



HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Eureka, California

Welcome to the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden at the Humboldt Botanical Garden!

From late fall through winter, most of the plants in the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden are in a semi-dormant state, having finished flowering and not yet starting new growth in earnest. Even though the days are short and the rains have arrived (over 10 inches in October alone), a few yellow flowers of bush **monkeyflower** (*Mimulus aurantiacus* 'Jelly Bean Gold') can still be found scattered throughout the garden. Warm weather combined with heavy early rainfall has also triggered early blooming in some of the garden's manzanitas, which usually wait until later in the winter to start flowering.

Although November, December, and January are months when little is in bloom in the native plant garden, leaf colors and plant textures are still of interest. Winter bird use is high (partially evidenced by the understory debris scratched onto the garden paths each day by their ambitious foraging!). The vine maples, red alders, dogwoods, Oregon ash, cascara, and willows are losing the last of their leaves for the winter, exposing interesting branches and bark. The native plant garden's "bones" will be in full view for the next few months.

A major chore in the native plant garden this time of year is keeping up with the weeding, which is a constant necessity without which there would soon be no native plant garden worthy of display. This is also the time of year for coppicing (severe pruning) many of the larger shrubs including **California rose** (*Rosa californica*), **Matilija poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*), and **Spicebush** (*Calycanthus occidentalis*). While it may appear severe, this type of periodic heavy pruning results in vigorous, fresh growth the following season. Bunchgrasses such as **Pacific reed grass** (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), **deer grass** (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) and **California fescue** (*Festuca californica*) also are sheared at this time of year to remove dead thatch and stimulate new growth.

We have added over 500 plant specimens to the native plant garden over the last two years, including many new manzanitas, ceanothus, sages, and monkey flowers. Combined with the large driftwood pieces already in place and the upcoming installation of several boulders, we anticipate an even showier display for 2017.

Come explore the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden during this time of year and enjoy a quiet walk along the plant-lined gravel paths. You just might discover a new California native to try in your garden!

---Mark Moore, Volunteer Curator, LCBNPG mmoore1229@gmail.com

For more information or to volunteer: Humboldt Botanical Garden, PO Box 6117, Eureka, CA 95502, (707) 442-5139, www.hbgf.org Be an Ambassador for the Garden: Like us on Facebook and share your posts!