



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites	
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------	--

**AB-581 State shrub.** (2025-2026)

SHARE THIS:  

Date Published: 10/10/2025 10:00 AM

**Assembly Bill No. 581**

**CHAPTER 481**

An act to add Section 425.16 to the Government Code, relating to state government.

[ Approved by Governor October 09, 2025. Filed with Secretary of State October 09, 2025. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 581, Bennett. State shrub.

Existing law establishes the state flag and the state's emblems, including, among other things, the golden poppy as the official State Flower, the California redwood as the official state tree, and purple needlegrass as the official State Grass.

This bill would establish the bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as the official state shrub.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Manzanitas are an iconic native plant species within one of California's most extensive ecosystems, the chaparral.

(b) With roots in California that date back over a million years, *Arctostaphylos glauca* is specifically suited for California's topography. This long-lived shrub features broad-reaching roots that provide watershed protective qualities and aid in preventing soil erosion.

(c) The increase in fire frequency is threatening old-growth stands of *Arctostaphylos glauca*, where the California grizzly bear once roamed. Recognizing the natural resource and heritage of this shrub species is one part of preservation.

(d) *Arctostaphylos glauca*, or bigberry manzanita, as it is commonly known, is an extensive and widespread large manzanita, populating chaparral habitats from the coast to the desert with a range from the San Francisco Bay area into the northern State of Baja California, Mexico.

(e) The common name of the genus *Arctostaphylos* is "manzanita," which means "little apple" in Spanish. "*Arctostaphylos*" directly translates to "bear grape" in Greek with the prefix "arktos" meaning "bear" and the suffix "staphylos" translating to "bunch of grapes." These linguistic connections have ties to California's heritage.

(f) The fruit of *Arctostaphylos glauca* has been used by Native American communities as a food source. California's official state animal, the now-extinct California grizzly bear, also relied upon the fruit as a source of food. The shrub continues to be an important food source for wildlife in the chaparral.

(g) Declaring the *Arctostaphylos glauca* a state species is one step in spreading awareness of its important role in California's natural landscape.

**SEC. 2.** Section 425.16 is added to the Government Code, to read:

**425.16.** Bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) is the official state shrub.