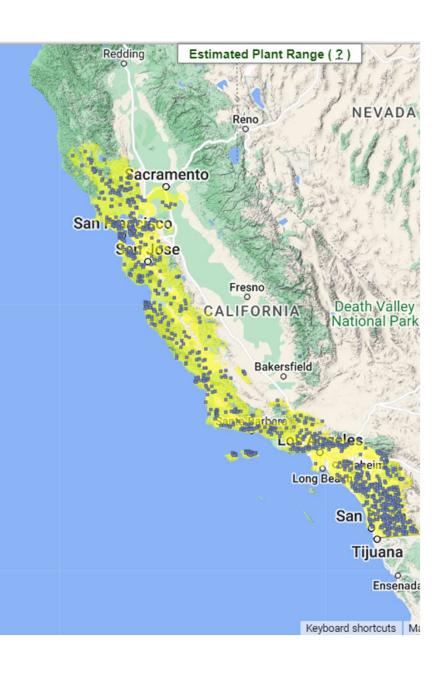


Characteristics

- California Native
- Tree or Shrub
- Size: 30 to 80 ft
- Evergreen
- Life expectancy: 250 years (some up to 1000)
- Leaves: Dark green, oval, spiny







Thrives in Coastal Environment

Grows west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains

From Mendocino to Northern Baja California

Normally found within 62 miles from the ocean and can grow at elevations close to 5000 ft.



Flowers and Fruit

- Flowers bloom in spring
- Dicot
 - Male flowers are catkins
 - Female flowers are inconspicuous
- Fruit is a slender reddish acorn
 - Matures in 7 to 8 months





Pests and Diseases

- Gold spotted oak borer (GSOB)
 - Attacks mostly mature oaks
 - Will kill the tree
 - Don't move wood!
- Sudden Oak Death Caused by Phytophthora ramorum
 - Pathogen is currently in Northern California









Uses and benefits

- Attracts birds and butterflies
- Native Americans used the acorn as a food source
 - Ground into meal
 - Boiled into mush or baked to make bread
- Wood sometimes used
 - Shipbuilders
 - Farm implements
 - Gnarled branches saved it from being used as timber

