

# SKETCHING AND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

UCLA EXTENSION

SPRING 2022

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID W SQUIRES

Student: MARILENA LEWANDOWSKI

## Course Description:

Students participate in four (4) all day site visits to observe and sketch 4 - 5 plant species from those locations. The spring quarter students visited:

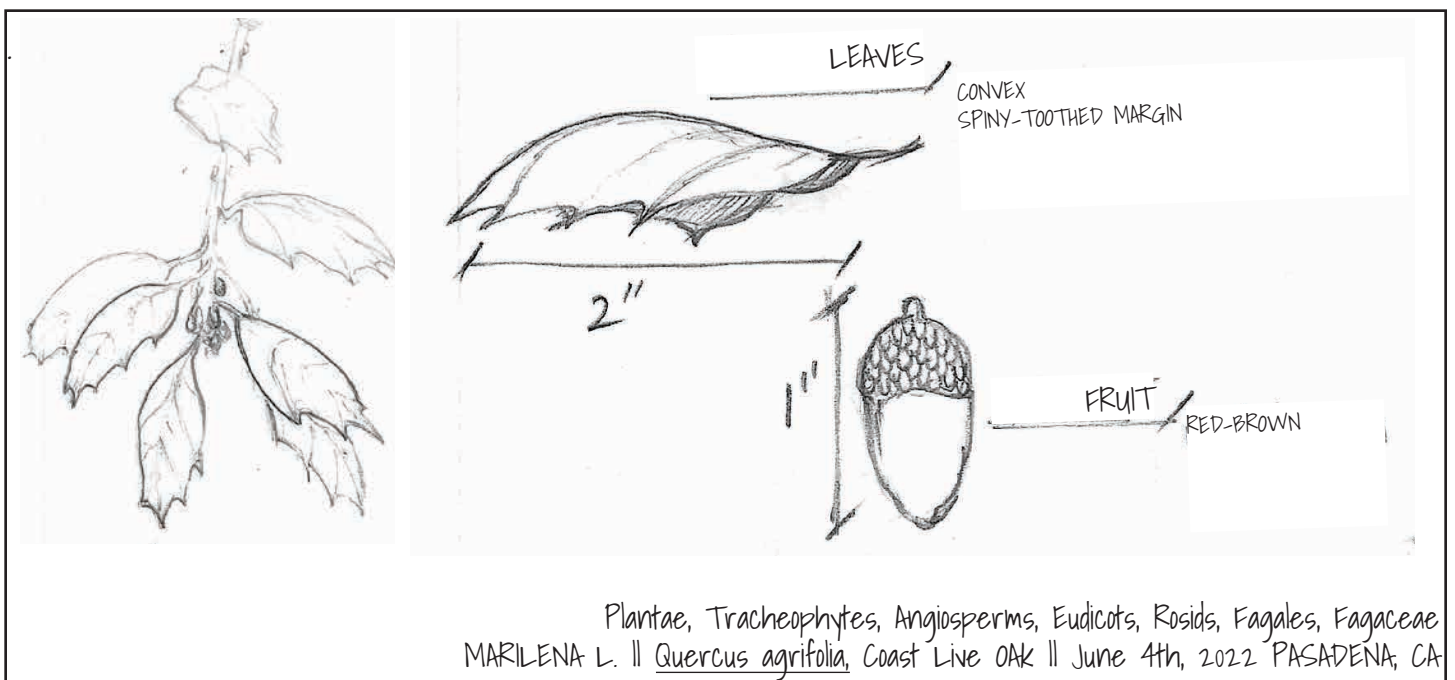
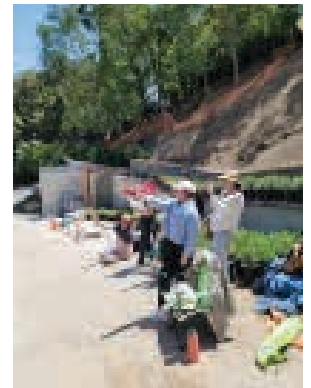
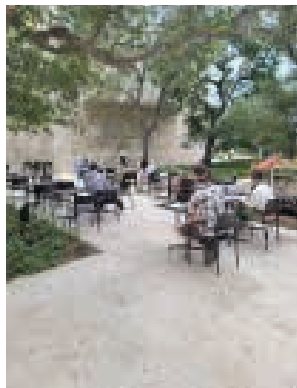
**Meeting 1:** Via Zoom: Nursery Stock, small plant containers

**Meeting 2:** Getty Center: Trees

**Meeting 3:** Devil Mountain Specimen Yard: Trees

**Meeting 4:** Instructors Project Location: Trees and under story composition

Students learn sketching technique with pencil. The instructor guides observation of form, detail, texture, scale and proportion; with the emphasis on observation and seeing. While the students are developing their sketches, the instructor leads conversation centered around the subject plant species. The conversation ranges from planting design, growing conditions, plant specifications, acquisitions, costs, construction site management and equipment needed to plant.



MARILENA LEWANDOWSKI

SKETCHING & PLANT IDENTIFICATION | SPRING 2022

## REFLECTIONS

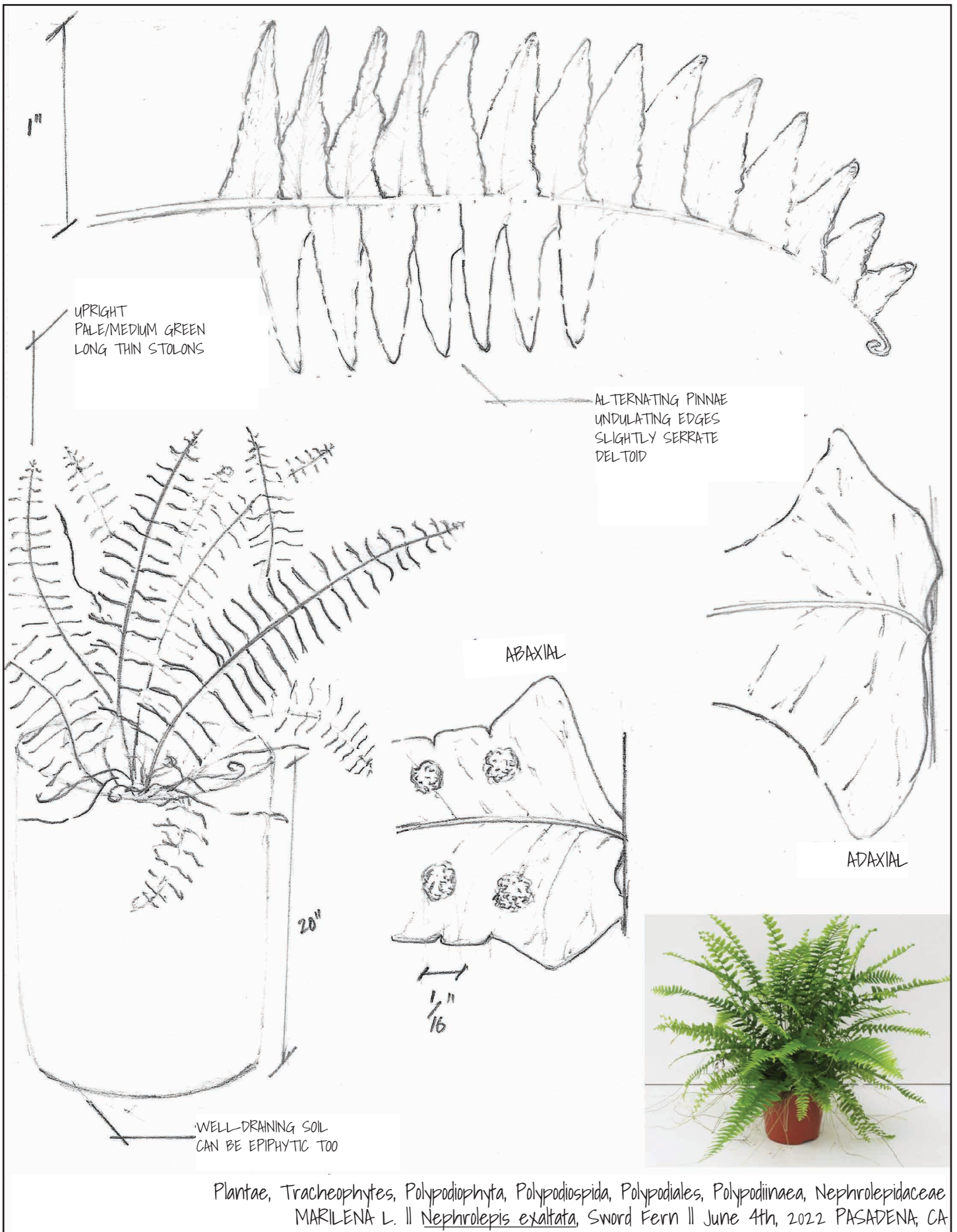
It was a day in the fall, during Design Graphics I that David also teaches, in which he was talking about perspective drawing. Drawing the perspective lines meeting at the vanishing point, he reduced my 3D world into a 2D representation, talked about the importance of being able to see space... The next day I was walking on a road off E Colorado Blvd in Pasadena lined with Washingtonia robusta and there it was - my vanishing point and mountains, trees, buildings, cars, retaining walls... space! I instantly felt 'grounded', being aware of the ground underneath my feet, and 'encapsulated' in this space created by all these vertical elements around me. I cannot convey how profound that all felt - being able to see the world around me and having a spatial sense of me in it. Adding to that was the fact that I had walked that road almost daily for over a year and never saw before what I had been looking at that whole time.

In the winter, I took a Taxonomy class and spent hours inspecting the arrangement, margins, and texture of leaves; counting petals, sepals, and stamens of flowers; looking at trees, their overall form and dimensions. Seeing my world at this scale, focusing on the detail and having words to describe characteristics I had never even noticed before added another layer to that profound experience I described above.

In the spring, not exactly knowing what to expect, I took Sketching + Plant identification with David, hoping that it would add yet another layer to all these things I could now see. It did much more than that! I learned a lot about plant material costs and acquisitions; issues that can arise in this process and ways that they could be dealt with; growing conditions and compositions of plant materials. For one of our field trips, we visited one of David's current projects. It was wonderful to see his vision on paper before going to the site and then listen to him explain his design choices in the field. It made me think of how much deeper the learning experience would be if our landscape design classes had such elements.

For me, this was a valuable learning experience also in terms of reflecting on my way of learning best. I found this to be a motivating experience where, with high levels of professionalism and specific feedback, I was shown how to improve MY sketching skills. And this was crucial. David is a natural educator with a deep understanding of the fact that everyone is at a different place on their unique learning path, travelling at their own pace. The feedback was tailored to the individual's unique set of circumstances.

In terms of my journey in 'seeing', for the first time I started to see negative space and I began to understand how to use it in sketching plants. Being able to observe other students' techniques as they were sketching, exchanging ideas, and getting their feedback on my work was also highly valuable to me. These three field trips were the most fun I have had on the course so far and I am deeply grateful to everyone that made this experience so wonderful. Many thanks to Calvin, David, Emily, Eric, Grace, and Gabby.



Plantae, Tracheophytes, Polypodiophyta, Polypodiopsida, Polypodiales, Polypodiinaea, Nephrolepidaceae  
 MARILENA L. || *Nephrolepis exaltata*, Sword Fern || June 4th, 2022 PASADENA, CA

SURFACE:

ABAXIAL: TOMENTOSE

ADAXIAL: GLABRESCENT

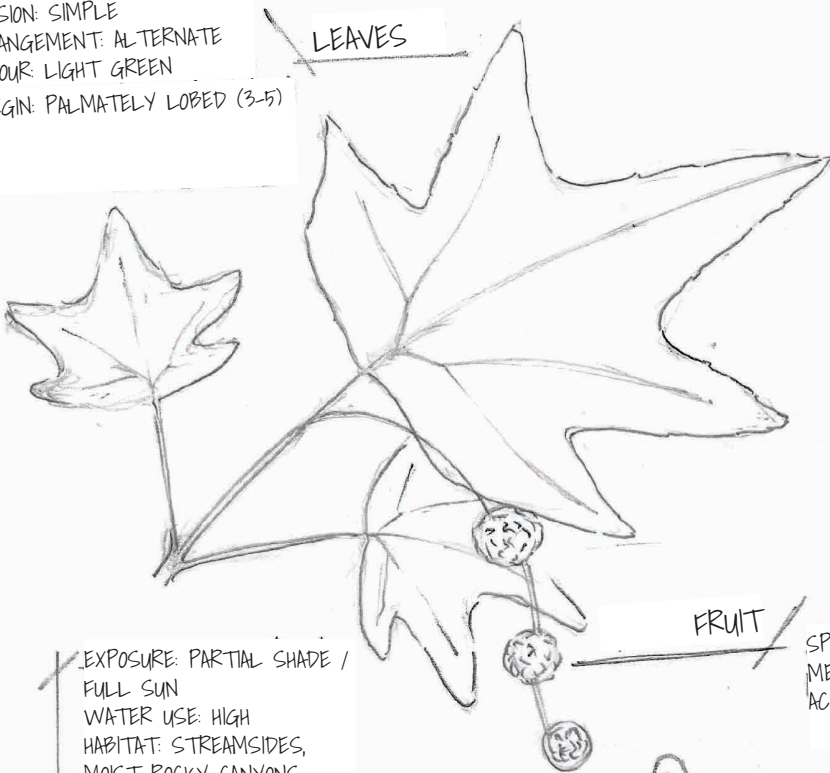
DIVISION: SIMPLE

ARRANGEMENT: ALTERNATE

COLOUR: LIGHT GREEN

MARGIN: PALMATELY LOBED (3-5)

LEAVES



SMOOTH  
EXFOLIATING  
FURROWED  
CREAM OR  
LIGHT GREEN

EXPOSURE: PARTIAL SHADE /

FULL SUN

WATER USE: HIGH

HABITAT: STREAMSIDES,

MOIST ROCKY CANYONS

FORM: ROUND

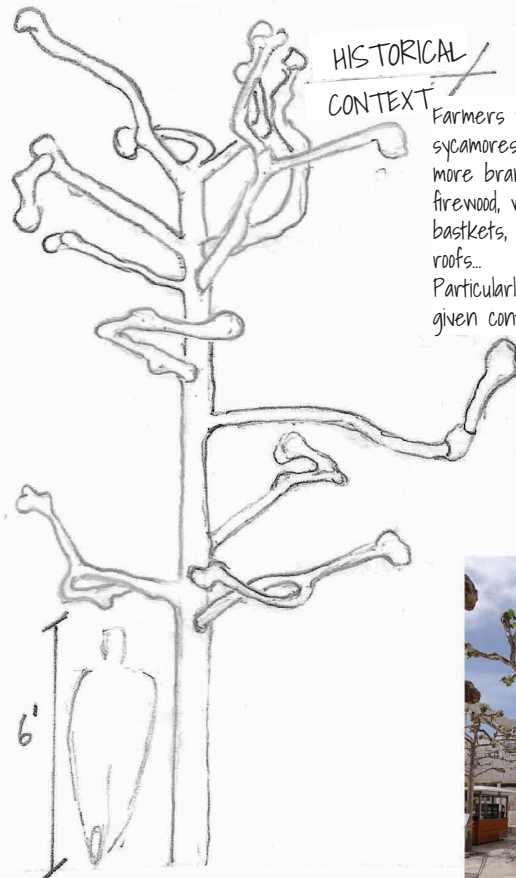
GROWTH: ~ 36" per year

FRUIT

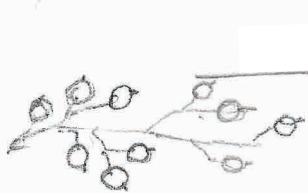
SPHERICAL CLUSTERS  
MEDIUM BROWN/GREEN  
ACHENE

HISTORICAL  
CONTEXT

Farmers would pollard  
sycamores to produce  
more branches for  
firewood, weaving  
baskets, thatching  
roofs...  
Particularly appropriate  
given context; museum.

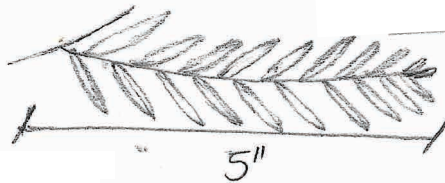


Plantae, Tracheophytes, Angiosperms, Eudicots, Proteales, Platanaceae  
MARILENA L. || Platanus racemosa, California Sycamore || June 4th, 2022 PASADENA, CA



FRUIT

ROSE-RED DRUPE  
Will stain -> avoid planting near  
valuable hardscape material



LEAVES

DIVISION: COMPOUND PIN-  
NATE  
ARRANGEMENT: ALTERNATE  
COLOUR: GREEN  
SHAPE: LINEAR  
SCENT: PEPPERY  
MARGINS: DENTATE

SCREENING / BACKGROUND  
TREE

EXPOSURE: PARTIAL SHADE / FULL  
SUN  
WATER USE: LOW  
FORM: ROUND

EVERGREEN  
FAST-GROWING  
WITH COMPACT ROOT  
SYSTEM -> hard to  
grow plants underneath  
it

DROOPING BRANCHES



BARK

LIGHT GREEN/ RED  
BROWN  
FISSURED WITH  
TWISTS

\$21500



Plantae, Tracheophytes, Angiosperms, Eudicots, Rosids, Sapindales, Anacardiaceae  
MARILENA L. || Schinus molle, Peruvian Pepper Tree || June 4th, 2022 PASADENA, CA

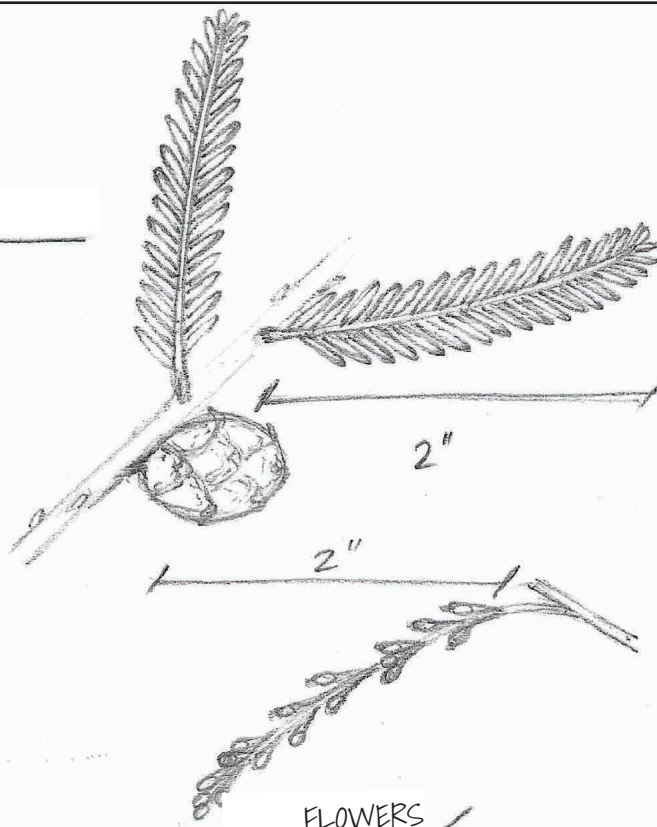
MARILENA LEWANDOWSKI

SKETCHING + PLANT IDENTIFICATION | SPRING 2022

DIVISION: SIMPLE  
ARRANGEMENT: ALTERNATE  
SHAPE: LINEAR

LEAVES

EXPOSURE: PARTIAL SHADE / FULL SUN  
WATER USE: MEDIUM - HIGH



FLOWERS

FRAGRANT  
DIOECIOUS  
FEB-MAR

BROAD CROWN  
SPREADING BRANCHES  
DROOPING TWIGS

CONICAL  
PARTLY DECIDUOUS  
GROWTH: ~ 3/8" per year



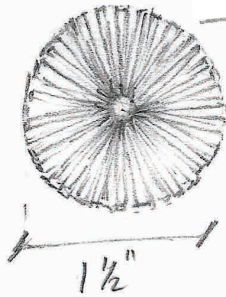
SOIL

SAND, CLAY, LOAM  
VERY ACIDIC TO SLIGHTLY ALKALINE



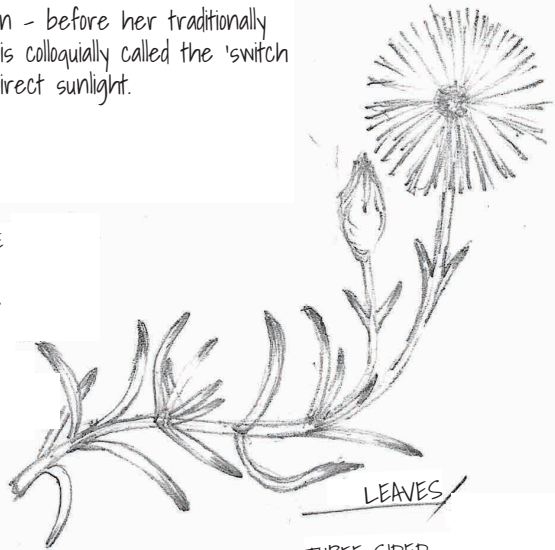
Plantae, Tracheophytes, Gymnosperms, Pinophyta, Pinopsida, Pinales, Cupressaceae  
MARILENA L. || Taxodium mucronatum, Montezuma Cypress || June 4th, 2022 PASADENA, CA

I chose this plant because it reminds me of my grandma's garden - before her traditionally built clay house was demolished to build an apartment complex. It is colloquially called the 'switch on switch off' plant because of how the flower opens up under direct sunlight.



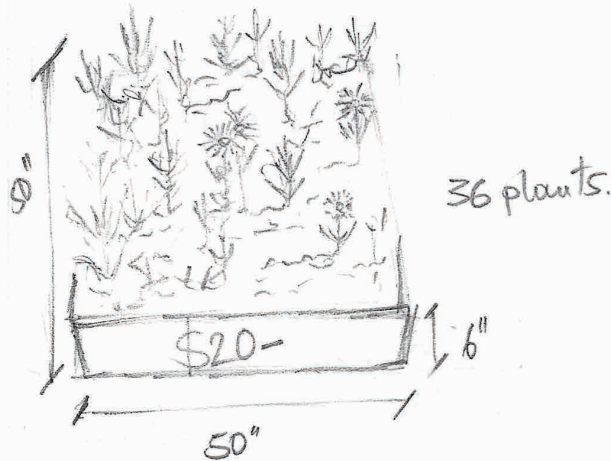
FLOWERS

INTENSE PURPLE  
 . WHITE CENTER  
 ATTRACTS BEES  
 \* WINTER/SPRING



LEAVES

THREE SIDED  
 PALE GREEN  
 LIGHTLY TINGED WITH PURPLE AT  
 THEIR TIPS

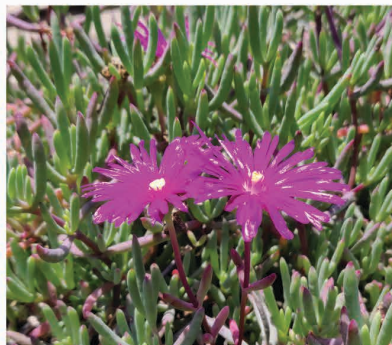


HABIT: UPRIGHT, SPREADING, MOUNDING  
 PLANT 1' APART -> will cover the area in ~ 1 year  
 SOIL: WELL-DRAINING  
 EXPOSURE: 6+ HOURS OF SUN  
 HEIGHT: GROWS TO ~ 18" TALL

LOOSELY MOUNDING SHRUB-LIKE SUCCULENT  
 SPREADS SEVERAL FEET ACROSS  
 DEVELOPS A BASE OF WOODY STEMS OVER TIME

I WOULD USE:

- AS FLOWERING ACCENT PLANT
- ON A SLOPE
- AS A BORDER



Plantae, Tracheophytes, Gymnosperms, Pinophyta, Pinopsida, Pinales, Cupressaceae  
 MARILENA L. || *Taxodium mucronatum*, *Montezuma Cypress* || June 4th, 2022 PASADENA, CA

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Ginkgo biloba, 'Presidential Gold'

One of the oldest living tree species  
 Angular crown  
 Long branches  
 Deep saffron yellow Autumn foliage

LEAVES



Deeply grooved  
 middle producing  
 2 distinct lobes  
 (from which the tree  
 gets its name)  
 Grow in clusters on  
 the tips of short  
 shoots.

BARK

Gray  
 Deeply furrowed on  
 older trees.



Cascading wall of  
 gray silvery greens  
 with blue-purple accents  
 and a sweet Summer  
 fragrance.



Olea europaea, 'Sevillano'

- Trunk + branches gnarl with age
- Leaves:
  - Opposite
  - Elliptic to lance
  - Gray-green abaxially
  - Silver-green abaxially
- Flowers:
  - Small
  - fragrant
  - white
  - in panicles
  - Summer



Lavandula x heterophylla

Narrow pale green leaves  
 Blue-purple flowers in  
 whorl-type clusters

Ficus pumila

Olea europaea, 'Montra'

Ficus pumila

Liriope muscari, 'Silver Sunset'

Brightly variegated silvery striped leaves  
 Matches abaxial colour of olive tree leaves  
 Purple flowers - more saturated than  
 the lavender colour  
 Lifting the composition + making the  
 tree taller.

