

Leather root

Fabaceae

Hoita macrostachya



In the Garden

Once common, but now rare, *Hoita* is a deciduous perennial grows 5-7' tall and wide.

It can be found growing throughout California in moist situations or near seasonal streams. Bright green shoots appear in early spring, eventually forming a loose mound topped with purple or wine colored flowers in summer and lasting over a month before the plant slowly goes dormant.

Hoita macrostachya can be used as a soil stabilizer along a sunny stream, in a marsh, or at the ponds edge.

Sun: Full Sun, Part Shade

Water: Light, Moderate, High

Soil: Clay, Loam, Sand

Other: Attracts Butterflies, Attracts Birds, Deer Resistant, Erosion Control

Ecological Value:

Hoita macrostachya can be used as a soil stabilizer along a sunny stream, in a marsh, or at the ponds edge. The violet pea flowers on *Hoita* attract butterflies.

Historical Uses:

The bark fibers of this plant are quite strong and were used by the Concow and Yokia tribes to make thread, hunting bags, and rope. It was favored over Dogbane for its aromatic odor which lingered for several years.

Native Distribution:

Native to California and is found only slightly beyond California borders.

Elevation:

Between 0 and 5000 feet

Plant Communities:

Yellow Pine Forest, Foothill Woodland, Chaparral, Valley Grassland, Wetland-riparian

Habitat:

Moist areas and near seasonal streams