

Umbellularia californica

California Bay Laurel, Oregon Myrtle

LARGE TREE - evergreen; 30-80'
high, 25'+ wide.

Broad, round-topped crown.

Leaves shiny green, aromatic.
Flowers white, inconspicuous —
summer.

Native habitat: chaparral, foothill
woodland, yellow pine forest
— canyons and valleys below
5000' — San Diego to
southwest Oregon.

Full sun, part shade to shade.
Frost resistant.

Best in cool, moist conditions.

Tolerates drought and a variety of
soils, but grows best in rich,
well-drained garden soil with
summer irrigation.

Moderately fast growth.

Gives dense shade.

Useful cooking herb.

Wood is hard, strong and used in
woodworking.



Photographs courtesy of San Diego
Natural History Museum

