Maintaining your Established Native Plants: Buckwheats, Ceanothus, Manzanitas, Matilija, and Sages
Buckwheats
Pruning
St. Catherine’s Lace that has been deadheaded
California buckwheat that has been left to go to seed
Ashy-leaf buckwheat –right-side of photo has been deadheaded
Pruning - Buckwheats

When to Prune
● After the plant has finished blooming – late summer/fall each year

How to prune
● Most buckwheat species require very little pruning, mainly deadheading if you choose to do so.
● Can head back buckwheat species in the fall for fuller look – avoiding woody material

Severely overgrown?
● If you cut into older wood – the plant may not come back
Watering

New plantings
• Once per week for one year, gradually reducing to monthly watering.

Established plantings
• Most buckwheat species can survive with monthly watering in the summer
Ceanothus
Pruning

When to Prune
• In the summer when there is a lower risk of fungal infection/after the plant has finished blooming

How to Prune
• Sanitize your pruning tools
• Remove dead or diseased material
• Pinch spent flowers (this would be very time intensive!)
• Maintain low-growing cultivars

Severely overgrown?
• It may be time to find a Ceanothus that fits better in your area
Watering

New Plantings
• Once per week for first two years, gradually decreasing frequency at the end of the second year

Established Plantings
• Reduce watering to once per month
• Be aware of where your plant comes from
Manzanitas
Pruning

When to Prune
• Summer, when there is a lower risk of infection from pathogens

How to Prune
• Sanitize your pruning tools
• Remove dead material

Severely overgrown?
• Some cultivars, particularly Howard McMinn, can take more pruning more kindly than others
Making a Proper Cut

Branch bark ridge
Where trunk bark meets branch bark

Branch collar
Trunk tissues overlap with branch tissues
Making a Proper Cut

[Diagram showing a good cut and a bad cut, highlighting the bark ridge and collar.]
Watering

New Plantings
• Once per week for first two years; gradually reducing

Established Plantings
• Once per month
Matilija Poppy
Pruning

When to Prune
• In the fall/winter when the plant has finished blooming

How to Prune
• Coppice Matilija Poppies leaving 4-6” of material

Severely Overgrown?
• Be careful where you plant Matilija Poppy – it is an aggressive spreader!
Watering

New Plantings
• Once per week for first years; gradually reducing

Established Plantings
• Once per month
Sages
Pruning

When to prune
- Annually - late summer/fall once the plant has finished blooming

How to prune
- Deadhead sage species after they bloom
- Try to avoid cutting into woody growth

Severely overgrown?
- It might be time to get a sage that fits your space!
Pruning
Pruning
Pruning
Watering

New Plantings
• Once per week for first year, gradually reducing to every other week.

Established Plantings
• Every other week to every month depending on weather and soil conditions.