

# Mountain View High School Tree Walk



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|---|---|
| 1. Coastal Redwood ( <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> )    | 9. Modesto Ash ( <i>Fraxinus veluina</i> )          |
| 2. Crape Myrtle ( <i>Lagerstroemia spp.</i> )         | 10. <i>Prunus spp.</i>                              |
| 3. White Alders ( <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> )          | 11. Camphor ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> )          |
| 4. Coast Live Oak ( <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> )        | 12. Liquid Ambar ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> ) |
| 5. Valley Oak ( <i>Quercus lobata</i> )               | 13. London Plane ( <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> )     |
| 6. California Buckeye ( <i>Aesculus californica</i> ) | 14. Purpleleaf Plum ( <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> )    |
| 7. Incense Cedar ( <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> )      | 15. Blue Atlas Cedar ( <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> )    |
| 8. Holly Oak ( <i>Quercus Ilex</i> )                  |   |

### 1. Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

- Able to take moisture from fog, grow in foggy locations.
- Thirsty trees, require a lot of water
- Live to 1,200-1,800 years
- Can reach up to 379 ft. in height and 29 ft. in diameter

### 2. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia spp.*)

- Smooth bark and lovely flowers
- Compact size is good for small areas or along sidewalks
- Very popular, though unfortunate when planted in an area suitable for a larger tree

### 3. White Alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*)

- Often found next to stream banks
- Can take nitrogen out of the air and provide it as a soil nutrient for the tree and nearby plants

### 4. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

- Evergreen tree that does not lose its leaves all at one time—Ever-dropping
- Once established, can tolerate drought
- Native Californians cracked the shells to separate the kernels, would leach them in water and pound into flour

### 5. Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)

- Largest oaks in California
- Alligator-skin bark, craggy branches, lobed leaves
- Deciduous tree that loses leaves at one time
- Many were removed with land in CA was converted to farmland

### 6. California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)

- Native to area, used as a source of food by California Native American tribes
- Eaten raw, the nuts are poisonous, but leaching in water makes them safe to eat

### 7. Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)

- Native to Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains
- Live for centuries because have the ability to withstand forest fires
- Their wood contains substances that retard decay and repel insects

### 8. Holly Oak (*Quercus illex*)

- Evergreen tree with leathery leaves, pale and soft underneath
- Lower leaves are larger and may be spiny
- Aphids leave a sticky residue that grows sooty mold

### 9. Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus veluina*)

- Native to Modesto, CA
- Many were planted as street trees in CA cities in the 1940s and 1960s, many are falling apart now
- Wood from ash trees is very strong and used a tool handles, oars, and baseball bats

### 10. *Prunus spp.*

- This genus contains stone fruits such as cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, and nectarines, which all have pits
- Have distinct lenticels, which function as pores for gas exchange between the internal tissues of the tree and the atmosphere

### 11. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

- From China and Japan
- New leaves are tinged with pink or red
- Crushing leaves gives a camphor aroma
- A relative of the tree we get cinnamon from

### 12. Liquid Ambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

- Spectacular fall color
- Drop seed balls that have sharp spikes

### 13. London Plane (*Platanus acerifolia*)

- Tolerant of urban pollution shedding toxins in their peeling bark
- These trees were pruned in a way that's called "topping"
- It was likely done to reduce the size of tree though there are better ways to do that
- Topping compromises the structural support and is detrimental to the long-term health of the tree
- It stresses and weakens the tree's defenses against disease
- The tree tries to survive by sending up multiple shoots, but are weakly attached to the trunk

### 14. Purple Leaf Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)

- An ornamental tree with purple leaves that does not produce plums, but is attractive and requires low maintenance
- Very short lived

### 15. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

- Needle-like leaves in clusters on top of branch
- Used for shipbuilding in ancient Greece
- Top of tree tends to droop over