

Dear Vargas Teachers,

We hope you and your students will love, enjoy and care for your new garden, the Vargas Field Of Dreams. Below is a list of the native plants and non-native fruit trees we have planted - we have given you some information on each, but much, much more can be found on the internet. Also, at the end we have included names and numbers of people who can help you develop garden-focused curriculum and also help you get free seeds and ammendments for your vegetable gardens. Again, we hope that you will lead your students in caring for this garden so that it will be a blessing to your classroom's children and to many others for years to come.

-Pamela and Jay Chesavage

Co-captains for the Vargas Rebuliding Together Project

1) Common name: Cedros Island Verbena

Genus: Verbena **Species:** lilacina **Cultivar:** "De La Mina"

Description/Care: An evergreen perennial collected from its native Cedros Island. It forms an 18 to 24 inch mound of foliage from which emerge the dark purple, star-shaped flowers with purple stamens. Plants can bloom most of the year with a peak in spring and summer. Although this plant is not native to California proper, the islands of Baja California are considered part of the California floristic province. Full to part sun. Low water needs, but likes some when flowering. Needs good drainage. Should be cut back to 4" each winter.

2) Common name: Hummingbird Sage

Genus: Salvia **Species:** spathacea

Description/Care: A 1' perennial that spreads by rhizomes. It is native to coastal Ca. from Napa to Orange. The flowers are magenta, 1" long with 10-20 flowers on a 1-2' spike. It is native in a rainfall range of 20-35". Water extra in winter and trim it lightly in late summer if it looks tacky

Special Uses/Qualities: As the name implies, hummingbirds work this species very heavily.

3) Common name: Bing Cherry Tree (non-native)

Description/Care: A vigorous, heavy-bearing tree that produces lots of large, firm, dark red/black cherries with a juicy, sweet flavor. Harvest is May-June. Birds love the ripe cherries, so if you want a large harvest, you'll need to net the tree completely once the cherries are near maturity. Surround trunk with a band of "Tanglefoot" to prevent the tree from getting excessive aphid problems. See any fruit tree pruning book for how to prune a cherry tree appropriately in January/February.

4) Common name: Sand Strawberry

Genus: Fragaria **Species:** chiloensis

Description/Care: A spreading perennial ground cover with small white flowers, March-Aug. Likes some water and part shade. Native to coastal bluffs and sand dunes in Calif.

Special Uses/Qualities: Red fruits are edible.

5) Common name: California Buckwheat

Genus: Eriogonum **Species:** fasciculatum **Variety:** foliolosum

Description/Care: A low rounded evergreen shrub that can spread to 4'; also considered a herbaceous perennial. Will get terminal clusters of pinkish white fuzzy flowers; long bloom period, March-November. Very widespread; found on rocky south facing slopes of the Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts; elevations of 1000-4500ft. Likes full sun; sprawls unattractively in low light. A better ornamental with a little water. Cut back mid winter to encourage herbaceous growth over woody look.

Special Uses/Qualities: The buckwheats are very important butterfly plants. The flowers, leaves and seeds are all used by all the smaller animals.

6) Common name: Narrow-Leaf Milkweed

Genus: Asclepias **Species:** fascicularis

Description/Care: Perennial, 3-4' tall, showy pink flowers button-like flowers in the spring. Will seed itself freely. Needs sun, and is quite drought tolerant. Needs cross-pollination for fruit and seed development.

Special Uses/Qualities: In our area covered with monarch caterpillars during the summer. The alkaloids associated with this plant give the butterflies that feed on it protection, as they become unpalatable to the birds. The Orioles use the dead stems for nests the next spring (the matter looks like fiberglass).

7) Common name: Daras Choice Sage

Genus: Salvia **Cultivar:** Daras Choice

Description/Care: A hybrid between *Salvia mellifera* and *Salvia sonomensis*, it grows 3' tall and 3' across and produces beautiful, fragrant blue flowers. Very fast growing. Likes some summer water.

Special Uses/Qualities: Butterflies and birds are very attracted to this salvia.

8) See # 5

9) Common name: Winifred Gilman Sage

Genus: Salvia **Species:** clevelandi **Cultivar:** Winifred Gilman

Description/Care: Evergreen shrub, 3' height, 3' width, with flowers lavender to blue. Fast growing, likes sun to partial sun and is drought tolerant. Extremely fragrant and showy with mounding/upright growth. Native to dry slopes in San Diego County.

Special Uses/Qualities: Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees collect nectar from the flowers. Birds will feed on the seeds in the dried flowers.

10) Common name(s): Howard McMinn manzanita

Genus: Arctostaphylos **Species:** densiflora

Description/Care: The plants have very small white flowers with red stems and they are easy to care for in most gardens. Grow 4' tall, 6' wide and can tolerate sun or shade. It likes limited root moisture.

Special Uses/Qualities: Moths, hummingbirds, butterflies and all sorts of other native wildlife like the plant.

11) Common name: Carmel Mountain Lilac

Genus: Ceanothus **Species:** griseus **Variety:** horizontalis **Cultivar:** Yankee Point

Description/Care: An evergreen shrub that commonly grows quickly to 3-6' feet tall and 10' wide. A mounding mass of glossy green with gorgeous blue flowers in Mar-May. Likes some afternoon shade and little water each week

12) Common name: Ruby Seedless Grape Vine (non-native)

Genus: Vitis **Species:** vinifera

Description/Care: Grapes are dark red, sweet, crisp, excellent fresh or for raisins. See any fruit pruning book for information on how to prune grape vines after leaves have fallen in the winter. Birds love grapes too, so net the vine once the grapes begin to turn red if you want a full harvest.

13) Common name: Howard McMinn manzanita - See #10

14) Common name: Winifred Gilman Sage – See #9

15) Common name(s): Sea Breeze Seaside Daisy

Genus: Erigeron **Species:** glaucus **Cultivar:** Sea Breeze

Description/Care: Pretty, blue-flowering perennial that likes some summer water.

Special Uses/Qualities: Butterflies really like this plant.

16) Common name: California Wax Myrtle

Genus: Myrica **Species:** californica

Description/Care: An evergreen shrub or tree to 15'. Native to the immediate coast of Calif., Ore., Wash. Needs good drainage, some summer water, and can tolerate sun to part shade.

17) Common name: Soap Plant

Genus: Chlorogalum **Species:** pomeridianum

Description/Care: Bulb, 2' loose spike of small white flowers, May-Aug, sun, drought tolerant.

Special Uses/Qualities: Bulbs may be eaten when roasted (soapy onion), bulb used as soap.

18) Common name: Island Snapdragon

Genus: Galvezia **Species:** speciosa **Cultivar:** "Boca Rosa"

Description/Care: This California native sub shrub forms a dense mound with arching stems reaching to 4 feet tall. In the summer through early fall it produces tubular bright red flowers that resemble small snapdragon flowers. Plant in full sun to moderate shade in well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant, especially if planted in shade.

19) Common name: Island Alum Root

Genus: Heuchera **Species:** maxima

Description/Care: A 2' wide perennial with 3-5" dark green leaves and 3' spikes of small pinkish flowers that emerge in Feb.-Apr. Native to the Channel Islands. It likes part to full shade, and is quite drought tolerant.

20) Common name: Berkely Sedge

Genus: Carex **Species:** tumulicola

Description/Care: Forms arching clumps that are 18 inches tall and as wide. Drought tolerant once established, however it does best with some regular water. Brown flowers appear in the spring and should be sheared off to prevent reseeding - otherwise expect this plant to appear all over the garden.

21) Common name: Frosty Blue or Mountain Blue

Genus: Ceanothus **Cultivar:** Frosty Blue

Description/Care: Grows quickly to 6-8' feet tall and about as wide. Known for its flowers - a beautiful blue with dashes of white appearing in March-May. Once a month water after established.

22) Common name: Hummingbird Trumpet

Genus: Epilobium **Species:** canum **Cultivar:** Carmen's Gray

Description: An evergreen perennial with summer-time red tubular flowers

Special Uses/Qualities: Hummingbirds love this plant.

23) Common name: Deer Grass

Genus: Muhlenbergia **Species:** rigens

Description/Care: A fast growing 3' perennial with 2' plumes rising above the plant. Native to much of Calif. up into the mountains. Give them sun and enough water to bring the rainfall to 15 inches/year after the first month or so of regular water.

Special Uses/Qualities: Commonly used for making baskets by the Native Americans.

24) Common name: Island Snapdragon – See #18

25) Common name: Bush Monkey Flower

Genus: Mimulus **Species:** aurantiacus

Description/Care: These small shrubs become totally covered with apricot flowers in the late spring, and grow in full sun or some shade. It will not tolerate much summer water and needs excellent drainage. Allow it to go semi-dormant in late summer by refusing to irrigate more than every few weeks, even if it looks dry.

26) Common name: Berkely Sedge – See #20

27) Common name: 'Bees Bliss' Salvia

Genus: Salvia **Cultivar:** 'Bees Bliss'

Description/Care: A hybrid of *S. leucophylla* and *S. mellifera* boasting a mat of grey-green foliage and light blue flowers. Drought tolerant.

28) Common name: Island Snapdragon – See #18

29) Common name: Hummingbird Trumpet – See # 22

30) Common name: Island Alum Root – See #19

31) Common name: Berkely Sedge – See #20

32) Common name: Carmel Mountain Lilac – See # 11

33) Common name(s): Western Redbud .

Genus: Cercis **Species:** occidentalis

Description/Care : Deciduous shrub to small tree that grows to 14'. Amazing magenta flowers, Feb.-April. Native on dry slopes (usually next to a spring or seasonal creek), coast ranges and Sierra foothills to 4500'. Its reddish-purple seed pods hang on tree in winter. Likes full sun, some summer water for faster growth.

Special Uses/Qualities: Flowers and young pods are edible.

34) Common name: Cedros Island Verbena – See #1

35) Common name: Lemonade Berry .

Genus: Rhus **Species:** integrifolia

Description/Care : An evergreen shrub that grows to 8' tall. Native from about Santa Barbara south.

Special Uses/Qualities: The berries can be used for lemonade.

36) Common name: Sea Breeze Seaside Daisy – See #15

37) Common name: Mountain Lilac

Genus: Ceanothus **Species:** **Variety:** **Cultivar:** Ray Hartman

Description/Care : An upright, evergreen shrub with light to medium blue flowers in 6" flower spikes. It grows quickly to 10' in about 18 months. Very drought tolerant.

38) Common name: California Wax Myrtle – See #16

39) Common Name: 20th Century Asian Pear (Nijisseiki, "Apple Pear")

Description/Care/Harvest: Juicy, sweet, mild-flavored fruit is crisp like apple and keeps well. Harvest early to mid-August.. Easy to grow, heavy bearing small tree. Self-fruitful or pollinated by Bartlett or other pear trees. See a fruit tree pruning book for tips on pruning this tree in the winter.

40) Common name: Granny Smith Apple Tree

Description/Care : Sour apple fans will tell you that the Granny Smith should not be cooked, but eaten raw. This glorious tree has handsome supermarket-size (up to 3" diameter) apples. They ripen in early November. See a fruit tree pruning book for tips on pruning this tree in the winter.

41) Common Name: Bing Cherry Tree - See #3

42) Common name: Cedros Island Verbena – See #1

43) Common name: Coyote Mint

Genus: Monardella **Species:** villosa

Description/Care: A 2' tall perennial with gray-green leaves and light purple clusters of flowers in summer. Native to the California coast ranges. Coyote mint likes part shade to sun and is drought tolerant but takes garden water if given perfect drainage.

Special Uses/Qualities: Smells like a minty toothpaste. Was used by the Spanish as a treatment for sore throats. Butterflies use this plant as a nectar source.

44) Common name: Daras Choice Sage - See #7

45) Common name: California Buckwheat - See #5

46) Common name: Winifred Gilman Sage – See #9

47) Common name: Margarita BOP Penstemon

Genus: Penstemon **Species:** heterophyllus

Description/Care: Forms a tight, fine textured mound of semi-evergreen foliage, 'Margarita BOP' blooms heavily over a long season with large irresistibly colored blue and lavender flowers closely spaced on short spikes. Likes to get plenty of sun and heat and is drought tolerant. What is "BOP"? The original plant was found growing in a spot at the "bottom of (the) porch".

48) Common name(s): Howard McMinn manzanita – See #10

49) Common name: Carmel Mountain Lilac – See #11

50) Common name: Margarita BOP Penstemon – See #47

51) Common name(s): Howard McMinn manzanita – See #10

52) Common name: Winifred Gilman Sage – See #9

53) Common Name: Bartlett Pear Tree

Description/Care/Harvest: Produces a pear that is bright yellow, aromatic and is outstanding for fresh eating. They do require bees to help pollinate. Bartlett Pears do not ripen properly on the tree, so pick the fruit when it is mature but green. See a fruit tree pruning book for tips on pruning this tree in the winter.

54) Common name: Gala Apple Tree

Description/Care: The Gala matures to a bright overall red color, with bold red stripes over a yellow background. The fruit is firm, juicy, fine textured, with a yellow white flesh. See a fruit tree pruning book for tips on pruning this tree in the winter.

55) Common Name: Rainier Cherry Tree

Description/Care/Harvest: Produces large, yellow fruit with a red blush and a distinct sweet flavor. It is a very productive tree that resists cracking, spurs and doubles. The tree will pollinate with the Bing Cherry. Surround trunk with a band of "Tanglefoot" to prevent the tree from getting excessive aphid problems. See a fruit tree pruning book for tips on pruning this tree in the winter.

56) Common name: California Grape

Genus: Vitis **Species:** californica **Cultivar:** Rogers Red

Description/Care: A deciduous vine to 30'. It likes regular moisture but not to be wet and full sun or a way for it to get to full sun.

Special Uses/Qualities: It has clusters of small edible grapes and bees love its flowers.

57) Common names: Chaparral Clematis or Pipestem Clematis

Genus: Clematis **Species:** lasiantha

Description/Care: Small creamy white blooms with average diameter 2" in early autumn. Plant height of 6' to 10'. Needs heat and good drainage. No pruning required. Shape or tidy up the plant AFTER flowering is finished. It blooms on the previous year's growth, so resist the urge to prune it in early spring.

58) Common names: Satsuma Mandarin Orange

Genus: Citrus **Species:** reticulata **Variety:** Satsuma

Description/Care: This tree is usually a bit thorny, but has bright-orange, sweet, seedless fruit in the winter time. It is highly cold-resistant and is more resistant than the sweet orange to canker, gummosis, psorosis and melanose.

Sources for seeds, soil amendments and information:

Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County - 408-282-3127 - Carolyn Craft can help you get a Master Gardener to help you plan your garden and give you some ideas for garden-based curricula. Free seeds are sent out by the Master Gardeners to teachers who need them. Also, the Master Gardener hotline is open from 9:30-12:30, Monday-Friday at (408) 282-3105 - you can call with any and all questions about gardening.

Susan Stansbury - 650-328-7756 ext. 626 - Her "Getting Going Growing" project can help you plan your garden and help in finding the needed materials/amendments for free.

Pamela Chesavage - 650-504-1811 - A Master Gardener who is happy to answer gardening questions by email - almosteden@chesavage.com.

