

## NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 3

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 Madrone. 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/pramorur/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorur/)), 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: Madrone

Scientific Name: Arbutus menziesii



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Dept.

Cahto Name:	dist'eeh (Madrone tree)
Concow Maidu Name:	dis tā' tsī, kou wāt chu
Karuk Name:	kusrípan (Madrone tree) kusrípish (Madrone berry) ihvath (Madrone bark)
Kashaya Pomo Name:	kaba?
Little Lake Pomo:	kī yā
Wappo Name:	napayoko (na pa yo'ko)
Yokia Name:	kab' it
Yuki Name:	foin' kā, poi ki bam, pai kl
Yurok Name:	pohsey (Madrone berry)

The most common use for Madrone today is probably as firewood.

Past and possibly present tribal uses.Cahuilla: The leaves were used for stomach ailments.

Concow: The plant was eaten to cause vomiting.

(see back)

Costanoan: The fruit was eaten in small quantities as food.

Karuk: The leaves were used to cover stored madrone berries. They were also placed over maple leaves in an earth oven, forming the last layer before covering with earth. The berries were used as bait for Steelhead Trout. The leaves were used to test the temperature of pitch used in canoe construction. The berries were steamed, dried, or soaked in warm water before eating. The leaves were used in the puberty ceremony and the bark was used by children as sleds. Wood was used for carving. .

Mendocino Tribes: The leaves were fed to cattle in lean years. Wood was used for lodge poles, stirrups and tool handles. Leaves and berries were used for decorative purposes.

Miwok: Berries were crushed to make a sweet, unfermented cider which was used to create appetite and for stomach troubles. Leaves were chewed for stomachache and cramps. Dried berries were stored for winter consumption, they were chewed but never swallowed.

Pomo: Berries were eaten fresh, roasted, or parched and stored for winter use. A decoction of bark was used as a wash for skin sores (except for poison oak) and impetigo, by women as an astringent to close the pores and make the skin soft, as a gargle for sore throat and strep throat. The flowers were used for love-charm poisoning. An infusion of leaves was taken as a cold medicine. Leaves were also used for paper dolls for children. Wood was used as firewood.

Tolowa: The inner bark was sewn together to make clothing. The bark was also used by children as sleds. Berries were used for necklaces.

Wailaki: Berries were eaten as food.

Wappo: Berries were eaten as food.

Yuki: Berries were used as food. An infusion of leaves and bark was used for sores, cuts, wounds and impetigo. It was used on horses with sore backs. The plant was eaten to induce vomiting. An infusion of bark was taken for stomachaches and diabetes. A leaf tea was used for colds, stomachache and sore throat. Leaves were also used to treat rheumatism and burns.

Yurok: Berries were roasted over open fires and eaten. The bark was used by children as sleds.

