California bee plant
Scrophulariaceae
Scrophularia californica

**In the Garden**

A 2-4’ perennial with three foot spikes of reddish flowers.

Great for shady gardens and a prime choice for a butterfly garden. Drought tolerant looks best with a bit of summer moisture.

Attracts butterflies and bees, is a good source of nectar for hummingbirds, and is also deer resistant.

Blooms March through July

**Ecological Value:**

Larval host plant for the Checkerspot butterfly. Attracts butterflies and bees, is a good source of nectar for hummingbirds, and is also deer resistant.

**Historical Uses:**

Used medicinally by the Pomo and Ohlone peoples. A poultice of leaves was applied to boils and sores and sore eyes, plant juice was used as eyewash for poor vision, and a decoction of twigs was used to wash infections. In Western herbalism it is used as a long-term anti-inflammatory for chronic skin irritations.

**Native Distribution:**

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

**Elevation:**

Between 0 and 6500 feet

**Plant Communities:**

Northern Coastal Scrub, Closed-cone Pine Forest, Redwood Forest, Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub, Wetland-riparian

**Habitat:**

Dry upland areas moist places, roadsides, chaparral