

Trees of Foothill

1.
 - a. If the tree has leaves like needles, go to **2**
 - b. If the tree has broad leaves, go to **3**
 - c. If the tree has scales and the bark is deeply furrowed, it is an **Incense Cedar.**
2.
 - a. If the needles are dark green, the top of the tree comes to a single point,
and the bark is puzzle-like, it is a **Ponderosa Pine.**
 - b. If the tree has grey-green needles and the tree branches spread out with no point at the top, it is a **Grey Pine.**
3.
 - a. If the leaves are palmate (it looks like the palm of your hand), it is a **Buckeye.**
 - b. If the leaves are simple (not palmate), go to **4**
4.
 - a. If the leaves are lobed, go to **5**
 - b. If the leaves are not lobed go to **7**
5.
 - a. If the leaves' tips have points, go to **6**
 - b. If the leaves' tips are rounded, it is a **Valley Oak.**
6.
 - a. If the leaves are dark green and deeply lobed, it is a **Black Oak.**
 - b. If the leaves are pale blue-green and the lobes are shallow, it is **Blue Oak.**
 - c. If the leaves are as wide as they are tall, it is a **Big Leaf Maple.**
7.
 - a. If the leaves are leathery and tough, go to **8**
 - b. If the tree is by a stream and the leaves are floppy, it is a **White Alder.**
8.
 - a. If the leaves are dark green on both sides, it is an **Interior Live Oak.**
 - b. If the leaves are dark green on top and light green underneath, it is a **Golden Cup Oak.**
 - c. If bark is red and the leaves are light green on both sides, it is a **Manzanita.**



Incense Cedar *Calocedrus decurrens* – The Incense Cedar's scale-like, flat needles are dark blue-green and slightly drooping from the branch. The bark is reddish-brown and similar to the Giant Sequoia, but is not squishy. The Me-wuk used Incense Cedar bark to make their oomachas (shelters). The cones look like a fan with three parts.

Ponderosa Pine *Pinus ponderosa* – Ponderosa Pine bark forms large reddish brown puzzle pieces. The dark green tree grows tall and pointy. The needles are in bundles of three. Cones have pointy scales, but are much smaller than the Grey Pine cones. Ponderosa was used extensively by the Me-wuks. The needles are edible and have lots of vitamin C.

Grey Pine *Pinus sabiniana* – This pine has grey-green needles and grey bark. The tree branches spread out, rather than coming to a point at the top of the tree. The huge Grey Pine cones have sharp points. The Me-wuk people would gather the cones and eat the seeds. Squirrels and other animals also enjoy the seeds.

California Buckeye *Aesculus californica* This tree is named because its large seeds look like the eye of a buck deer. This deciduous tree loses its leaves in the winter, leaving white bare branches. In the spring, tall spikes of white flowers blossom. The Me-wuk sometimes ate the large seeds and used the wood to start fires.

Valley Oak *Quercus lobata* – Valley oaks grow at Foothill Horizons and in the valley. Valley oaks have long slender acorns, with bumpy caps. These acorns were gathered and eaten by the Me-Wuk. These nuts are enjoyed by many other animals.

Black Oak *Quercus kelloggii* – Black oaks are named for the black lines in the bark. Young Black Oaks have smooth, light brown bark with large scales that becomes darker as it ages. The acorns are 1- 1 ½ inches long, enclosed by a thin scaly cup on top. The Me-wuk called these acorns "telele" and used them for food, as do other animals.

Blue Oak *Quercus douglasii* – Blue oaks are named because of the bluish color on the top part of the leaves. The bark of this tree is greyish white with little squares. Blue oak acorns are oval shaped, about an inch long. This tree is known for its hard heartwood.

Big Leaf Maple *Acer macrophyllum* –Big leaf maple leaves grow up to 12 inches wide. These deciduous leaves turn yellow before they fall to the ground in the fall. The seeds have wings that spiral to the ground. These trees are found by streams at Foothill.

White Alder *Alnus rhombifolia* – This tree loves to grow by water. Alder leaves are soft with toothed edges. The little alder cones grow less than ½ an inch long. This deciduous tree loses its leaves, but not its cones, in the winter.

Interior Live Oak *Quercus wislizenii* – This evergreen oak keeps its tough, leathery leaves all year long. The leaves can have smooth edges when young and prickly edges when older. The acorns take two years to grow long and slender.

Golden Cup Oak *Quercus chrysolepis* – This evergreen oak is named for the golden powder on the cap of its acorn. Young Golden Cup Oak trees have spiny leaves, while the older ones grow smooth-edged leaves. Some of these oaks could be 300 years old.

Manzanita *Arctosphylos sp.* – Manzanita is the Spanish word for little apple, describing the berries that ripen in the fall. In the spring bees are attracted to the tiny, sweet, white blossoms. This red bark tree is evergreen. The Me-Wuk ate the berries, as do many birds. This tree grows fast in full sun, but only lives to be about 30 years old.