

## NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 20

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 Evergreen Huckleberry. 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.cdffa.ca.gov](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov)), the California Oak Mortality Task Force (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf>), or contact your local County Department Of Agriculture.

Common Name: Evergreen Huckleberry, California Huckleberry

Scientific Name: Vaccinium ovatum



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Dept.

Cahto Name:	tciltc, shiltc saaldeel' (huckleberries)
Karuk Name:	púrith (California Huckleberry) purith'ípan (huckleberry bush)
Kashaya Pomo Name:	su?nú?nu (huckleberries) su?nú?nu q <sup>h</sup> ale (huckleberry plant)
Yuki Name:	k' a li mam
Yurok Name:	nrhpriuup' (huckleberry bush) chiigry (huckleberry)

### Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Costanoan: Raw fruit was used for food.

Karuk: Fresh berries were used for food and stored in baskets for winter use. Leaves were used to cover soap plant bulbs roasting in earth ovens.

Pomo: Berries were eaten fresh, dried or stone-boiled. They were used for dumplings, pies, puddings and toppings. A decoction of leaves was taken to treat diabetes.

Tolowa: Berries were eaten fresh or dried and stored for later use.