Overview of PlantQuest

Image 1. Introductory screen with nine choices
The CA Native Plants and All Plants choices lead to lists of native versus all climate-appropriate plants that are covered by the app at present. Each plant on each list may be selected whereupon the user is taken to images and information about that plant (e.g., images 2a-2f, see below).

Image 2. Plant Search screen with 12 criteria that users can use for selecting plants; each leads to a list from which plants can be selected.
Images 2a – 2f are examples if pages for individual plants. The images across the top may be zoomed simply by tapping on them. Traits under the species name are explained under the Glossary tab (selected from front page of app; Image 4, below).

Image 3. Provides user with graphic instructions for how to scan a QR code that s/he may encounter while visiting a botanic garden to obtain information about that plant from PlantQuest.

Image 4. The Glossary page with several categories of information that are available including (Image 4a) suitability for a variety of habitats / uses and (Image 4b) sun / shade requirements.

Image 5. Icons for nine sources that sell native plants whether exclusively or as a significant part of their stock.

Image 6. While searching plants (see Images 2 above), the user may add favorites to a list that is stored for ease of access with having to redo the search.
Rhus integrifolia

Plant Type: Shrub
Height: 8-10ft.
Spread: 10ft.
Set Back: 5ft.
Clay Soil: N

Irrigation: L,M
Evergreen: Y
Containers: N
Wildlife: Y
Slopes: Y
Parkway: N

Climate Zones:

Description:
Lemonadeberry is a tall evergreen that can be allowed to grow as a large shrub or trained as a small tree. Its thick oval leaves are a rich green on stiff branches. Clusters of small pink flowers appear cover the plant in spring and are followed by pinkish red berries. It can also be grown as a formal hedge but regular shearing will limit the flowers and berries.

Companions:
Lemonade berry is a useful tree in the habitat garden where it can be grown as a screen or background plant for other wildlife favorites like manzanita, island snapdragon, coffeeberry and sage.
Dudleya hassei

Plant Type: Shrub
Height: 1-1.5ft.
Spread: 1ft.
Set Back: 0.5ft.
Clay Soil: N

Irrigation: L
Evergreen: Y
Containers: Y
Wildlife: Y
Slopes: Y
Parkway: Y

Climate Zones:

Description:
Live forever is a carpeting succulent made up of rosettes of finger like grey leaves and white flowers in the spring. Useful groundcover for the foreground of mixed plantings. Also good in containers. Many other varieties of live forever are available for the garden.

Companions:
Live forever mixes well with other low-growing succulents like sedum, kalanchoe and echeveria and also with low perennials like California fuchsia, penstemon, desert marigold and many others.
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP'

Plant Type: Perennial
Irrigation: M, H

Height: 2-3ft.
Evergreen: Y

Spread: 2-3ft.
Containers: Y

Set Back: 2ft.
Wildlife: Y

Clay Soil: Y
Slopes: N

Climate Zones:
Parkway: Y

Description:
Margarita Bop is a selection of the foothill penstemon that forms a low spreading perennial with narrow green leaves and small bell shaped lavender flower from spring to fall. Grow it in full sun with moderate water in well draining soil. Allow it sufficient room to develop its natural form for best results.

Companions:
A favorite plant in California native gardens, Margarita Bop penstemon is a great companion to perennials like yarrow, verbena, butterfly flower and Russian sage. Use it also with small shrubs like sunrose, David's choice sagebrush, California fuchsia and germander sage along with some small ornamental grasses for added interest.
Lepechinia calycina

Plant Type: Shrub
Height: 4ft.
Spread: 2ft.
Set Back: 1ft.
Clay Soil: N

Irrigation: L,M
Evergreen: Y
Containers: N
Wildlife: Y
Slopes: N
Parkway: N

Climate Zones:

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Description:

Pitcher sage is a favorite in habitat gardens. It has very fragrant fuzzy light green leaves and light pink flowers in spring and summer. Grow it in full sun near the coast and part shade inland. It has an upright habit and can be kept in shape by pruning after flowering.

Companions:

In the habitat garden, pitcher sage can be combined with California native sage, autumn sage, chuparrosa, California fuchsia and other hummingbird favorites. Plant it where it can be seen from the porch or window as the morning dew glistens on the leaves.
**Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'**

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Height:** 4-6ft.

**Spread:** 5ft.

**Set Back:** 3ft.

**Clay Soil:** Y

**Climate Zones:**

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**Irrigation:** L,M

**Evergreen:** Y

**Containers:** N

**Wildlife:** Y

**Slopes:** Y

**Parkway:** N

**Description:**

Eve Case coffeeberry has rich green leaves, creamy white flowers and large red, turning to black berries. Grow it in full sun or partial shade in well draining soil. It likes occasional water in summer.

**Companions:**

This is a taller coffeeberry that can serve as a screen or background plant in the native garden. Grow it with other plants in the foreground like carpeting sage, little leaf mock orange, rockrose and California lilac. Try it with ornamental grasses like deer grass and Canyon Prince wild rye.
**Heteromeles arbutifolia**

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**Climate Zones:**

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**Description:**

Toyon is a large evergreen shrub or small tree depending on how it is shaped by pruning. The clusters of white flowers appear from the leaves and mature into showy red berries that stay on the tree long into the winter. It is a favorite for habitat gardens providing food for insects and birds alike. Grow it in any soil in full sun to light shade. Occasional water will keep it happy.

**Companions:**

Toyon can be used as a screen alone or along with other tall evergreens like lemonade berry and sugarbush where it serves as an excellent backdrop for low and medium shrubs. If trained as a multi-trunk tree, it can serve as a fine center piece for a small garden where is can be under planted with plants like coffeeberry, Catalina perfume, and douglas iris.
Scan a Botanicode QR Code to get started.
Welcome to PlantQuest 1.0!

PlantQuest is here to help you select the right plant for your landscape. Included is a list of plants suited to Mediterranean climate zones of Southern California. Each plant listing includes a range of attributes such as height, spread, soil type, suitability for landscape use such as containers, parkways, slopes as well as suitability for wildlife gardens. Navigate using 'scroll' or 'tap' actions.

Text descriptions provide more useful information and a Companions section suggests suitable plants for groupings. Images show what the plant looks like and a scale graphic shows how big the plant will be at maturity.

Climate zones are included for each plant and a climate zone finder is shown in the climate note in the Glossary tab.

Use the Search Plants button to help narrow down your choices.

There is also a button to help you find a local nursery where you can buy the plants. Click the Where to Buy Plants button to open a screen with web links to our favorite nurseries.

A key feature of PlantQuest is the QR Code scanner where you can scan plant labels at selected public gardens that feature PlantQuest to retrieve information on plant you see. Use the Favorites button to create a list of your favorite plants.

The Glossary section includes some brief notes on cultivation, plant categories and suitability.

A 'References' section shows a list of resources for more information in plants and their cultivation.
Suitability Notes

The plant profiles include information the plant attributes. Those marked 'Y' indicates they are suitable for that use or purpose. Those marked 'N' are not recommended for that use or purpose as follows:

- **Slopes**: Plants listed with 'Y' are known for their suitability for slopes and erosion control. Steeper slopes and erosive soils may require installation of erosion control fabric and/or structural supports to aid the establishment of plants. A qualified professional should be consulted for engineered and hazardous slopes.

- **Containers**: Plants listed with 'Y' have proven successful in containers where the appropriate soil and light conditions can be provided. They may be used alone or in combinations with other plants to add accent and focus. While some plants are short lived in containers, they are easily replaced when necessary.

- **Evergreen**: While most plants are either evergreen or deciduous, some plants may vary in this respect according to changes in microclimate. Some California native plants may go dormant in the dry months as part of their natural cycle. Where this occurs, it is noted in the plant descriptions.

- **Parkway**: Listed plants with "Y" are considered suitable for parkway planting based on their height and spread. In most circumstances, plants should be limited to a height of 3ft or less. Choose plants that remain low and will not require constant trimming. Parkway planting is often regulated by municipal code; consult your city or county to confirm.

- **Wildlife**: While all plants listed as 'Y' favor wildlife, cultivation and maintenance practices should be mindful of wildlife needs. Leaving seeds, leaf litter and twigs undisturbed encourages habitat. Be mindful of wildlife preferences, life cycles and seasonal food needs for successful wildlife gardens.

- **Clay Soil**: Plants listed 'Y' are known to grow in slow draining clay soil. Where clay soil predominates, amending with course sand or gravel and some organic matter will improve drainage and allow for growing of a wider range of plants. Creating raised berms with a well draining soil mix works is also an effective method.

- **Climate Zones**: The climate zones listed represent those common plant-
Notes on Sun/Shade Requirements

Light levels effect how plants grow and most plants have a preference for a specific level or degree of sun or shade.

The plant descriptions include an indication of the sun/shade preference for each plant. While some plants will tolerate sun or shade, most plants have a preference. Sun loving plants will grow leggy and lack-luster if they don't get enough light; others need either overhead shade and/or protection from the hot sun. Tolerance to sun or shade may vary according to the geographic location in which they are grown - plants that grow in full sun near the coast may need some shade inland.

It is useful to consider two types of shade:

- **overhead shade** where some cover exists directly above the plant for some of all of the year; and
- **cast shade** where the plant is situated in the shadow of a structure or tree for part or all of the day.

The recommended light conditions for each plant are included in the plant description as follows:

- **Full Sun** - indicates the degree of sun exposure needed for the plant to develop its natural form and to produce flowers and fruit. Such plants should be planted in a location where they receive sun for all or most of the day year-round. If they do not get enough sun, reduced flowering, uneven or unbalanced growth and lack-luster appearance usually results.

- **Overhead shade** - some plants will be happy in the shade of a tree canopy. These conditions may vary throughout the seasons depending on whether the tree is evergreen or deciduous. Light conditions can also vary nearer to the edge of the canopy where exposure to the western sun may damage shade loving plants.

- **Partial Shade in inland areas** - While some plants will tolerate full sun nearer the coast, the same plants may need some protection inland. Situate these plants away from hot afternoon sun, on the west side of tree or structure for example.
Heteromeles arbutifolia
  toyon

Lepechinia calycina
  pitcher sage

Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP'
  Margartia Bop foothill penstemon

Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'
  Eve Case coffeeberry

Ribes viburnifolium
  Catalina perfume currant