

Coast Live Oak

(Quercus Agrifolia)



There are 19 species of oaks native to California. 10 species grow as trees and 9 as shrubs. The coast live oak is an evergreen tree that reaches heights of 20-70 feet. This particular tree may be 300-600 years old. The Chumash Native American Tribe in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties supported large population densities on a diet mostly based on coast live oak acorns. Spanish settlers associated this tree with fertile land and the Franciscan missions almost perfectly match the coast live oak's native range.

You can read more about California Oaks in the book, *A Californian's Guide to the Trees among Us*, by Matt Ritter, Biology Professor, Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo.

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