

Classification:

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

• Order: Rosales

Family: Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn family)

• Genus: Ceanothus

 Species: over 60 species and many cultivars of diverse shrubs or small trees

Common Names:

- California Lilac
- Mountain Lilac
- Wild Lilac
- Buckbrush
- Blueblossom
- Soap Bush
- Ceanothus comes from an ancient Greek term for "spiny shrub"



Plant Information:

- Stunning flower colors that vary even within a species – indigo, blue, cobalt, ultramarine, lavender, white and pink
- Flowers have a pleasant sweet fragrance
- Most bloom in winter through late spring
- Evergreen and semideciduous shrubs or small trees up to 20 ft
- Variable foliage –shiny green on top and woolly underneath; serrated edges; varying in size from ¼ to 3 inches long



Common Uses:

- Hedges, patio trees, groundcover, bird gardens, butterfly gardens, bee gardens and to stabilize banks
- Grows well in full sun, well drained soils, prefers north facing slopes, requires little or no fertilization (nitrogen fixing), needs little water once established (drought tolerant)
- Ideal time to plant is late fall through early winter to allow rains to foster adequate deep root growth.
- Natural Settings: Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub, Foothill Woodland (Riparian areas and Canyons)



Additional information:

- Host for native bees, butterflies, moths and native predatory and parasitoid insects
- Deep rooted native 10 ft (Ceanothus leucodermis) to 15 ft deep (Ceanothus oliganthus)
- · Make their own mulch
- Can live 25 yrs or more
- Tolerates soil with pH 5-8
- Ethnobotanical Uses by Native Americans:
 - Soapy detergent from the flowers
 - Medicinal properties from roots and leaves
 - Stems were used for basket making



Easy to Grow Cultivars

- Ceanothus 'Concha'
- Ceanothus 'Frosty Blue'
- Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'
- Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'



Pests

- Aphids Ceanothus aphid
- Armored scales greedy & oystershell scale
- Ceanothus stem gall moth
- Clearwing moths –Sycamore borer
- Flathead borers
- Foliage-feeding caterpillar tent caterpillar; tussock moth
- Mealybugs
- Psyllids
- True bugs Ceanothus tingid;
 Lace bugs

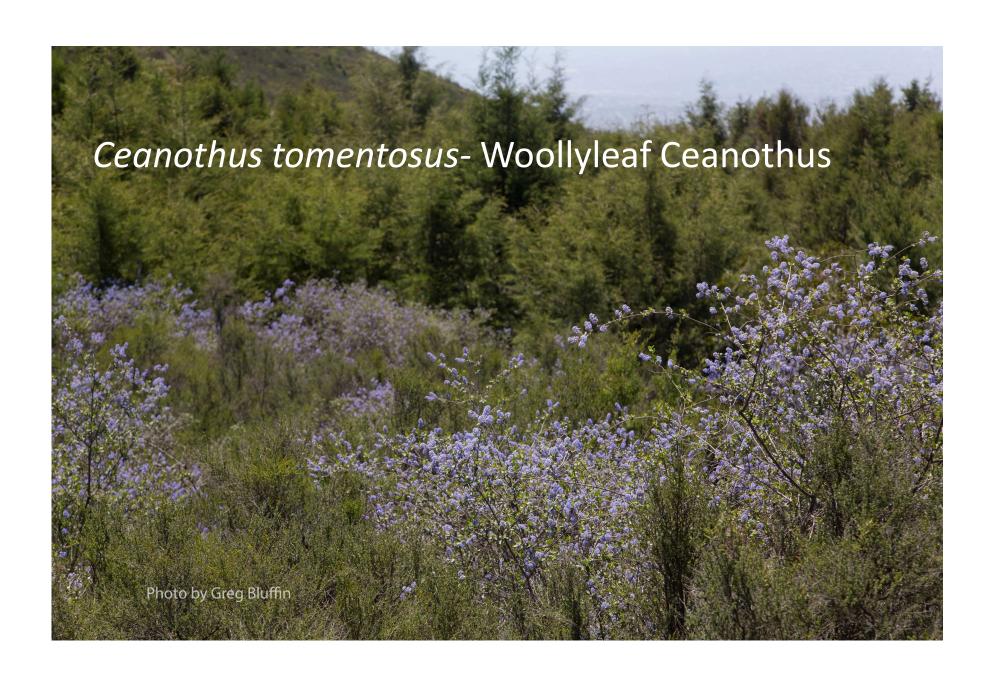


Diseases

- Canker diseases Cytospora canker; Botryosphaeria dieback
- Dematophora root rot
- Leaf spot Diseases
- Oak root diseases
- Powdery mildew
- Root and Crown rots

Environmental Disorders

- Leaf burn or scorch
- Mineral deficiencies
- Excess nutrient/minerals
- Poor water management







Ceanothus verrucosus - Wart-stem or White Coast Ceanothus

*Easiest to grow in S. California







Resources:

- Calscape- California Native Plant Society
- Calflora
- ITIS Integrated Taxonomic Information System- Report
- San Marcos Growers
- University of California Agricultural & Natural Resources, IPM
- Britannica.com