

NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 1

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 Bigleaf Maple. 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: Bigleaf Maple

Scientific Name: Acer macrophyllum

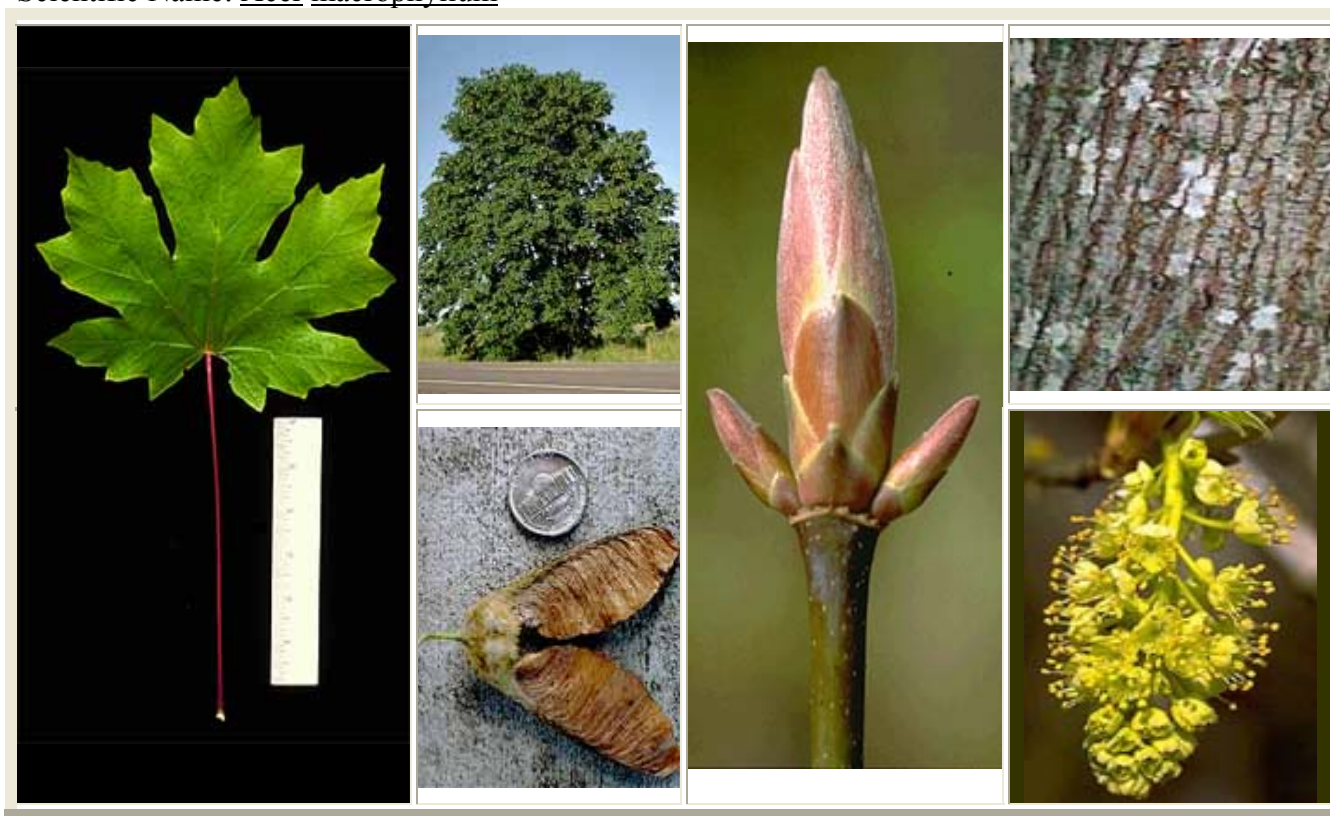


Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Dept.

Karuk Name: sáan 2 (big-leaf maple)
 áhkuus (maple inner bark)

Kashaya Pomo Name: qalam?
Yuki Name: pal gön' shē

Yurok Name: pkwo'olo'

Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Cahuilla: Limbs were used for house construction and firewood.

Concow: Bark was used to make crude dresses, the inner bark used, in the spring, to make baskets.

Costanoan: The seeds were used for food.

Maidu: Withes were used as a coarse twine warp and weft in making baskets and as coiling thread for sewing.

(see back)

Karuk: The leaves were made into mats and used in baskets to cover dried, winter-stored salmon, and they were also placed under and between layers of bulbs when cooking them in earth ovens. The wood was used to make acorn paddles and stirrers used in cooking-baskets. Girls used the bark to make dresses.

Pomo: Wood and branches were used to make dice for gambling games.

Tolowa: Bark fibers used to make women's skirts.

Wailaki: Bark was cut into one-inch bands and fastened together into a roll and used to catch deer.

Yuki: Tea made from the bark was used to treat tuberculosis.