"Tools" to Assist the Non-Biologist Landscape Administrator with Technical Issues

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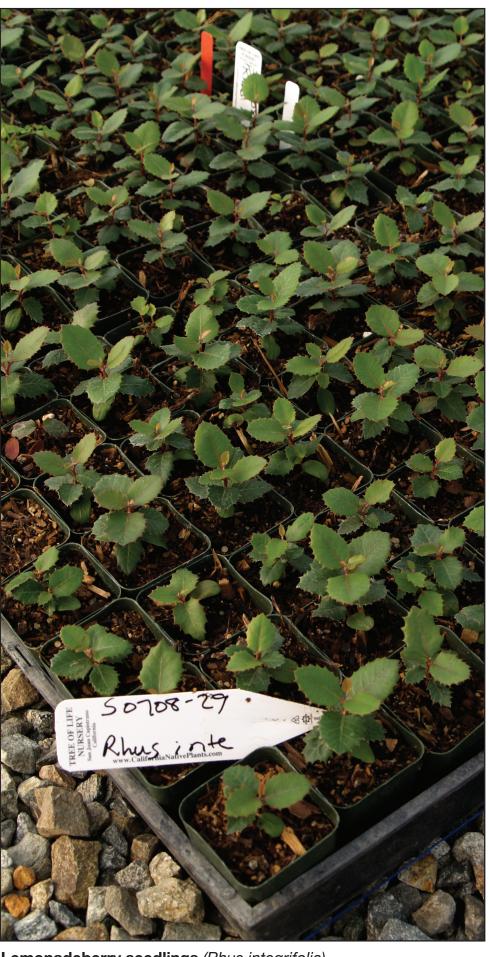
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The use of native plants in public and residential landscapes is key to water conservation in Southern California. Issues surrounding a reliable supply of locally native plants became obvious to land managers, restorationists, and ecologists throughout the region. The Native Seed Resources Coalition was formed by the Council for Watershed Health in March 2012 to address these obstacles. The Coalition comprises ecologists, horticulturists, land managers, landscape architects, engineers, planners, seed collectors, and native plant nurseries. The Coalition first committed to educating the group on issues in the native plant supply chain.

We identified three priority issues that could be tackled within one year:

- an appropriate propagule list
- "best value" contract language for planting projects
- best practices for seed collection

For more information, see our website at: http://nativeseed.watershedhealth.org



-emonadeberry seedlings (Rhus integrifolia) (Photo courtesy of Mike Evans @ Tree of Life Nursery)

"Best Value" **Contract Language**

Rather than use lowest bid contractors for landscape installations, we feel that a "Best Value" contract, already used by several federal agencies, more consistently ensures that the hired landscape contractors have a history of successful and thriving native landscape installations. Ultimately, Best Value contracts are more cost effective and take less time than fixing failed landscapes.

ΓHE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY. (Photos courtesy of Los Angeles County



(THE GOOD) desired landscape



(THE BAD) prior to hydroseeding



(THE UGLY) months after hydroseeding

Appropriate Propagule List

The appropriate propagule lists assists landscape contract administrators with a common design problem: which plant species to include in a seed mix and which to use container plants (as *nursery* plants to form and disperse seeds in the landscape).

Container

(from seed & cuttings)

* (seed)

* (seed)

* (seed)

* (cuttings) * (cuttings)

* (seed)

* (seed)

SAMPLES OF THE PROPAGULE LISTS FOR LANDSCAPING VS. RESTORATION PROJECTS (SEE BELOW)

Appropriate Propagule List for Landscaping Projects (live staking) (from seed & cuttings) X (seed) X (seed) X (seed) * (cuttings) * (cuttings) X (seed) Clarkia sp. Lasthenia californica * (seed) tidy tips * (seed) Layia platyglossa * (seed) Nemophila menziesii baby blue eyes * (seed) Phacelia campanularia

Appropriate Propagule List for Restoration Projects

(Direct seeding)

Stem Cuttings | **Root Cuttings**

(Rhizomes)

(live staking)

Rank: Best X, just okay *, poor results?

uckthorn

sugar bush

asket bush

golden currant

California wild rose

Our Lord's candle

California poppies

baby blue eyes

desert bells

emonadeberry

Scientific Name

Rhus integrifolia

Rosa californica

Yucca whipplei

Eschscholzia californica

Lasthenia californica Layia platyglossa

Iemophila menziesii

Phacelia campanularia Penstemon spectabilis

Rank: Best X, just okay *, poor results?

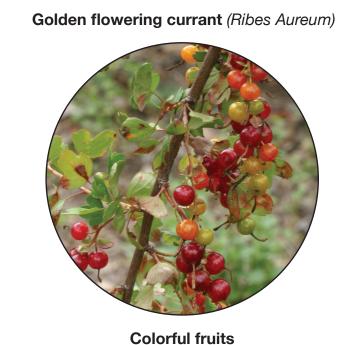
Clarkia sp.

Rhus ovata Rhus trilobata

Shrubs and Perennials Muhlenbergia rigens

Ribes aureum var. gracillimum

PLANT EXAMPLES FROM THE PROPAGULE LIST (SEE BELOW)





short-lived perennial



Collected local seed preferred for restoration projects

Local cuttings grown in 1-gallon

pots preferred for landscaping

projects



Collected local seed preferred for restoration projects



Whereas local seed grown in 1-gallon pots is 2nd choice for landscaping projects

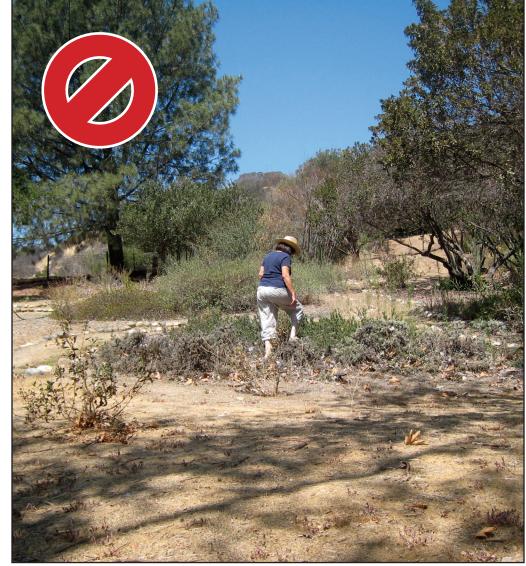
Best Practices for Seed Collection

Overall seed collection best-practices are under development, such as not over-collecting or trampling, and once complete will join the propagule list as freely available resources on the Council for Watershed Health website. Below are examples of "bad" collection practices.

PHOTOS (LEFT): Best Practice "No-No's" For Seed Collection (Thanks to Theodore Payne Foundation staff for helping stage the reenactments).



Do not over over-collect seed!



No trampling the native plants!





