

# California Trip #125

The San Diego Botanic Garden is located in Encinitas. It has the largest display of bamboo in the U.S. The garden was donated to San Diego County in 1957.







*The garden covers 37 acres and includes 3,000 species.*



There are 1,450 species of bamboo. Bamboo is a grass. There are two types – clumping and running. They can be terribly invasive.



Giant Bamboo  
Dendrocalamus giganteus  
Hortus Botanicus  
This species is one of the largest  
bamboos in the world, growing  
up to 120 feet tall.





















Painted bamboo. The stripes are different on each segment of a pole. The poles will grow to about 50 feet in height.
















A cycad. These plants date back 65 million years. They look like a palm but they are not.











Bengal Bamboo  
*Bambusa tulda* "Striata"  
Poaceae Grass Family  
India  
This large bamboo has straight,  
thick canes that are valuable  
for construction.



















The entrance to the food garden, which features citrus plants from around the world.







Salvia leucantha  
This plant is a native  
to the mountains of  
Mexico and is a member  
of the Salvia genus.







There are several of these mobiles in the garden. They sell for about \$9,500.





*Globe Trotting*  
**CITRUS**

**T**he ancestors of citrus came from Southeast Asia, Eastern China and Indo-Malaysia probably more than a thousand years ago. Christopher Columbus brought citrus plants to the Americas in 1493.

Citrus is in the same family - Rutaceae - as such seemingly different plants as the poisonous herb rue, the ornamental shrub Mexican orange and the delicious fruiting white sapote.



**BLOOD ORANGE**

is named for its red colored fruit.

**LEMONS**

'Eureka' is grown commercially.

**LIMES**

'Mexican' is seedy; 'Bearss' is seedless.

**ORANGE**

Valencias are used for juice. Navels are best for eating.



**GRAPEFRUIT**

needs warm weather to be sweet.

**TANGERINES**

The Subtropical Fruit Garden has several varieties that ripen at different times of the year.



















In the "Plants from Mexico" section.





In this area are some intricate examples of topiary with different kinds of succulents, rather than the usual shrubs.





There were several of these living plant statues in the garden.













 **Madagascar's**  *Unique Plantscape*

This entire island nation is a biodiversity hotspot, with unique plants found nowhere else. Many of its plants are related to African plants and are endangered.

Most of the plants found in this garden come from habitats in Madagascar called arid spiny forests. Aloes, pachypodiums, and euphorbias store water in succulent leaves or stems. *Allaudias* resemble the ocotillos of our Southwest with their long spiny trunks and tiny leaves that fall off in the dry season.

Plants in our gardens from Madagascar also include rosy periwinkle, kalanchoe, crown of thorns, majesty palm, areca palm, and triangle palm.







Note the trunks and limbs covered with spikes for protection from animals.





















