



Photo by: [Christopher Christie](#)

Common Name: Wild Lilac

Scientific Name: *Ceanothus leucodermis*

Description: Wild lilac grows like a tree but is a shrub. It has oval shaped light green leaves that grow on very stiff branches. The leaves are evergreen. Flowers range from deep blue to white and grow in clusters that are one to three inches long. It can grow from 5-12 feet high. It blooms from April to June.

The Kumeyaay would boil the leaves, berries or sap of the Wild Lilac to relieve the itch from poison oak, or to heal impetigo.

You can read about this plant in *Indians of the Oaks* on page 59. Pion and Kwee-tahk "dug deep holes with crowbars of wild lilac" so they could put the posts of their new hut in the ground.

By: Richard