

TREE BINGO

Luckily for us, trees are found all around our neighborhoods! Not only are they beautiful to look at, but they also provide clean air, shelter, and food for people and animals. Choose 8 of your favorite characteristics of trees listed below and use them to fill in your blank bingo card. When you find one in your neighborhood, mark it off on your card. The first one to get 3-in-a-row or all 9 on their card wins!

Needle-like Leaves

Needles have a thicker, waxy coating compared to the typical leaf. Needles are also skinnier and have less area exposed to the air. This helps the tree hold water, especially if they live in an area with less rainfall.

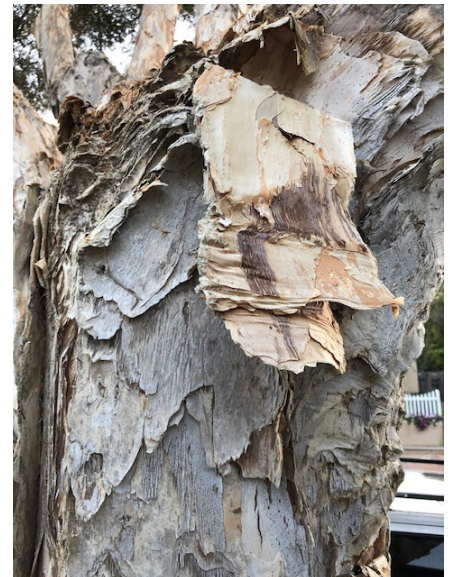


Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*

Peeling Bark

Some trees may shed their bark in order to grow or to keep some pests like insects or fungus from sticking to them.

Locally, we have planted *Melaleuca* or Paperbark Trees that are native to Australia. You can see their bark peeling off like sheets of paper!



Broad-leaved Paperbark, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*



Seed Pod or Cone

Trees can have many different types of seeds. They may have a pod or cone protecting their seeds so that the seeds are more likely to be dispersed or moved to another area and make it into the ground to grow a new tree.



Pinus sp.

Tree with Fruit

Another way that trees spread their seeds is by having fruit that is edible to different animals. The animals eat the fruit and often leave the seeds to grow a new tree.

The City of Encinitas planted Strawberry Trees (*Arbutus x 'Marina'*) on Arbor Day 2019. They have lovely pink bell-shaped flowers and are known to attract birds. The berries are edible, but have a lot of tiny seeds!



Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus x 'Marina'*



Tree with Red Flowers

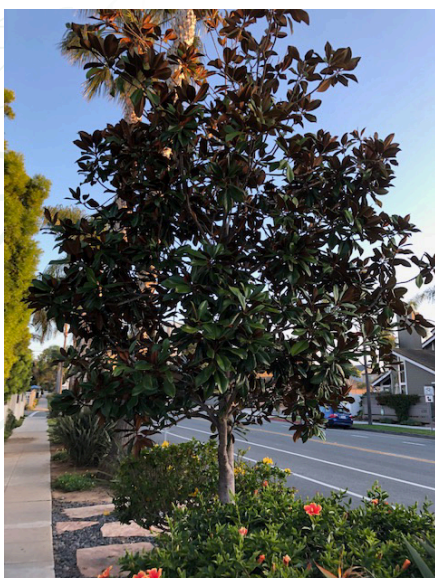
Birds, bees, moths, and butterflies are all attracted to colorful flowers. They visit each flower to feed off of nectar and by doing so, transfer pollen from flower to flower. This is known as pollination. Many trees must have their flowers pollinated in order to grow seeds. Examples in our local neighborhoods may be Coral Trees (*Erythrina* sp.).



Coral Tree, *Erythrina caaffra*

Leaves with 2 colors

Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) trees have leaves that are dark green and waxy on the top side of the leaf and brown and hairy on the bottom side. The hairs are called trichomes and help the tree to hold in water and deter animals from eating them.



Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*



Roots pushing a sidewalk

Roots are a very powerful natural force. The roots from the Ficus Trees (*Ficus microcarpa*) planted in downtown Encinitas over 50 years ago often cause issues with the sidewalks. The trees are very large and their strong roots push up the sidewalks in many places.



Ficus Trees, *Ficus microcarpa*

Palmate Leaves

Palmate leaves (like a fan).

Not all palm leaves are palmate, but you can see why they are called that by looking at the 'palm' of your hand.



Mexican Fan Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*



**Flower
larger
than your
hand**

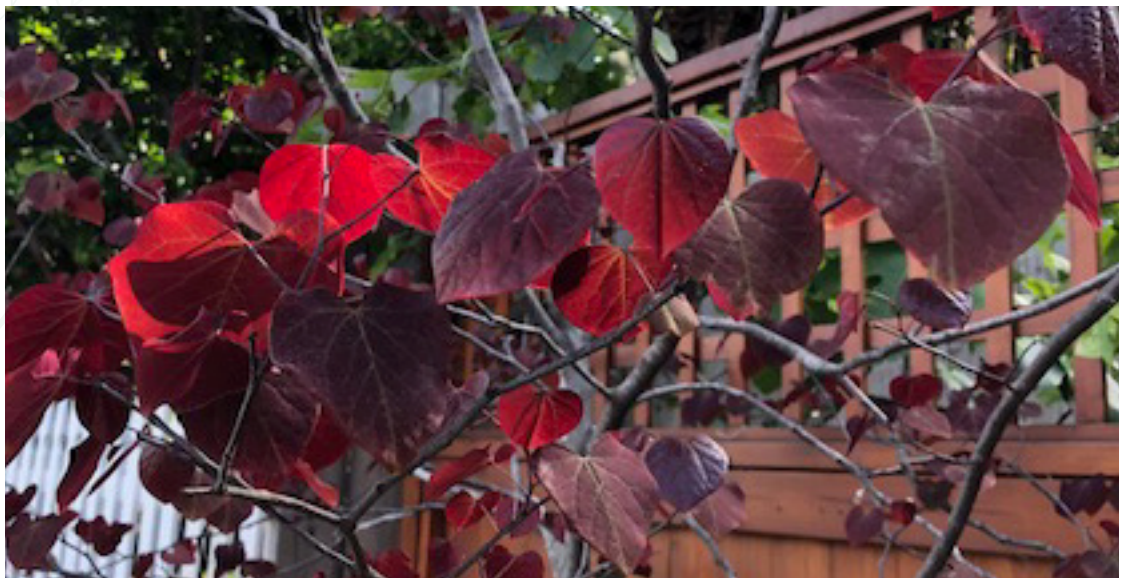
Some trees have small flowers. Others, like the Angel's Trumpet or *Brugmansia*, attract pollinators like moths with their fragrant blooms at night.



Angel's Trumpet, *Brugmansia versicolor* 'Peaches and Cream'

**Leaves
another
color than
green**

Trees with reddish or burgundy leaves like this Redbud have a mixture of different chemicals (that act like food coloring) inside of them to make them red. They still have green chlorophyll that helps them capture and convert the energy of the sun through photosynthesis, but they have so much red anthocyanin it can hide the green.

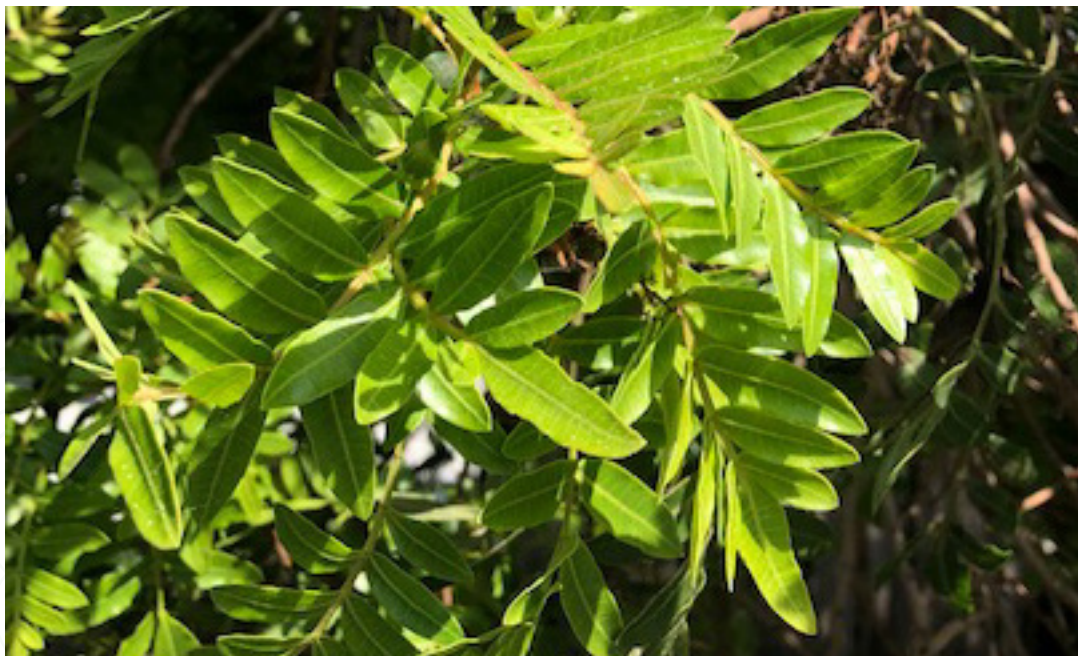


Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'



Compound Leaves

Many trees have compound leaves. Instead of having one main leaf, they have many parts that are multiple leaflets. This helps to prevent them from losing water and also if one leaflet is damaged, the rest of the leaf can continue to grow.




Schinus terebinthifolia Brazilian Peppertree

A perch for a bird

Trees provide food and safe places for birds to nest in. They also sometimes give them a place to hide or perch. Can you find any in your trees? What are the birds doing?



TREE BINGO

	 HUG A TREE	

Luckily for us, trees are found all around our neighborhoods! Not only are they beautiful to look at, but they also provide clean air, shelter, and food for people and animals. Choose 8 of your favorite characteristics of trees listed below and use them to fill in your blank bingo card. When you find one in your neighborhood, mark it off on your card. The first one to get 3-in-a-row or all 9 on their card wins!