

Palos Verdes Key Checklist – GEOG/ES&P 330 -- answer as many as you can

Your name(s): _____ **Specimen ID #:** _____

If you're in the field, put check in front of choice if your specimen is:

_____ tree _____ large shrub _____ small shrub _____ subshrub perennial _____ small forb
_____ succulent (including cactus) _____ grass or grass-like plant

How tall is your specimen? _____ m _____ cm (circle one, meters or centimeters)

Leaves are: _____ simple _____ compound _____ miniscule/scale-like/missing _____ replaced by spines
(cactus)

Leaves are: _____ basal/radical (rosette at the base) _____ cauline (on stems) _____ mixture of both

Leaves are: _____ missing _____ alternate _____ opposite _____ whorled _____ very hard to tell

Maximum length of leaf in cm: _____ Maximum width of leaf in cm: _____

Texture of leaf: _____ sclerophyllous/tough/leathery _____ membranous/soft/thin _____ succulent

Top of leaf surface is: _____ glabrous _____ glaucous _____ hairy/downy (puberulent/pubescent/villous)
_____ tomentose/woolly _____ scurfy/scratchy/scabrous _____ viscid/sticky _____ nettlesome/stinging

Underside of leaf is: _____ glabrous _____ glaucous _____ hairy/downy (puberulent/pubescent/villous)
_____ tomentose/woolly _____ scurfy/scratchy/scabrous _____ viscid/sticky _____ nettlesome/stinging

Color of top of leaf is (or was): _____ yellow-green/bright green _____ light green _____ medium green
_____ dark or olive green _____ silver-green/greyish/whitish _____ leaves dry/dead
_____ no leaves

Color of underside of leaf is: _____ same as topside _____ noticeably lighter than topside

The leaf margins are: _____ entire (may be wavy) _____ lobed/parted/divided _____ incised/cleft
_____ crenate/crenulate _____ toothed/serrate/dentate _____ spinose

The leaf is: _____ more or less flat _____ revolute/rolled or curled backward/under _____ folded or rolled
inward/upward

The overall shape of the leaf (try to overlook lobes, teeth) is:

_____ needle
_____ linear (much thinner than long, like a needle, but flatter in cross-section)
_____ lanceolate (much longer than wide, but not as much so as linear; often a bit wider at base)
_____ oblanceolate (like lanceolate, but wider toward the tip)
_____ spatulate (much wider at the tip than the base)
_____ falcate (sickle-shaped, a narrow leaf with a crooked or curving axis)
_____ elliptical (symmetrical oval, with the widest part in the middle and tapering to the ends)
_____ oval (round but longer than wide)
_____ oblong (elliptical, but with roughly parallel sides in the middle, a flattened oval)
_____ ovate (elliptical, but wider toward the base, like an egg)
_____ obovate (elliptical, but wider toward the tip)
_____ cordate (heart-shaped, with a notch in the base where the petiole attaches)

- _____ obcordate (heart-shaped, but with the notch at the rounded, wide tip away from petiole)
- _____ deltoid (triangular, with the base wide and the tip narrow)
- _____ cuneate (wedge-shaped, but with the tip wide and the base narrow)
- _____ reniform (kidney-shaped, noticeably wider than long)
- _____ flabellate (fan-shaped, with a base perpendicular to the axis)
- _____ rhomboid (diamond-shaped, with the widest part in the middle)
- _____ orbicular (almost perfectly round)
- _____ palmate (lobed like a hand and its fingers)
- _____ pinnatisect (lobed perpendicularly along the axis, like many mustards)
- _____ hastate (a triangularly lobed leaf, basal lobes more or less perpendicular to the axis)
- _____ sagittate (spear-like, with the base barbed back over the petiole, almost parallel to it)

How long is the petiole or leaf stalk/stem? _____ no petiole (sessile) _____ cm _____ mm (circle one)
 Does the petiole have “wings” running down it or stipules (small basal structures)? _____

If the leaf is compound, how many leaflets does it have? _____ (it can be a range, *e.g.*, 3-7)
 How are the leaflets arranged? _____ palmately (all coming from one point of origin)
 _____ pinnately (branching out from a single main axis or rachis)

How are the veins on the leaf arranged? _____ palmately _____ pinnately _____ in parallel

If there are flowers:

How many sepals are there? _____ Are they fused at the base or separate? _____

If there are petals, how many? _____ Are they fused at the base or separate? _____

Might this be a composite flower (like a daisy or sunflower)? _____ If so, how many ray flowers (look like petals)? _____ How many disk flowers (look like a dense collection of stamens/pistils forming a disk)

Might the flowers be catkins or stalks lined with stamens, giving them a fuzzy appearance. There are usually no petals or very small, inconspicuous ones. The whole structure usually droops.

If there are stamens, how many? _____ Can you make out pistils? _____ How many? _____

If there're more than one pistil, are the pistils separate structures, each with its own ovule, style, and stigma, or are they at least partly fused? _____ separate _____ fused

How long is the corolla (flower parts above the calyx (or sepal structures)? How wide across is the corolla? _____ cm long _____ cm across

What color are the flowers? _____

If the plant has an obvious smell, describe it in terms of whether it's pleasantly fragrant or unpleasantly stinky and anything else that might help you remember the smell (*e.g.*, mint-like, sage-like, lemony, like a dead animal, or whatever): _____
