



Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon, California Holly, Christmas Berry

Large shrub or small tree

Sun or shade

Low water needs

Origin: California

A California native evergreen shrub that grows to a dense 10 feet tall and 8 feet wide. Older plants can be taller and trained into small trees. The clusters of small white flowers in summer produce bright red berries in the fall and winter. The berries attract numerous birds into the garden. It is drought tolerant after the first few years, but tolerates some water if drainage is good.

Toyon is native to much of California and into the southwest corner of Oregon. It is fire resistant if deep watered every two weeks during spring and summer. It also helps slow erosion and stabilize soil on slopes. It likes full sun but it will tolerate shade. Toyon also grows well in larger pots. It is one of the easiest native plants to grow.