



# HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Eureka, California

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

From late fall through winter, plants in the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden have finished flowering and are either in a dormant state or are starting to show subtle signs of new growth. Warmer weather this fall combined with ample rainfall has also triggered 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*), **Spicebush** (*Calycanthus occidentalis*), and **Kelsey's dwarf red-osier dogwood** (*Cornus sericea kelseyi*). 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 550 plant specimens to the native plant garden over the last three years, including many new manzanitas, ceanothus, sages, monkey flowers, and coral bells from throughout the California Floristic Province. Combined with the large driftwood pieces already in place and recent installation of numerous boulders, we should have an even more interesting and diverse native plant garden display for 2018.

Come explore the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden during this time of year and enjoy a quiet winter 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](mailto:mmoore1229@gmail.com)

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