

Where do I look for *Dirca* shrubs?

*Dirca occidentalis* (Common name: Western Leatherwood) can be found growing in several areas in Foothills Park: on the Wildhorse Valley end of Steep Hollow Tail, on the banks of Buckeye Creek in Wildhorse Valley, on the eastern most end of Los Trancos Trail and on Toyon Trail, our self guided nature trail.

Western Leatherwood flowers from late January into March, it has small hermaphroditic yellowish green flowers. It tends to prefer damp shaded areas but can be found in full sun. The wood is very flexible and springy.

Western Leatherwood is an endemic (occurs only here) to the San Francisco Bay Area plant, which is listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare, threatened, or endangered. You may find a plant with small stocking bags tied around the flowers; please do not disturb them, we are trying to gather seed in the hopes of growing additional plants.