

**UC SANTA CRUZ CAMPUS NATURAL RESERVE**

# SANTA CRUZ MANZANITA



**Haylee Bregoff**

**Scientific Name:** *Arcotostaphylos andersonii*

**Common Name(s):** Santa Cruz Manzanita

**Global Rarity:** Imperiled

**State listing:** Imperiled; California Rare

Plant Rank 1B.2

**UCSC Rarity:** Uncommon/Common in appropriate habitat



## General Description

The Santa Cruz Manzanita, also known as the Heartleaf Manzanita, is a perennial woody shrub endemic to central California. It can be found in northern maritime chaparral and occasionally in open sites in mixed evergreen or redwood forests. Santa Cruz Manzanita have five main petals and five smaller sepals that range from white to pink in coloration. The petals and sepals form an urn shaped flower, and each plant produces hundreds of flowers crowded into clustered terminals. Its fruit are small (6 to 8mm) and sticky. The stem can be identified by smooth or peeling dark red bark. Santa Cruz Manzanita twigs are densely covered with short bristles.



## Identification

**Flower Color:** White to pink

**Flower Shape:** Urn-shaped with 5 petals and 5 sepals; terminally clustered raceme inflorescence

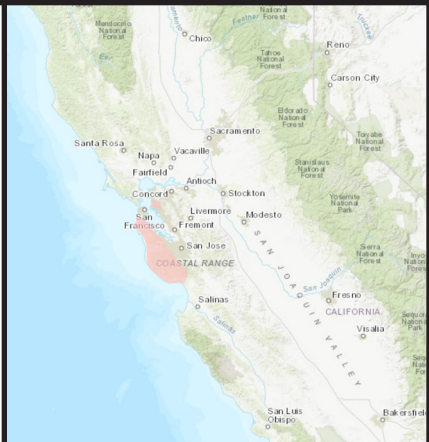
**Leaf Shape:** Base deeply lobed like the base of an arrowhead; often serrated edges

**Base of plant:** No burl

**Bark:** Scaly dark brown, peeling dark red, exposing smooth reddish-orange

## Geographic Range

The Santa Cruz Manzanita is endemic to the central coast of California, with a range restricted largely to the central and southern Santa Cruz Mountains and isolated occurrences in the East Bay and northern Monterey County. It can be found growing between 150 to 700 meters elevation.





## UCSC Distribution

Santa Cruz Manzanita can be uncommon to common in patches of northern maritime chaparral (both burned and unburned).

## Life history

The Santa Cruz Manzanita is a perennial shrub that is part of the Ericaceae family. Its flowering season ranges from November to May. The evergreen plant can get to be a height of approximately 2 to 5 meters when mature, sometime appearing like a small tree. It lacks a basal burl, so cannot survive fire or other disturbances by resprouting, instead coming back from seeds dropped in prior years. Santa Cruz Manzanita can be confused with the similar *A. regismontana* in the northern Santa Cruz Mountains, but can be separated by examining the surfaces of the leaves--*A. andersonii* only has stomata on the underside of the leaf, not both sides as *A. regismontana* has.

## Threats

### Statewide:

1. Logging
2. Competition with non-native and invasive plants
3. Development and road maintenance

### UCSC campus:

1. Succession of chaparral habitats into forest
2. Potential future development projects

## Conservation Status

### California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank 1B.2

Fairly Threatened in California. The Santa Cruz Manzanita has approximately 34 extant element occurrences throughout its range and has declined 10-30% over the short term.

## Ways you can help

1. Document your observations using the iNaturalist app.
2. Support the California Native Plant Society and volunteer with habitat restoration projects.
3. Raise awareness of rare native plants by talking about them with your family and friends!

## References and Photo Credits

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