

# TAXONOMIC AFFINITIES OF ARCTOSTAPHYLOS AND CEANOTHUS CULTIVARS

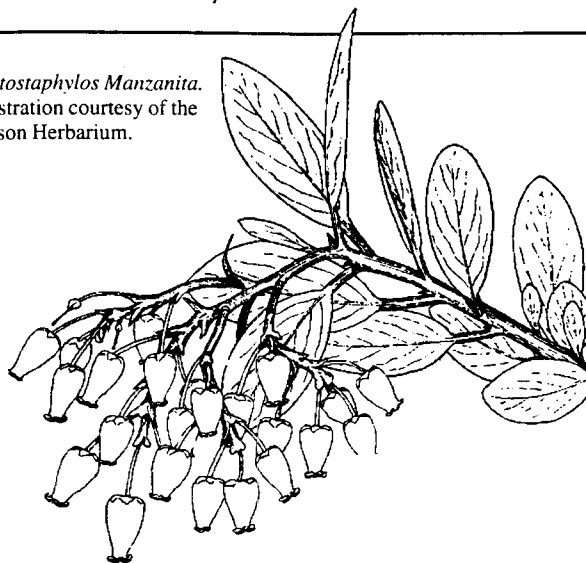
by Jon E. Keeley and Melanie Baer Keeley

THE NATURAL diversity of the shrubby genera *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) and *Ceanothus* (wild lilac or buckbrush) has made these plants attractive to horticulturists for over a century. Because of their proclivity for arid environments these plants also are relatively drought tolerant, a characteristic that is making them increasingly valuable as landscape plants in California.

With growing demand for these taxa, horticulturists have responded with a wider selection of varieties and forms. To identify these, an array of names have been coined, and forms often are offered for sale without any indication of the species of *Arctostaphylos* or *Ceanothus* with which they are most closely aligned. This creates problems for ecological restoration projects that require material of a particular ecological type. While it is always preferable to collect material near the site of the restoration, this is not always possible, and nursery stock may be the only alternative. This article describes the taxonomic affinity of horticultural names of *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* found in the nursery trade.

The correct name for a species, called the scientific name,

*Arctostaphylos Manzanita*.  
Illustration courtesy of the  
Jepson Herbarium.



consists of two names: the generic name and the specific epithet; for example, *Arctostaphylos patula* Greene. This binomial is in latinized form, is always italicized or underlined.

**Table 1. Horticultural Names for *Ceanothus* Taxa and Taxonomic Affinities Suggested by Authorities.**

Note: See note for Table 1. Van Rensselaer (1942) lists many varieties, not listed here, that originated in Europe and are not grown on the Pacific Coast.

Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source	Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source
'Albert Pittet'	not given	15	'Ciel de Provence'	<i>C. americanus</i> [x] <i>C. coeruleus</i>	30
'Albus'	<i>C. rigidus</i>	13a	'Compacta'	(?)	13a
'Anchor Bay'	<i>C. gloriosus</i>	8,13a,22,24	'Compactus'	<i>C. thyrsiflorus</i>	13a
'Arroyo de la Cruz'	<i>C. thyrsiflorus</i>	24,25	'Concha'	<i>C. papillosus</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> [x]	
'Autumnal Blue'	not given	15		<i>C. impressus</i>	18,20,21
'Bamico'	not given	13a		hybrid	25
'Berryhill'	<i>C. foliosus</i>	25		not given	2,4,11,16, 13a,24,28
'Blue Buttons'	<i>C.</i> [x] <i>spinosus</i> (?)	24			
	<i>C. oliganthus</i> [x] <i>C. spinosus</i>		'Consuella'	not given	11,13a
	or [x] <i>C. impressus</i>	18	'Dark Star'	<i>C. papillosus</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> [x]	
	hybrid	21		<i>C. impressus</i> or	
	not given	2,3,11,13a		[x] <i>C. oliganthus</i> (?)	19,21,24,27
'Blue Cascade'	not given	28		not given	2,13a,16, 25,28
'Blue Cloud'	not given	3,4,13a			
'Blue Cushion'	not given	13a,28,31	'Delight'	not given	15
'Blue Jeans'	<i>C. gloriosus</i> var. <i>porrectus</i>	24	'Dignity'	not given	15
	not given	11	'Eleanor Taylor'	<i>C.</i> [x] <i>papillosus</i> var. <i>roweanus</i>	27
'Blue Lolita'	<i>C. hearstorium</i> [x] <i>C.</i>			not given	13a,29
	'Joyce Coulter'	9	'Emily Brown'	<i>C. gloriosus</i> ssp. <i>exaltatus</i>	22,24,25,28
'Blue Sky'	not given	13a,28		not given	13a
'Blue Wisp'	not given	2,3,11,13a	'Fallen Skies'	<i>C. gloriosus</i>	3
'Burtonensis'	<i>C. impressus</i> [x] <i>C. thyrsiflorus</i>	1		not given	11
	not given	13a	'Far Horizons'	not given	4,13a

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source	Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source
'Fort Ross'	<i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i>	14	'Millerton Point'	<i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i>	13a,22,24
'Frosty Blue'	<i>C. [x] impressus</i> (?) not given	24 2,3,11,13a, 21,25,28	'Mills Glory'	<i>C. purpureus</i> not given	9 13a,28
'Gentian Plume'	<i>C. cyaneus</i> not given	18 11,13a,21	'Mountain Haze'	<i>C. [x] impressus</i> hybrid	17 22
'Gerda Isenberg'	not given	31	'Mt. Madonna'	not given	3,4,10,11,13a 25
'Gloire de Plantieres'	<i>C. americanus</i> [x] <i>C. coeruleus</i>	30	'Owlwood Blue'	not given	11,13a,28
'Gloire de Versailles'	<i>C. americanus</i> [x] <i>C. coeruleus</i>	1,30	'Pearl Rose'	not given	30
	not given	13a	'Point Reyes'	<i>C. gloriosus</i>	29
'Henri Defosse'	close to 'Gloire de Versailles'	30	'Point Sierra'	<i>C. maritimus</i>	31
'Hurricane Point'	<i>C. griseus</i> <i>C. griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> not given	21,29 13a 11	'Puget Blue'	<i>C. impressus</i> not given	22 11,13a
'Indigo'	not given	30	'Ray Hartman'	<i>C. griseus</i> [x] <i>C. arboreus</i> (?) not given	13a,18,22,24 11,16,25,28
'James Roof'	<i>C. [x] purpureus</i> (?)	30	'Royal Blue'	not given	13a
'J.K. Lawrence'	not given	13a	'R.S.A.'	<i>C. gloriosus</i> var. <i>porrectus</i>	22
'Joan Mirov'	<i>C. foliosus</i> [x] <i>C. griseus</i>	13b	'San Andreas'	<i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i>	24,25
'Joyce Coulter'	<i>C. papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> <i>C. papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> [x] <i>C. griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> (?)	18 22	'Santa Ana'	<i>C. griseus</i> <i>C. [x] griseus</i> (?) not given	2,5,18,21 24 11,13a,28
	not given	2,11,13a, 16,28	'Sierra Blue'	<i>C. [x] cyaneus</i> not given	22 4,10,11,13a, 24,28
'Julia Phelps'	<i>C. impressus</i> <i>C. papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> <i>C. [x] papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> <i>C. papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i> [x] <i>C. impressus</i> (?) not given	8 19 22 18, 24 2,11,13a, 16,28	'Sierra Snow'	not given	28,31
		13a	'Skylark'	<i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i>	2,13a,20,22, 24,25,28
'Junior'	not given	13a	'Snowball'	<i>C. rigidus</i> not given	2,13a,22, 24,28 11
'Kurt Zadnik'	not given	13b	'Snow Flurry'	<i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i> not given	2,22,25 11,28
'La Primavera'	<i>C. cyaneus</i> <i>C. [x] cyaneus</i> (?)	1 30	'Suppressus'	<i>C. papillosum</i> var. <i>roweanus</i>	1
'La Purissima'	<i>C. roweanus</i> [x] <i>C. impressus</i>	30	'Theodore Payne'	<i>C. arboreus</i> [x] <i>C. spinosus</i> <i>C. arboreus</i>	30 18
'Leon Simon'	<i>C. americanus</i> [x] <i>C. coeruleus</i>	30		not given	13a
'Louis Edmunds'	<i>C. griseus</i> <i>C. griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> not given	5,13a,18, 21,24 8 11,28	'Tilden Park'	<i>C. griseus</i>	31
		1, 15	'Treasure Island'	<i>C. arboreus</i> [x] <i>C. thyrsoiflorus</i>	30
'Marie Simon'	<i>C. pallidus roseus</i> <i>C. delilianus</i> [x] <i>C. ovalis</i>	30 4,13a	'Tuttle'	<i>C. gloriosus</i>	13a
'Mary Lake'	not given	13a	'Victor Jouin'	<i>C. americanus</i> [x] <i>C. coeruleus</i>	30
'Mary Simpson'	not given	13a	'Wheeler Canyon'	not given	11,20,24,25
			'Yankee Point'	<i>C. griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i>	8,13a,18,21, 24,25,28
			[x] Ray D. Hartman	not given	2

and, to be complete, should be followed by the name of the authority who named it. Sometimes a species will be further divided into varieties (var.) and subspecies (ssp.) Procedures for naming plants are defined in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

Horticultural names describe particular forms of plant species that have been found in nature or in the garden or that have been produced through hybridization. Called cultivars, selections, or hybrids, these usually are propagated vegetatively through cuttings to produce plants with the same characteristics. Rules for naming these cultivars require that the name be capitalized and in single quotes and not be in latinized form or italicized; for example, *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn.'

Hybrids not named according to the rules of the International Code, which include publication of the name, are not considered true cultivars.

In many nurseries in California cultivars of *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* are found with no indication of the species; for example, *Arctostaphylos* 'Festival.' If the cultivar is of unknown origin, this is considered the correct form. However, this style of naming is often used even when the parentage of the plant is known.

Tables 1 and 2 list all horticultural names for *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* that we could uncover from the literature and information on the taxonomic affinities of these forms. Some of the horticultural names represent true cultivars, while others

have no botanical standing and are perhaps best referred to as selections. The taxonomic affinity of any selection is the opinion of the cited source, and in some instances may be no

more than an educated guess. We believe that such guesses are better than no information at all.

Our research revealed a total of eighty-one names of cultivars

**Table 2. Horticultural Names for *Arctostaphylos* Taxa and Taxonomic Affinities Suggested by Authorities.**

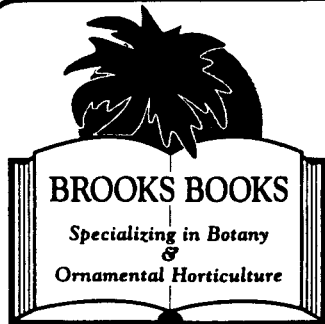
**Note:** Question mark indicates source of information stated that there was uncertainty; "x" indicates hybrid origin and is used between two species when both parents are known but precedes the specific epithet when only one parent is known.

Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source	Horticultural Taxonomic	Affinity Name Suggested by Source	Source
'Anchor Bay'	<i>A. [x] uva-ursi</i>	3	'Lester Rowntree'	<i>A. pajaroensis</i> [x]	
	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> selection	26		<i>A. obispoensis</i>	12
	not given	28		not given	11,28
'Ariel'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	31	'Lilian'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	7b
'Art Menzies'	<i>A. nummularia</i>	14	'Little Sur'	<i>A. edmundsii</i>	8
'Austin Griffin' ['Griffiths']	not given	9	'Louis Edmunds'	<i>A. stanfordiana</i> var. <i>bakeri</i>	13a,16,25
		12	'Lynn' ['Lynne']	<i>A. densiflora</i>	31
'Autumn Glow'	not given	28		<i>A. densiflora</i>	12
'Baby Bun'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	13b	'Marshall Olbrich'	<i>A. hearstiorum</i>	31
'Canyon Sparkles'	<i>A. insularis</i>	25	'Massachusetts'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	25
'Carmel Sur'	<i>A. edmundsii</i>	26	'Mills'	<i>A. hookeri</i>	6
	not given	28	'Miniature'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> var. <i>suborbiculata</i>	7c
'Compacta'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	13a	'Monica'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	31
'Danville'	<i>A. edmundsii</i>	13a,26	'Monterey Carpet'	<i>A. hookeri</i>	6,8,13a,
'Dr. Hurd'	<i>A. manzanita</i>	13a,23		not given	25,11
	not given	2,16,28		<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	13b
	origin unknown	18	'Mount Vision'	not given	3,11,28
'Dwayne's Dwarf'	<i>A. glauca</i>	9	'Pacific Mist'	not given	28,29
'Bert Johnson'	<i>A. edmundsii</i> var. <i>parvifolia</i>	7b	'Paradise'	<i>A. pajaroensis</i>	25
'Bronze Mat'	<i>A. edmundsii</i> var. <i>parvifolia</i>	7b	'Palisades'	<i>A. stanfordiana</i>	25
'Emerald Bay'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	25	'Pink Glory'	<i>A. refugioensis</i>	7b
	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> [x] <i>A. nummularia</i>	3	'Point Reyes'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	8,13a,26
not given	2,11	not given		3,11	
'Emerald Carpet'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> [x] <i>A. nummularia</i> (?)	13a,26	'Point St. George'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	7b
	not given	28	'Radiant'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	8,13a,18,26
'Festival'	not given	3,11	'Rosy Dawn'	<i>A. edmundsii</i>	26
'Fred Oehler'	<i>A. stanfordiana</i>	13a	'San Bruno Mountain'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	25,26
'Greenbay'	not given	11	'Sandsprite'	not given	2,3,11,26,28
'Greensnake'	= 'Ophio-viridis'	11	'Sea Spray'	not given	2,3,11,26
'Greensphere'	<i>A. edmundsii</i>	11	'Sentinel'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	6,8,11,13a,
	<i>A. [x] edmundsii</i>	13a,25			18,28
	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> [x] <i>A. tomentosa</i>	12	'Small Change'	<i>A. nummularia</i>	13b,31
	not given	2,28	'St. Helena'	<i>A. manzanita</i>	23
'Green Supreme'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	7b	'Sunset'	<i>A. pajaroensis</i> [x] <i>A. hookeri</i>	7a,13a
'Harmony'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	6,8,11	'Trinity'	<i>A. stanfordiana</i>	13a
	not given	13a,28	'Trinity Ruby'	<i>A. stanfordiana</i>	11
'Havens Neck'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> or [x] <i>uva-ursi</i>	3,26	'Vandenburg'	<i>A. rudis</i>	25
	<i>A. uva-ursi</i> [x] <i>A. nummularia</i>	12	'Vandenburg'	<i>A. viridissima</i>	25
	not given	11	'Warren Roberts'	<i>A. pajaroensis</i>	13b,31
'Howard McMinn'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	6,8,11, 13a,	'Wayside'	<i>A. hookeri</i>	6,8,13a,18,28
		16,18, 25,28	'White Cloud'	<i>A. viridissima</i>	7b
'Indian Hill'	<i>A. edmundsii</i> (?)	25	'White Lanterns'	<i>A. hookeri</i> or <i>A. [x] hookeri</i>	25
	<i>A. [x] edmundsii</i> (?)	26	not given	28	
	<i>A. edmundsii</i> [x] <i>A. uva-ursi</i>	12		28	
	not given	11,28	'Williams'	not given	28
'James West'	<i>A. densiflora</i>	6,13a,18	'Winterglow'	<i>A. [x] edmundsii</i> (?)	26
	not given	11	not given	2,3,11,25	
'Ken Taylor'	<i>A. hookeri</i>	26	'Wooden Valley'	<i>A. manzanita</i>	23
	unknown	12	'Wood's Compact'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	31
			not given	9	
'King Mt.'	<i>A. andersonii</i>	14	'Wood's Red'	<i>A. uva-ursi</i>	13a
'Knobcone Point'	<i>A. auriculata</i>	7b	not given	9	

of *Ceanothus* and seventy-seven names of *Arctostaphylos* described in the literature. Many of these are currently offered for sale. There are some interesting differences between the two genera in the source of cultivars. Fully one-fourth of the *Ceanothus* cultivars are thought to be hybrids, while the vast majority of *Arctostaphylos* are selections from the wild. Three times more of the *Ceanothus* cultivars than of the *Arctostaphylos* cultivars are of unknown origin, suggesting that detecting taxonomic affinities may be more straightforward for manzanitas than for *Ceanothus*.

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