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Select Climate-appropriate plants

Flower to the People



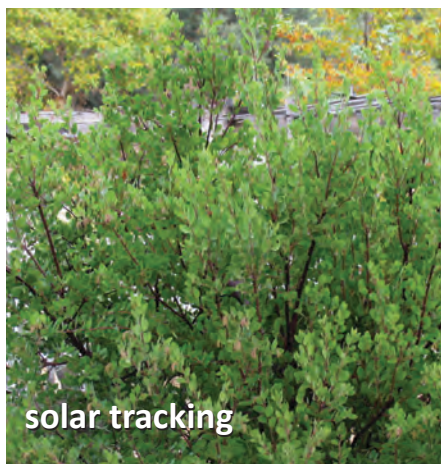
leathery



tiny



silvery



solar tracking

California friendly plants have evolved over time to thrive in our unique and varied Mediterranean climate conditions, and are adapted to the hot and dry Southern California summers. By learning to recognize their adaptation tricks, you can identify climate-appropriate plants wherever you are. These four characteristics will allow you to find climate-appropriate plants in a crowded nursery.

Stiff or Leathery

These leaves hold on to water and stay evergreen for most of the year.

Silver or Hairy

Light colored leaves reflect sunlight, cooling the plant. Hairy back sides of leaves hold moisture longer, cooling them off.

Tiny or Little

Small leaves are like tiny solar panels that are easier to keep cool than one large hot surface.

Solar Tracking

Leaves that appear to be standing at attention, straight up and down in the middle of the day, are solar tracking. As the day progresses, or if you see the same plant in the early morning, you will find that the leaves are more horizontally oriented. This plant is moving its solar panels to minimize the hottest sun exposure. California native manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) are notorious for this adaptation.