# Plants of the Walgrove Wildlands

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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## WALGROVE WILDLANDS PLANT GUIDE



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## Wildlands Habitats

1.0

The Walgrove Wildlands has three distinct habitat areas. The Forest, Meadow, and Arroyo.

#### **Forest**

The Forest is comprised of woodland, forest, coastal scrub and chaparral plants native to the mountains and foothills of Southern California and Channel Islands. The most common plants in the Wildlands Forest are oaks, alders, ceanothus, hummingbird sage, deer grass, and manzanita.

Care: Water deeply once a month in dry periods. Plants should create a lush forest floor under the shade of dense oak, cedar, redbuds and toyons. Selectively trim plants to prevent overgrowth or crowding out of other desirable natives. Allow leaf mulch to remain on forest floor.

#### Meadows

The Meadow is comprised of low growing, drought tolerant grasses and annual flowers. These are found in grasslands, meadows and riparian environments. It enjoys the wet clay soils of winter and can survive dry coastal summers.

Care: Provide deep watering every other week in summer months to maintain green grasses, or allow to go partially dormant and brown until the next fall or winter rain. Seedpods can be collected in late summer or left to reseed naturally. Prominent flowers in the meadow are Yarrow, Tidytips, California Poppy and Lupine with wild fescue and bent grasses.

## The Arroyo

The Arroyo is fed by rain water and irrigation run-off from the school yard and roof drains. The frequent water in the Arroyo attracts nearby shore birds and allows for lush ferns, rushes, and other riparian plants. The Arroyo is capable of holding 3,000 gallons of storm-water, nearly 1/4" rainfall in it's own watershed, filtering out pollutants, capturing storm water that will percolate into the aquifer. In major storms water from the Arroyo will overflow into the storm sewer, Ballona Creek and to the Pacific Ocean. The most common Arroyo plants are Scarlet Monkeyflower, Wire Grass, Giant Chain Fern, Redbuds, Alders, and Wild Rye Grass.

## Wildlands Plants

2.0

Plants are listed in alphabetical order by latin name.

TREES 2.1

COMMON NAME LATIN NAME

White Alder Alnus rhombifolia

Incense Cedar Calocedrus decurrens

Western Redbud Cercis occidentalis

Catalina Ironwood Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius

Torrey Pine Pinus torreyana

Catalina Cherry Prunus ilicifolia s. lyonii

Coast Live Oak Quercus agrifolia

Western Elderberry Sambucus mexicana

California Bay Umbellularia californica

SHRUBS 2.2

COMMON NAME LATIN NAME

Manzanita Arctostaphylos varieties

California Sagebrush Artemisia californica

Narrow-leaved Milkweed Asclepias fascicularis

Oregon Grape (compact variety)

Berberis aquifolium compacta

California Lilac Ceanothus species

Garrya elliptica Coast Silk-Tassel

Coast Sunflower Encelia californica

COMMON NAME LATIN NAME

Red-flowered Buckwheat Eriogonum grande rubescens

Coast Buckwheat Eriogonum latifolium

Island Snapdragon Galvezia speciosa

Toyon Heteromeles arbutifolium

Island Alum Root Heuchera maxima

Pacific Iris Iris douglasiana

Wire Grass Juneus patens

Silver Carpet California Aster Lessingia filiginifolia 'Silver Carpet'

Wild Rye (compact variety)

Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'

Scarlet Monkeyflower Mimulus cardinalis

Sticky Monkeyflower Mimulus aurantiacus

Foothill Penstemon Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'

Coffeeberry Rhamnus californica

Lemonadeberry Rhus integrifolia

Laural Sumac Rhus lancea

Sugarbush Rhus ovata

Pink-flowering Current Ribes sanguineum

Catalina Perfume Ribes viburnifolium

Matilija Poppy Romneya coulteri

White Sage Salvia apiana

Purple Sage Salvia leucophylla

Black Sage Salvia millefolium

Hummingbird Sage Salvia spathacea

Giant Chain Fern Woodwardia fimbriata

MEADOW PLANTS 2.3

COMMON NAME LATIN NAME

Yarrow Achillea millefolium

Bent Grass Agrostis pallens

California Meadow Sedge Carex pansa

Idaho Fescue Festuca idahoensis

Red Fescue Festuca rubra

California Poppy Eschscholzia californica

Tidy-Tips Layia platyglossa

Sky Lupine Lupinus nanus

Whorled Lupine Lupinus microcarpus densiflorus

Blue-eyed Grass Sisyrinchium bellum

Information and care for the Wildlands' plants.

TREES 3.1



White Alder Alnus rhombifolia

Deciduous tree 20-30' wide x 40-60' tall

Found in riparian, forest and woodland habitats where shade and moisture are abundant, this tree has gray bark, apple green leaves, catkins, small cone fruits, and winged seeds that attract birds.



Incense Cedar Calocedrus decurrens

This evergreen tree is found in forests and woodlands and a perfect shelter for insects and birds. Slowly growing to 50' tall and 20' wide with red bark and fragrant leaves. The wood is used for construction and common student pencils. Male cones emit pollen in winter, and smaller female cones open in late summer.



Western Redbud Cercis occidentalis

This small deciduous tree is found on woodland slopes and forest streams throughout California. Small pink pea-like flowers and silver bark are showy in winter. Apple-green heart-shaped leaves develop in spring and darken with the seasons. Small flat seed pods attract birds in summer. Redbud stems were used by Native Americans in basket making.



#### Catalina Ironwood

Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius

A small tree from the woodland and chaparral plant communities of the Channel Islands has red peeling bark and heavily lobed green leaves.

White blossoms can be found on the 15' wide by 20'-35' tall tree in early summer. Catalina Ironwood is a member of the rose family and should be trimmed lightly to remove dead limbs.



#### Torrey Pine Pinus torreyana

This drought tolerant evergreen conifer comes from coastal scrub and woodland plant communities in low land coastal areas and is the rarest US pine. Only two native stands of this pine remain in San Diego and on Santa Rosa Island. It can reach over 50' tall and 40' wide with large scale covered cones, which is attractive to many birds, bugs and mammals.



Catalina Cherry Prunus ilicifolia s. lyonii

This small chaparral and woodland tree from the Channel Islands can reach over 30' in height with bright green serrated leaves, creamy flowers and red fruit. A member of the rose family, the entire tree has medicinal value and was used for bow construction by Native Americans. It is drought tolerant and should be lightly pruned to remove dead growth and control size and form.



#### Coast Live Oak Quercus agrifolia

This evergreen tree native to coastal bluffs and mountains near the coast. The Coast Live Oak reaches up to 6o' wide and tall, with spiny green leaves, spring flowers and acorn nuts that are attractive to wildlife and an important food for Native Americans. This oak likes very little pruning, wet winters and dry summers.



## Western Elderberry Sambucus mexicana

This drought tolerant deciduous tree is found in many plant communities along the west coast. It has bright green leaves, yellow spring flowers and blue summer fruit that are attractive to birds.

The tree reaches 25' tall and wide with red bark and pinnately compound light green leaves. The fruit can be used in jams, pies, and wine, but other parts of the plant are poisonous.



#### California Bay Umbellularia californica

This aromatic evergreen tree from chaparral, woodland and forest communities likes moisture, but can be drought tolerant, eventually reaching 30'-50' tall and wide. It has small yellow flowers in late winter and small green fruit in the summer, which can be roasted and eaten. California Bay leaves can be used in cooking.

SHRUBS 3.2



#### Manzanita / Little Apple

Arctostaphylos species

Found in many plant communities from beaches to the mountains, this evergreen shrub has striking red bark, green leaves, delicate flowers, and small red fruit that are eaten by coyote, fox, squirrel and quail. Plants bloom in winter, attracting hummingbirds with sweet fragrances and nectar. Manzanita requires only cosmetic trimming and needs very

little supplemental water. During summer dormancy peeling bark may be observed on the trunks of mature plants. The Walgrove Wildlands has a few varieties of Manzanita. The largest species 'Howard McMinn' will reach 6'-8' tall, the medium sized 'Sunset' will reach 4'-5' tall, and the low 'John Dourley' will not exceed 3' in height. All plants will slowly spread 3'-8' wide.



### California Sagebrush

Artemisia californica

This evergreen gray leaf shrub can be found in coastal scrub and chaparral plant communities. It is drought tolerant with fine textured foliage which produces a strong fragrance. During rainy periods the plant will appear lush, but becomes sparse in the dry months. Late summer flowers, pollen, nectar,

and seeds attract wildlife. California Sagebrush can be cut back in late fall or early winter to encourage fresh new growth. The Walgrove Wildlands has selected Artemisia californica 'Montara' variety, a compact selection that grows 2' tall and 3'-5' wide and creates a dense ground cover.



#### Narrow-leaved Milkweed

Asclepias fascicularis

The favored host of larval monarch butterflies and a regular snack for aphids, beetles, and wasps makes Milkweed important in the Walgrove Wildlands. A deciduous herbaceous perennial from many different plant communities below 6,000' Milkweed is dormant in the winter. It is drought tolerant and can spread aggressively.



#### Oregon Grape

Berberis aquifolium compacta

This evergreen shrub is native to dry wooded slopes in forests under 7000'. It grows by underground rhizomes, gets 2'-3' tall and spreads slowly. The flat glossy leaves have three to nine leaflets and begin as bronze colored new growth before turning

dark green. Yellow winter flowers are followed by small blue fruit in late summer. The fruit can be made into jam, Native Americans used the roots medicinally and the yellow flowers for dyes.



## California Lilac Ceanothus species

This drought tolerant evergreen shrub is found on dry slopes of coastal scrub, chaparral, woodlands, and forests. It has small elliptical leaves with clusters of fragrant blue (or white) flowers in spring and early summer. Birds are attracted to the bugs found on ceanthus, and small animals feed on the seeds and use the plant for shelter. Ceanothus are

host to many native butterfly larva like California Silk Moth, Tortoiseshell, Hairstreak and Dusty Wing Skipper. They also attract bees and are planted around farms to lure predatory insects for pest management. The Wildlands has three varieties; the low 'Yankee Point', taller white 'Snow Flurry' and purple 'Ray Hartman'.



#### **Bush Island Poppy**

Dendromecon hardfordii

This evergreen shrub is found on the Channel Islands dry chaparral slopes. It can reach 10' tall and wide, blooming prolifically in spring and sporadically throughout the year. Large yellow flowers and waxy green leaves attract few pests. Drought tolerant, the Bush Island Poppy will need only light pruning to remove dead foliage.



Coast Sunflower Encelia californica

This evergreen shrub is found in coastal scrub plant communities below 1600'. It is very drought tolerant but will tolerate moderate waterings and blooms from spring to fall. Coast Sunflower can be deadheaded every few weeks if desired or cut back to 12" tall every winter to maintain healthy plants. Coast Sunflower will reach 5'-8' wide and 3'-4' tall in full sun.



#### Red-flowered Buckwheat

Eriogonum grande rubescens

This sun loving evergreen shrub reaches 1'-3' tall and is found in coastal scrub and grassland plant communities on the Channel Islands. It forms low dense mounds, but has a short life span. The leaves are green on top with white undersides. Buckwheat reseeds easily and tiny

volunteer plants can be found throughout the Wildlands. Red-flowered Buckwheat can be pruned back or replaced with new seedlings.



#### Coast Buckwheat Eriogonum latifolium

This evergreen coastal scrub plant is from dunes and bluffs along the coast. In the summer pink flowers stand above the 1'-2' tall mounds of white-haired foliage, which has felted undersides. Drought tolerant.



## Island Snapdragon Galvezia speciosa

Evergreen shrub from coastal scrub canyon and bluffs below 3000' on the Channel Islands. 1" long, throated lipstick red flowers appear in late winter and spring on a mound of tiny green leaves. Drought tolerant, 3'-4' tall, up to 6' wide and attractive to hummingbirds. Plants can be pruned back hard in late winter or lightly trimmed throughout the year if desired.



## Coast Silk-Tassel Garrya elliptica

This showy plant is from dry slopes and ridges in chaparral and mixed evergreen forests below 2000' elevation. Dark green leaves of this 20' tall and 20' wide evergreen shrub contrast with 12" long creamy white catkins appearing in winter. Leaves have hairy undersides. This drought tolerant shrub can be pruned lightly to remove dead growth.



**Toyon** Heteromeles arbutifolium

This drought tolerant evergreen shrub or small tree is from chaparral and woodlands below 4000' elevation and is still known by it's Native American name, who used Toyon for food, medicine and tools. The close resemblance to European Holly was the basis for the city name Hollywood. Winter berries attract wildlife which can become 'drunk' on ripened fruit. The shrub has small white spring flowers, leathery dark green leaves and serrated edges.

Prune lightly to remove dead branches and shape.



#### Island Alum Root

Heuchera maxima

This evergreen perennial likes occasional to moderate water and is from shaded woodlands on the Channel Islands. 2'-3' long spikes of cream and light pink flowers appear in winter and spring above 1'-2' tall and 2'-3' wide green mounds of soft lobed green leaves. Varieties of Heuchera, commonly called Coral Bells, are found widely from coasts to the mountains throughout California.



Pacific Iris Iris douglasiana

Evergreen herbaceous perennial from grasslands, woodland and mountain forests.

1'-2' tall green strap-like foliage and blue-white flowers appearing in early spring on 12" stalks.

Drought tolerant to moderate water and full sun to shade along the coast. Gardeners around the world grow and treasure Iris for it's flower and have developed amazing hybrids.



#### Wire Grass Juncus patens

This evergreen perennial rush found in moist riparian environments. It has 1'-2' long gray wire-like leaves and spreads according to water availability. Small flowers appear in spring and summer. Dead leaves can be removed by raking plants or cutting back clump to ground level. This versatile grass tolerates low to high water.



## Silver Carpet California Aster

Lessingia filiginifolia 'Silver Carpet'

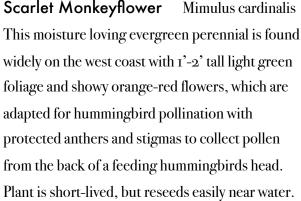
This evergreen herbaceous perennial is from coastal scrub plant communities. In summer lavender flowers are a showy contrast to small silver leaves. Drought tolerant, this low shrub reaches 12" tall and 6' wide. Plants can be pruned in fall to remove dead growth. Attracts butterfly larva and adults.



#### Wild Rye

Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'
This evergreen cool season grass is found on
the Channel Islands and California deserts.
3'-4' tall silver-green sword like leaves and
taller white flower stalks in summer. Plants
spread by rhizomes underground and will form
wide colonies. Drought tolerant to occasional
water. Plants can be raked or even cut to the
ground in fall to remove dead leaves.







Sticky Monkeyflower Mimulus aurant Monkeyflower is touch sensitive and a good demonstrator of plant movement. The orange flowers have two lips that close when touched, assuming birds or bees have pollinated the stigma. This evergreen coastal scrub, chaparral, woodland and forest shrub reaches 2'-3' tall and wide with sticky narrow leaves and yellow flowers from spring through summer.



## Deer Grass Muhlenbergia rigens

A warm season perennial grass found widely in California below 7,000' elevation in many plant communities. Native Americans used the stalks for basketmaking, burning the plant to the ground in winters to generate more stalks for the following summer. Deer Grass is also a cover for mule deer during fawning periods and studies have equated reduced deer populations with cattle overgrazing native Deer Grass areas. Summer blooms can reach over 5' tall and foliage 4' - 6'

wide. It is drought tolerant, but doesn't mind a little extra water during dry spells. The plant can be left in it's natural state, raked to remove dead leaves, or cut to the ground in winter. Mature plants can be divided in half and transplanted to other areas if desired.



#### Foothill Penstemon

Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'
This drought tolerant to moderate water loving evergreen herbaceous perennial is native to grasslands, chaparral, woodlands and forests. It has light blue flowers with two-lips and a long throat attracting hummingbirds and bees.
Small green leaves on 1'-2' tall stalks can be pruned back to the ground after flowering and



## Coffeeberry

seeds have dispersed.

Rhamnus californica

Drought tolerant evergreen shrub found in many plant communities below 7000' elevation. It forms a 3'-10' mound of dark green leaves with small spring flowers and red fruit that ripen to black. Related to ceantothus this shrub is attractive to bugs, mammals and birds. Prune lightly to remove dead growth and limit size.



## Lemonadeberry

Rhus integrifolia

Evergreen shrub from coastal scrub and chaparral that grows 4'-20' tall and wide with waxy green leaves, pink flowers and sticky red fruit. Animals are attracted to the fruit, which can be made into a sweet drink by soaking in water, a feature giving this plant it's name. Prune as needed to remove dead growth and control size.



#### Laurel Sumac Rhus lancea

This evergreen shrub is native to coastal foothills and grows 6'-15' tall and wide. Reddish branches have green leaves with pink margins and pink leaf stalks. Clusters of small white flowers appear in spring and produce berry fruit in summer. Prune as needed to remove dead branches and control size.



## Sugarbush Rhus ovata

This evergreen shrub grows 4'-15' tall and wide with waxy green leaves, pink flowers and hairy red fruit with sticky hairs. It is from dry slopes away from the coast. Animals are attracted to the fruit, which can be made into a sweet drink by soaking in water. Prune as needed to remove dead growth and control size.



## **Pink-flowering Currant**

Ribes sanguineum

This deciduous shrub is from moist chaparral and woodlands below 2000' elevation and reaches 5'-10' tall in a vase shape with serrated, three-lobed, light green leaves. Showy pink spring flowers turn into edible, but bitter fruit that is attractive to birds. Lightly prune to remove dead branches and provide occasional water in dry spells to maintain foliage.



#### Catalina Perfume

Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen shrub from canyons and arroyos below 1000' elevation in coastal scrub, chaparral and woodlands on the Channel Islands and Baja. This 3'-5' tall, spreading ground cover has tiny dark green leaves and fragrant maroon flowers in spring and discrete orange fruit in summer. Prune as needed to produce fresh growth or remove dead foliage.



#### Matilija Poppy

Romneya coulteri

Drought tolerant semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial from chaparral plant communities below 4000' elevation. Spreads by underground rhizomes, it can reach 6'-8' tall with large egg like flowers, the largest of California natives. Fragrant flowers attract bees on long leaf stalks, which can be cut back to 6" tall in fall to promote healthy new growth and flowers. Spreads quickly in sand, slower in the Wildlands clay soil.



## White Sage Salvia apiana

This evergreen shrub is drought tolerant and found in coastal scrub, chaparral and woodlands below 4500' elevation from the coast to deserts. Grows 3'-6' wide and tall with pungent silver leaves and whorls of white lavender flowers on spring stalks. Attracts numerous bees. Considered sacred by some Native Americans and burned in ceremonies.



## Purple Sage Salvia leucophylla

Drought tolerant semi-evergreen shrubs from coastal scrub and chaparral below 2000' elev. with grey white leaves that form a 3'-4' tall by 5'-10' wide shrub. 10" pink flower spikes appear in spring. Prune lightly to remove dead branches or flower stalks if desired.



## Hummingbird Sage Salvia spathacea

Drought tolerant semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial from coastal scrub, chaparral and woodlands below 2500' elevation. 1'-3' tall plant with 6"-8" green leaves and maroon flower whorls on taller stalks. Blooms appear in winter, while the plant spreads by rhizomes underground. Plants can be divided in early spring and dead flower stalks removed.



## Black Sage Salvia millefolium

The most common sage in California, it is found in coastal scrub and chaparral plant communities with narrow dark green leaves and white flowers. A semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial, it's leaves are pungent and flowers attractive to bees.



Giant Chain Fern Woodwardia fimbriata

Found in riparian, forest and woodland habitats where shade and moisture are abundant below 7000' elevation. This evergreen fern was once prolific in Southern California but has become rare due to collectors harvesting from the wild. Giant light green fronds may reach 6'-8' tall. Lightly prune to remove dead fronds in late summer or early fall. Drought tolerant but likes shady moist riparian areas.



#### Yarrow Achillea millefolium

This semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial is widespread, except for desert plant communities. Yarrow has a slowly spreading, soft, fern-like foliage less than a foot tall with taller bloom spikes in late spring and summer attracting butterflies and bees. Provides winter forage for birds, rabbits, caterpillars and birds such as juncos and sparrows. Yarrow is drought tolerant, but likes occasional to moderate water. Summer water will help keep

Yarrow green, but is not required as seeds and shoots will rebound with the winter rains. Yarrow requires no maintenance, but dead flowers spikes can be removed, and plants can be moved to reduce height and rejuvenate older plants.



Bent Grass
Agrostis pallens
Perennial Grass



## California Meadow Sedge Carex pansa

6"-8" tall narrow dark green blades handle light foot traffic and can be moved to keep tidy or left naturally. Low to medium water needs.



## California Poppy

Eschscholzia californica

Drought tolerant 12" tall perennial with soft silvery -green leaves, bright orange spring flowers and upright seed pods. Flowers close at night and open with sun. Provide deep summer waterings to keep green or allow to reseed freely. Birds and plant collectors are also attracted to Poppy seeds.



#### Idaho Fescue

Festuca idahoensis

A cool season grass native to central California (and northern states) grassland and woodlands. It forms a 12" tall and wide silver-green clump. Mature plants can be divided in the fall if desired and replanted. Drought tolerant.



#### Red Fescue

Festuca rubra

A cool season grass native to North
America and European grasslands which
spreads by rhizomes reaching 8"-10" tall
with thin dark green blades. Provide
supplemental water to maintain green
color in dry months. Can be moved to 2"
tall to rejuvenate meadow annually if
desired.



Tidy Tips Layia platyglossa

This annual grows 6" - 18" tall and wide with 1" - 2" white-yellow flowers in spring through summer. Leaves are 11/2" long and very narrow. Upper leaves have smooth edges, while lower leaves have toothed or lobed edges. Drought tolerant but likes supplemental water in dry months to stay green.



## Whorled Lupine

Lupinus microcarpus densiflorus

This annual grows 1'-2' tall and 12" wide with blue-white spring flowers. Leaves are divided into leaflets, like fingers, with pea-like flowers, which are attractive to bees. Self-sows easily and is drought tolerant.



Sky Lupine Lupinus nanus

This annual grows 1'-2' tall and 12" wide with multi-colored spring flowers on 12" long stalks. Leaves are divided into leaflets, like fingers, with pea-like flowers, which are attractive to bees.

Self-sows easily and is drought tolerant.



## Blue-eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium bellum

Perennial grass native to coasts reaches 6" - 12" tall and wide with green strap-like foliage and small purple spring flowers. This plant is a relative of Iris, can be drought tolerant, but also likes moist riparian environments.

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Plant Notes and Observations:

Identification and information guide to common weeds.

These weeds can be easily identified by students and pulled out of the Wildlands. These invasive species are commonly found in our local community, but come from exotic places and do not belong. Teaching students more about these invaders will help them correctly identify weeds in the Wildlands and avoid pulling out native seedlings. Students should search for and remove one particular weed species at a time to avoid confusion.



Spurge Chamaesyce maculata

This summer annual produces large amounts of seed and grows aggressively with a shallow tap root, low matting branches and milky juice when cut or broken.



**Dandelion** Taraxacum officinale

The fluffy round head, yellow flowers and bright green leaves make this invasive weed easy to identify. It is important to pull this out early as it develops a large taproot and has wind-borne seeds.



**Wood Sorrel** 

Oxalis corniculata

Native to India



## Bermuda Grass

Cynodon dactylon

Northeast Africa and spread around the world.



## Crabgrass

Digitaria species

Native to Europe



## White-stem Filaree

Native to California, produces seed pods that are wind blown and drill into the ground.



seed pods



## California Burclover

Medicago polymorpha

Native to the Mediterranean basin.



## Nettleleaf Goosefoot

Chenopodium murale

Native to Europe, Asia and Africa



Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolata

A biennial plant from the mustard family, native to Europe, Asia, Aftrica, India, China. Crushed leaves smell like garlic.





Chickweed Stellaria media

A cool season annual native to Europe and often eaten by chickens.



**Shepherd's Purse** Capsella bursa-pastoris

Annual with purse-like seed pods, native to Europe and Asia Minor. Reproduces by seed.



Wild Morning Glory

Convolvulus arvensis

A creeping herbaceous perennial growing 1'-4' long with twinning stems and white-pink trumpet flowers. A single plant can produce 500 seeds a year, that may lay dormant in the soil up to 50 years before sprouting.

Plant Notes and Observations:

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