

# Official City Tree

## The Citizens of Oceanside are Requested to Vote for Official City Trees

The City of Oceanside has been without an official city tree(s) and is desirous of having two new official city trees. These two trees will be selected by a vote of the citizens of Oceanside. Of the two trees, please select one tree that is considered an ornamental tree and another tree that is a native/naturalized tree.

The names of the trees nominated below are hyperlinked to a different web page for each tree. Please review the nominated trees and cast your vote accordingly. Vote for only one ornamental tree and one native/naturalized tree. (Please be informed the "Official City Trees" are not to be confused with the selection of "Street Trees".) Once the votes have been cast, the City will announce the selected trees at a meeting of the City Council and at an Arbor Day celebration that will be held by planting the two represented trees in a City of Oceanside park. An announcement concerning details of the tree planting event will be made when the votes have been tabulated and the two trees have been determined.

Please cast your vote by June 1, 2013.

## Official City of Oceanside Tree Nominees

Please review the following trees by clicking on the tree name. You will be taken to a different page with a write-up of each individual tree and a couple of photos. When you have decided on one Ornamental Tree AND one Native/ Naturalized Tree, please place your vote by clicking on the link at the very bottom of the page.

### Ornamental Trees:

1. [Pistacia chinensis - Chinese Pistache](#)
2. [Arbutus 'Marina' - Marina Strawberry Tree](#)
3. [Koelreuteria bipinnata - Chinese Flame Tree](#)
4. [Cassia leptophylla - Gold Medallion](#)
5. [Brahea edulis - Guadalupe Palm](#)

### Native/Naturalized Trees:

1. [Quercus agrifolia - Coast Live Oak](#)
2. [Pinus torreyana - Torrey Pine](#)
3. [Cercis occidentalis - Western Redbud](#)
4. [Laurus nobilis - Sweet Bay](#)



**Please Click Here to Vote  
for the Official City Trees**



# Pistacia chinensis - Chinese Pistache



Photo 1

Family: Anacardiaceae  
Origin: China  
Evergreen: No  
Flower Color: Green  
Bloomtime: Inconspicuous  
Height: 30-35 feet Width: 25-35 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes, Once Established  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs



Photo 2



Photo 3

No other tree produces such a vibrant, broad range of fall color in warmer winter climates. It may be used dozens of ways as a shade tree, street tree, accent or front-yard specimen. Ideal for flanking driveways, or use a pair to meet overhead at street side. Give this colorful drought-resistant tree a solid evergreen background to provide high-intensity contrast for seasonal changes.

This is not the pistache of commerce but an ornamental tree native to China where it is little used except in the traditional pharmacopoeia. The genus was classified by Linnaeus who named it from the ancient Persian name for its nuts, pista. There are about nine evergreen and deciduous species but only two are cultivated, *P. vera* as a nut crop and *P. chinensis*. The latter was classified by Alexander von Bunge, 1803-1890, a Russian physician and botanist. Plants did not reach the west until Frank L. Meyer, working in Asia for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, introduced it in 1921. This species is often used as a rootstock onto which *P. vera* is grafted. They are dioecious with males preferred as female plants produce litters of hard seeds.

Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Watering can be reduced after establishment. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring. Pruning time: winter.

Photo 1 - found at [http://www.masterscapesaz.com/images/plants/trees-palms/pistacia-chinensis\\_02.jpg](http://www.masterscapesaz.com/images/plants/trees-palms/pistacia-chinensis_02.jpg)

Photo 2 - Photo found at <http://static.shop033.com/resources/E7/1000423/picture/69/14857065.jpg>

Photo 3 - Photo found at <http://msucares.com/news/print/sgnews/sg09/images/sg091112.jpg>

## Arbutus 'Marina' (Standard) - Marina Strawberry Tree



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Family: Ericaceae (Heaths, Heathers)  
Origin: Europe, Southern (Europe)  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: Pink  
Bloomtime: Year-round  
Synonyms: [Arbutus x andrachnoides 'Marina']  
Height: 40-50 feet Width: 25-40 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: 15-20° F

Arbutus 'Marina' (Marina Strawberry Tree) - A medium-sized evergreen tree, growing to 25-50+ feet tall with a broad dense crown. The tree's growth causes the older bark to peel away from the trunk and branches, revealing the beautiful shiny red new bark underneath. The pendulous clusters of urn-shaped white-blushed-pink flowers are produced year-round along the coast with peaks in spring and fall. The flowers are followed by red edible fruit. Considered to be drought tolerant, but looks best with occasional summer watering. Plant in full sun. Hardy to 15-20 degrees F with some tip damage on young plants with temperatures in the low 20's F. This tree is likely a selection of Arbutus x andrachnoides which is a hybrid between Arbutus unedo and Arbutus andrachne. It was introduced by the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation from cuttings taken from a tree in the San Francisco garden of Carla and Victor Reiter. The origin of this tree is a bit of a mystery. Mr. Reiter's tree, planted in his garden in 1944, had been acquired in 1933 when he was allowed to take vegetative cuttings from a boxed specimen at the Strybing Arboretum. The Strybing Arboretum, under director Eric Walther, had purchased the boxed tree from the closing-down sale of Western Nursery on Lombard Street in the Marina District. Charles Abrahams, the owner of Western Nursery, was thought to have taken cuttings from trees that were sent from Europe for a 1917 horticultural exposition, one of which was probably this beautiful tree.

Photo 1 - Photo found at [http://www.urbantreekey.org/images/stories/tree-photos/zoom-images/Arbutus\\_Marina\\_tree.jpg](http://www.urbantreekey.org/images/stories/tree-photos/zoom-images/Arbutus_Marina_tree.jpg)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://benjoynursery.com/uploads/2/8/9/6/2896876/9262930\\_orig.jpg](http://benjoynursery.com/uploads/2/8/9/6/2896876/9262930_orig.jpg)

Photo 3 - Write-up and photo from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/imagedb/Arbutus\\_Marina1.JPG](http://www.smgrowers.com/imagedb/Arbutus_Marina1.JPG)

# Koelreuteria bipinnata - Chinese Flame Tree



Photo 1



Photo 2

This is a highly recommended shade tree for its tidy habit and well-behaved root system. Its deep, non-invasive roots make it an approved street tree in many cities. Plant in narrow parkways and near patios. A good tree to plant under.

This tree is native to China but also extensively naturalized in Japan. Its discovery is credited to Jesuit missionary, Pierre d'Incarville, who collected the first seed in China and sent it with a Russian caravan in 1747. Naturally it was classified by the Russian botanist Erich Laxmann, who named it for a contemporary, Joseph Koelreuter, a professor of natural history at Karlsruhe. From there plants were sent to Jardin des Plantes and by 1753 were grown elsewhere in Europe, but was not established in America until 1811.

Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Watering can be reduced after establishment. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring. Pruning time: winter.

Write-up from Monrovia Nursery found at <http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/1726/chinese-flame-tree.php>

Photo 1 - Photo found at <http://losangelesloveaffair.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/dscn1701.jpg>

Photo 2 - Photo from <http://3000tomatoes.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/DSCN5446.jpg>

## Cassia leptophylla - Gold Medallion Tree



Photo 1

Family: Caesalpiniaceae (~Fabales)  
Origin: Brazil (South America)  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Bloomtime: Summer  
Height: 15-25 feet Width: 15-20 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: 25-30° F



Photo 2

*Cassia leptophylla* (Gold Medallion Tree) - A broad semi-evergreen tree 20 to 25 feet tall that has reddish-brown bark with low branches that are somewhat pendulous towards the tips with 1 foot long compound leaves of 9 to 20 pairs of opposite 1-2 inch long linear leaflets that are deep glossy green on their upper surface and dull green below. In early to mid-summer terminal clusters of 2 to 3 inch wide deep yellow flowers appear, with scattered blooming later. The flowers are followed by 1 to 2 foot long bean-like pods that are square in cross section. Plant in full sun in a fairly well-drained soil and give occasional to little irrigation. Hardy to about 25 degrees F and tolerant to short duration freezes a bit lower. This is the most common and reliable of the Cassias in southern California – it was first planted in the Los Angeles County Arboretum in 1958 and has become increasingly popular over time. It can be a little fussy in heavy soils that are over irrigated but in general it has been a very reliable tree in Southern California landscapes. Though many of the plants previously known as Cassia are now in the genus *Senna*, this species from southeastern Brazil is still in the genus *Cassia*. The name *Cassia* is from the ancient Greek 'Kassia', a name for the biblical kassian plants that provided senna leaves and pods for medicinal use. The specific epithet is from the Greek words 'leptos' meaning "thin", "slender", "delicate" or "narrow", and 'phyllon' meaning "leaf" in reference to the narrow leaflets of this species.

Write-up from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=359](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=359)

Photo 1 - Photo found at [http://selecttree.calpoly.edu/Photos/Cassia\\_leptophylla/images/tree\(flowering\).jpg](http://selecttree.calpoly.edu/Photos/Cassia_leptophylla/images/tree(flowering).jpg)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://farm1.staticflickr.com/106/303822583\\_fa0d4c31cb\\_z.jpg?zz=1](http://farm1.staticflickr.com/106/303822583_fa0d4c31cb_z.jpg?zz=1)

## Brahea edulis - Guadalupe Palm



Photo 1



Photo 2

*Brahea edulis* (Guadalupe Palm) - Endangered in its own habitat on the Guadalupe Islands, this palm is becoming popular in other parts of the world. The (inflorescence) flower stalks are approximately 4 feet long, yellowish, and contain round, black, 1 inch fruit. The sweet pulp from the fruit adds to its attraction, along with its bluish-green fan leaves. It grows to 30 feet tall and drops its dead leaves, forming scars on the trunk where the leaves once were. The Guadalupe Palm is pest and disease free, needing occasional water once established. In hotter, drier regions it needs regular irrigation. It takes full sun and does well along the coast.

Write-up from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=1168](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1168)

Photo 1 - Photo by Don Hodel, U.C. Cooperative Ext. - Los Angeles

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://plantthis.com.au/images/x\\_images/plants/10191/Brahea-edulis-1.jpg](http://plantthis.com.au/images/x_images/plants/10191/Brahea-edulis-1.jpg)

# Quercus agrifolia - Coast Live Oak

Family: Fagaceae (Oaks)  
Origin: California (U.S.A.)  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: Insignificant  
Bloomtime: Spring  
Height: 40-60 feet Width: 40-50 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: <15° F



Photo 1



Photo 2

*Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak) - Coast Live Oak is native to California and Baja. This beautiful drought-resistant, evergreen tree ranges in height from 20 to 70 feet, and in diameter from 1 to 4 feet. The bark of young trees is smooth. With age, it develops deep furrows, ridges, and a thick bark. The inner bark and cork layers are thick. Open-grown crowns are broad and dense, with foliage often reaching the ground. In open areas trunks are usually 4 to 8 feet tall. At this height, primary branches originate and grow horizontally. Trees in dense stands generally have irregular crowns and few lower branches. In closed stands trunks may be branchless up to 20 feet high, where several branches extend diagonally upward. Coast Live Oak stands are typically from 40 to 110 years old, individual trees may live over 250 years. Coast Live Oak occurs in a Mediterranean climate characterized by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Coast Live Oak begins flower and fruit production during stem elongation in the spring. Flowering of Coast Live Oak is triggered by warm temperature. In late spring new growth emerges and sheds all the foliage at the same time. The root system consists of a deep taproot that is usually nonfunctional in large trees. Several deep main roots may tap groundwater if present within approximately 36 feet of the soil surface. Coast Live Oak develops extensive horizontal root branches and surface-feeding roots. Tree roots in southwestern California are associated with mycorrhizae that aid in water uptake during the dry season. Plant in full sun to partial shade. Cold hardy to <15° F.

Photo 1 - Photo and write-up from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=1334](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1334)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=1334](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1334)

# Pinus torreyana - Torrey Pine



Photo 1

Family: Pinaceae  
Origin: San Diego & Santa Rosa Island  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: N/A  
Height: 35-50 feet Width: 20-40 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes, When Established  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs



Photo 2

The Torrey Pine is endemic to California and found on the coast north of San Diego and on Santa Rosa Island (Channel Islands). It is one of the most beautiful and picturesque evergreen trees cultivated or growing among the coastal sage and chaparral ecoregions. The average height is 35' to 50' x 20' to 40' wide but could often reach 100' (equal) or more in its native state. Ascending branches form an open symmetrical broad crown. Bark is thick, dark brown, becoming broken into ridges with wide, fattened, reddish brown scales. The needles are dark bluish to gray green, 7" – 11" long and occur in bundles of 5. Dark brown cones, 4" – 6" long and 5" across at the base, have heavy scales that are thickened at the tips with fat recurving spines. Torrey Pines prefer to be grown in well-drained soil and full sun. They are tolerant to frost (hardy to 35 degrees F) and smog. They can be susceptible to witch's broom caused by disease or by some other source. Water requirements range from occasional to moderate but can withstand little or no water (1x/month once established). Torrey Pines are often used in native plant and drought tolerant gardens and landscapes.

Write up created through various sources.

Photo 1 - Photo by Drew Potocki, City of San Diego

Photo 2 - from <http://www.sanelijo.org/sites/sanelijo.org/files/images/torreypinecone.jpg>

## **Cercis occidentalis (Standard) - Western Redbud**

Family: Caesalpiniaceae (~Fabales)  
Origin: California (U.S.A.)  
Flower Color: Rose  
Bloomtime: Spring  
Height: 12-20 feet    Width: 10-15 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: 15-20° F



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

*Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud) - A small deciduous tree or shrub to 15 feet tall or more and as wide that usually has several trunks from its base unless pruned into a single trunk. It has attractive 3 inch long heart-shaped leaves that emerge in late winter a pale-green color, tinged red, and age to a blue-green, then turn yellow before dropping in the fall. It is profuse in bloom with numerous, beautiful magenta pea-shaped flowers in the spring along the bare stems, just prior to the emergence of the leaves. The flowers are followed by 4 to 6 inch long flattened reddish seed pods that age to light brown and often hold on into winter. Plant in sun or part shade but flowers best in full sun. It grows in variable soil types (even clay soil) but requires that the soils drain and also tolerates a wide range of moisture conditions, including no supplemental irrigation. This is a drought tolerant plant and it is resistant to oak root fungus. Flowers best in locations where the temperature drops to 28 degrees F or less, and is hardy to USDA Zone 5a (-20 ° F). Red bud is native to California, Arizona and Utah, but grows predominantly in California foothills below 4000 feet. In the garden it is a great plant for its attractive form, flowers and foliage. The foliage is particularly attractive when backlit. The flowers attract hummingbirds. The name *Cercis* is from the Greek word 'kerkis' which means a "weaver's shuttle" in reference to the shape of the fruit. The specific epithet 'occidentalis' is from Latin meaning "of the west" as this is where this species is restricted, growing from Utah west to California.

Photo 1 - Photo found at [https://www.snwa.com/nma/plant\\_search/Cercis\\_occidentalis-1.jpg](https://www.snwa.com/nma/plant_search/Cercis_occidentalis-1.jpg)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://www.cuyamaca.net/oh170/Plant\\_Thumbnails\\_3/Cercis-occidentalis--low-r.jpg](http://www.cuyamaca.net/oh170/Plant_Thumbnails_3/Cercis-occidentalis--low-r.jpg)

Photo 3 - Write-up and Photo found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=387](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=387)

## Laurus nobilis (Standard) - Sweet Bay

Family: Lauraceae (Laurels)  
Origin: Europe, Southern (Europe)  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Bloomtime: Spring  
Height: 20-30 feet    Width: 10-20 feet  
Exposure: Cool Sun/Light Shade  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: <15 ° F



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photo 3

*Laurus nobilis* (Sweet Bay) - Sweet Bay is a moderately slow-growing dense evergreen shrub or small tree that reaches 10'-25' tall and almost as wide with very aromatic elliptical 3"-5" long leathery dark green leaves. The greenish-yellow flowers in early summer are not particularly ornamental and are followed by ½" wide dark green-to-black berries that form on female trees (this is a dioecious species) in the fall. Grows in sun or shade but seems to do best in cool coastal sun or light shade inland, with little or regular irrigation but not waterlogging. It tolerates heavy soils so long as they drain well. It is quite hardy to frost. Noted for tolerance in coastal plantings. It is a hardy plant that can grow in areas that experience temperatures down to at least 10 degrees F. A great tree, trimmed hedge, or topiary subject for the dry or irrigated garden. The leaves can be used in cooking, and oil from the fruit is used in making perfume. This tree was one of the main components, with the common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), of extensive prehistoric laurel forests that covered much of the area around the Mediterranean Sea basin. These forests retreated beginning in the drier Pliocene era and continued until little remained but relict populations by the end of Pleistocene era, approximately 10,000 years ago. These extant populations exist in southern Turkey, northern Syria, southern Spain, Portugal, and northern Morocco. The name for the genus comes from the ancient name for the plant, and the specific epithet is the Latin word for "noble" or "famous". The branches of this species were twisted into headpieces by ancient Greeks to crown victors. The word laurel is used to indicate prestige, and is the root of such words as *baccalaureate* and *poet laureate*, as well as use in phrases such as "resting on one's laurels". Other common names include Bay Laurel, Bay Tree, Mediterranean Sweet Bay, True Laurel, Grecian Laurel, Laurel Tree, or just by the name "Laurel". This plant was introduced into cultivation to Britain as early as 1650, and the Royal Horticultural Society gave it the Award of Garden Merit in 1993.

Photo 1 - Photo and Write-up from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantimage.asp?plant\\_id=2544](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantimage.asp?plant_id=2544)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Laurus\\_nobilis\\_flowering\\_branch\\_2.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Laurus_nobilis_flowering_branch_2.jpg)

Photo 3 - Photo found at <http://www.frutasdelmundo.inriodulce.com/images/bay.jpg>