

PALLID MANZANITA

A Species at Risk



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STATUS

- Listed as an Endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act
- Listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act
- Very rare – found only in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- Impacted by loss of habitat, development, disease, invasive species, fuel modification practices.

DESCRIPTION

- Large erect shrub or small tree (6-12 feet)
- Lacks burl
- Bark red to gray



DESCRIPTION

- Twigs are bristly
- Leaves overlapping, rounded to triangular
- 1-2" long X 1" wide
- Flowers urn-shaped, dense
- Fruit sticky to touch
- Brittleleaf or Pallid???



Pallid manzanita

- Leaves clasp stem
- No burl



Brittleleaf manzanita

- Leaves have small leaf stems (petioles)
- Burl



HABITAT

- Occurs on barren soil derived from marine sediments
- In fog zone



HABITAT

- Western leatherwood
- Chinquapin
- Brittleleaf manzanita
- Madrone
- Huckleberry
- California bay



ECOLOGY

- Adapted to fire
- Reproduces only from seed, not a burl
- Seeds germinate after fire or soil disturbance



PROBLEMS AT THE URBAN INTERFACE

- Landscaping
- Shading
- Watering
- Pests and pathogens



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS

- Weed abatement
- Careful landscaping
- Eliminate direct or indirect irrigation
- Remove overhanging vegetation
- Clear litter from under and around plants
- Pruning?



FUELS MANAGEMENT

- Identify all individual plants in proximity to homes – GPS/EBRP
- Show locations on maps
- Protect from grazing goats and herbicides
- Prune or remove overhanging plants in parks and open space
- Create patches of bare ground near stands to encourage seedlings

PHOTO CREDITS

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Pallid manzanita



Pallid manzanita



Western huckleberry

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All: Pallid manzanita

Charles Webber

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Pallid manzanita

Mark W. Skinner

@ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Pallid manzanita fruits

PHOTO CREDITS

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Brittleleaf manzanita



California bay

Gerald and Buff Corsi
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Madrone

© 1995 Dan Post



Brittleleaf manzanita

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Western leatherwood

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Chinquapin

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French broom

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Shrub dieback,
pallid manzanita habitat



Pallid manzanita and
habitat



Maritime chaparral,
Laguna Beach, CA



Brittleleaf manzanita sprouting and burl



Photo courtesy of the University of
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Reserve



Madrone sprouting after fire

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Mt. Vision Fire, Point Reyes

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Manzanita seedlings after a fire