

Native Plantings



As an adaptation to the arid climate in which they grow, many California native plants have high concentrations of oils that are very pleasantly fragrant. Many of theses fragrances will bring a sense of place to your garden as they are distinctly southwestern aromas. Some of them will permeate the air after a refreshing rain, while others will smell good baking in the sun. Simply rub or crush leaves to release these sweet, minty, pungent and balmy perfumes. Try planting them next to a path, where passers by will brush against them. You're sure to find them irresistible! Below is a list of plants you will commonly find at Tree of Life Nursery.

Artemisia californica

California Sagebrush, full sun to part shade Calycanthus occidentalis

Spicebush, full sun to part shade

Cleome isomeris (this one is an acquired smell!)

Bladderpod, full sun

Cupressus forbesii

Tecate Cypress, full sun

Hyptis emoryi

Desert Lavender, full sun to part shade Juniperus californica

California Juniper, full sun to part shade Lepechinia fragrans

Fragrant Pitcher Sage, full sun to part shade Monardella species

Coyote Mint, full sun to full shade Pycnanthemum californicum

California Mint, part sun to full shade Ribes malvaceum

Chaparral Currant, part shade Ríbes víburnifolium

Catalina Perfume, full sun to full shade Salvía species

Sage, full sun to part shade Clinopodium chandleri

San Miguel Savory, part shade to full shade Clinopodium douglasii

Yerba Buena, part shade to full shade Trichostema lanatum

Wooly Blue Curls, full sun to part shade Umbellularia californica





