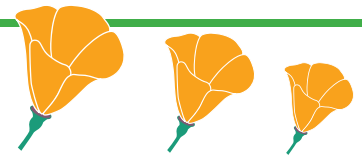


# California Native Plants

for the Home Landscape



## Reduce Habitat for Flea-carrying Animals

Some plants used in home landscaping are known to provide feeding and nesting sites for non-native roof rats (*Rattus rattus*) and opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*). These animals are often infested with fleas, which may jump off and feed on humans and their pets. During feeding, fleas can transfer (vector) bacteria and viruses (pathogens) that cause diseases such as plague and flea-borne typhus. You can protect yourself, your family, and your neighborhood by modifying your landscape to eliminate or decrease habitat for flea-carrying animals.

**Plants that often provide habitat for rats, opossums, and other flea-carriers include:**

**AVOID THESE PLANTS!**

- **Algerian ivy** (*Hedera canariensis*)
- **Bougainvilleas** (*Bougainvillea* spp.)
- **California and Mexican fan palms** (*Washingtonia filifera*, *W. robusta*)
- **Canary Island date palm** (*Phoenix canariensis*)
- **Creeping fig vine** (*Ficus pumila* [= *F. repens*])
- **Italian cypress** (*Cupressus sempervirens*)
- **Natal plum** (*Carissa macrocarpa* [= *C. grandiflora*])
- **Oleander** (*Nerium oleander*)
- **Acacias** (*Acacia longifolia*, *A. redolens*, etc.)
- **Yuccas** (*Yucca* spp.)
- **Cape honeysuckle** (*Tecomaria capensis*)

## Groundcovers

To discourage flea-carrying animals, select groundcover plants that lie close to the ground, do not build up a tall layer of branches and leaves, and do not provide juicy fruits that feed them.

- Prostrate chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* 'Nicolas')
- San Diego ragweed (*Ambrosia pumila*)
- Yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*)
- Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp., low-growing)
- California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica* 'Canyon Gray')
- Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point')
- Beach evening primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*)
- Sedges (*Carex* spp.)
- California lilacs (*Ceanothus* 'Joyce Coulter', *C. maritimus*, *C.* 'Point Reyes', *C.* 'Yankee Point')
- Live-forevers (*Dudleya* spp.)
- California fuchsia (*Epilobium californicum*)
- Beach aster (*Erigeron glaucus*)
- California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* 'Dana Point')
- Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*)
- Coastal buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)
- San Diego marsh elder (*Iva hayesiana*)
- Evergreen currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*)
- Black sage (*Salvia mellifera* 'Bees Bliss', 'Tera Seca')
- Creeping sage (*Salvia sonomensis*)
- Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*)
- California goldenrod (*Solidago californica*)

## Shrubs

To discourage flea-carrying animals, select shrubs that are not too dense, can be pruned to prevent dense growth, and do not provide juicy fruits that feed them.

- Common chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*)
- Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp., shrubby species)
- California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*, shrubby form)
- Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*, shrubby form)
- California lilacs (*Ceanothus* spp., shrubby species)
- Mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*)
- Summer holly (*Comarostaphylys diversifolia*)
- Bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*, *D. rigida*)
- Bush sunflowers (*Encelia californica*, *E. farinosa*)
- California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
- Flannelbush (*Fremontodendron* spp.)
- Tecate cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*)
- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
- Beardtongues (*Keckiella* spp., *Penstemon* spp.)
- Bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus* spp. [*Mimulus* spp.])
- Bladderpod (*Peritoma* [*Isomeris*] *arborea*)
- California scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*)
- Redberries (*Rhamnus crocea*, *R. ilicifolia*)
- Coffeeberry (*Frangula* [*Rhamnus*] *californica*)
- Lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
- Sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*)
- Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)
- Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*)
- Woolly blue-curls (*Trichostema lanatum*)

## Vines

To discourage flea-carrying animals, select vines that can be pruned to prevent dense growth and do not provide juicy fruits that feed them. Be sure to keep them from growing onto the roof.

- Anacapa morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia* 'Anacapa Pink')
- Virgin's bower (*Clematis lasiantha*, *C. ligusticifolia*)
- Heart-leaved beardtongue (*Keckiella cordifolia*)

## Trees

To discourage flea-carrying animals, select trees that are not too dense and do not provide juicy fruits that feed them.

- Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
- Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)
- Palo verde (*Parkinsonia* x 'Desert Museum')
- Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*)
- Gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*)
- Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*)
- California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
- Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
- Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*)
- Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)
- Blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*)
- California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)

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