



# Relevance of California Native Plants in a Water-Tight World

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

March 20, 2014

Sherri D. Osaka

0 Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

[www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)

- California Native Plant Society is a 46-year-old non-profit environmental organization devoted to preserving/promoting California native plants and habitats.
- The Santa Clara Valley Chapter covers San Mateo and Santa Clara counties
  - Memberships start at \$25
  - Benefits: 10% discounts at:
    - Almaden Valley Nursery, Summer Winds, Native Revival Nursery, Gold Rush Nursery. In the East Bay: East Bay Wilds, Annie's Annuals, Berkeley Hort, Watershed Nursery

- Gardening With Natives is a subgroup of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter for people interested in learning about and growing California native plants.
- In 2013 year, we hosted 34 free talks, reaching a total of over 900 attendees and almost 90 first-timers.
- Join our listserv of over 1,250 people: [Gardeningwithnatives-subscribe@yahogroups.com/](mailto:Gardeningwithnatives-subscribe@yahogroups.com/)

- Where are we????
- What makes native plants special?
- Resources

Where are we?

# Third Year of Drought

- San Jose: 4.76 inches to date, normal is 12.42"
- San Francisco: 5.67 inches to date, normal is 17.29"

# Waterbanks

- Santa Clara:
  - Almaden – 21% full
  - Anderson – 46%
  - Calero – 42%
  - Chesbro – 11%
  - Coyote – 39%
  - Gadalupe – 11%
  - Lexington – 31%
  - Stevens Creek – 11%
  - Uvas – 11%
  - Vasona – 68%
- San Mateo and San Francisco:
  - Hetch Hetchy – 52% full
  - Crystal Springs – 86%

# Periodic Droughts in California

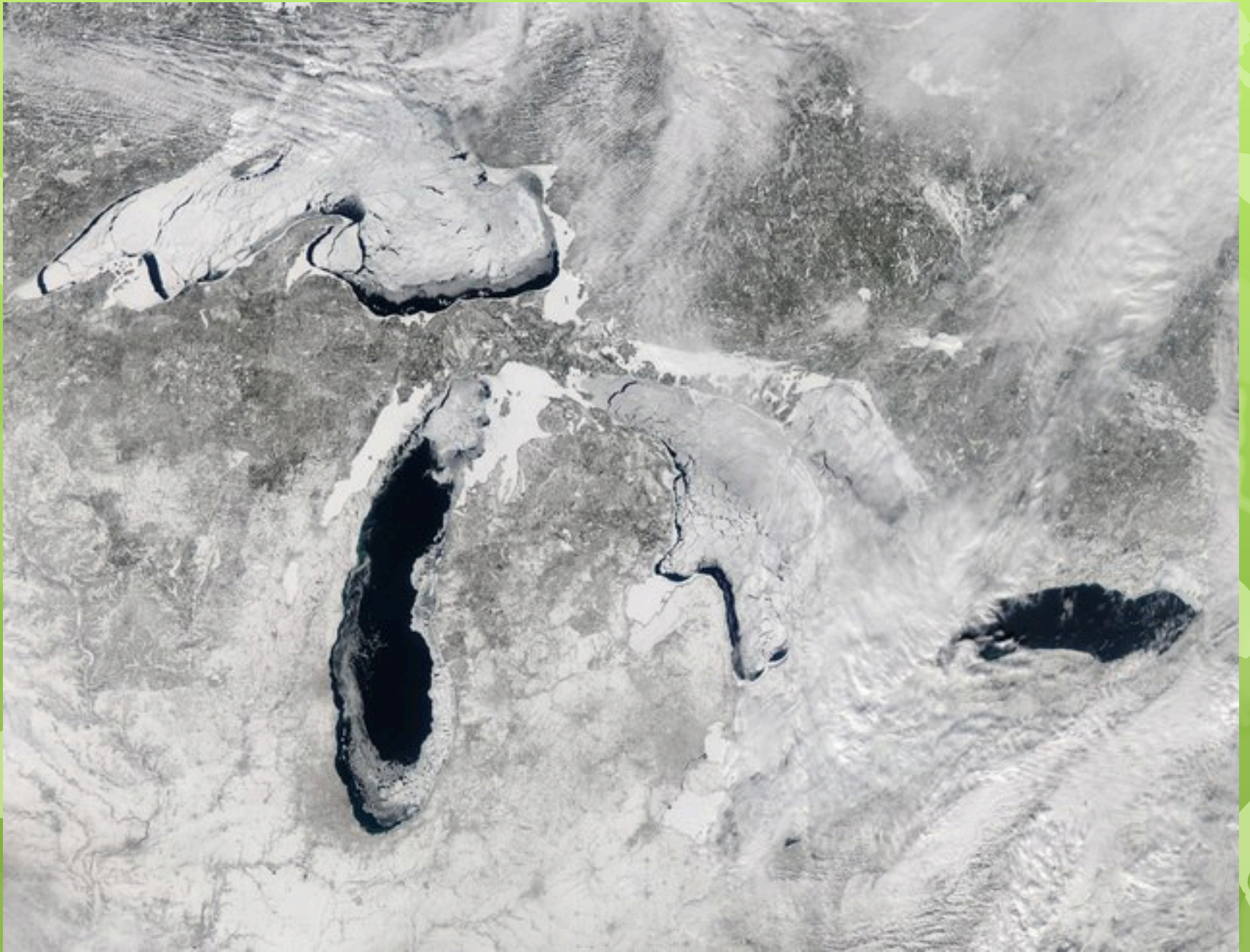
- 1928-1934
- 1976-1977
- 1987-1992
- 2007-2009
- 2012-14





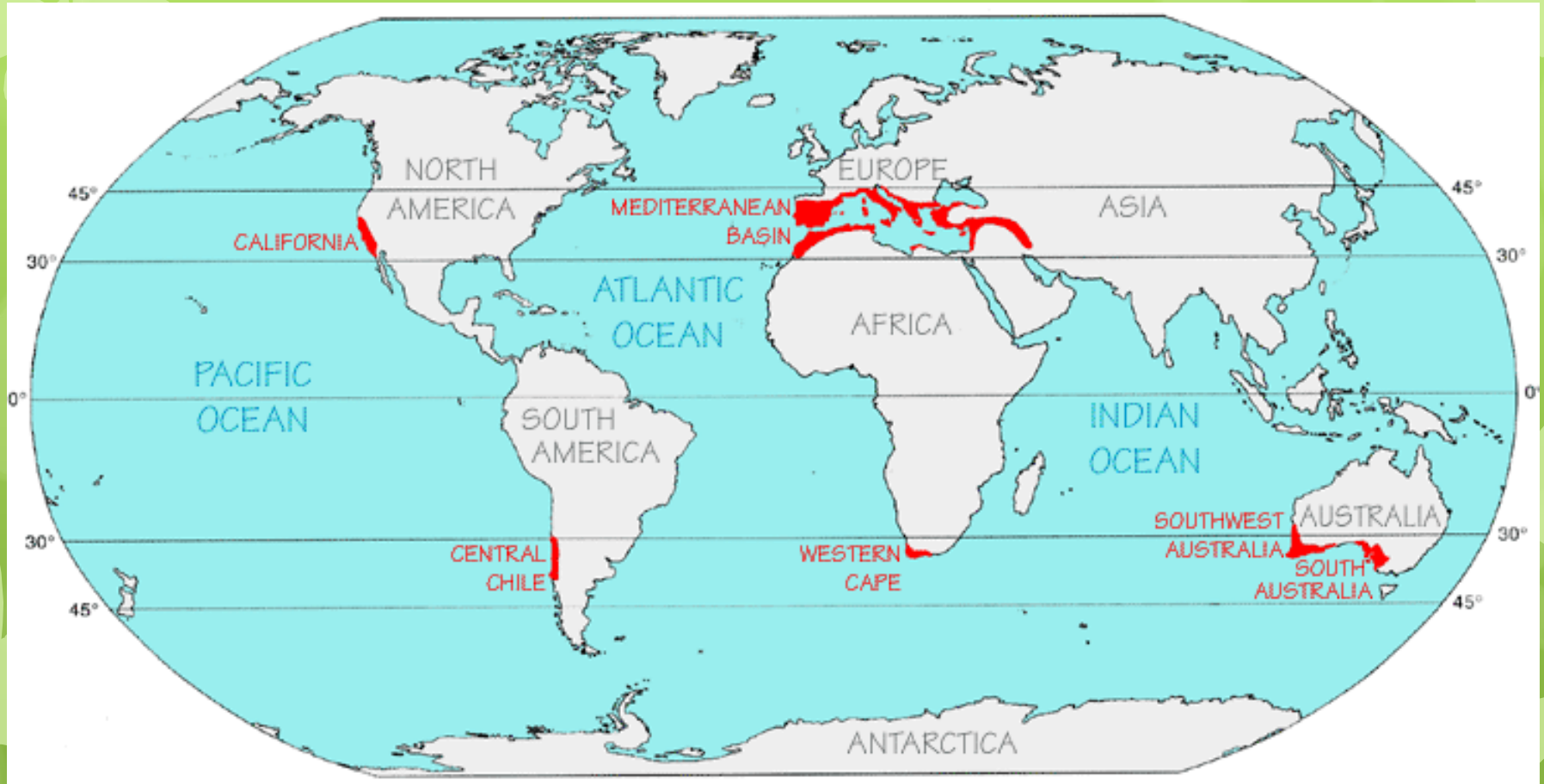
# Where are we?

- West of the Sierras?
- East of the Sierras?

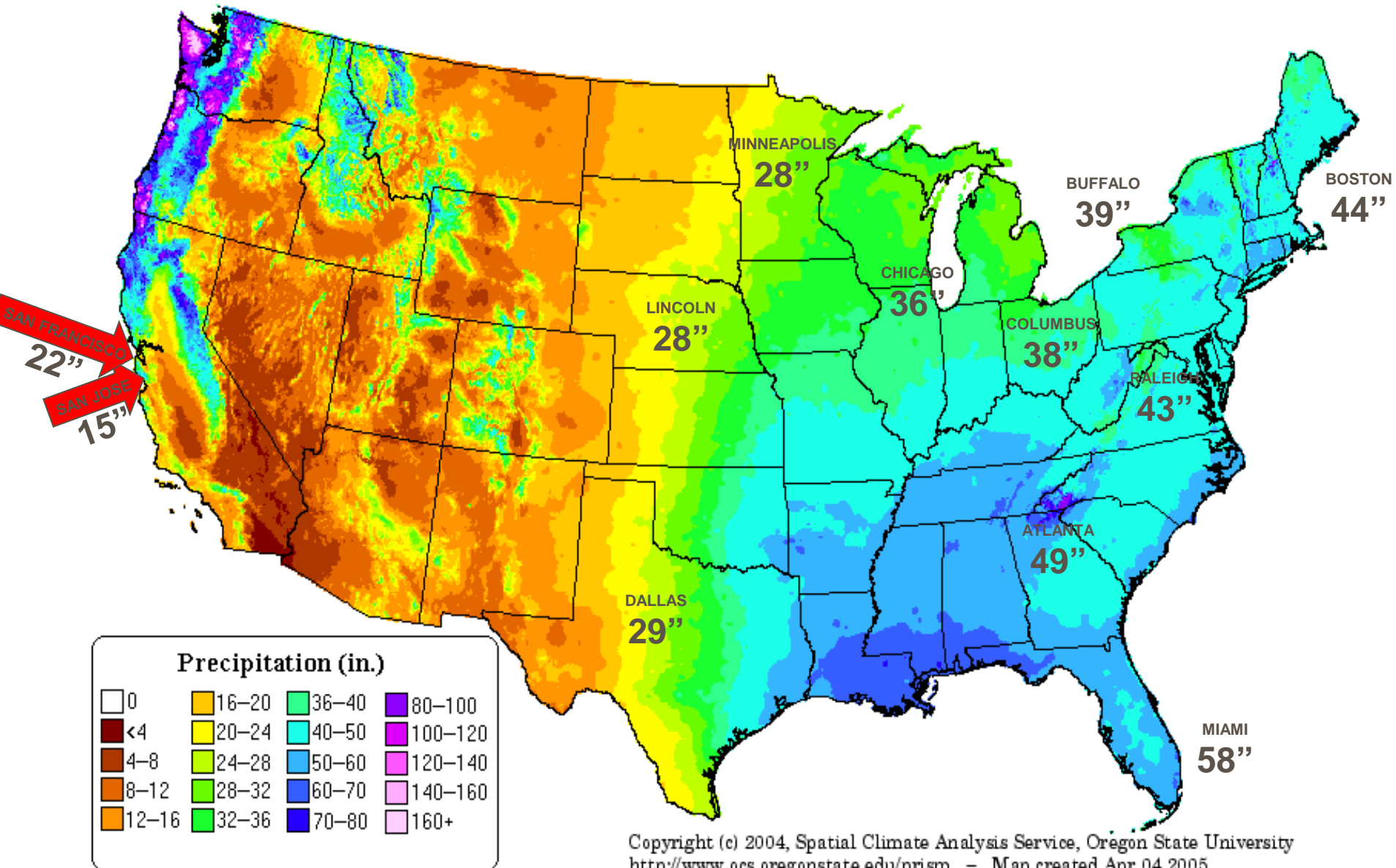


# Mediterranean Areas

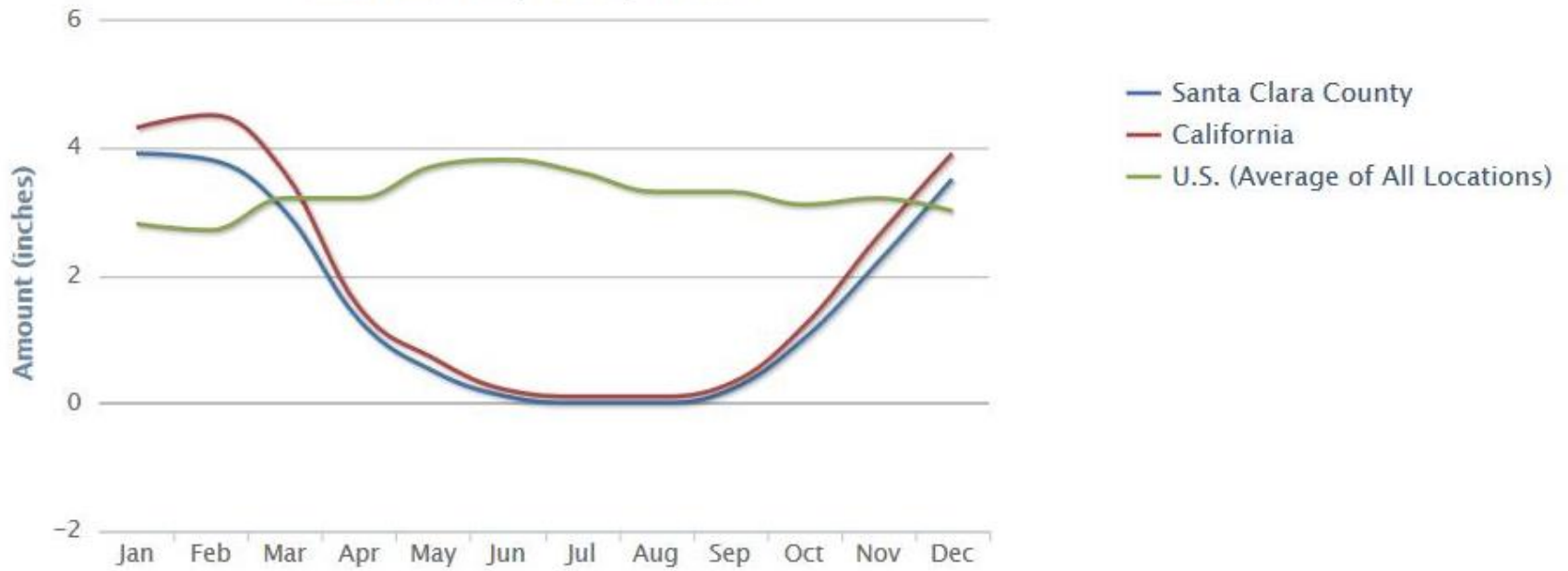
Cold and wet, Warm and dry



# Annual Precipitation



## Total Monthly Precipitation



The background is a solid light green color with a subtle gradient. Scattered across the background are numerous white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, some appearing as if they are flying. The butterflies are most prominent in the corners and along the right edge.

# Why Are California Native Plants Special?

# Strategies for Survival

- Dormancy
- Root system
- Leaf orientation and coatings
- Leaf color

The background is a solid green gradient, lighter at the top and darker at the bottom. Scattered throughout are numerous white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, some appearing as faint, semi-transparent shapes and others as more solid white outlines.

Dormancy



# Bulbs—Soap Plant--Chlorogalum pomeridianum



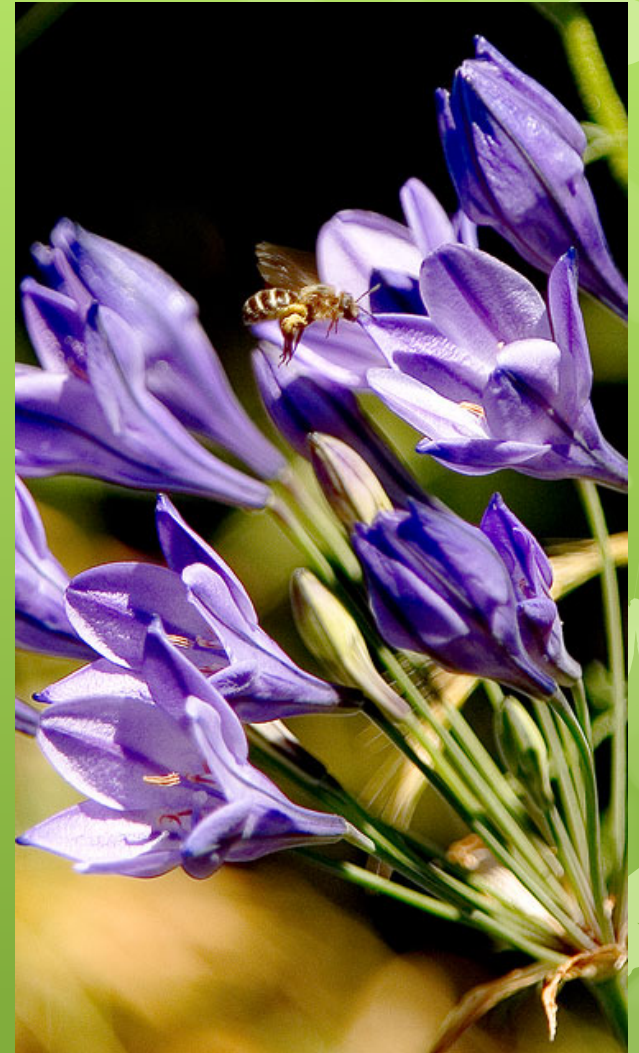
# Corms – California Brodiaea – *Brodiaea californica*



# Corms – *Brodiaea elegans*



# Corms – Ithuriel's spear – *Triteleia laxa*



# Bulbs – Blue Dicks -- *Dichelostemma capitatum*



# Bulb – Pink meadow onion

## *Alium unifolium*



# Cool Season Grasses-- Fescues



*Festuca idahoensis*



*Festuca californica*

# Cool Season Grasses— Needlegrasses



Purple needlegrass, *Stipa pulchra*



Nodding needlegrass, *Stipa cernua*

Photos from: [AnniesAnnuals.com](http://AnniesAnnuals.com)



# Perennial Phacelias



Woodland Phacelia – *Phacelia bolanderi*

# Very Low Water - Buckeye



*Aesculus californica*



Jean Struther's Buckeye

# Root System

# Root System

- First they sleep,
- Then they creep,
- Then they leap!

The background of the slide is a light green gradient. It is decorated with several white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, scattered across the page. The butterflies are positioned in the corners and along the right edge, creating a decorative border effect.

# Leaf orientation and coatings

# Manzanita – *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn'



Photo by Sherri Osaka, [www.su...](http://www.su...)



# Sedum – Sedum spathulifolium 'Purpureum'



# Santa Catalina Liveforever - *Dudleya hassei*





# Britton's Dudleya – *Dudleya brittonia*



The background is a solid green gradient, lighter at the top and darker at the bottom. Scattered throughout are numerous white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, some appearing as if they are flying.

Leaf color

# Cleveland Sage – *Salvia clevelandi*



# Purple Sage – *Salvia leucophylla*



# White Sage – *Salvia apiana*



# Sand Hill sage – *Artemisia pycnocephalus* 'David's Choice'



# California fuchsias – *Epilobium* 'Carmen's Gray'

















Before circa 1994



Before circa 2007















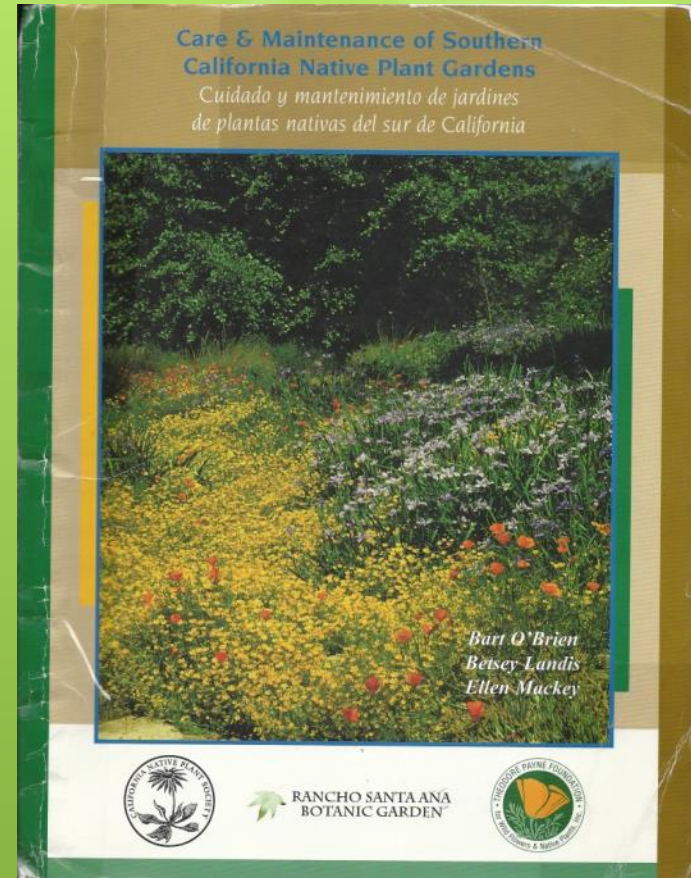
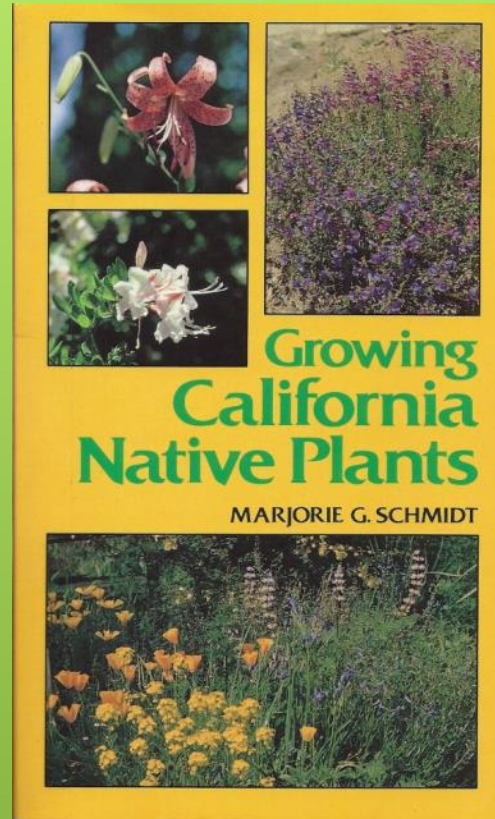
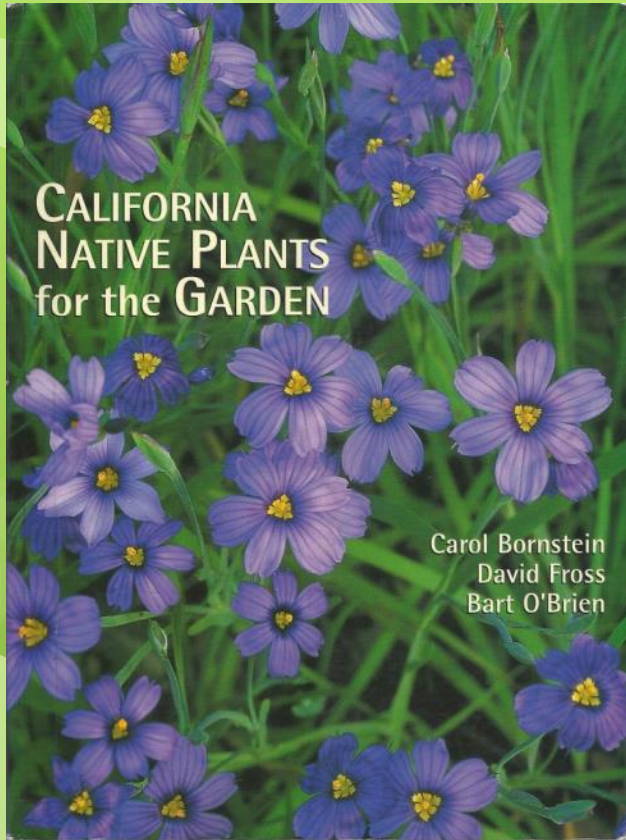


# Resources

# Rebates

- Santa Clara Valley Water District, \$1/ square foot
- Lawn Be Gone, \$0.75/ square foot
- Alameda County Water District, \$1/ square foot

# Native Plant References



● "Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates" by East Bay MUD

54 ● "Landscape Plants for California Gardens" by Bob Perry

# Native Nurseries

- Bay Natives, San Francisco
- Summerwinds, Palo Alto, Campbell, other locations
- Payless Rockery, San Jose (S. King Road)
- Yerba Buena Nursery, Half Moon Bay
- Native Revival Nursery, Aptos
- Larner Seeds, mail order seeds
- Annie Annuals, Richmond and online
- Las Pilitas online





The California Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley Chapter)

in association with

UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County

present the



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Going Native Garden Tour

**Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10-4:** NORTHERN GARDENS: Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos, and San Mateo County

**Sunday, April 27, 2014, 10-4:** SOUTHERN GARDENS: Cupertino, Santa Clara, Campbell, San Jose and south

## SPONSORS:

Almaden Valley Nursery • Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency • Bay Maples • Bay Natives Nursery • California Nativescapes • Central Coast Wilds Nursery • East Bay Wilds • Gold Rush Nursery • Mediterranean Garden Society • Native Revival Nursery • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Watershed Watch

## SUPPORTERS:

Acterra Nursery • Azureheart • Bay Nature Magazine • Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge • Lerner Seeds • National Wildlife Federation • Our City Forest • Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society • Sierra Club (Loma Prieta Chapter) • The Watershed Nursery • Western Horticultural Society • Yerba Buena Nursery

To sponsor or support the tour, contact [info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org](mailto:info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org)

Photos: [tmousemouse.blogspot.com](http://tmousemouse.blogspot.com)

Bay Area homeowners are making their gardens aesthetically pleasing, attractive to birds and butterflies, water-wise, and low maintenance by incorporating California native plants. Visit gardens landscaped with native plants on this **free** annual tour, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year.

About 50 gardens will be open for viewing, from town home gardens to acre lots, from newly planted gardens to established ones. The gardens are located all over the Santa Clara Valley and the Peninsula, so you won't have to go far to see one. Some gardens will feature **talks**, others will have **plants for sale**. Visit as many as you like — for inspiration, for photos, for meeting other garden enthusiasts.

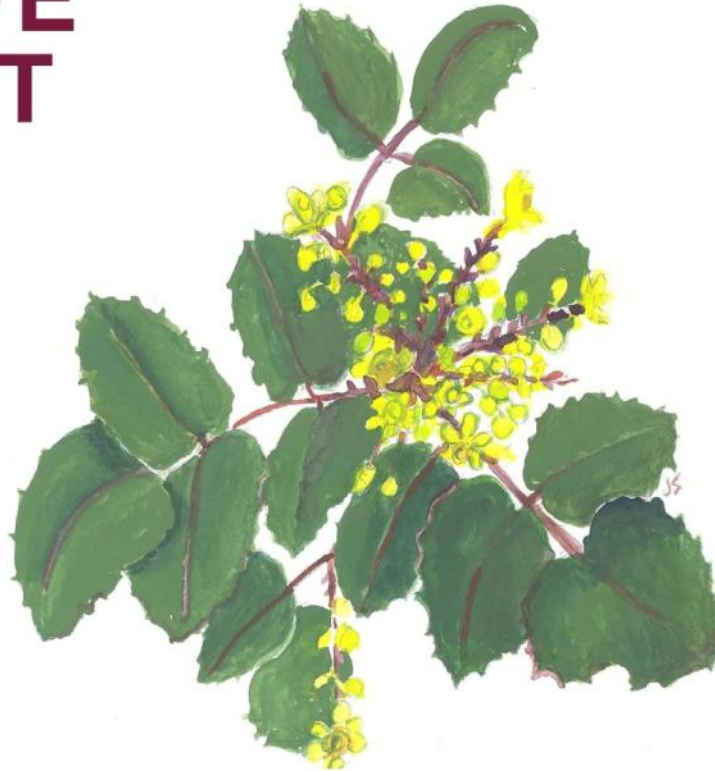
**Free admission • Plant Sales & Talks at select gardens • Register at [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org)**

Garden information, maps, and directions will become available to registrants the week of April 7. Registrations will be accepted until noon of April 27. For information, visit [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org), or email [info@gngt.org](mailto:info@gngt.org).



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER AND ACTERRA

# NATIVE PLANT SALE



**BERBERIS AQUIFOLIUM  
VAR. REPENS**

**SATURDAY MAY 3, 2014 10 AM - 3 PM**  
**HIDDEN VILLA RANCH**

26870 MOODY ROAD      LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA

2 MILES WEST OF Foothill COLLEGE  
TAKE THE EL MONTE / MOODY EXIT FROM 280  
CONTACT: 650-260-3450      or [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)  
PARKING IS FREE      BRING A BOX FOR PLANTS

# Slide show and handout at our website: cnps-scv.org

The screenshot shows the website for the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Santa Clara Valley. The browser address bar shows "cnps-scv.org" and the search bar contains "sedum spathulifolium". The website header features the CNPS logo and a search bar. The navigation menu includes Home, Conservation, Field Trips, Gardening, Restoration, Education, Events, and Contact Us. The Education menu is expanded, showing options like Keying with Natives, Books, Scholarships, Resources, and Presentations. The main content area features a "Home" section with a "Going Native Garden Tour 2014" announcement, including a photo of a garden and text about the tour. A "CNPS Native Plant Sale, Spring 2014" section is also visible. On the right side, there is a calendar for March 2014, highlighting Thursday, March 20, 2014, and Friday, March 21, 2014. The calendar shows the following dates: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

Home

Conservation

Field Trips

Gardening

Restoration

Education

Events

Contact Us

MAIN MENU

Blazing Star Newsletter

CNPS on Facebook

Gardening with Natives Forum

Photo Gallery

Statewide CNPS

Home

Going Native Garden Tour 2014

Over 50 home gardens throughout the Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula will be open to the public on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with talks and native plant sales at select gardens. Admission is free, but registration is required at [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org). Registration ends at 3 p.m. on April 27, or when the tour reaches capacity. Space is limited, so register early to ensure a place. Volunteers receive invitations to visit native gardens throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org).

CNPS Native Plant Sale, Spring 2014

Scores of species of California native plants well-suited for our gardens and wildlife will be

March 2014

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |

Thursday, March 20, 2014

California Native Gardens Through the Years

7:00 pm at Cupertino Community Hall

Friday, March 21, 2014

cnps-scv.org/index.php/education