

Botanical Name: Umbellularia californica

Common Name: California Bay

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape erect, mostly single-trunked, forming a dense pyramidal
shrubby canopy when young; plant becomes more open and rounded with age

Height 15-30' (60') Spread 1/2 to equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors any exposure; best in partial sun at inland areas

Soil tolerates most; prefers a well-draining loam

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-10,14-24); thrives in humid coastal locale

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, lanceolate-elliptic; 2-6" long,
strongly aromatic if crushed; deep green, leathery

Flowers yellowish green, tiny 1/4", in mostly terminal panicles;
spring-early summer

Fruit a drupe; 1" long, olive-sized, green; black when ripe

Propagation: seed

Usage: widely-used accent tree for its overall shape; shade tree,
lawn tree; makes a good background screen or mass-planting for large-scale
landscape

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular; becomes fairly drought-tolerant after
established

Fertilizing little required; balanced fertilizer plus iron in clay

Pruning as a tree, head high when young to develop a canopy

Pests/Diseases aphids, sooty mold (in heavy shade)

Special Conditions

Origin: Calif., Oregon Family: Lauraceae