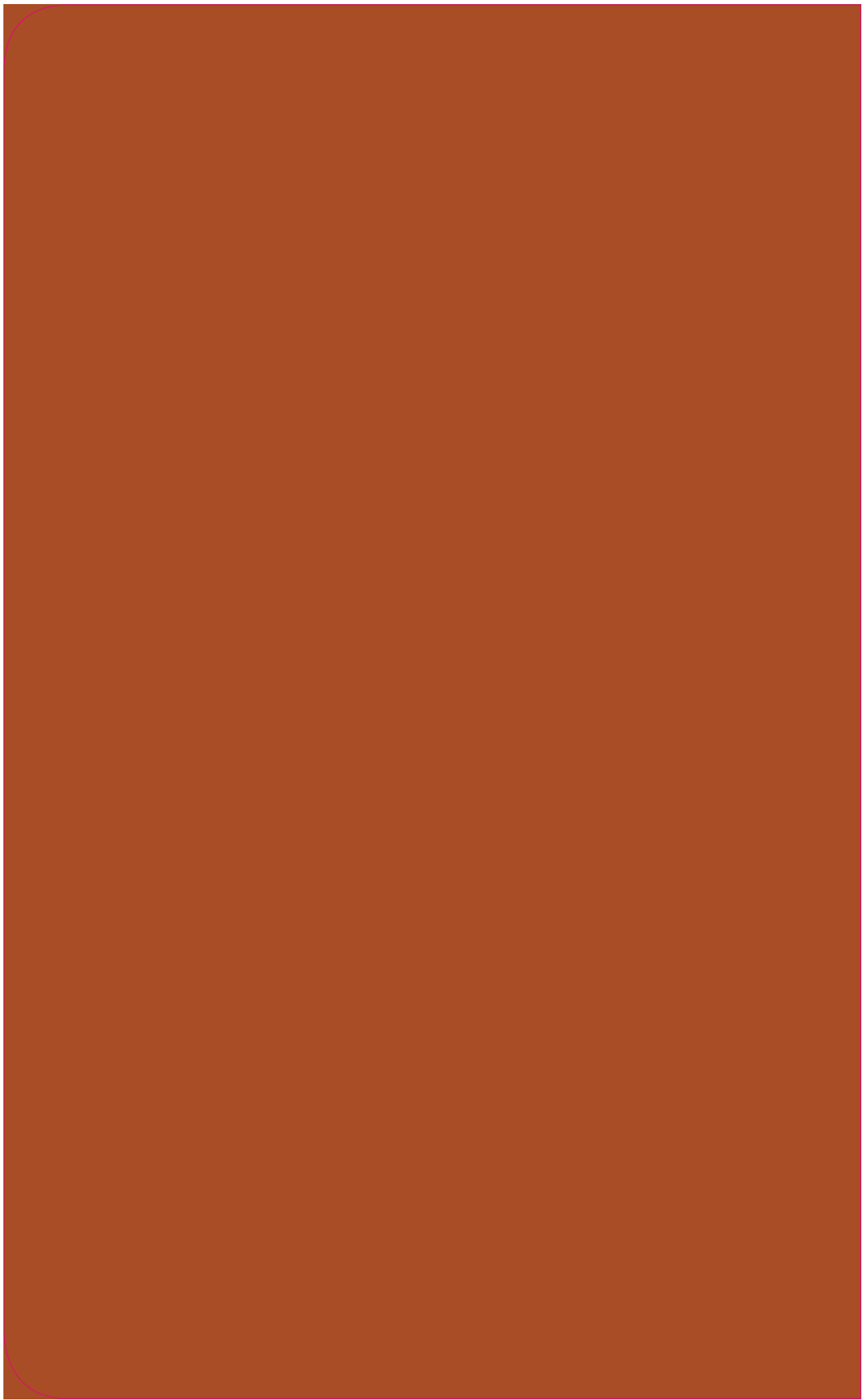
Tree squirrels and owls nest in rotted cavities of the trunks, and woodpeckers, jays, gray squirrels, and deer savor the acorns. Acorns compose a majority of the winter diet of deer, with fawn survival rates dependent on the size of the acorn crop.

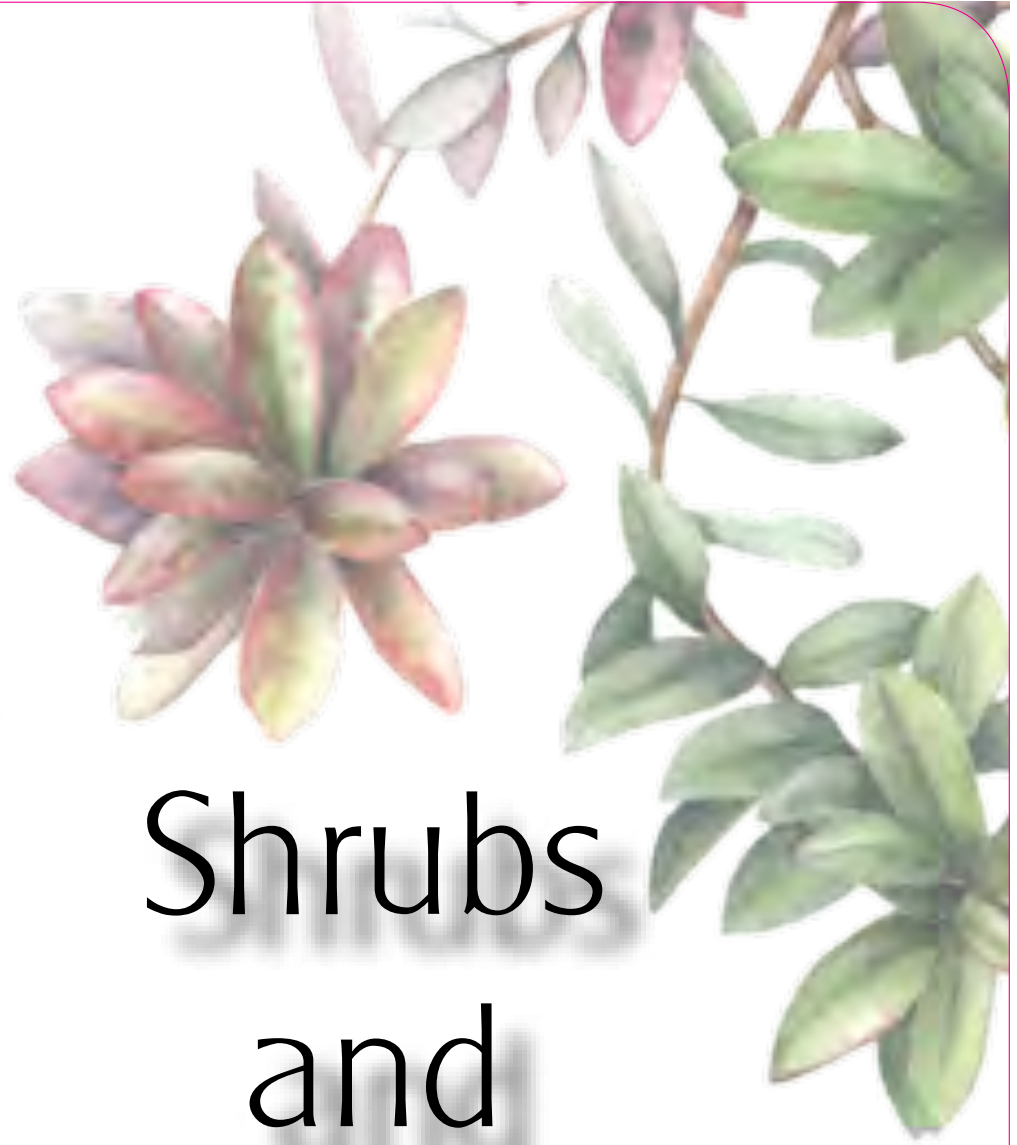
Did You Know?

California black oak acorns were essential to the Maidu Native Americans as one of their food sources. Collected in fall, acorns could be stored for up to 4 months in granaries.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, bitter cherry, thimbleberry, spiraea, mountain strawberry, California fescue, yarrow, and lupine.





Shrubs and Groundcovers





“Sierra Valley is an unusual place—a vast, high mountain valley rimmed with forested mountains. The valley floor is not completely flat, but is slightly undulating, creating expanses of marsh alternating with sagebrush. It is not quite Great Basin country, and not quite mountain country, but shares characteristics of both regions.”

SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

<i>Alnus incana</i> ssp. <i>tenuifolia</i>	mountain alder
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	serviceberry
<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>	greenleaf manzanita
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	bearberry or kinnikinnick
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	big sagebrush
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> var. <i>repens</i>	Oregon grape or creeping mahonia
<i>Ceanothus prostratus</i>	squaw carpet or mahala mat
<i>Ceanothus velutinus</i>	tobacco bush
<i>Chrysolepis sempervirens</i>	Sierra or bush chinquapin
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	rubber rabbitbrush
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	redtwig dogwood
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	mountain strawberry
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> var. <i>demissa</i>	western chokecherry
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	bitterbrush
<i>Quercus vaccinifolia</i>	huckleberry oak
<i>Ribes nevadense</i>	Sierra currant
<i>Rosa woodsii</i> var. <i>ultramontana</i>	wild rose
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow
<i>Sambucus mexicanus</i>	blue elderberry
<i>Spiraea densiflora</i>	mountain spiraea
<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>	creeping snowberry
<i>Symphoricarpos rotundifolius</i>	mountain snowberry



Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia

mountain alder

Look for this multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub or small tree on the banks of Big Grizzly Creek or in other riparian areas at Grizzly Ranch. This fast growing plant is perfect to add to that moist area in your yard as it thrives in wet sites, is shade tolerant, has flowers with attractive clusters forming early in the spring, and catkins and cones that add visual interest during the winter season.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Thin, dull green, oval to elliptic, margins distinctly serrated

Bark: Smooth, light gray to brown

Flowers: Drooping catkins ½"-2" clustered at the end of the twig, appearing before leaves

Fruit/Seed: Cone-like, remain on plants for over a year

Height: 3'-10'

Width: Varies

Habitat: Moist forest and riparian



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Livestock love this alder, but at Grizzly Ranch, you'll more likely find deer browsing on twigs and leaves. Beavers love the bark and build dams with its leaves and stems. Alder seeds, buds, and catkins are eaten by a variety of birds for winter sustenance; and it provides important cover for breeding.

Did You Know?

Native Americans pounded the bark to produce a red dye and used burnt ashes as "toothpaste."

Pair With

Big-leaf maple, redtwig dogwood, willow, spiraea, wet habitat sedge, mountain strawberry, alpine aster, and monkeyflower.



Amelanchier alnifolia

serviceberry

This member of the Rose family is a spectacular deciduous shrub to add to your landscape. It grows in a variety of conditions and can form attractive hedges or be shaped as a small ornamental tree. Perhaps most dramatic are the white clusters of aromatic flowers that burst open prior to the green leaves emerging, and that can last up to a month in good conditions. Small blue berries are delicious to humans, birds and other mammals. The rich fall colors seem to hold longer than most other plants in the Grizzly Ranch scenery. A relative, Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*) is similar, but prefers a drier environment.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Deciduous, thin, oval with toothed margins

Bark: Light brown to gray

○ **Flowers:** Small, white, aromatic clusters

Fruit/Seed: ¼" bluish berry

Height: 3'-10'

Width: Varies

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and riparian



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Birds and mammals love the berries, and the dense branching pattern provides excellent cover. Deer browse on new foliage.

Did You Know?

If you can beat the birds to them, the berries are quite tasty, and can be eaten as is, used in muffins and pies, or dried like raisins. Native Americans drank the berry juice for stomach ailments and as a laxative.

Pair With

Pacific dogwood, Douglas-fir, mountain flax, western chokecherry, pinemat manzanita, California brome, dry habitat sedge, and arrow-leaved balsam-root.



Arctostaphylos patula

greenleaf manzanita

One of the more common understory plants on Grizzly Ranch, this manzanita is a fantastic, low spreading shrub with smooth, red bark, luminous green leaves, and plentiful bell shaped pink flowers that emerge in early spring. This shrub is flammable, so avoid dense plantings near a structure. It is drought tolerant. Watch for bear scat full of manzanita seeds when you are hiking in the mountains near Grizzly Ranch.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Round, evergreen, on gnarled stems

Bark: Glossy, reddish brown

○ **Flowers:** Bell shaped, pinkish white, in clusters

Fruit/Seed: Reddish brown ¼” drupe

Height: 3’-6’

Width: Varies

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas, and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ████

Attracts

Fruits and seeds attract a variety of birds and mammals, and the spreading form provides an important cover for small mammals. Black bears love the fruit.

Did You Know?

Native Americans brewed a tea from fruits to treat poison oak and used leaves to treat insect bites and burns.

Manzanita is one of the pioneer plants after fire but can restrict the growth of ponderosa pine seedlings.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, incense cedar, tobacco bush, creeping snowberry, dry habitat sedge, California poppy, and lupine.



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

bearberry or kinnikinnick

This is a wonderful low ground cover, and perfect for the part-time resident at Grizzly Ranch since it requires minimum maintenance once established. The horizontal, evergreen growth provides good year-round color with leathery leaves that turn from glossy green in the summer to maroon and green in the fall. Beautiful clusters of pink to white urn shaped flowers nod at the end of the stems in the summer; and reddish berries, or drupes, hold until early winter. The fruit is edible, but mealy and tasteless. Pinemat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*) can also be used at Grizzly Ranch. Although both species are slow growing, they are long-lived and very tolerant to harsh winters. As a ground cover, bearberry can be used to accent rocks and boulders.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Leathery, dark green, paddle shape

Bark: Papery, reddish

○ **Flowers:** Terminal, urn shaped clusters, white to pink

Fruit/Seed: Round, bright red drupes

Height: 6"-1½'

Width: Less than 6'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Provides excellent forage and cover for small birds and mammals; butterflies and hummingbirds visit the flowers.

Did You Know?

Kinnikinnick is a Native American word for tobacco; and the name bearberry acknowledges that bears really do like to eat its berries!

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, Sierra chinquapin, bitter cherry, current, squirreltail, brome, penstemon, and arrow-leaved balsam-root.



Artemisia tridentata

big sagebrush

Releasing a distinctive, pungent smell after a Sierra rainfall, this silvery, gray shrub is a common companion to the mules ears and arrow-leaved balsam-root in the meadows at Grizzly Ranch. Often retaining its leaves year round, it is an extremely drought tolerant plant whose gnarled form creates a nice blue-gray mass in the landscape. To avoid a gangly appearance, periodically prune it. This shrub is flammable, so don't place it near a structure.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Wedge shaped, outer end divided into 3 lobes, hairy

Bark: Gray, shredded look

● **Flowers:** Yellow, small clusters on upright stems

Fruit/Seed: Small achenes

Height: 2'-4'

Width: 2'-3'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, chaparral, and meadow



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Good forage plant for sage grouse, and squirrels; cover provides nesting areas for songbirds.

Did You Know?

This is the Nevada state flower and one of the main culprits for hay fever in the area. Native Americans used the dried leaves and stems in sweat lodges, at ceremonies, and as air purifiers. If mosquitoes are bothering you at a campfire, throw on some of the leaves as it fends them off.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, mountain mahogany, rubber rabbitbrush, California brome, Plumas bluegrass, Indian paintbrush, arrow-leaved balsam-root, and lupine.



Berberis aquifolium var. *repens*

Oregon grape or creeping mahonia

It's hard to go wrong with this attractive, evergreen ground cover! It does well in partial to full shade, is drought, heat, and frost tolerant, and has year-round glamour with its yellow flowers in the spring, clusters of blue berries in the fall, and large, lustrous, holly-like leaves turning rust color in the fall. Pinch back the new growth to keep it full.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Leathery, green, 5-7 leaflets with slender spines

Bark: Thick, corky appearance

● **Flowers:** Yellow, fragrant

Fruit/Seed: Blue berries

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 1'-3'

Habitat: Forest



Light ☀️☀️☁️☁️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Game and songbirds love the fruits!

Did You Know?

Roots were very important to Native Americans as a blood purifier and to treat kidney problems and stomach troubles; berries (very sour!), which contain pectin, were used to make jams; and a yellow dye was produced from the roots and bark. Leaves are an attractive addition to any indoor floral display.

Pair With

California black oak, serviceberry, wild rose, dry habitat sedge, California fescue, mountain strawberry, gilia, and heuchera.



Ceanothus prostratus

squaw carpet or mahala mat

Squaw carpet is a prostrate, grayish-green shrub that forms dense mats of evergreen growth, highlighted by beautiful clusters of small lavender flowers from April to June. It is an excellent ground cover for snow-covered landscapes, as it does not like dry winter exposure. This plant has a reputation for being hard to grow, so encourage any existing plants on your lot, and protect them from any construction disturbance!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Thick, oblong, green

Bark: Brown

○ **Flowers:** Lavender, clusters

Fruit/Seed: Small, round 3-parted with tiny horns

Height: 2"-6"

Width: 3'-10'

Habitat: Forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ████

Attracts

The small flowers are a magnet for bees.

Did You Know?

Trailing branches root to form broad mats of green. Although this particular plant does not have thorns, “ceanothus” is a Greek word for thorny plant.

Pair With

Incense cedar, Jeffrey pine, greenleaf manzanita, Sierra chinquapin, fescue, dry habitat sedge, gilia, and arnica.



Ceanothus velutinus

tobacco bush

With its clusters of white, pungent flowers and balsam smelling wood, tobacco bush brings the senses alive. In addition, the showy white flowers are a beautiful visual contrast against its dark, evergreen leaves. Whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*) featured on the opposite page, is a bit smaller, likes it a bit drier, has thorns, and its flowers are not quite as prominent. At Grizzly Ranch, thickets of these dense, round bushes can be found in either open, rocky hillsides or partially shaded forests. Both varieties are tolerant of all types of soil and partial shade to full sun. Tobacco bush is highly flammable; so do not plant it close to structures.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Lush green, 3 prominent veins run to the leaf edge

Bark: Smooth, whitish

○ **Flowers:** White clusters

Fruit/Seed: Small 3-lobed capsule

Height: 4'-8'

Width: 4'-8'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas, and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ████

Attracts

Butterflies are attracted to the aromatic flowers; small mammals and birds enjoy the seeds; and the plant provides winter browse for deer.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used plant tops and leaves for bathing and dandruff control.

Pair With

California black oak, Jeffrey pine, big sagebrush, bush chinquapin, bearberry, Idaho fescue, blue flax, California poppy, and lupine.



Chrysolepis sempervirens

Sierra or bush chinquapin

Found on steep, open, south-facing slopes at Grizzly Ranch, this evergreen shrub has a beautiful golden sheen underneath its gray-green leaf, showy white-green catkins in the spring, and an attractive dark, chestnut-like nut that matures in the fall. This shrub used to be known as *Castanopsis sempervirens*. You'll find it an expensive plant to buy at the nursery since it's extremely hard to grow outside of its native environment.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Oblong, gray-green with golden undersides, coarse

Bark: Brown, smooth

○ **Flowers:** White-green catkins

Fruit/Seed: Spiny brown outside, acorn-like inside

Height: 2'-7'

Width: 3'-6'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas, and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █

Attracts

Birds and rodents eat the seeds.

Did You Know?

You can roast and eat the seeds! The name *Chrysolepis* is based on the Greek word for golden, and *sempervirens* is derived from the Latin words for always green.

Pair With

White fir, ponderosa pine, greenleaf manzanita, kinnikinnick, Plumas bluegrass, lupine, arnica, and penstemon.



Chrysothamnus nauseosus

rubber rabbitbrush

Just when all the spring colors seem to fade in the landscape, rabbitbrush provides a spectacular late summer display of billowing yellow flowers of special allure to butterflies. This deciduous member of the sunflower family looks more like a robust perennial than a shrub, and can be found in the open meadows at Grizzly Ranch. It is an excellent accent plant in your yard as it tolerates poor soils, thrives in dry sites, and is a vigorous reseeder.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Woolly, linear, blue-green

Bark: Felt like, grayish-white

● **Flowers:** Yellow clusters, papery

Fruit/Seed: Light brown puffy clusters of seeds

Height: 2'-4'

Crown Width: 2'-3'

Habitat: Dry open areas, chaparral, and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Birds love the seeds, the flowers attract butterflies; and the plant is resistant to browsing by deer and rabbits.

Did You Know?

The twigs were a chewing gum for Native Americans; and leaves were steeped to treat sore throats, coughs, and colds. Scientists studied the plant as a possible alternative source of raw materials for rubber during the World War II rubber shortage, hence the name “rubber” rabbitbrush.

Pair With

Mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, big sagebrush, blue wildrye, arrow-leaved balsam-root, wallflower, and mules ears.



Cornus sericea

redtwig dogwood

In the winter, it's easy to spot these beauties down by Big Grizzly Creek with their especially beautiful red twigs contrasting the white, snowy landscape. The dogwood is a great deciduous native shrub to add to the landscape not only for winter interest, but also for the attractive white flowers that bloom throughout the spring, the white berry-like fruits that hold late into the season, and the deep maroon red of the changing leaves in the fall. Although dogwood prefers moist areas, it is extremely adaptable to wide variety of soils and climates.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Ovate, dark green, deeply veined

Bark: Green in summer, red in winter

○ **Flowers:** Flat clusters of small green-white flowers

Fruit/Seed: White berry-like fruits

Height: 6'-15'

Width: 6'-12'

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and riparian



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Berries attract birds; butterflies like the flowers; thickets provide covers for birds and small wildlife; and it is an important browse plant for deer, rabbits, grouse, and quail.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used the bark to make red and black dyes; and the stems were used for baskets, bows, and arrows. The berries are edible, but not very tasty!

Pair With

Lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, mountain alder, gooseberry, willow, tufted hairgrass, heuchera, and gilia.



Fragaria virginiana

mountain strawberry

Mountain strawberry is a fast spreading ground cover for your lot at Grizzly Ranch. It is simple to transplant and rapidly spreads with its sub-surface rhizomes and above ground runners, especially with good watering. On the other hand, you'll need to cut back runners where you don't want the plant to grow or it will become invasive. This ground-hugging plant's best feature is its hairy flower stalk that holds loose clusters of white five-petaled flowers that produce tasty, wild strawberries. The strawberries are smaller and pulpier than ones you would find at the grocery store, but a lot more fun to collect!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Toothed margins, leaflets of three

Bark: Reddish brown

○ **Flowers:** White with five petals

Fruit/Seed: Red strawberry

Height: 6"-12"

Width: Varies

Habitat: Semi-moist meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Gophers, woodrats, birds, deer, raccoons, and lots of other mammals compete for the berries during the summer and fall.

Did You Know?

The fresh, dried, or baked berries were a staple for the Native Americans, and are delicious treats to find on a hike. The strawberry is not a true berry, but an enlarged receptacle with achenes on it.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, quaking aspen, currant, Scouler's willow, dry habitat sedge, fescue, bracken fern, and scarlet gilia.



Potentilla fruticosa

shrubby cinquefoil

If you don't have a green thumb, this is the shrub for you! The cinquefoil is virtually pest and maintenance free yet offers showy, yellow buttercup-like flowers that bloom from June until the first frost! It is a low mounding deciduous shrub that is as tall as it is wide. This is the only species of *Potentilla* in California that grows in shrub form.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green to grayish-green, made up of 4-6 leaflets

Bark: Peeling, gray

● **Flowers:** Yellow, buttercup-like

Fruit/Seed: Hairy achene

Height: 3'-4'

Width: 3'-4'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas, and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies love the flowers; it provides cover for small ground birds; and it is less prone to attract deer.

Did You Know?

Potentilla species have been used medicinally for ulcers, respiratory ailments, and as a cardiac stimulant.

Pair With

Mountain maple, California black oak, Sierra current, wild rose, ticklegrass, dry habitat sedge, arnica, and penstemon.



Prunus virginiana var. *demissa*

western chokecherry

Two varieties of the *Prunus* family that can be planted at Grizzly Ranch are bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) and, as shown in the photos, western chokecherry. These deciduous plants can be grown as a small tree or a large shrub, and are very attractive in the landscape with their showy, white clusters of flowers appearing in early spring, followed by lovely dark berries that look much better than they taste!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Oval, dark green, serrated margins

Bark: Thin, darkish red

○ **Flowers:** White clusters near the end of the branch

Fruit/Seed: Small red to black round drupe

Height: 5'-20'

Width: 5'-10'

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings, roadsides, and riparian areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Prunus species are favorite forage of mule deer, bear, coyotes, birds, and small mammals. The nectar attracts butterflies.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used the bark and roots to treat ulcers and canker sores or as a poultice. Although bitter, *Prunus virginiana* fruit can be gathered and made into excellent jelly or jam. Seed pits contain poisonous substances that can be toxic if eaten in large quantities.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, red bud, bitterbrush, thimbleberry, vine maple, tufted hairgrass, gilia, and larkspur.



Purshia tridentata

bitterbrush

This member of the Rose family is a low, evergreen shrub that is used extensively for land reclamation, especially in mining areas. It grows well on dry slopes with full sun exposure. The small three-lobed leaves are quite distinct and leathery; and short-lived pale yellow flowers are found at the end of branches in the spring. This is a critical browse plant for deer, especially in the winter.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Gray, wedge shaped, 3-5 lobed leaves

Bark: Grayish brown

● **Flowers:** Pale yellow, 5 petals

Fruit/Seed: Leathery, slender seed at the base of a plume

Height: 2'-6'

Width: 3'-5'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, chaparral, and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

It is a very palatable browse plant for mule deer and provides cover for small mammals and birds. It is considered the most important winter forage species in the state of Nevada.

Did You Know?

Bitterbrush is insect pollinated. Native Americans used leaf poultice for chickenpox, measles, or insect bites, and leaf tea was used as a tonic for a variety of ailments.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, western chokecherry, blue wildrye, Plumas bluegrass, and lupine.



Quercus vaccinifolia

huckleberry oak

This evergreen, spreading shrub is very drought resistant. When fully established, mature plants provide erosion control on steep slopes. It is a slow growing shrub with very bitter acorns that supply excellent winter sustenance to a variety of birds and mammals. Don't over water since oaks are susceptible to fungus. Many folks who associate oaks with the statuesque deciduous trees with broad leaves are surprised that this little shrub with tiny evergreen leaves is a member of the same genus.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Elliptical, glabrous, dull green

Bark: Smooth, gray

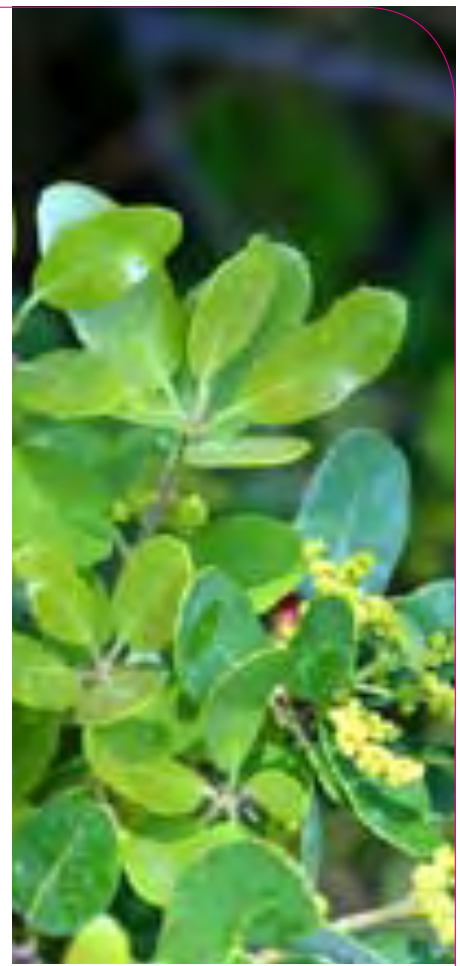
● **Flowers:** Catkins, yellow, inconspicuous

Fruit/Seed: Acorn

Height: 1'-4'

Width: 1'-2'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas, and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ████

Attracts

Mule deer browse heavily on leaves; bear, grouse, quail, and rodents eat acorns.

Did You Know?

This is the only species of oak that can be found at an elevation of 10,000 feet.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, bush chinquapin, rabbitbrush, squaw carpet, fescue, penstemon, mules ears, and bear-grass.



Ribes nevadense

Sierra currant

A common native in the region, Sierra current is a great garden plant with dense foliage, an early springtime showcase of pink flowers, and brightly colored berries in the fall. The berries disappear quickly because the chipmunks and birds love them. Its leaves turn yellow in the fall; and it can be found in moist, open forests. Several other *Ribes* varieties suitable for Grizzly Ranch are listed on the opposite page. Featured in the photos is *Ribes cereum*.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: 3-5 lobed pale to dark green

Bark: Gray to cherry colored

● **Flowers:** Pink, bell shaped in clusters

Fruit/Seed: Clusters of blue berries

Height: 3'-6'

Width: 2'-5'

Habitat: Semi-moist meadow and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Berries are a favorite among birds; hummingbirds love the flowers; and the form provides good cover for small mammals.

Did You Know?

Only a few of the current species are palatable. Golden current berries can be cooked, strained, and made into jelly.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Ribes* Species Include:

R. aureum, golden currant, 3'-6' tall, yellow flowers

R. cereum, wax currant, 1'-3' tall, white to light pink flowers

R. roezlii, Sierra gooseberry, 1'-3' tall, red and white flowers

R. sanguineum, red flowering current, 3'-6' tall, pinkish red

R. viscosissimum, sticky current, 2'-5' tall, pink



Rosa woodsii var. *ultramontana*

wild rose

Another good plant for the non-green thumb gardener is this hardy, deciduous shrub. It tolerates abuse, is excellent for revegetation on disturbed sites or along roadsides, and although drought tolerant, can do well along streambanks or wetlands. From June through August, a fragrant, delicate rose is a treat to the senses, and showy red fruit, or hips, form in the fall and remain through the winter, providing some winter interest and necessary fodder for birds and animals. This is a good privacy plant as its branches can form dense, often impenetrable, thickets well armed with prickles.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Compound (made up of small leaflets)

Bark: Reddish brown to gray with prickles

● **Flowers:** Pink to lavender

Fruit/Seed: Smooth, round, red “hip”

Height: 1’-5’

Width: 3’ - thicket

Habitat: Semi-moist meadow and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

The hips, or fruits, are a good source of energy and protein for a variety of animals and birds, and in the winter, provide hard to find sustenance. The thickets provide excellent cover and nesting areas for birds.

Did You Know?

Hips are a great source of vitamin C and, when dried, make an excellent tea! The petals make a wonderful potpourri.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, dogwood, currant, western chokecherry, dry habitat sedge, Plumas bluegrass, arnica, and delphinium.



Rubus parviflorus

thimbleberry

Another good low maintenance plant, thimbleberry tolerates abuse, can survive under the dripline of roof snow, and thrives with moisture and shade — but it also tolerates somewhat drier situations! Its rambling form ranges from a thicket to an erect single shrub, and is one of the few members of the genus *Rubus* that does not have prickles. The flexible stems hold clusters of fragrant, white flowers, and many birds and mammals enjoy the red, raspberry-like fruit. These are easy to propagate yourself by planting a stem cutting or a rhizome in your yard and keeping it well watered.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Palmately lobed, green above, lighter green below

Bark: Gray, flaking

○ **Flowers:** White, clusters of 2 - 7

Fruit/Seed: Red, thimble-like

Height: 2'-5'

Width: Varies

Habitat: Semi-moist meadow and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☾☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

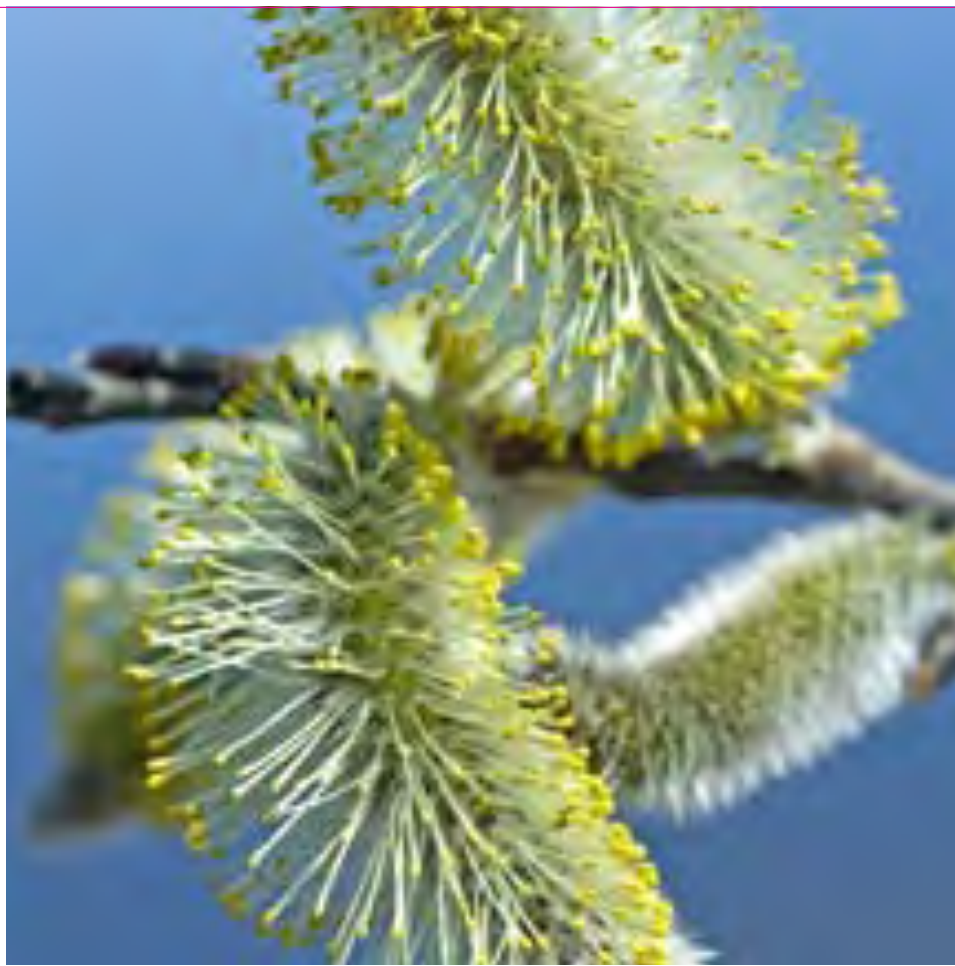
Fruits are an important food to song and game birds and mammals, including bears. Thickets provide good cover for nesting birds and mammals.

Did You Know?

The genus *Rubus* translates to “bramble” in Latin, and includes the cultivated raspberry and blackberry plants. No wonder the fruits of this relative provide a tasty treat!

Pair With

Lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, mountain alder, blue elderberry, mountain strawberry, wet habitat sedge, and broadleaf lupine.



Salix scouleriana

Scouler's willow

Scouler's willow is unique among the region's willows in its tolerance of drier conditions. It is also the only willow with leaves that are wide at the tip and slightly rounded. The other willow species are easy to recognize at Grizzly Ranch because of their slender, pointed leaves, and close proximity to water. These deciduous shrubs with their crooked stems are the easiest of all plants to root from cuttings. They are great plants for revegetation of riparian areas, but are a favorite for beavers and rodents so need protection until well established. *Salix lemmonii* is pictured here, *Salix exigua* is featured on opposite page, and other *Salix* species suitable for Grizzly Ranch are listed on the opposite page.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Alternate, rounded tip

Bark: Pliant, reddish brown to gray

● **Flowers:** Tiny, grouped in pussy willow-type catkins

Fruit/Seed: Small capsule full of tiny seeds

Height: 5'-15'

Width: Varies

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings, roadsides, slopes, and open areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Willows are a preferred treat for beavers, provide good forage for deer, attract many songbirds, and offer streamside shade for fish.

Did You Know?

Willows produce salicin, which is related to aspirin, therefore explaining the wide use of willow by the Native Americans to treat fever, colds, sore throat, headaches, pains, and malaria.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Salix* Species Include:

S. exigua, coyote willow, shorter with narrow gray leaves

S. laevigata, red willow, reddish bark

S. lemmonii, Lemmon's willow, leaves green on top



Sambucus mexicana

blue elderberry

This easy to establish, deciduous shrub or small tree is common along Big Grizzly Creek because it grows best on moist, well-drained sunny sites. With an erect, thicket-forming shape, it has clusters of creamy white, fragrant flowers a bit later than most shrubs, and produces heavy crops of bluish black berries late in the summer. The berries can be used to create your own Grizzly elderberry wine! Use extreme caution in picking them though, the rest of the plant contains toxins.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Bright green, feather-like arrangement

Bark: Thin, grayish brown

○ **Flowers:** Fragrant, white to cream

Fruit/Seed: Bluish black

Height: 6'-18'

Width: Varies

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and slopes



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Hummingbirds and butterflies enjoy the flowers; and at least 50 species of birds relish the berries in the fall. Bears also love the berries, while deer forage on the stems and foliage.

Did You Know?

All parts of the elderberry have been used in folk medicine; and in the Middle Ages, elderberry was considered a holy tree, capable of restoring and ensuring good health. Twigs and branches can be used for baskets.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, serviceberry, California rose, willow, squirreltail, tufted hairgrass, bracken fern, and lupine.



Spiraea densiflora

mountain spiraea

This is a well-loved garden plant in the Sierra Valley. Its fragrant, fuzzy pompom-like flowers bring a beautiful pink splash to the summer, and the red fall foliage brings a spectacular end to its growing season. Its small form adapts well to rocky outcroppings, and looks particularly pleasing against a granite background.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Oval, shiny green

Bark: Reddish-purple

● **Flowers:** Pink

Fruit/Seed: Brown pod

Height: 1'-3'

Width: 1'-2'

Habitat: Semi-moist forest openings and rocky areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Butterflies

Did You Know?

The name comes from a Greek word for a plant used in garlands. You can use the flowering stem as a natural paintbrush!

Pair With

Bitter cherry, Sierra current, blue elderberry, California brome, Plumas bluegrass, penstemon, slender gilia, and mules ears.



Symphoricarpos mollis

creeping snowberry

Also known as *Symphoricarpos acutus*, this deciduous trailing shrub is good for dry to moist, shady slopes. It makes an attractive, low-to-the-ground plant with tidy, round leaves on arching branches. Pink, bell shaped flowers bring early color to Grizzly Ranch in May and June; and the distinctive white berries forming in late summer hold through most of the winter. The branches occasionally root at the tips.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Dull green, elliptic, occasionally lobed

Bark: Brown

● **Flowers:** Pink, bell shaped

Fruit/Seed: White, round berries

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 2'-4'

Habitat: Dry forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☼☼☼

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Flowers are used by hummingbirds; and birds eat the berries.

Did You Know?

Fruits are distasteful and ingesting large quantities can be toxic. The leaves contain saponin (“sapon” meaning soap), a poison.

Pair With

Big-leaf maple, dogwood, Douglas-fir, currant, bitter cherry, fescue, heuchera, and Plumas County or mountain pride penstemon.



Symphoricarpos rotundifolius

mountain snowberry

The best feature of this low mounding deciduous shrub is its decorative, white fruit that persists throughout the fall. The pink clusters of bell shaped flowers are an added highlight! It does best in shaded woodlands or on north-facing slopes.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Elliptic, dull green

Bark: Thin, light brown

○ **Flowers:** Bell shaped, pink and white clusters

Fruit/Seed: White, round berries

Height: 2'-4'

Width: 2'-4'

Habitat: Dry forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

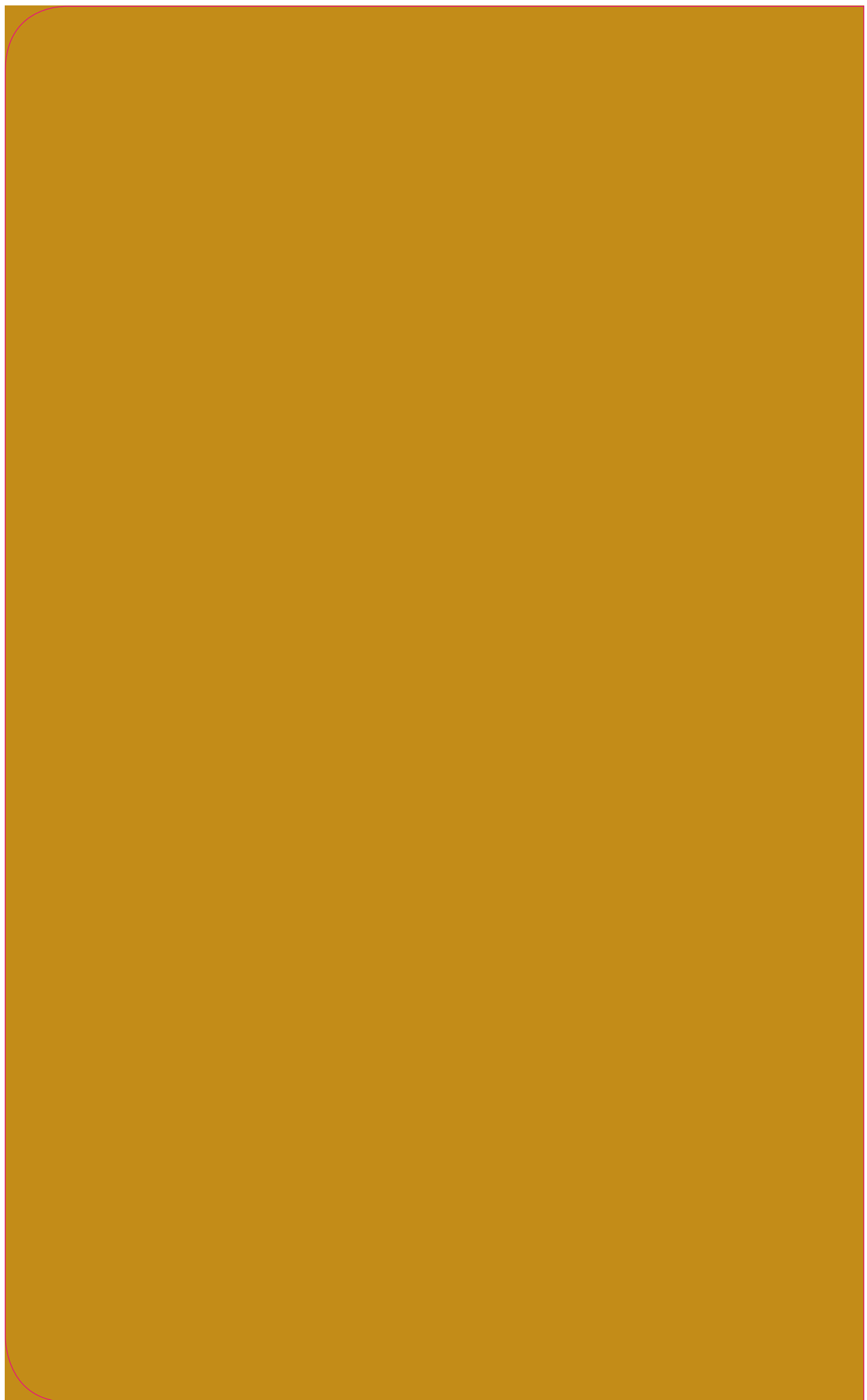
Fruit are an important food source for quail and grouse.

Did You Know?

Berries can be poisonous and cause vomiting and nausea.

Pair With


White fir, ponderosa pine, greenleaf manzanita, California fescue, squirreltail, Sierra onion, western wallflower, and blue flax.





Grasses





“Another route into Plumas County was by way of 5,212’ Beckwourth Pass, the lowest mountain pass over the Sierra Nevada. This immigrant route was developed in 1851, a year after its discovery by African-American mountain man James P. Beckwourth... The route was described as “well watered and timbered, with the greatest abundance of grass.” Between 1851 and 1854, 1,200 emigrants used the Beckwourth Trail, leading 12,000 head of cattle, 700 sheep, and 500 horses.”

GRASSES

Achnatherum occidentale
ssp. californicum

California needlegrass

Agrostis scabra

ticklegrass

Bromus carinatus var. *carinatus*

California brome

Carex amplifolia

ample leaved sedge

Danthonia californica

California oatgrass

Deschampsia cespitosa

tufted hairgrass

Elymus elymoides

squirreltail

Festuca idahoensis

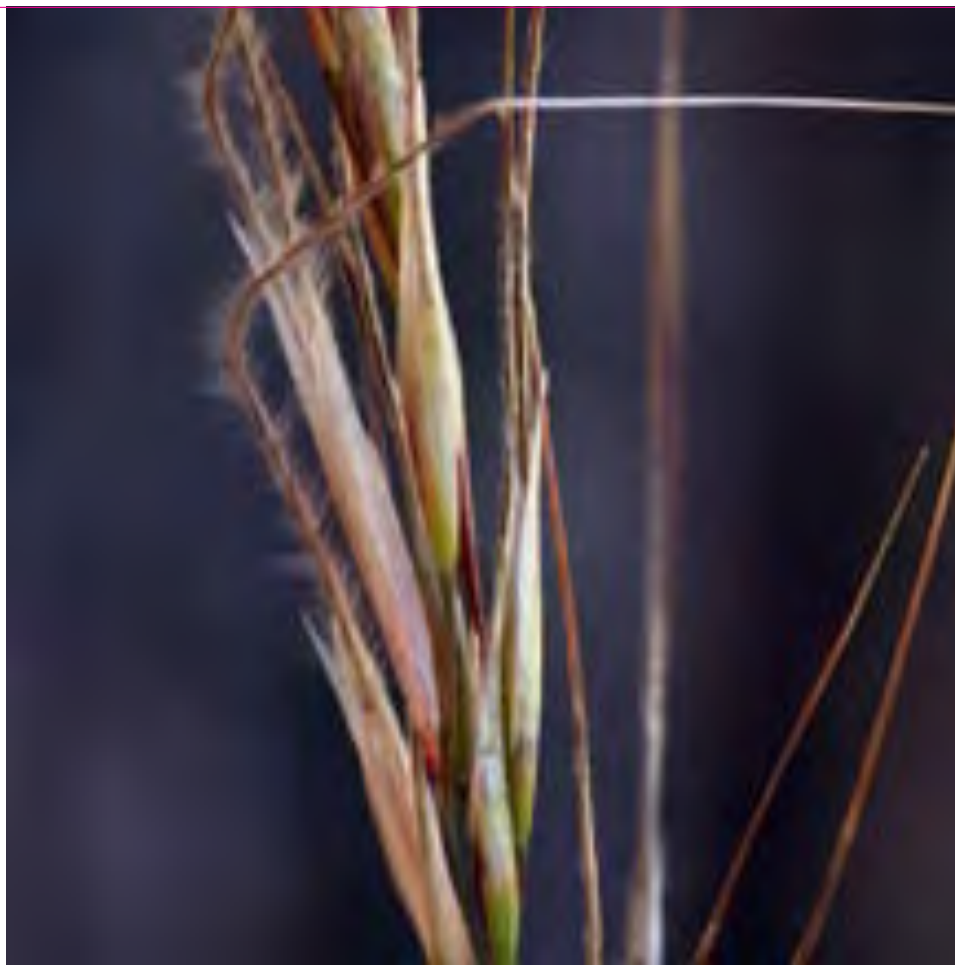
Idaho or blue fescue

Muhlenbergia richardsonis

mat muhly

Poa secunda

Plumas bluegrass



Achnatherum occidentale ssp. *californicum*

California needlegrass

Also known as *Stipa californica*, this perennial bunchgrass grows in widely spaced stands with a graceful beauty. It is a hardy grass for your grounds, and is one of the first grasses to green up in the early summer and one of the last to turn brown in the summer. It is adapted to dry soils with good drainage and full sun. This is a good choice for highly disturbed areas.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green in the spring and tan in late summer

Inflorescence: Narrow, purple-green then turns tan and spreads open

Height and width when not in flower: 1'-2'H x 1'-2'W

Height when in flower: 2'-3'

Habitat: Dry open sites, sagebrush scrub, and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Livestock and deer like the young foliage before the flowers develop.

Did You Know?

Almost twenty species and subspecies occur in California, many above 3500'. After dropping from the plant, the sharply pointed seeds auger into the ground, enhancing their chance of growing into a new plant. Native Americans ground the seeds into mush for cooking.

Pair With

White fir, ponderosa pine, big sagebrush, wax currant, Plumas bluegrass, fireweed, California poppy, and lupine.



Agrostis scabra

ticklegrass

This easy-to-establish but short-lived perennial bunchgrass occurs in a variety of moist habitats, from grasslands to streambanks to disturbed sites such as roadside ditches. The flowering structures are long, delicate and branch again toward the end. Ticklegrass and spike redtop (*Agrostis exarata*) were used at Grizzly Ranch for wetland revegetation efforts. Spike redtop is variable in height, has a narrower flower structure than ticklegrass, and is usually abundant along streams.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green in the spring and tan in late summer, rough to touch

Inflorescence: Feathery, red-brown then tan in fall

Height and width when not in flower: 6"-1'H x 1'-2'W

Height when in flower: 1'-2'

Habitat: Moist open areas, meadows, and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Seeds are occasionally eaten by mule deer, small mammals, gamebirds, and shorebirds.

Did You Know?

Agrostis means “field” in Greek.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, Pacific dogwood, willow, red flowering currant, tufted hairgrass, wet habitat sedge, western blue flag, and monkeyflower.



Bromus carinatus var. *carinatus*

California brome

California brome is a versatile native perennial grass that does not have rhizomes. This fast growing, but short-lived bunchgrass often flowers its first year and turns brown in late fall. It is also extremely variable in size and in the shape of florets. Both this species, and another Grizzly Ranch option, Orcutt's brome (*Bromus orcuttianus*), can be self-pollinating and self-seeding which makes them highly valued for rapid and easy establishment in your yard. Both species are excellent for revegetation and erosion control purposes. Awns, or bristle-like appendages, can be irritating when they latch onto your socks in their quest for seed dispersal!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green in the spring and tan in late summer, coarse, flat, hairy blade

Inflorescence: Erect to drooping, bears many large, awned seeds

Height and width when not in flower: 1½'-4'H x 1'-3'W

Height when in flower: 2'-4½'

Habitat: Open areas, sagebrush scrub, and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

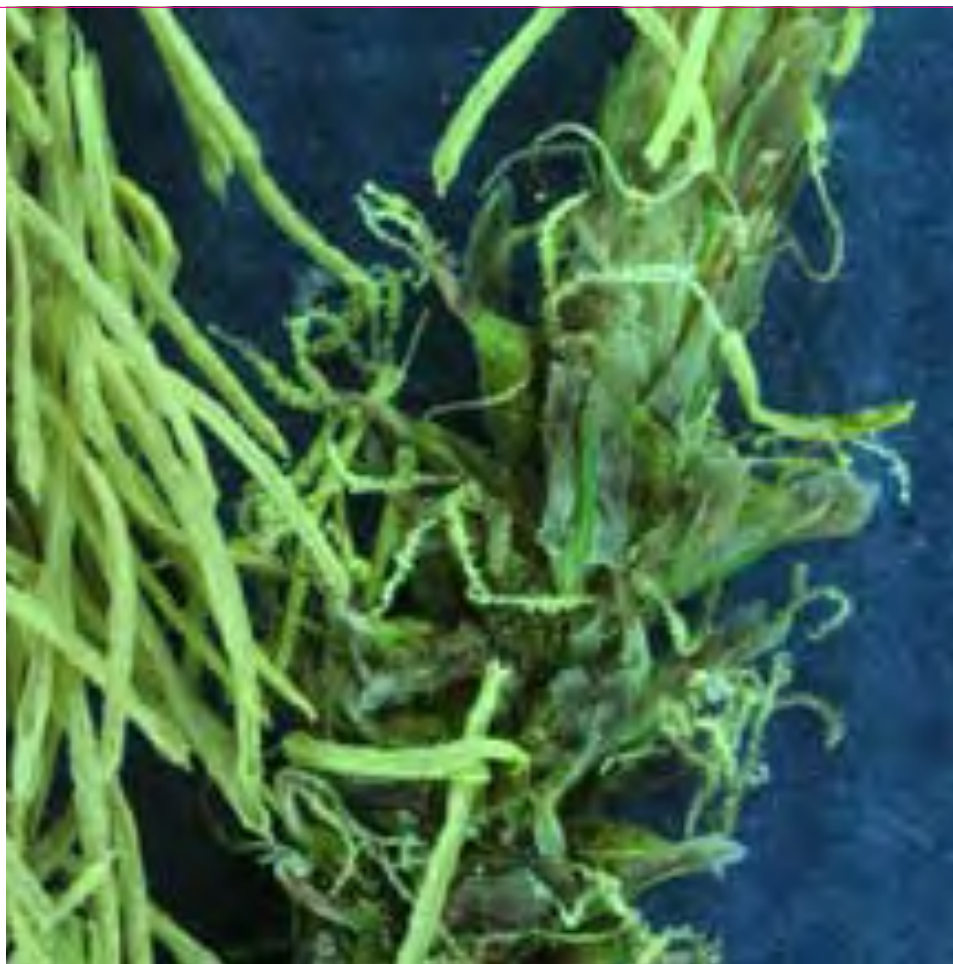
Brome is one of the best forage grasses for wildlife and is a known food for grizzly bears. Seeds provide sustenance to birds and may be a magnet for California quail or geese to your yard.

Did You Know?

Native Americans burned grasslands frequently and collected the California brome seeds for food.

Pair With

Black oak, current, big sagebrush, bearberry, Plumas bluegrass, fireweed, gilia, and lupine.



Carex amplifolia

ample-leaved sedge

Sedges are beautiful, perennial grass-like plants that can be confused with rushes. If you roll the stem of the floret in your hand you can feel the edges and remembering the saying “sedges have edges, rushes are round” is one way to tell a sedge from a rush. Some sedge species occur in wet habitats such as seeps and wet meadows and others live in drier conditions such as in the conifer forests. The sedges for Grizzly Ranch that grow well in wet habitats include this sedge, slender beaked sedge (*C. athrostachya*), and Nebraska sedge (*C. nebrascensis*). Slender beaked and Nebraska sedges have wider leaves. Sedges that grow well in dry habitats are fragile-leaved sedge (*C. fracta*), many stemmed sedge (*C. multicaulis*), and Ross sedge (*C. rossii*). Various *Carex* species are shown in the photos.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green, base often triangular

Inflorescence: Small, tight cluster typically near the end of a small stalk

Height and width when not in flower: Varies, the tufted ones are often 6"-1'H x 6"-1'W

Height when in flower: Varies, the tufted ones are often 6"-1'H

Habitat: Varies, wet meadow to dry forest



Wet Habitat Species:

Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Dry Habitat Species:

Light ☀️☀️☾☾☾

Water 💧💧☾☾☾

Growth ■■■■■

Did You Know?

With their extensive root system, sedges are very effective at binding soil and reducing erosion. Some sedges with rhizomes can be very invasive in wet locations.

Pair With

Dry habitat sedges: ponderosa pine, serviceberry, fescue, heuchera, and shade tolerant penstemon.

Wet habitat sedges: quaking aspen, blue elderberry, willow, alpine aster, and monkeyflower.



Danthonia californica

California oatgrass

If you are looking for a lawn substitute for your yard at Grizzly Ranch, this perennial bunchgrass might fit your needs as it can tolerate foot traffic. Although not sod forming, the tufts look great at the edge of pavers in a patio setting or as a small sitting or yard area. California oatgrass grows in moist meadows or open woods, and is an excellent choice for erosion control in damp areas. The flower stalks appear in June, with the flowering branches “reflexed,” which means they bend back towards the stem. This grass turns brown in late summer.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green in the spring and tan in late summer

Inflorescence: Erect with some reflexed branches

Height and width when not in flower: 6"-2'H x 1'-2'W

Height when in flower: 1'-3'

Habitat: Moist open areas, meadows, and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

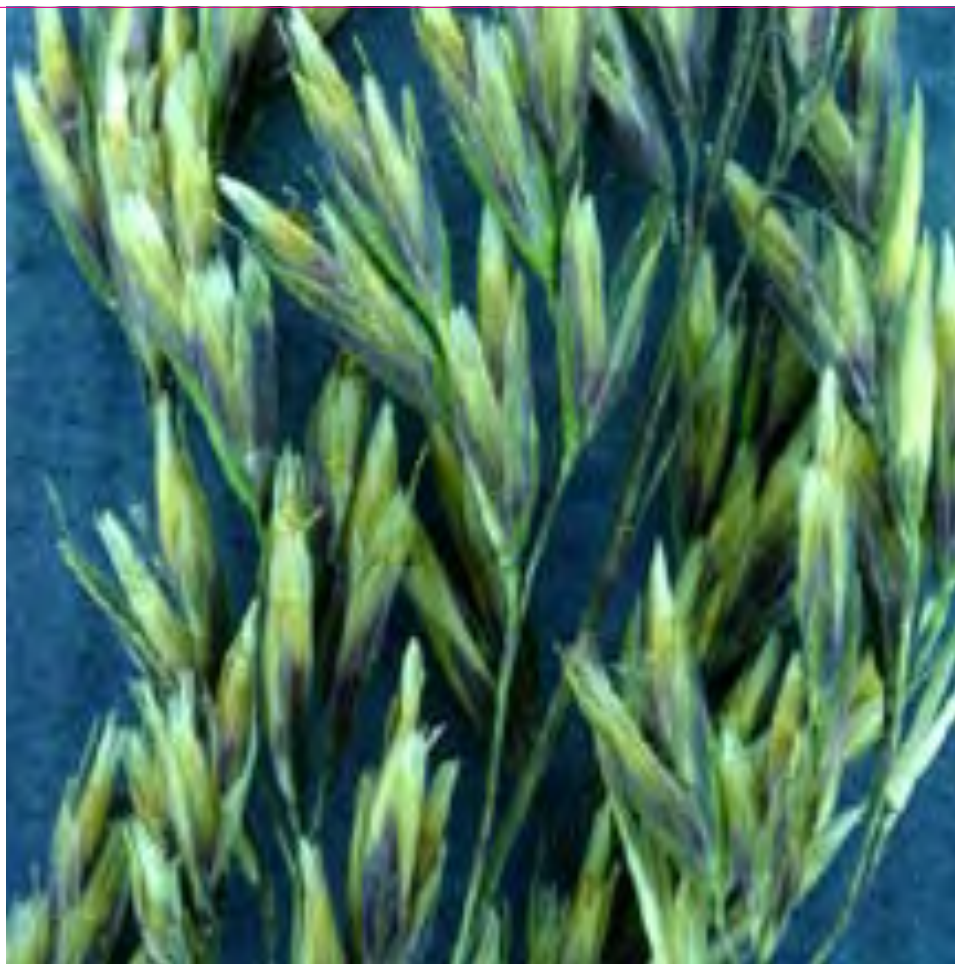
Rabbits will snack on the leaves; chipmunks sometimes eat the seeds.

Did You Know?

Oatgrass is a valuable livestock forage plant.

Pair With

Mountain maple, redbud dogwood, shrubby cinquefoil, willow, tufted hairgrass, western blue flag, and buttercup.



Deschampsia cespitosa

tufted hairgrass

This is a good native bunchgrass for either your beds and borders at Grizzly Ranch, or for decorative accents in pots on your patio. It has fine textured, dark green leaves and light and airy – almost cloud-like – grass flowers that look particularly spectacular when backlit by the sun. It prefers moist conditions, full sun to light shade, and can tolerate hot conditions if given ample water. The grass blossoms can be a good cut flower for your indoor arrangements.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green, fine

Inflorescence: Erect to slightly nodding, green with purple tinge

Height and width when not in flower: 6"-1'H x 6"-1'W

Height when in flower: 1'-2'

Habitat: Wet meadows, streambanks, and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Rabbits snack on the leaves.

Did You Know?

Tufted hairgrass is the dominant grass in some areas above treeline and can maintain green leaves under the snow. Native Americans collected seeds of another hairgrass species, pounded, and cooked them into a mush.

Pair With

Quaking aspen, alder, willow, redbud dogwood, wet habitat sedge, western blue flag, and alpine aster.



Elymus elymoides

squirreltail

You'll know why this plant is named squirreltail when you see it at Grizzly Ranch and notice its bushy inflorescence waving in the breeze! Although a short-lived perennial, it regenerates from the root crown (as many bunchgrasses do) and spreads through seed dispersal—those long awns catch the wind and your socks! Other species to use at Grizzly Ranch include blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), which is not a bunchgrass, has grayish-green foliage, and grows in dry open areas, and forest openings; and slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), a bunchgrass that grows in semi-moist open areas and forest openings. Both have a narrow inflorescence (not bushy!) and can grow up to 4' or 5' high.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green, fine, turns tan in the late summer

Inflorescence: Erect, bushy

Height and width when not in flower: 1'H x 6"-1'W

Height when in flower: 1½'-2'

Habitat: Dry open areas, meadows, and roadsides



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Sharp awns discourage foraging, but rabbits and ground squirrels often try! They like it best in the late spring, before the flowers with awns develop.

Did You Know?

Roots have been found 40" below the ground.

Pair With

Curl-leaved mountain mahogany, Jeffrey pine, big sagebrush, Sierra gooseberry, mules ears, fireweed, gilia, and lupine.



Festuca idahoensis

Idaho or blue fescue

Idaho fescue is a slow growing but long-lived, drought tolerant, cool-season, perennial bunchgrass that adds a delightful bluish-gray hue to the ground plane of your landscape. It can be used as a ground cover for excellent erosion control, as an accent plant in a partially shady rock garden, or as filler for your patio pots. Plant a slope with each plant spaced randomly about one foot apart and the grass tufts make your hillside look like a grassy version of a stream flowing over rocks, an incredibly beautiful look. Other *Festuca* species for Grizzly Ranch include California fescue (*Festuca californica*) which is taller, and fescue (*Festuca ovina*), which is much shorter with a thick inflorescence, more drought tolerant and less desirable as forage for wildlife.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Bluish-gray mixed with tan leaves left from previous years

Inflorescence: Erect, slender on stalks almost twice the height of leaves

Height and width when not in flower: 1½'-2'H x 6"-1'W

Height when in flower: 2'-2½'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, rocky areas in partial shade, chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ████

Attracts

Fescue is forage for big game, gophers, and grouse.

Did You Know?

Idaho fescue is one of the most widely distributed, naturally occurring grasses in the western United States.

Pair With

Douglas-fir, mountain maple, big sagebrush, shrubby cinquefoil, dry habitat sedge, Plumas County or mountain pride penstemon, arrow-leaved balsam-root, and lupine.



Muhlenbergia richardsonis

mat muhly

As its name implies, mat muhly forms large sod-like “mats” of green that can be found as wide as 48”. It is a good soil binder and excellent for erosion control purposes. Use it as a ground cover in your yard for that moist, hard-to-fill spot in the sun or partial shade. It grows rapidly and forms an interesting, mounding ground cover. The leaves turn brown in summer.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Short, narrow

Inflorescence: Erect, narrow, slight bend at the base

Height and width when not in flower: 2"-3"H x width varies due to rhizomes

Height when in flower: 7"

Habitat: Moist meadows, pond edges, wet rocky areas, streambanks



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth ■■■■■

Attracts

Mat Muhly is too low and the patches are too scattered to provide valuable forage for wildlife.

Did You Know?

Mat muhly might be an indicator of climate change as it has been going upslope in the past 10 years – it has been found growing at up to 13,000'. The genus is named after Gotthilf H. E. Muhlenberg, 1753-1815, a Pennsylvanian Lutheran minister who studied grasses.

Pair With

Quaking aspen, lodgepole pine, red flowering current, California oatgrass, slender wheatgrass, and Sierra or red larkspur.



Poa secunda

Plumas bluegrass

This cool season bunchgrass is another one to add to your landscape for that green to blue-green hue. It is one of the first grasses to emerge in the spring, but also one of the first to turn brown and go dormant in early summer. Its penetrating, fibrous roots make it good for erosion control. It cannot tolerate poor drainage or over watering. Once established, bluegrass does not need irrigation. Plumas bluegrass is an important livestock forage species on spring and fall rangelands.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green, fine, turns tan in the late summer

Inflorescence: Erect, open

Height and width when not in flower: 1'-1½'H x 1'W

Height when in flower: 1½'-2'

Habitat: Dry forest openings, open disturbed areas, chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🟤🟤🟤🟤🟤

Attracts

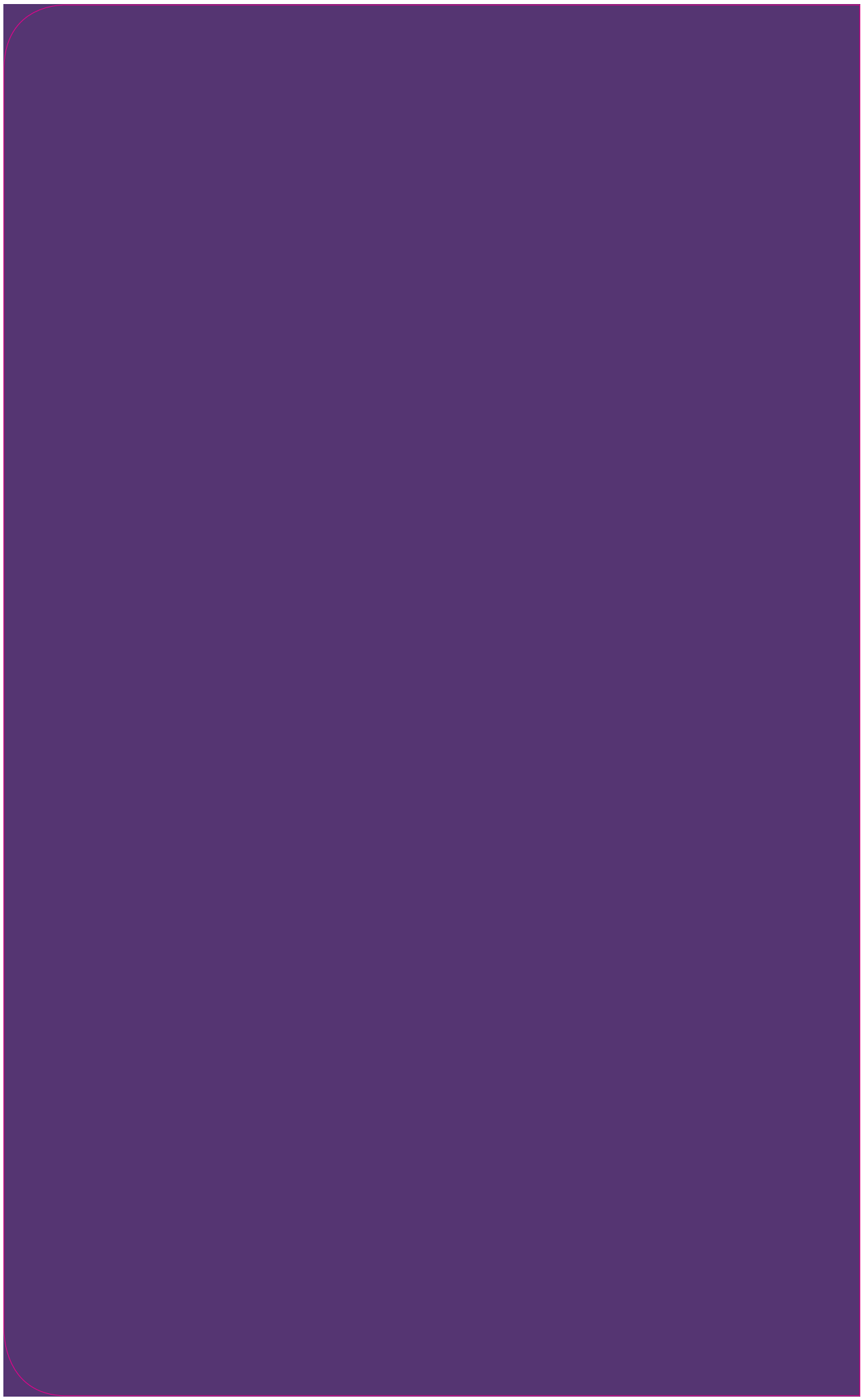
Upland gamebirds, especially pheasants, use bluegrass for nesting sites because of early spring growth. Grasshoppers flock to this grass.

Did You Know?

Some species of bluegrass have the ability to grow roots that suppress weed growth. The word “Poa” comes from a Greek word for grass or fodder.

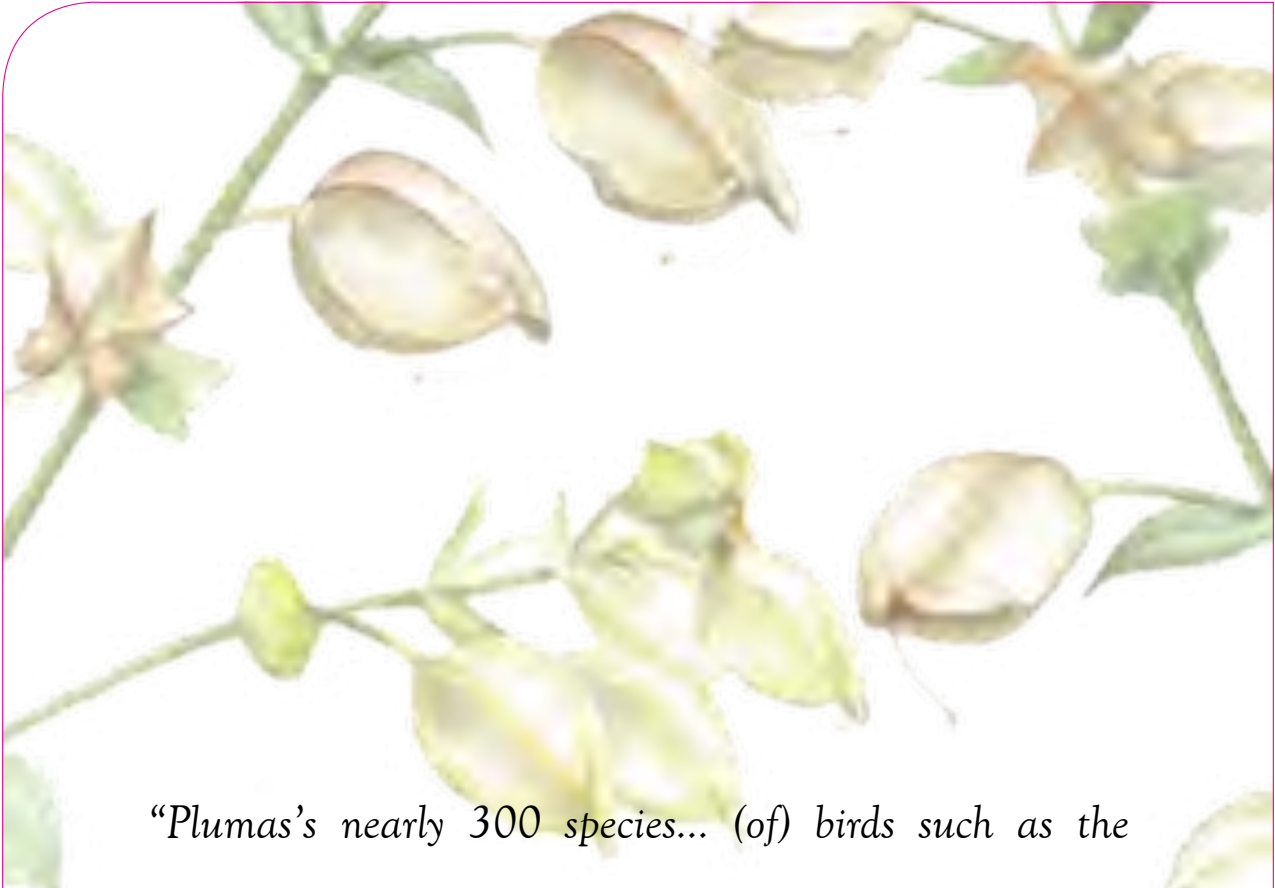
Pair With

Jeffrey pine, California black oak, rubber rabbitbrush, big sagebrush, wax currant, California needlegrass, western wallflower, and penstemon.





Perennials



*“Plumas’s nearly 300 species... (of) birds such as the warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) are best observed by listening first. They’re found in the lodgepole fir belts and... the Lemmon willow (*Salix lemmonii*), which are near the water. The vireo’s throaty “zree” can be sustained and repeated many times. The red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) ...can be heard repeating its high nasal “na,” faster and faster when it becomes agitated. It sounds like a small trumpet. Other birds worth watching are the hairy woodpeckers (*Denrocopus villosus*), American white pelicans (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), western tanager (*Pranga ludoviciana*), and, of course, the seemingly ubiquitous wood duck (*Aix sponsa*).*

PERENNIALS

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Allium campanulatum</i>	Sierra onion
<i>Arabis holboellii</i>	Holboell's rock cress
<i>Arnica cordifolia</i>	arnica
<i>Aster alpigenus</i> var. <i>andersonii</i>	alpine aster
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	arrow-leaved balsam-root
<i>Brodiaea coronaria</i>	brodiaea
<i>Camassia quamash</i>	common camas
<i>Castilleja</i> sp.	Indian paintbrush
<i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>	Nuttall's larkspur
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	fireweed
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	sulfur buckwheat
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	western or Siberian wallflower
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Indian blanket
<i>Gilia leptalea</i>	slender or Bridge's gilia
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	small flowered heuchera
<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	skyrocket or scarlet gilia
<i>Iris missouriensis</i>	western blue flag or wild iris
<i>Kumlienia hystricula</i>	waterfall buttercup
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	blue or mountain flax
<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	alpine lupine
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	seep monkeyflower
<i>Paeonia brownii</i>	Brown's peony
<i>Penstemon speciosus</i>	showy penstemon
<i>Perideridia bolanderi</i> ssp. <i>bolanderi</i>	Bolander's yampah
<i>Potentilla gracilis</i>	slender cinquefoil
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken fern
<i>Ranunculus glaberrimus</i>	sagebrush buttercup
<i>Wyethia mollis</i>	mules ears
<i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	bear-grass or Indian basket grass



Achillea millefolium

yarrow

Yarrow is a spreading, mat forming perennial that some consider an invasive weed because it self-seeds and spreads rapidly with underground rhizomes. To keep it more restrained, minimize watering, cut back in half after first bloom and divide in the spring. Or, use its prolific habits to your advantage in your Grizzly Ranch landscape as an alternative to grass—it can even be mowed! Yarrow is an attractive, versatile garden plant with whitish-yellow flowers blooming June through August that can be used in fresh or dried flower arrangements. It is drought tolerant and does well in marginal soil.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Lance shaped, finely divided, medium green, aromatic

Stems: 1-8 from rhizomes

○ **Flowers:** Whitish-yellow

Fruit/Seed: Light tan achenes

Height: 1'-3''

Width: 3'

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies flock to the clusters of flowers.

Did You Know?

Achillea refers to Achilles, a Trojan War hero in Greek mythology, who used the leaves to stop bleeding and heal the wounds of his soldiers. It was also used during the Civil War for emergency bandages.

Pair With

California black oak, blue elderberry, bitter cherry, squirreltail, Plumas bluegrass, fireweed, California poppy, and lupine.



Allium campanulatum

Sierra onion

This plant can be found in a variety of Grizzly Ranch habitats including open woodlands and meadows. Blooming from May through July, it has a showy inflorescence of pink to purple bracts that top a thin, naked green stem that seems unlikely to support such a magnificent bloom. The bulb has a typical taste and odor of an onion family. To show off their uniqueness and color, include them among other perennials, in raised borders with other bulbs or in rock gardens. Don't water them too much in the summer. Paper onion (*A. amplexans*) and broad stemmed onion (*A. platycaule*) are similar onions that can be planted at Grizzly Ranch.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Basal, linear, and grass-like

Stems: Slender, green

● **Flowers:** Umbrella or head-like cluster at tip of stem

Fruit/Seed: Capsule

Height: 8"

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterfly and moth larvae use the leaves for food.

Did You Know?

Allium translates to garlic in Latin; and the genus has over 300 species worldwide including chives, onions, leeks, shallots, and of course garlic!

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, big sagebrush, Plumas bluegrass, dry habitat sedge, Indian blanket, blue flax, penstemon, and wax currant.



Arabis holboellii

Holboell's rock cress

This short-lived perennial has one to several flowering stems arising from a lovely, but tough rosette-like base. From May to July, a tall slender stem has delicate tube-like purplish-white flowers that gracefully droop off the top. Look for Holboell's rockcress in the grasslands at Grizzly Ranch where soils are gravelly or sandy.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Basal rosette and sessile (without a petiole) on the stem, semi-hairy, grayish-green

Stems: One to several

○ **Flowers:** 20-100 in a narrow cluster, purplish-white

Fruit/Seed: Long, narrow, drooping pods

Height: 1½'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Birds and insects visit this plant; but it does not provide much food or habitat.

Did You Know?

Native Americans chewed the leaves to alleviate toothaches.

Pair With

Curl-leaved mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, wax currant, rubber rabbitbrush, Indian paintbrush, sulphur buckwheat, brodiaea, and blue flax.



Arnica cordifolia

arnica

This pubescent perennial with long-stemmed, heart shaped basal leaves, bears beautiful yellow sunflower-like flowers that add a splash of sunshine to the forested landscape at Grizzly Ranch. Growing well in sun or shade, it blooms from May to August and forms a cluster of green due to spreading by rhizomes. This versatile garden plant can live up to 12 years.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Heart shaped, green, soft

Stems: 8"-1½' tall

● **Flowers:** Yellow, reminiscent of sunflowers

Fruit/Seed: Whitish achene, hairy or glandular

Height: 6"-1½'

Width: 1'

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Arnica provides marginal nutrition for upland birds, small mammals, and deer.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used the roots as a love medicine. In the sunflower family, each “flower” is actually made up of many very small flowers. The “petals” as well as the small bumps in the center disk are each a flower.

Pair With

Mountain maple, greenleaf manzanita, Sierra chinquapin, bitter cherry, creeping snowberry, dry habitat sedge, fireweed, and mules ears.



Aster alpigenus var. *andersonii*

alpine aster

These beautiful, daisy-like flowering plants occur naturally in the wetlands or moist meadows at Grizzly Ranch. With white to purple flowers that are larger than many other native asters, they add a cheery late bloom to the garden from July to August. Plant as a border plant in your landscape, or take advantage of a moist area in your yard and let these beauties thrive! This species has been recently renamed *Oreostemma alpigenum* var. *andersonii*.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Linear, green, mostly basal

Stems: 4"-1' tall

○ **Flowers:** Daisy-like, white to purplish

Fruit/Seed: Small hairy achenes

Height: 4"-1'

Width: 4"

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Bees pollinate this plant so watch where you step!

Did You Know?

There are approximately 12 species of *Aster* in the Sierras, all similar to the 24 species of daisies (*Erigeron* spp.). Typically *Erigerons* look like they have not combed their hair (many sloppy looking “petals”); and *Asters* look like they have combed their hair (tidy looking, with fewer “petals”).

Pair With

Quaking aspen, thimbleberry, Lemmon’s willow, wet habitat sedge, tufted hairgrass, western blue flag, waterfall buttercup, and monkeyflower.



Balsamorhiza sagittata

arrow-leaved balsam-root

Soon after the last snow melts, it looks as though Grizzly Ranch is dotted with the bright, yellow sunflower-like flowers of the arrow-leaved balsam-root plant and mules ears. You can see why it's named arrow-leaved as the flower stalk rises from a large, basal, cluster of arrow shaped leaves. Many prefer it over mules ears because it is more palatable to wildlife and less of a fire hazard. This perennial does best on open, well-drained south slopes, and as it takes poorly to transplanting, better to grow from seed or buy from a nursery.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Basal, arrow shaped, deep green

Stems: Solitary, leafless

● **Flowers:** Large yellow sunflower

Fruit/Seed: Glabrous achene

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Forest openings and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

One of the most important forbs for foraging mule deer; it also provides good nesting areas for gamebirds.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used an infusion of roots, leaves, and stems for stomach pains, and ate the starchy roots and early sprouts.

Pair With

Jeffrey pine, curl-leaved mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, bearberry, slender wheatgrass, fescue, lupine, and penstemon.



Brodiaea coronaria

brodiaea

Brodiaeas used to be so abundant they covered the Sierra hillsides in the springtime with tints of purple and blue. The grass-like, sparse leaves dry before the plant blooms in May, leaving the beautiful open, bell shaped purple flowers hanging like an umbrella in the air. It is a dependable and long-lived plant that thrives in a semi-dry situation and looks great in a rock garden. They do best with minimal water in the summer.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Linear, grass-like

Stems: Erect

○ **Flowers:** Purple

Fruit/Seed: Small capsule

Height: 5"-1'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🟫🟫🟫🟫🟫

Attracts

Butterflies are attracted to the flowers.

Did You Know?

Native Americans and early settlers dug and ate the corms raw or cooked. The plant was named in the late 1700s in honor of James Brodie, a Scottish politician and botanist.

Pair With

California black oak, big sagebrush, wax currant, squirreltail, California needlegrass, sulphur buckwheat, California poppy, and penstemon.



Camassia quamash

common camas

This member of the lily family is dormant in the winter but steals the show in late spring! In June, bright, star shaped sapphire flowers emerge on a raceme surrounded by basal, grass-like bright green leaves. In the wild, camas can color an entire wet meadow bluish-purple. It's a beautiful addition to your garden in a moist meadow or wet setting. It is shade intolerant, however, so plant in a place that at least receives morning sun.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Basal, bright green

Stems: 1'-2' tall

● **Flowers:** Sapphire, star shaped

Fruit/Seed: Ovoid capsule

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 3'

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies and hummingbirds collect flower nectar; and small mammals eat the seed capsules.

Did You Know?

Bulbs were harvested for food by Native Americans and trappers. Camas means *sweet* in the native Chinook language. Be careful, other species with the common name camas are poisonous!

Pair With

Quaking aspen, spiraea, thimbleberry, tufted hairgrass, Sierra larkspur, waterfall buttercup, western blue flag, and monkeyflower.



Castilleja sp.

Indian paintbrush

This member of the snapdragon family is a perennial that is most easily identified by a flowering stalk with very showy scarlet (occasionally yellow) bracts that hide the actual flowers. They look like they have been dipped in paint! Stiff hairs usually cover the plants. Because it is semi-parasitic in that it has adapted to draw nutrients and water from the roots of other plants, it grows best with associated host plants, especially sagebrush. Transplanting paintbrush usually kills it.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Usually 3 narrow lobes, varies

Stems: Upright stalk

● **Flowers:** Typically scarlet, sometimes yellow

Fruit/Seed: Capsule, about 1" long

Height: 1'-1½'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Sagebrush scrub, forest openings, and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Hummingbirds pollinate the flowers. Moth larvae feed on the leaves and flowers.

Did You Know?

Castilleja is very common in the west and includes more than 200 species; *C. linariifolia* was made the state flower of Wyoming in 1917.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, greenleaf manzanita, big sagebrush, blue elderberry, arrow-leaved balsam-root, California poppy, lupine, and sagebrush buttercup.



Delphinium nuttallianum

Nuttall's larkspur

A strikingly beautiful addition to the sagebrush and ponderosa pine landscapes at Grizzly Ranch is this flowering larkspur. Generally, one flowering spike erupts from deeply lobed green basal leaves and showcases up to fifty beautiful blue to blue-violet flowers clustered upon it. Five petals form a hollow spur on the end of each flower, giving it its common name, larkspur. Its beauty masks its danger, as all parts of the plants are toxic to both humans and animals; in fact, it is second to locoweed as a livestock poison, especially to cattle. Several other species are suitable at Grizzly Ranch, and are listed on the opposite page.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Deeply lobed 3-7 lobes, mainly on lower part of stem

Stems: Single, 6"-2½' tall

● **Flowers:** Purple

Fruit/Seed: +/-1" long, curved, with shiny, black seeds

Height: 6"-1½'

Width: 1'

Habitat: Forest openings and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Bumblebees and hummingbirds pollinate larkspur. Moth larvae feed on the leaves, apparently immune to the toxicity.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used the flowers to make a dye and for ceremonial purposes. Despite the plant's toxicity, many herbal remedies have been developed using limited tinctures.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Delphinium* Species Include:

D. glaucum, Sierra larkspur, tallest, wet areas only, purple.

D. gracilentum, slender larkspur, likes it drier, purple.

D. nudicaule, red larkspur, easiest to find in nurseries, red to orange flowers.



Epilobium angustifolium

fireweed

Fireweed derives its name from the attribute that it is one of the first plants to colonize an area after a fire or disturbance. It was one of the residual plants that covered Mount St. Helens after the 1980 volcanic eruption. It is a sun-loving, robust plant that thrives in open areas that have been disturbed, such as avalanche zones, roadside cuts, riverbars, or along the old railroad tracks near Big Grizzly Creek. Its clumping form creates a blanket of pink flowers from June to August with one plant having up to fifteen spikes of vibrant flowers. It can, however, become weedy in a garden setting as it spreads by rhizomes. Hairy willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*) is neither as attractive nor as tall, and has small white to rose flowers.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Narrow, alternate

Stems: Erect, reddish

● **Flowers:** Pink, 4 petals

Fruit/Seed: Slender pods containing seeds

Height: 2'-4'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Flowers are an important source of nectar for honeybees.

Small mammals eat fireweed seeds; and deer and elk forage on the leaves.

Did You Know?

Native Americans made poultices of roots and leaves for burns, bruises, swelling. The silky hair from seeds can be mixed with cotton to make clothing.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, tobacco bush, thimbleberry, bitterbrush, golden current, dry habitat sedge, California poppy, and mules ears.



Eriogonum umbellatum

sulfur buckwheat

Showy flowers and seed heads and a compact form make buckwheat a great plant for your rock garden or around your foundation at Grizzly Ranch. This hardy plant tolerates sun, heat, drought, and dry wind, yet has beautiful, bright yellow clusters of tubular flowers that bloom from June to July and fade from yellow to rust as they mature. Buckwheat is excellent for flower arrangements as it holds its color and shape for several months.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green above, wooly gray below

Stems: 6"-1' tall

● **Flowers:** Yellow to orange

Fruit/Seed: Small, sharply angled black achenes

Height: 6"-1'

Width: 1'-2'

Habitat: Meadows and rocky open areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies are attracted to the flowers; bees produce a very strong honey from the nectar; and the seeds are an important food source for small mammals and birds.

Did You Know?

Buckwheat is foremost among California's drought tolerant plants, and it's related to the genus *Fagopyrum*, from which buckwheat flour is made.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, greenleaf manzanita, bearberry, big sagebrush, Orcutt's brome, Plumas bluegrass, brodiaea, and penstemon.



Erysimum capitatum

western or Siberian wallflower

Wallflower is another good rock garden plant that can be found in the rocky, open areas at Grizzly Ranch. It requires sun most of the day and is drought tolerant. A thin, erect stem grows from a basal rosette of leaves, topped with a dense, rounded cluster of showy, four flat-petaled flowers that range from yellow to orange. After blooming from May to August, seed pods develop, extending straight out and up from the stem.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Along lower part of stem, linear to spoon shaped

Stems: 1'-2' tall

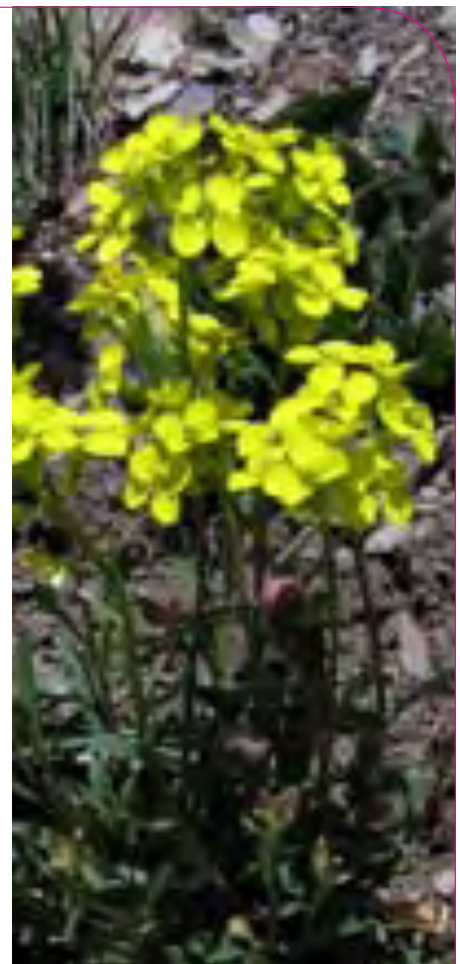
● **Flowers:** Fragrant, clusters, four petaled, yellow to orange

Fruit/Seed: Four angled seed pods

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies enjoy the clusters of bright flowers.

Did You Know?

Capitatum means “head” in Latin and refers to the head-like shape of the flower cluster.

Pair With

White fir, wax currant, California needlegrass, Sierra onion, sulphur buckwheat, California poppy, blue flax, and lupine.



Eschscholzia californica

California poppy

This most noted of California wildflowers is the emblem of the golden state. Photographers and painters vie to capture its spectacular beauty as it announces spring in California with its iridescent orange to yellow flowers gracing the landscape. It is an annual wildflower that can thrive up to 6500', grows low to the ground, and has a funnel shaped flower with four satiny petals that open fully only on sunny days. At your lot at Grizzly Ranch, broadcast the seeds in late summer or fall in locations where you would like them to grow. Once established, if irrigated, the bloom season can extend through most of the summer. Poppies may also be used in perennial grass erosion mixes to add color; and they are good along roadsides or in disturbed areas.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green to blue-green, feathery, highly dissected

Stems: 5" tall

● **Flowers:** Iridescent orange or yellow, 2" wide

Fruit/Seed: Long, slender capsule with dark seeds

Height: 1'

Width: 1'

Habitat: Meadows and open areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Flowers attract butterflies and birds like the seeds.

Did You Know?

Native Americans created a flower extract to use in hair to kill lice. The scientific name, *Eschscholzia*, comes from Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz, a surgeon and naturalist on Russian expeditions to the Pacific Coast in 1816 and 1824.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, greenleaf manzanita, Sierra gooseberry, brome, fescue, fireweed, skyrocket, and lupine.



Gaillardia aristata

Indian blanket

The flower's distinctive heads, each bearing a dozen or more attractive wedge shaped rays around a central disk, make this drought tolerant plant easy to identify. These black-eyed Susan or daisy-like single or bicolor flowers bloom in the harshest of conditions throughout the summer, forming mounds over one foot tall. Colors range from a mix of red, yellow, orange, or purple. It reseeds easily and looks excellent when clustered. It is a great cut flower with a vase-life of six to ten days.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Lanceolate, basal, and hairy

Stems: 1' tall

● **Flowers:** Yellow, maroon, brown to purple, daisy-like

Fruit/Seed: Hairy achene

Height: 1'-2½'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Moth and butterfly larvae feed on the leaves; deer resistant.

Did You Know?

The common name, Indian blanket, refers to the flower's resemblance to brightly colored and patterned blankets made by Native Americans. Although this plant is not a true California native, many nurseries advertise it as such; and it is very common plant to see in naturalized Grizzly Ranch landscapes.

Pair With

White fir, big sagebrush, bearberry, California needlegrass, Plumas bluegrass, Sierra onion, gilia, and arrow-leaved balsam-root.



Gilia leptalea

slender or Bridge's gilia

This small and delicate annual works well in a rock garden or mixed perennial border. It has airy, bushy slender branches, slight leaves, and small, purplish-pink trumpet shaped flowers on extremely thin stalks. Slender gilia adds spectacular color to the Grizzly Ranch landscape from May to June. Its name was recently changed to *Navarretia leptalea*.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Alternate, sticky, fragrant

Stems: 6"-1' tall

● **Flowers:** Purplish pink

Fruit/Seed: 3 chambered capsule

Height: 6"-1'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Trumpet flowers attract hummingbirds.

Did You Know?

The seeds are gelatinous when wet. The genus *Gilia* is named after Filepe Gil, an 18th century Spanish botanist.

Pair With

Incense cedar, bitter cherry, California brome,
Holboell's rockcress, and western wallflower.



Heuchera micrantha

small flowered heuchera

Unexcelled for shady areas, such as a rock garden, terrace or border edge, heuchera has a flowering spike with dainty, white to pink blooms airily rising from a mounding clump of dark foliage. From May to July, this beautiful bloom contrasts nicely with the dark foliage that remains neat throughout the season. It also makes a fine potted plant.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Basal, roundish cordate, hairy

Stems: Reddish, 2' tall

○ **Flowers:** White to pink

Fruit/Seed: Small capsule

Height: 1'-3'

Width: 6"-1'

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☼☼☼

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds collect nectar from the flowers.

Did You Know?

Heuchera is completely an American genus of plants, thirteen of which are native to California.

Pair With

California black oak, gooseberry, mountain strawberry, thimbleberry, Idaho fescue, bracken fern, Brown's peony, and Holboell's rockcress.



Ipomopsis aggregata

skyrocket or scarlet gilia

It's easy to miss this flamboyant biennial wildflower as it quietly explodes with small shocking red or scarlet trumpet shaped flowers in June. As soon as the snow melts, you can enjoy this plant, as its leaves emerging early providing a welcome bit of silvery-green color. Look for it on the dry slopes at Grizzly Ranch, and take time to get up close to see the beautiful five petaled star patterns at the end of each luminous flower. It is short-lived, but spreads easily by seed.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Narrow, linear lobes with silvery hairs

Stems: Single, erect

● **Flowers:** Scarlet to red trumpet shaped

Fruit/Seed: Capsule

Height: 1'-2'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Forest openings and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Hummingbirds are attracted to the red flowers.

Did You Know?

The name "Ipomopsis" comes from a Greek word for striking appearance.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, big sagebrush, huckleberry oak, wax currant, blue wildrye, fireweed, western wallflower, and blue flax.



Iris missouriensis

western blue flag or wild iris

Iris is the Greek word for rainbow, presumably given to these showy flowers due to the variety of bright colors. In *I. missouriensis*, the flower color varies from a very pale blue to bluish-purple highlighted with lilac veins. It's an early season bloomer. In May, one to two flowers grow on a leafless, stout stalk coming from a dense clump of flexible sword shaped leaves. In addition to its refined beauty, this is an extremely adaptable and long-lived plant needing minimum maintenance! Provided it has sufficient water, it can tolerate the extremes of hot and cold, and seems content in any garden situation. It is easy to propagate by dividing the rhizomes in the fall and replanting.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Broad, grayish green

Stems: Slender, 1' tall

○ **Flowers:** Pale blue to bluish-purple, beardless

Fruit/Seed: Pod-like capsules

Height: 8"-1½'

Width: 6" to varies

Habitat: Wet Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

The veins on the petals act as landing strips or nectar guides for pollinating insects to find the nectar within the flower. Hummingbirds are also drawn to this plant.

Did You Know?

All parts of the rhizomes are poisonous and can cause slight skin irritation if touched or nausea if ingested. Native Americans made rope, baskets, and fishing nets from the outer fibers of the leaves.

Pair With

Willow, shrubby cinquefoil, spiraea, wet habitat sedge, tufted hairgrass, waterfall buttercup, and monkeyflower.



Kumlienella hystriola

waterfall buttercup

Waterfall buttercup does its best in a very wet landscape so you can find this small perennial in wetland habitats similar to the banks of Big Grizzly Creek. From April to June, tiny white flowers grace this lush plant.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Round or kidney shaped with small lobes

Stems: Thin, sometimes appears to recline

○ **Flowers:** Sepals white, petals greenish

Fruit/Seed: Head-like cluster

Height: 4"-10"

Width: 6"

Habitat: Riparian areas



Light ☀️☀️☀️⬛⬛

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🟫🟫🟫🟫🟫

Attracts

Birds and insects visit this plant; but it does not provide much food or habitat.

Did You Know?

This species is in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) which includes columbine, delphinium, and clematis. It was named after T. L. Kumlien, a Swedish naturalist who was mentor to E.L. Green in the 19th century.

Pair With

Black cottonwood, mountain alder, willow, wet habitat sedge, alpine aster, monkeyflower, and slender cinquefoil.



Linum lewisii

blue or mountain flax

With its semi-evergreen leaves and six weeks of showy indigo flowers, this is a great addition to any sunny or partially shady meadow area at Grizzly Ranch. It has a graceful, swaying beauty with almost perfect five-petaled flowers erupting on a stem from bottom to top as they mature. This perennial establishes quickly by seed, and is both cold hardy and drought tolerant. It grows densely in spots alongside roads and hillsides. If you like bachelor buttons, you will love these!

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Narrow, alternate

Stems: Slender

Flowers: Five petaled, indigo

○ **Fruit/Seed:** Capsule

Height: 6"-1½'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Forest openings and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☁️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 📏📏📏📏📏

Attracts

Birds seek out the seeds and capsules for forage in the fall; it is pollinated by bees, birds, and wind.

Did You Know?

L. lewisii was named after Lewis and Clark explorer Captain Meriwether Lewis. Native Americans used the strong stem for string and for weaving a linen fabric. Nowadays, cultivated flax, *L. usitatissimum*, is grown for the fiber and linseed oil.

Pair With

Incense cedar, big sagebrush, bitterbrush, slender wheatgrass, western wallflower, California poppy, and penstemon.



Lupinus argenteus

alpine lupine

Lupines are easy to recognize with their palmately compound leaves and their equally distinctive flower stalks lined with pea shaped flowers which range from blue and purple to yellow and occasionally white. From May to July these members of the pea family blossom in the sunshine. They can be found on high meadows, and in wet years, literally blanket the hillsides at Grizzly Ranch. Some species of lupine have dense hairs covering the plant, helping them retain water. These attractive plants are a common native in this area, but hard to find in nurseries. Other *Lupinus* species suitable for Grizzly Ranch are listed on the opposite page. They have the same showy spike and pattern of flowers and leaves, but have a great variation in size.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Silvery green, palmate, each piece coming from the center like a wheel

Stems: Lined with flowers

● **Flowers:** Purple, occasionally pink

Fruit/Seed: Pea-like pods

Height: 6"-2'

Width: 11/2'

Habitat: Meadows, forest openings, and chaparral



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Lupines are an important larval food for butterflies and moths.

Did You Know?

The genus name *Lupine* means wolf. They were originally thought to rob soil of nutrients, but the opposite is true. Through a symbiotic relationship with bacteria, they convert atmospheric nitrogen to a usable form in the soil.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Lupinus* Species Include:

L. albifrons, silver lupine, up to 5' tall, shrubby

L. grayi, Gray's lupine, 6"-1' tall, grows in low mats

L. latifolius, broadleaf lupine, 4'-7' tall, white blue, pink

L. lepidus var. *confertus*, Sierra lupine, 6"-2' tall,

L. polyphyllus, large leaf lupine, 3' tall, dark purple flowers



Mimulus guttatus

seep monkeyflower

Mimulus species range from large and shaggy to petite and spindly, but are easily recognized by their snapdragon-like flowers that top a leafy stem. They are of great appeal as they bloom from May to September. The red or yellow splotches in the flower throat give them their charming, face-like appearance, and presumably the common name of monkeyflower. In the spring, dense populations of seep monkeyflower offer an impressive display of dazzling yellow flowers in the wet areas along Big Grizzly Creek or seeps around Grizzly Ranch. *Mimulus* are good for potted plants, as they appear almost endlessly blooming with enough water and some fertilizer. Other *Mimulus* species suitable for Grizzly Ranch are listed on the opposite page.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Rounded, toothed

Stems: Leafy

● **Flowers:** Snapdragon-like, yellow

Fruit/Seed: Capsule

Height: 6"-2'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Wet meadows and seeps



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Well liked by hummingbirds and disliked by deer.

Did You Know?

Occasionally the flowers pollinate themselves. Native Americans supplemented their diets with the greens.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Mimulus* Species Include:

M. cardinalis, scarlet monkeyflower, 1'-2' tall, red flowers

M. lewisii, Lewis' monkeyflower, 1'-2' tall, pink to lavender flowers



Paeonia brownii

Brown's peony

This shapely plant is part of the peony family, and if you have one of these beautiful, unusual flowers on your lot, you are in luck as they are very hard to find! Protect it and do not irrigate it as it has adapted to its natural conditions. The fascinating upside down, bowl shaped flowers are maroon, gold, and green, and bloom from June through July. The flowers have a sort of sweet smell countered by a cabbage-like smell from the leaves! Like other native members of the peony family, it goes dormant after blooming.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Steely gray-green, deeply lobed

Stems: Reddish, flexible

● **Flowers:** Maroon and yellow

Fruit/Seed: Several follicles that look pod-like

Height: 6"-1'

Width: 1'

Habitat: Forest openings and meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

The nectar from the flower attracts hummingbirds and bees.

Did You Know?

Paeonia comes from Paeon, the physician of Greek gods. Native Americans treated lung ailments from a tea made from the roots; and seeds were used for cough medicine.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, big sagebrush, Sierra gooseberry, creeping snowberry, dry habitat sedge, lupine, and arrow-leaved balsam-root.



Penstemon speciosus

showy penstemon

With over 270 species, *Penstemon* is one of the largest genus of native flowering plants in North America. Most prefer drier areas, soils with good drainage, and full sunlight for much of the day. The species embrace a wide assortment of sizes, from low mats to shrubs. All have a brilliant flower color ranging from blue to yellow to firecracker red, and bloom from May to August. The large, tubular flowers with a cleft lower lip form whorls of flowers on the axils of the upper leaves. You can most likely find these drought tolerant specimens in open areas in the sagebrush scrub and ponderosa pine forests near Grizzly Ranch. Other *Penstemon* species suitable for Grizzly Ranch are listed on the opposite page.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Green, occasionally gray-green, linear

Stems: Coarse, erect

● **Flowers:** Indigo, tubular

Fruit/Seed: Hard, woody capsule

Height: 2'-4'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Meadows, forest openings, and sagebrush scrub



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Penstemon is rarely browsed by wildlife, but the flowers attract hummingbirds, bees, and moths.

Did You Know?

A sterile, hairy stamen on the lower lip of the flower gives an appearance of an open mouth with a fuzzy tongue, thus inspiring a common name beardtongue.

Other Grizzly Ranch *Penstemon* Species Include:

P. neotericus, Plumas County penstemon, 6"-3' tall, large, indigo

P. newberryi, mountain pride penstemon, 8"-1½' tall, magenta

P. rydbergii, meadow penstemon, 6"-2' tall, slender with small red blue flowers, likes it wet



Perideridia bolanderi ssp. *bolanderi*

Bolander's yampah

Originating from a bulb, this slender stemmed, hardy plant can be found on the rocky hillsides or dry meadows at Grizzly Ranch. Airily drifting above the grayish-green base are white, umbrella-like flowers that bloom from June to August, and look like delicate lace in an otherwise harsh environment. The yampah often flowers when other species have died back for the season.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Triangular, narrow

Stems: 8" tall almost naked

○ **Flowers:** White, flattened dome shape

Fruit/Seed: Oblong

Height: 6"-1½'

Width: 4"

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Birds and insects visit this plant; but it does not provide much food or habitat.

Did You Know?

The roots of Bolander's yampah were, and still are, a staple of the Native American diet. They are starchy and have a carrot flavor. Yampah is in the same family (Apiaceae) as carrot.

Pair With

Incense cedar, rubber rabbitbrush, bearberry, California needlegrass, squirreltail, dry habitat sedge, arnica, and Indian blanket.



Potentilla gracilis

slender cinquefoil

This bright green-tufted perennial has tall stems of cheery, buttercup-like yellow flowers from June to August and is happiest in moist meadows or wetlands. Its petals have a small notch in the outer edge. It spreads with stout rhizomes.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: 5-7 parted, fan-like shape

Stems: Thin, light green

● **Flowers:** Yellow, buttercup-like

Fruit/Seed: Long, green achene

Height: 6"-3 ½'

Width: 1'

Habitat: Meadows



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Birds and insects visit this plant; but it does not provide much food or habitat.

Did You Know?

Native Americans used an infusion of pounded roots for a variety of aches and pains. Cinquefoil is probably derived from the French word “cinque” (five) and the medieval English word “foil” (leaf).

Pair With

Quaking aspen, wild rose, thimbleberry, ticklegrass, western blue flag, monkeyflower, and alpine aster.



Pteridium aquilinum

bracken fern

Bracken fern is one of the most widespread ferns in the world and one of the most common in the Sierra Nevada where its large fronds seem to cover an entire valley or hillside. It can grow on a variety of soils, and succeeds on sites that would seem too dry for ferns. Occasionally windborne spores allow this fern to colonize disturbed sites. It typically regenerates after frost or disturbance from its spreading rhizomes. The lovely green fronds are good for a filler or background plant, and are a wonderful backdrop in flower arrangements. The newly emerging fronds, or fiddleheads, can be picked and eaten fresh in the spring.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Triangular fronds, hairy with spores underside

Stems: Erect

Flowers: N/A

Fruit/Seed: N/A

Height: 1'-3'

Width: 3'

Habitat: Forest



Light 

Water 

Growth 

Attracts

Palatability for wildlife is nominal as it produces very bitter-tasting compounds in its leaves, but its form provides excellent cover for birds and small mammals.

Did You Know?

In the Middle Ages, this fern was so valuable that it was used as barter for rents. It was used as thatch for roofing, as a fuel for a fire, and the ash was used in the soap and glass trades.

Native Americans ate the tender fronds and rootstock.

Pair With

Mountain maple, California black oak, squaw carpet, Oregon grape, Idaho fescue, dry habitat sedge, and heuchera.



Ranunculus glaberrimus

sagebrush buttercup

This is one of several buttercups that are widespread and adapted to semi-arid conditions. As a very early-flowering plant — one was recorded to bloom as early as January 5th near Reno—the bright, shiny, yellow flowers herald spring at Grizzly Ranch. This small, prostrate or erect plant frequently grows under large shrubs such as sagebrush.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Generally basal, entire or slightly lobed

Stems: Prostrate or erect

● **Flowers:** 1" diameter, yellow, 5 petals

Fruit/Seed: Achenes, clustered in a sphere

Height: 6"-1'

Width: 6"

Habitat: Meadows, forest openings, and sagebrush scrub



Light ☀️☀️☀️☾☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Deer and elk take advantage of early spring buttercups and forage on the leaves before other more preferred species are available.

Did You Know?

All parts of this buttercup are slightly poisonous. Native Americans rubbed buttercups on arrow points or placed them on a piece of meat as poison bait for coyotes.

Pair With

Curl-leaved mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, big sagebrush, bitterbrush, wild rose, Indian paintbrush, blue flax, and skyrocket gilia.



Wyethia mollis

mules ears

Few species can match the panoramic beauty of this plant with its showy heads of yellow, sunflower-like disks nodding in the sun. It is a common native to Grizzly Ranch, and often carpets the ground from June through August. Mules ears are often confused with arrow-leaved balsam-root as they have the similar beautiful yellow flowers and overlap in site distribution. However, you can distinguish this species of mules ears by its large, hairy, elliptical, and pointed leaves (like the ears of a mule!) and it has more leaves on the stem than arrow-leaved balsam-root.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Elliptical, pointed, and hairy

Stems: Thick clusters of leaves on base, small leaves on stem

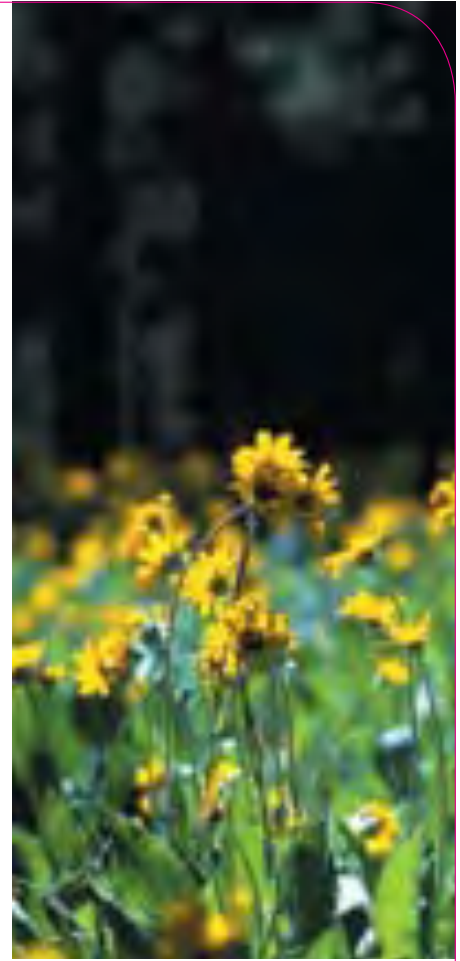
● **Flowers:** Yellow

Fruit/Seed: Achene

Height: 1'-3'

Width: 2'

Habitat: Meadows, forest openings, and sagebrush scrub



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

Butterflies love to land on the yellow flowers.

Did You Know?

This species honors an early 19th century North American explorer, Nathaniel Wyeth. The seeds look like the sunflower seeds found in the grocery store. Sunflowers, mules ears, and arrow-leaved balsam-root are all members of the Asteraceae family.

Pair With

Incense cedar, big sagebrush, wax currant, bitterbrush, skyrocket gilia, lupine, and penstemon.



Xerophyllum tenax

bear-grass, Indian basket grass

The graceful fountain of arching, grass-like leaves are overshadowed in beauty by a spectacular central flower stalk that rises a foot above and holds a dense plume of hundreds of creamy-white flowers from May to August. Although it may not bloom for several years, it is worth the wait for the flowering stalk to bloom from the bottom to top, culminating with a large knob of white that looks like a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Bear-grass is moderately shade tolerant as it can survive but it seldom blooms. It is much better in open areas where it grows and blooms profusely, with offset clumps replacing the old plants. This is one of the first survivors to pop up after a fire due to its tough rhizomes.

Distinguishing Features

Leaves: Olive, tough, grass-like, toothed

Stems: Up to 5' tall flower stalk

○ **Flowers:** Creamy-white

Fruit/Seed: 3 angled capsule

Height: Leaves 1'-3'

Width: 3'

Habitat: Meadows and forest openings



Light ☀️☀️☀️☀️☾

Water 💧💧💧💧💧

Growth 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

Attracts

The flower stalks are a delicacy for deer and elk; and grizzly bears gather the grass leaves for nesting materials in their dens.

Did You Know?

As one of the common names implies, this was an important plant for Native American basketry. Leaves were used not only for making and decorating baskets, but for garments as well.

Pair With

Ponderosa pine, California black oak, bearberry, Sierra gooseberry, dry habitat sedge, California oatgrass, lupine, penstemon, and arrow-leaved balsam-root.



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GLOSSARY

Achene: A small, dry, one-seeded fruit that does not open to release the seed.

Bract: A modified leaf or flower part. Can be more colorful than the flower petals.

Bunchgrass: Grass that grows in tufts or tight clumps.

Catkins: A spike of tiny flowers with very small flower parts, often pendulous and green.

Culm: Aerial stem of grasses and sedges, often hollow.

Drupe: A fleshy fruit with thin skin and a central stone or seed.

Inflorescence: The complete flowerhead of a plant including stalks, bracts, and flowers.

Rhizomes: A horizontal underground stem that puts out lateral shoots and roots at intervals.

Samara: A winged nut or achene containing one seed; looks like helicopter wings.

Sessile: Attached directly to a base without a stalk.



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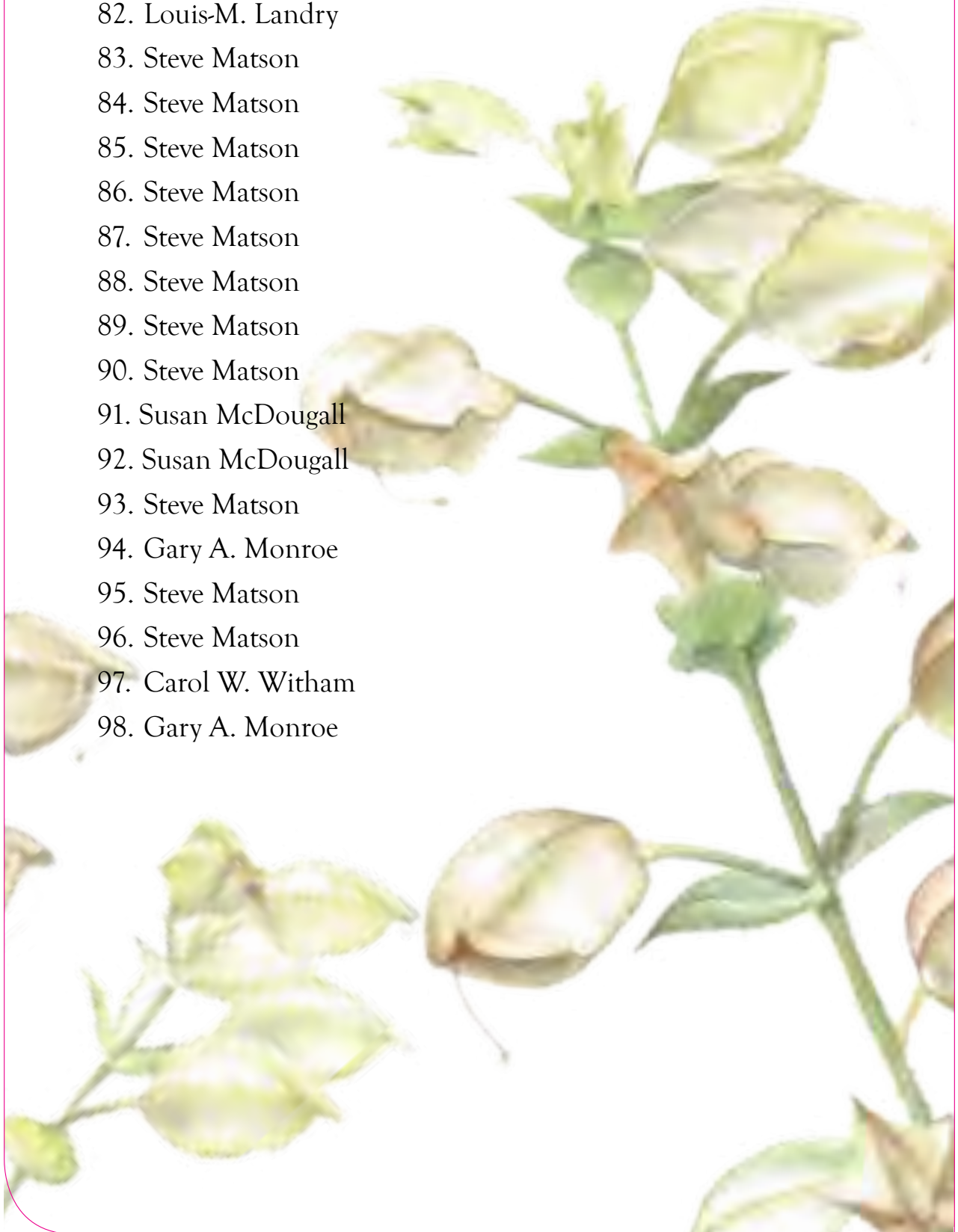


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