



What is a native plant?



Lavandula stoechas

Lavender is NOT native to California. Lavender evolved in the Mediterranean region, which has a similar climate to central California. It grows well in local gardens, and does not invade wild areas.

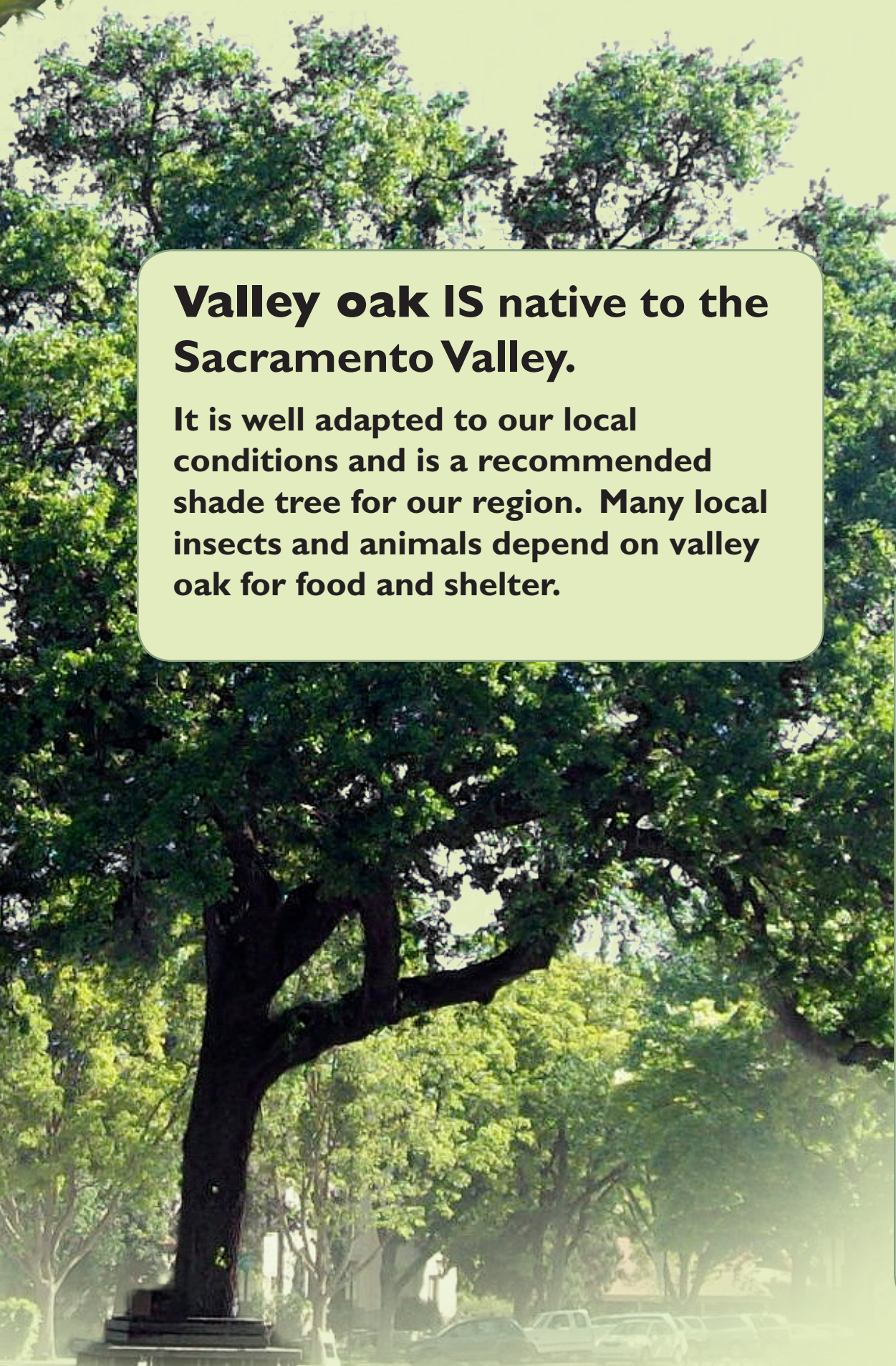
A California native plant is a plant that evolved over thousands of years with the local climate, soil, and animals. Because of California's diverse geography, there are over 4,000 plants native to our state.



Ceanothus

This California lilac IS native to the coastal hills of California. It did not evolve in the local climate and soil of the Sacramento Valley, but it grows well in local gardens.

Can you recognize a native plant?



Valley oak IS native to the Sacramento Valley.

It is well adapted to our local conditions and is a recommended shade tree for our region. Many local insects and animals depend on valley oak for food and shelter.

Are all the plants in this garden native?

No, Central Park Gardens includes plants from around the world. Look for "California native" on our plant labels to identify which native plants you can grow at home.



Carpobrotus edulis

Ice plant is NOT native to California. Ice plant evolved on the coast of South Africa, which has a similar climate to California's coast. It is invasive on California's coast, where it crowds out native plants.



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For more information, visit our website at
www.centralparkgardens.org