

# BRANCHING OUT

A California Native Plant Introduction Program



*Ceanothus arboreus* 'Powder Blue'  
Powder Blue Ceanothus



The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Plant Introduction Program "Branching Out" is dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation, and availability of outstanding California native plants for landscapes and gardens.

BOTANICAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ *Ceanothus arboreus*

CULTIVAR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 'Powder Blue'

COMMON NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Powder Blue Ceanothus

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Rhamnaceae

ORIGIN \_\_\_\_\_ A selection by Horticulturist Carol Bornstein from an atypically low-growing individual on Santa Cruz Island.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_ Copious, distinct, teardrop-shaped inflorescences (4-5 inches L) are powder blue in color, with the typically large (1.5-3 inches W x 2-3 inches L), crenate leaves of the species. The Garden's oldest specimen of this selection is 9 ft tall and 15 ft across.

WATER REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Tolerates drought conditions in southern California.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Adaptable.

EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Full sun to part shade in coastal areas.

PESTS AND DISEASES \_\_\_\_\_ *Ceanothus* sometimes get aphids and whitefly, but these are easy to control. Almost all *Ceanothus* can succumb to root rot caused by water mold organisms if overwatered during summer.

HARDINESS \_\_\_\_\_ Zones 7-9, 14-17, 19-24. Hardy to 15 F.

LANDSCAPE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_ The bold texture and overall size combine well with many finer-textured drought tolerant plants. This species is a consistent early bloomer (late February into March) within the genus.

PROPAGATION \_\_\_\_\_ Fairly reliable from cuttings.

\_\_\_\_\_ To commercially propagate this introduction, interested nurseries need to sign a licensing agreement with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

SALES POTENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ The light blue, distinctly teardrop-shaped inflorescences of 'Powder Blue' and large leaves are particularly appealing.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY \_\_\_\_\_ Native Sons Nursery (<http://www.nativeson.com/home2.html>)  
San Marcos Growers (<http://www.smgrowers.com/>)

For more information about this program, contact the Garden at 805-682-4726, ext. 114.  
Or, write to the Plant Introduction Program at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105.



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