

What is the California Floristic Province?



The California Floristic Province is a geographic area defined not by political boundaries but by the geological, biological, and ecological continuity of the region.

It includes 70% of California, extends into southwestern Oregon, a small part of western Nevada and northern Baja California, and includes the offshore channel islands of California and Baja California.

As one of only five areas with a Mediterranean-type climate in the world (all of which are on the hotspot list) the California Floristic Province is characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters.

Of nearly 3,500 species of vascular plants in the hotspot, more than 2,120 (61%) are found nowhere else in the world.

The California Floristic Province has high levels of plant endemism, and only 24.7% of the original vegetation remains in more or less pristine condition.

Did you know that the California Floristic Province is one of 34 “hotspots” of biodiversity recognized by Conservation International?

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden emphasizes California and the California Floristic Province in its collections and research

The Garden is committed to conserving the rarest plant species of the Central Coast Bioregion, which encompasses Monterey and San Benito counties south to Ventura County, and includes California's Channel Islands.