

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Common Range Plants in California's Interior Valley, Foothills, and Coastal Zone

The plant guide titled “Common Range Plants in California's Interior Valley, Foothills, and Coastal Zone” contains photos and descriptions of identifying characteristics of common range plants in California. It includes those with livestock or wildlife forage value, their management and habitats as well as other potential uses of the plants. The guide focuses on the more common plant species found in California annual rangelands. Plant species include annual and native grasses, and several forbs and legumes.

The guide can be used to assist with many conservation planning and monitoring activities including resource assessments, Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) plant identification, prescribed grazing plan development, evaluating the indicators of rangeland health and sharing technical information with landowners.

The guide covers many areas of the State dominated by annual grasslands and includes nine Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA's) including: Central California Coastal Valleys (MLRA 14), Central California Coast Range (MLRA 15), California Delta (MLRA 16), Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta (MLRA 17), Sierra Nevada Foothills (MLRA 18), Southern California Coastal Plains (MLRA 19), Southern California Mountains (MLRA 20); Coastal Redwood Belt (MLRA 4), non-forested portions; Siskiyou-Trinity (MLRA 5), non-forested portions.

The plants included in this guide are merely a snapshot of those most dominant throughout the State. It is by no means a complete list of herbaceous plant species; there are thousands of grasses, forbs and legumes in California. When species occur that are not included in this guide, further investigation should occur using any of the various plant guides that cover species of California.