

Yerba Santa

Eriodictyon californicum

Waterleaf Family, *Hydrophyllaceae*



This very drought tolerant evergreen shrub can be found in the drier areas of fields and woodlands. Sometimes quite tall with a branched woody stem, it is a treat to encounter during its blooming season. The funnel shaped, white to lavender flowers have four petals and a very lovely scent. Leaves are simple, lance shaped, and alternate. They are leathery with a sticky or hairy upper surface and a lower surface that is densely covered with short matted woolly hairs.

Native Americans used this plant as a cure all. Many cough medicines today count it as an ingredient.

In the landscape it is often used to stabilize soil along loose banks to prevent erosion.

May-Jul • Ma, So, Na, Me
1-3 m, 3-9 ft



Yerba Santa

Pipestems

Clematis lasiantha

Buttercup Family, *Ranunculaceae*



This woody deciduous vine with its charming flowers of four pointed stars climbs shrubs and trees along hillsides, chaparral, and open woodlands. The creamy flowers grow in clusters of 1-3 from the green foliage of compound leaves are attractive. But the masses of seed carrying plumes which emerge as the flowers mature really catch the eye. A similar plant, Virgin's Bower, *C. ligusticifolia*, grows with larger flower clusters and blooms Jun-Sep.

Native Americans mashed the leaves and bark to make medicinal soap and shampoo, and boiled the leaves to apply to sores and rashes. Tea was made from its leaves or bark for headaches, sore throats and fevers. Dried seed floss is an excellent tinder and the stems have been used to make string.

Very easy in the garden in a moist spot with part to full sun.

Jan-Jun • Ma, So, Na, Me
1-10 m, 3-35 ft



Pipestems