

NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 29

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 some California wildlands and affects several native California plants, including California and Western Maidenhair Ferns. 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/), the California Department of Food And Agriculture (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: California Maidenhair Fern
 Scientific Name: Adiantum jordanii



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Kashaya Pomo Name: šamó?o da (fish fern)
 Yokia Name: shmu chwâk' kâ lâ' (ear stick tree)
 Yurok name: re'go' (Maidenhair, Gold-back, Fiver-finger Ferns).
 raakniye'y (stem of Maidenhair Fern).
 Central Sierra Miwok: kepéky (black fern root)

Common Name: Western Maidenhair Fern
 Five-finger Fern
 Scientific Name: Adiantum aleuticum



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A. jordanii and *A. aleuticum* often hybridize where their ranges overlap. Both species and hybrids were probably used in the same manner.

Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Costanoan: A decoction of the plant was used for “pain below the shoulder”, to purify the blood, for stomach troubles, to expel the afterbirth and for postparturition.

Pomo: Dried, split stems were used as a material in basket design. Stems were also inserted into the ear lobe, to keep the hole from closing, either alone or with feathers; an earring.

Yokia: Stems used to keep open and enlarge earring holes.

Yurok: Stems used in basketry.