

## NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 37

The plant disease caused by a fungus-like microorganism, Phytophthora ramorum, is referred to as “Sudden Oak Death” because of its association with premature death in tanoak trees. This disease occurs in Northern California wildlands and affects several native California plants, including Hairy Manzanita. Susceptible plants can become infected through exposure to water borne infective agents via rainfall, splash or drainage. In addition to natural spread of the disease, it can also be transmitted by human transport of infected plants and their parts to susceptible new plants in the environment. Good cultural practices and restrictions on the movement of infected material can minimize the risk of spreading the disease. For more information, please refer to website links for the U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Plant Protection And Quarantine ([www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/)), the California Department Of Food And Agriculture ([www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov)), the California Oak Mortality Task Force (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf>), or contact your local County Department Of Agriculture.

Common Name: Hairy Manzanita

Scientific Name: Arctostaphylos columbiana



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry

Kashaya Pomo Name: bahqá' q<sup>h</sup>ale (manzanita-berry plant)

There are many species of manzanita and most were probably not named separately. See Fact Sheet No. 4 for tribal names.

Uses by tribes not listed below can be found on Fact Sheet No. 4. Probably all species of Manzanita were used in the same way wherever their ranges overlapped with others or wherever tribal members found them in their travels.

### Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Kashaya Pomo: The bark was boiled into a tea used to treat diarrhea. The hard wood was used to make awl handles and other tools. Because the wood burned with a bright light, it was used at dances and ceremonies.

Pomo: A decoction of the bark was used to treat diarrhea.