

PLANTS THAT GROW AMONG EUCALYPTUS TREES



Barry Rice, 2009

The primary limiting factor is competition when planting within Eucalyptus trees. Historically, the allelopathic compounds in the leaves were thought to prevent the growth of other plants, but now that hypothesis is being considered minor compared to the inability of plants to compete with Eucalyptus for necessary resources.

Other limiting factors are light and oxygen because of the large amount of biomass that builds up when eucalyptus leaves and bark are shed. Smaller plants tend to suffocate beneath the litter.

For more information, go to San Marcos Growers website at <http://www.smgrowers.com/resources/eucalyptus>

Below is a non-exhaustive list of native plants that have been observed OR are hypothesized to grow under Eucalyptus, by San Marcos Growers and local horticulturalists. Not all of the plants listed below are native to the SF Bay Area.

Achillea millefolium (yarrow)
Aesculus californica (CA horse chestnut/type of buckeye)
Aloe (many species)
Arctostaphylos 'Carmel Sur' (groundcover manzanita)
Arctostaphylos (manzanita)
Arctostaphylos pajaromensis (pajaro manzanita)
Arctostaphylos rudis (shag bark manzanita)
Calamagrostis foliosus (leafy reedgrass)
Carpenteria californica (tree/bush anemone) tolerates some shade and winter flooding
Ceanothus 'Wheeler Canyon' (most ceanothus species will do well) tolerates some shade
Centranthus ruber ('naturalized' valerian)
Cercocarpus betuloides (mountain mahogany)
Elymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince' (giant wild rye) needs full sun to filtered shade
Erigononum giganteum (St. Catherine's Lace or wild buckwheat, S.CA)
Fremontodendron mexicanum (Mexican Flannelbush S.CA)
Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon) shade tolerant, drought tolerant
Heuchera maxima (coastal scrub/groundcover Jill of the Rocks)
Isomeris arborea (bladderpod)
Juniperus (many varieties of junipers)
Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta' (compact Oregon grape)
Mahonia aquifolium 'Skylark' (Oregon grape)
Muhlenbergia rigens (deergass) shade tolerant
Myrica californica (Pacific wax myrtle)
Pelargonium (geranium)
Penstemon (look for the CA natives as some are from Asia)
Prunus ilicifolia (holly leaf cherry)
Quercus agrifolia (coast live oak)
Rhamnus californica (coffeeberry) shade tolerant
Rhus ovata (sugar bush S.CA)
Ribes indecorum (white flowering currant) shade tolerant
Ribes sanguineum glutinosum (pink flowering currant) shade tolerant
Ribes speciosum (fuchsia flowering gooseberry) shade tolerant
Ribes viburnifolium (evergreen currant or island gooseberry) shade tolerant
Rosa californica (CA wild rose)
Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)
Salvia leucophylla (purple sage S. CA)
Salvia mellifera (black sage) needs full sun
Sedum (stonecrops find CA varieties, more than 600 species overall)
Spirea (spirea)

