

Plant Propagation Protocol for *Brickellia californica*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: <https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2026/BRCA3.pdf>

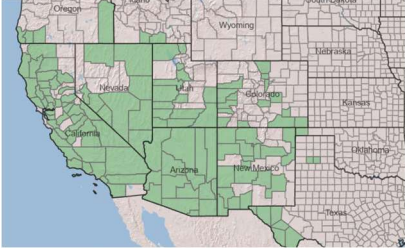


(American Southwest)



(Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, n.d.)

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	<i>Brickellia californica</i>
Common Name	(<i>California brickellbush</i>)
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	Kingdom: Plantae – Plants Subkingdom: Tracheobionta Superdivision: Spermatophyta Division: Magnoliophyta Class: Magnoliopsida Subclass: Asteridae Order: Asterales Family: Asteraceae Genus: <i>Brickellia</i> Elliott Species: <i>Brickellia californica</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray (California brickellbush)
Varieties	None are recognized in the USDA Plant Database
Sub-species	<i>Brickellia californica</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray var. <i>californica</i> <i>Brickellia californica</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray var. <i>jepsonii</i> B.L. Rob.
Cultivar	None are known
Common Synonym(s)	<i>Bulbostylis californica</i> Torr. & A. Gray <i>Brickellia tenera</i> A. Gray <i>Brickellia californica</i> A. Gray var. <i>tenera</i> (A. Gray) B.L. Rob. <i>Brickellia wrightii</i> A. Gray var. <i>tenera</i> (A. Gray) A. Gray

	<p><i>Coleosanthus californicus</i> Kuntze <i>Coleosanthus tener</i> (A. Gray) Kuntze (Jepson eFlora)</p>
Common Name(s)	<p>California brickellbush Jepson's brickellbush (for var. <i>jepsonii</i>) (Jepson eFlora)</p>
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	BRCA3
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	 <p>(USDA)</p> <p>Found in California, but also in Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Texas. In California the regional distribution is NW, CaRF, SN, SnJV, CW, SW, D.(Jepson eFlora)</p> <p>Native to the western U.S from Texas to Southern Oregon. (Nature Collective)</p>
Ecological distribution	<p>Mainly in wetland regions such as Arid West, Great plains, and Western Mountains, valleys, and Coast (USDA NRCS)</p> <p>In dry rocky hillside, canyons, sea bluffs (Jepson eFlora)</p> <p>Common in chapparral and coastal stage shrub vegetation types. (Nature Collective)</p> <p>Can be found by steamways, and near sea level (American Southwest)</p>
Climate and elevation range	<p>Elevation is generally above 2700m (Jepson eFlora)</p> <p>Generally needs to be in a climate that has precipitation of 11inches-25inches and temperature between 81 degrees F to 95 degrees F. (Easyscape)</p>
Local habitat and abundance	<p>Flowers open both during night and day, they attract butterflies during the day and night insects are attracted through a strong scent. The plant serves as a</p>

	pollen sources and a host plant for larval moths and butterflies. (Nature Collective)
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Perennial (Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, n.d.)
Plant characteristics	<p>Shrub, the stem is branched from near the base with short hairy granular. Blades ovate to Delatte. Inflorescence heads in leafy panicle clusters. It is pale yellow to green. Chromosomes are 2n=18. (Jepson eFlora)</p> <p>Is a native shrub to California with cluster of small vibrant yellow. (Californica Nursery)</p> <p>Flowers produce a strong scent in the evening which attract night pollinators. (Nature Collective)</p>
PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED	
Ecotype	Seed collected at The Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve and Hog's Back Ridge in eastern Tehama County, Ca (Young, 2001)
Propagation Goal	Plants (Young, 2001)
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container (plug) (Young, 2001)
Stock Type	Not specified
Time to Grow	Germination can be seen 2-4 weeks. (PropagateOne)
Target Specifications	Not specified
Propagule Collection Instructions	<p>Collect seed from fruits when fruit is completely ripe. Collection should be done from mid-summer to early fall. (Young, 2001)</p> <p>Collect mature fluffy seed head. They are mature when they turn pale brown. Then allow seedheads to dry in a paper bag. (PropagateOne)</p>
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	<p>Seeds are collected in large quantities between 1000-2000 seeds per gram, but this is dependent on the individual, population, and year. it is impractical to clean the seed perfectly. (Young, 2001)</p> <p>Shake seeds from dried flower into a container after drying. (PropagateOne)</p>
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Clean dry seeds was placed in a dry, cold storage following collection before sowing. (Young, 2001)

Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	The media mixture was 1:1:1:2 sand, pumice, peat, moss, and fir bark. The seed was sown into a 1.5 inch deep flat. (Young, 2001) Sow in loose well drained soil. (PropagateOne)
Establishment Phase Details	Flats were placed outside in a cold frame from late fall to spring. The species took several months to for germination to take place. Only about 1 percent of seeds germinated and it was observed about 1.5 months for any sign of germination (Young, 2001) Sow in the spring, and lightly press into the soil and keep it consistently moist. (PropagateOne)
Length of Establishment Phase	8 weeks (Young, 2001) 2-4 weeks until germination. (PropagateOne)
Active Growth Phase	Active growth was observed 2 months after sowing the seeds. It can be extended into summer if the soil kept wet. (Young, 2001)
Length of Active Growth Phase	6-8 months later winter to late summer. (Young, 2001)
Hardening Phase	This is phase is not needed because it naturally grows in the fall then goes dormant. (Young, 2001)
Length of Hardening Phase	Not specified
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	If soil is moist individuals can grow through the summer. (Young, 2001)
Length of Storage	Not specified
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Transplant when well established into full sun and well-draining soil. (PropagateOne) Repot in spring using plastic or ceramic pots (ForwardPlant).
Other Comments	Flowering occurs late June to October, seed collection is august to October, this plant has a low germination rate and seed is very small. (Young, 2001)
PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE (Cutting)	
Ecotype	Not specified
Propagation Goal	Plants (PropagateOne)
Propagation Method	Vegetative stem cuttings (PropagateOne)
Product Type	Not specified
Stock Type	not specified
Time to Grow	Rooting takes several weeks (PropagateOne)
Target Specifications	Well-rooted cuttings that are ready for transplanted (PropagateOne)

Propagule Collection Instructions	Take 4-6 inch cuttings from healthy stems that are not flowering with 2-3 nodes. Best to collect in early or late summer. (PropagateOne)
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Select healthy non -flowering stems for rooting. (PropagateOne)
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Optional rooting hormone on the cut to help encourage new growth. (PropagateOne)
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Put the cuttings into a well draining potting mix such as pots or trays and keep them moist, warm, in bright indirect sunlight. (PropagateOne)
Establishment Phase Details	Several weeks until rooting. (PropagateOne)
Length of Establishment Phase	Several weeks. (PropagateOne)
Active Growth Phase	Keep cuttings moist, but not soggy and bright indirect sunlight. (PropagateOne)
Length of Active Growth Phase	Not specified
Hardening Phase	Not specified
Length of Hardening Phase	Not specified
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Not specified
Length of Storage	Not specified
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Only transplant when rooted and established into full sun with well-draining soil
Other Comments	
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	See Below
Other Sources Consulted	See Below
Protocol Author	Abby Blackford
Date Protocol Created or Updated	5/17/2026

References:

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- 2) easyscape. "California Brickellbush (Brickellia Californica)." *Easyscape*, easyscape, [https://easyscape.com/species/Brickellia-californica\(California-Brickellbush\)?_cf_chl_tk=eIZIE4CA77i88jyD86W3E8jRVsO2GB3Yh9ZOW.ux8BE-1779161162-1.0.1.1-IPD1dFYhdAZ4g1BH5zAHjdVo8GL.U19VI2t4mJ147jU](https://easyscape.com/species/Brickellia-californica(California-Brickellbush)?_cf_chl_tk=eIZIE4CA77i88jyD86W3E8jRVsO2GB3Yh9ZOW.ux8BE-1779161162-1.0.1.1-IPD1dFYhdAZ4g1BH5zAHjdVo8GL.U19VI2t4mJ147jU).
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<https://rngr.net/npn/propagation/protocols/asteraceae-brickellia-3088/?searchterm=Brickellia%20californica>.

- 5) Nature Collective. "California Brickellbush Brickellia Californica." *Nature Collective*, Nature Collective, <https://naturecollective.org/plant-guide/details/california-brickellbush/>.
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- 7) Prop 2k Master. "How to Propagate Brickellia Californica." *PropogateOne*, PropogateOne, 16 Sept. 2024, <https://propagate.one/how-to-propagate-brickellia-californica/>.
- 8) Scott, Randall. "Brickellia Californica CALIFORNIA BRICKELLBUSH." *Jepson eFlora*, Jepson eFlora, 2012, https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=1794.
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- 10) Tongva and Acjachemen. "CALIFORNIA BRICKELLBUSH Brickellia Californica." *Californica Nursery*, Californica Nursery, [https://www.californicanursery.com/plants/ZFS7YU3OAEQVYMTGP4K7RIGH/California%20Brickellbush%20\(Brickellia%20californica\)](https://www.californicanursery.com/plants/ZFS7YU3OAEQVYMTGP4K7RIGH/California%20Brickellbush%20(Brickellia%20californica)).
- 11) USDA. "Brickellia Californica (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray California Brickellbush." *Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*, USDA NRCS, <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plant-profile/BRCA3>.

Other Sources Consulted

- 12) Calflora. "Brickellia Californica (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray Brickell Bush, California Brickellbush, California Brickellia." *Calflora*, Calflora, <https://www.calflora.org/app/taxon?crn=1152>.