



INSIGNIS

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ALTA PEAK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Please send changes of address to Membership Chair,
Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271*

PROGRAM - 21 September, 7:00 PM, at the Three Rivers Art Center

Melanie Baer-Keeley, horticulturist for the U.S. Park Service, will present slides and talk about the plants we will be having at our plant sale and how they are best used in our native landscape and gardens. We will have the plant sale lists on hand to assist you with your notes. There will be a question and answer session and refreshments after her presentation.

Melanie got her B.S. Degree at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. She is currently the Native Plant Nursery Manager in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park and is propagating and planting native plants throughout the park. Prior to this she worked as a native plant consultant and for the Theodore Payne Foundation. She is also writing articles for our newsletter. (See following pages.) Turn off Hwy 198 at North Fork Drive; the junction is well marked. It is the first building on the left. Watch for CNPS sign.

PLANT SALE - October 5, Three Rivers Art Center, 9 AM to 4 PM

Locally grown shrubs and trees, perennials and wild grasses, bulbs, books, and posters will be available for your purchase. CNPS members will be on hand with suggestions about how and where to plant the plants you want in your yard, mulching, watering, and answers to your special questions. Remember...we make no promises about guaranteed success in this or any other gardening task. Pre-orders (form enclosed) must be received by September 23rd. Our primary source for plants is Intermountain Nursery in Prather.

WE NEED HELP.

September 21 and October 4 and 5. CALL 561-3461 TO VOLUNTEER.

MEMBERSHIP.

We wish to thank all those who have given us their support through their continued membership. If you wish to participate on a larger scale, please contact any member of the Board of Directors listed on the back page of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Propagation Workshop.

Intermountain Nursery, 19 October, 9:30, \$15, (559) 855-3113.

Spring/Summer Field Trips.

Rained-out, smoked-out, or otherwise exciting, we managed to see a lot of loveliness and new country when weather let us go as scheduled. We are already looking ahead to next year's seasons of walks, climbs, and explores; where would you like to go? What kind of plants would you like to see? Call Joan, the Chapter Field Trip Chair at 539-2717, and suggest places or flowers you want to visit. Perhaps next year we can plan hikes/walks that respond to your particular interests? ...Oak Woodlands, mid-level coniferous forest species, high mountain meadows? Each habitat has its own special surprises, and each blooms at different times, starting in February for lower elevations. Tell us where you would like to go and what flowers appeal to you.

Conservation Concerns.

The purpose of CNPS is to help all of us enjoy our native plants, to understand more about where and why they grow as they do, and then to help preserve this rich resource for the future. At the state level California Native Plant Society supports education, legislative, plant science, and conservation programs to meet these several linked goals. In general, most of the conservation work happens at local scales; the 32 chapters throughout California become involved in their own "back-yard" issues. There are some topics that are pervasive and affect most regions, but some others are very special. Consider what Tulare County shares with San Francisco, for example!

In past years our Alta Peak Chapter has been concerned with sand/gravel operations near Three Rivers, with cutting of oaks on range lands for firewood, and with maintaining river banks and channels to support natural vegetation (and the wildlife that requires these habitats). We have worked with the Weed Management Council to develop information about invasive plant pests in wild lands (as opposed to agricultural lands), and with the Forest Service to call attention to some of the special botanic resources. (See 24 August field-trip notice). And the revision, update of the County General Plan, certainly interests us, as it addresses "growth" concerns.

What activities locally affect "enjoyment, understanding, preservation" of natural ecosystems that are literally rooted in vegetation? Are there questions for which CNPS might help provide information? Call Marilyn Messa at 561-3479 (or any of the board members listed on the back of this *Insignis*) to talk about your "back-yard" concerns.

Conference.

Creating Funding Partnerships for Native Plant Projects. Monday, October 21, Conference 9:00-5:30, in Oakland. Questions? Call (510) 236-9558, or e-mail Kathy@KKramerConsulting.net for more information.

Cultivating California Native Plants

Salvias (Sage)

By Melanie Baer-Keeley

The *Salvias* or sages are a fantastically versatile genus, making them functional and attractive additions to the landscape. Colorful, spiky or whorled inflorescences, soothing aromas, zesty flavors and ease of care are trademark characteristics. From a culinary perspective, they can spice up poultry and meat with novel regional flavors. Medicinally, sages possess antiseptic and astringent qualities as well as a host of other curatives. Additionally valuable are the wildlife-attracting, slope-stabilizing features of the sages.

Surprisingly, few species of *Salvia* are native to the southern Sierra Nevada. Only two annuals, Chia Sage, (*Salvia columbariae*), whose highly nutritious seed was commonly eaten or used medicinally by early Californians, and the showy lavender-flowered Thistle Sage (*S. carduaceae*) which may be found throughout the San Joaquin Valley and foothills. The stunningly gorgeous and unfortunately rarely commercially-available perennials, Rose Sage, (*S. pachyphylla*) and brilliant blue carpet, Desert Sage (*S. dorrii*) are found to the south and east of the mountain range.

This is a puzzling, somewhat tragic regional under-representation of an otherwise prevalent genera comprising 900 species worldwide and about 20 statewide. Although sages are not naturally indigenous here, they do perform very well in cultivation in the Sierra foothills.

Cultivating *Salvias*

California Native sages are carefree and hardy. Most of California's species are drought adapted, becoming semi-deciduous under adversely arid conditions. However, with supplemental irrigation, they can be kept looking garden-worthy year round. A little extra water will also encourage multiple flowerings beyond their natural late spring to mid-summer blooming time.

Planting in the fall enables them to develop a deep root system during the wet, cool season, ensuring survival in Central Valley's extreme summer heat and drought. In the establishment period, water them when the soil is on the dry side. Continue to water your sage through their second or third dry season, and as needed after that. Once established, water

infrequently and deeply, keeping moisture off the leaves, as powdery mildew can be a concern.

If, your *Salvia* is to be planted amidst existing garden plants, be certain all are equally drought tolerant. However, if frequent irrigation is unavoidable, planting *Salvias* on top of a mound or swale increases water drainage and may adequately alleviate the problem.

Of the genera listed below, all but *Salvia sonomensis* and *Salvia spathacea* perform well in sunny exposures. These two make fantastic groundcovers under native oaks or manzanitas, as they can survive on minimal water through the summer, thereby protecting existing native vegetation.

Other sage species take blasting heat and sun, though they certainly can tolerate a little shade during the day. The deep and extensive root systems of the *Salvias* are key to their survival in our extreme climate. With them, they can tap soil moisture on the steepest, harshest slopes. Consequently, salvias are excellent slope stabilizers. As a rule, they tend to inhabit well-draining soil. However, clay or heavy soils don't pose a problem if they are not constantly wet.

Propagating *Salvias*

Propagating native sage species is fairly simple. In early- to mid-summer, collect and plant fresh seed. Sprinkle seeds on top of a porous soil medium, dusting more of the media on top of the seed for protection. Keep moist until the seed germinates, then reduce watering. Transplant seedlings once two to four pairs of leaves have formed.

Many California-native salvia spin-offs have been hybridized and selected. To maintain their desirable traits, they must be propagated by softwood tip-cuttings. Use about 3000 ppm rooting hormone on cut and stripped tips about five inches long. Place directly in a well-draining medium primarily consisting of perlite. Keep in a humid environment at approximately 80° F until roots initiate. After roots appear, transplant into another pot to grow on, then, out-plant in fall.

To help you wade through the characteristics of some of the multitudinous offspring as well as of the true native species, please browse the following table:

Guide to Salvia (Sage) Species, Selections and Hybrids

Species	Common Name, Type	Derivation/Origins	Exposure			Dimensions		Flower Color						Best Features	Drought Tolerance		
			Sun, Partial Sun, Shade			H	W	White, Pink, Lt Blue, Med Blue, Drk Blue, Violet								L	M
			S	PS	Sh	H	W	Wh	Pk	LB	MB	DB	V				
<i>Salvia</i> 'Allen Chickering'	Hybrid Sage	der. <i>S. clevelandii</i> x <i>S. leucophylla</i> San Diego to Baja CA below 3000', Coastal, dry, open hills	S	PS	-	5'H	5'WFlo	-	-	-	-	DB	-	Fantastic aroma, culinary, silver foliage, dark blue, whorled flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant. Attracts hummingbirds.	-	M	H
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White Sage	Dry slopes below 5000'; Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Yellow Pine	S	-	-	3-5'H	5'W	Wh	-	-	-	-	-	Aromatic, useful for cooking, coarse white foliage, tall white flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant. Attracts bees & hummingbirds. Cold hardy to at least 15°F.	-	-	H
	Cleveland Sage	Dry slopes below 3000'; Chaparral	S	PS	-	3'	4'	-	-	-	MB	-	-	Fantastic fragrance, useful for cooking, silver-green foliage, medium blue, whorled flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant. Attractive to hummingbirds. Cold hardy to at least 25°F.	-	M	H
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Winifred Gillman'	Cleveland Sage Selection	der. <i>S. clevelandii</i> Dry slopes below 3000'; Chaparral	S	PS	-	3-5'H	4-6'W	-	-	-	MB	-	-	Fantastic fragrance, culinary, silver-green foliage, medium blue, whorled flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant. Attracts hummingbirds. Cold hardy to at least 25°F.	-	M	H
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Aromas'	Sage Selection	Dry slopes below 3000'; Chaparral	S	PS	-	3'H	4'W	-	-	-	MB	-	-	Fantastic aroma, culinary, silver-green foliage, medium blue, whorled flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant. Attracts hummingbirds. Cold hardy to at least 25°F.	-	M	H
<i>Salvia</i> 'Dara's Choice'	Sage Hybrid	der. <i>S. sonomensis</i> x <i>S. mellifera</i> , Chaparral, Yellow Pine Forests, below 5000'; Dry slopes below 2000'; Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral	S	PS	-	1-2'H	3'W	-	-	-	-	DB	V	Linear green foliage, dark blue, whorled flowers. Compact plant gives great horizontal accents to a perennial border. Tolerant of garden conditions. Attracts hummingbirds. Cold hardy to at least 25°F.	-	M	H
<i>Salvia domii</i>	Desert Sage	Desert slopes Eastern Sierra Nevada 3500-11000'	S			1-2'H	3' W				MB	DB		Brilliant blue carpet, very drought tolerant & cold hardy. Exceptional!			H
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple Sage	Dry slopes below 2000'; Coastal Sage Scrub	S	PS	-	3-5'H	3-5'W	-	Pk	-	-	-	-	Fragrant, silver foliage, light pink, whorled flowers, deep-rooted, drought-tolerant, tough plant. Attracts hummingbirds.	-	M	H

Alta Peak Chapter 2002 Plant Pre-Sale Order Form

A 20% discount will be given to CNPS members who pre-order plants. Order forms must be received by September 23rd. Make check to CNPS and mail form to Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Yes, I will be able to help with the plant sale on Friday ___ and/or Sat. ___

TREES	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Acer macrophyllum, Big Leaf Maple	D1G	7.00	X	.
Aesculus californica, California Buckeye	TP4	12.00		.
Alnus rhombifolia, White Alder	D1G	8.00	X	.
Alnus tenuifolia, Mountain Alder	D1G	8.00		.
Calocedrus decurrens, Incense Cedar	D1G	8.00		.
Chilopsis 'Burgandy', Burgandy Desert Willow	1G	7.00	X	.
Cornus nuttallii, Western Dogwood	TP4	20.00		.
Fraxinus dipetela, Fresno Ash	D1G	8.00		.
Juglans hindsii, California Black Walnut	D1G	8.00		.
Pinus contorta murrayana, Lodgepole Pine	5G	22.00		.
Pinus jeffreyi, Jeffrey Pine	D1G	8.00	X	.
Pinus lambertiana, Sugar Pine	D1G	8.00		.
Pinus monophylla, Pinyon Pine	D1G	8.00		.
Pinus ponderosa, Ponderosa Pine	D1G	8.00	X	.
Pinus sabiniana, Gray, Bull, Foothill Pine	D1G	8.00		.
Platanus racemosa, California Sycamore	D1G	8.00	X	.
Populus tremuloides, Quaking Aspen	D1G	10.00	X	.
Pseudotsuga menziesii, Douglas Fir	5G	22.00		.
Quercus agrifolia, Coastal Live Oak	D1G	8.00		.
Quercus Brewerii, Brewer's Oak	D1G	8.00		.
Quercus chrysolepis, Canyon Oak, Gold Cup Oak	TP4	14.00	X	.
Quercus douglasii, Blue Oak	D1G	8.00		.
Quercus kelloggii, California Black Oak	D1G	8.00		.
Quercus lobata, Valley Oak	D1G	8.00	X	.
Quercus wislizenii, Interior Live Oak	D1G	8.00		.
Sequoiadendron gigantea, Giant Sequoia	D1G	8.00	X	.
Umbellularia californica, California Bay	D1G	8.00	X	.

SHRUBS	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd', Manzanita	1G	7.00	X	.
Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet', Manzanita	1G	7.00	X	.
Arctostaphylos 'Massachusetts', Manzanita	1G	7.50		.
Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist', Manzanita	1G	7.00	X	.
Arctostaphylos 'Radiant', Manzanita	1G	7.00		.
Arctostaphylos 'Sentinel', Manzanita	1G	7.00		.
Arctostaphylos d. 'Howard McMinn', Manzanita	1G	7.00	X	.
Arctostaphylos nevadense	D1G	12.00		.
Arctostaphylos pajaroensis, Pajaro Manzanita	D1G	7.00		.
Arctostaphylos patula, Greenleaf Manzanita	TP4	14.00		.
Arctostaphylos uva ursi, Manzanita	1G	7.00		.
Artemisia 'Powis Castle',	1G	7.00		.
Asclepias eriocarpa, Woolly/Indian Milkweed	1GF	8.00		.
Atriplex lentiformis, Quailbush	D1G	8.00		.
Baccharis 'Pigeon Point', Coyote Bush	1G	6.00		.

Baccharis 'Twin Peaks, Coyote Bush	1G	6.00		.
Calycanthus occidentalis, Spice Bush	D1G	8.00	X	.
Carpenteria californica, Bush Anemone	1G	8.00	X	.
Ceanothus 'Arroyo de la Cruz, Ceanothus	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus 'Centennial', Centennial Ceanothus	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus 'Concha', Concha Ceanothus	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter', California Lilac	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps', Julia Phelps C.	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus 'Skylark', Skylark C.	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus hearstorium, Hearstorium C.	1G	6.00		.
Ceanothus rigidis 'Snowball', Snowball C.	1G	6.00		.
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Buttonwillow	1G	6.00		.
Cercis occidentalis, Redbud	D1G	8.00	X	.
Cercocarpus betuloides, Mountain Mahogany	1G	7.00		.
Chrysothamnus nauseosus, Rubber Rabbit Bush	1GF	7.00		.
Clematis lasianthus, Chaparral Clematis	1G	7.00		.
Corylus cornuta californica, Hazelnut	D1G	8.00		.
Eriogonum fasciculatum, California Buckwheat	1G	7.00		.
Eriogonum umbellatum 'Shasta, Sulphur Flower	1G	7.00		.
Eriophyllum confertiflorum, Woolly Sunflower	1G	7.00		.
Fremontodendron 'Calif. Glory', Flannel Bush	D1G	16.00	X	.
Heteromeles arbutifolia, ChristmasBerry/Toyon	D1G	8.00	X	.
Lessingia 'Silver Carpet', California Aster	1G	6.50		.
Lonicera interupta, Chaparral Honeysuckle	D1G	8.00		.
Lupinus albicaulis, White Flowering Lupine	1G	8.00		.
Lupinus albifrons, Silver Bush Lupine	D1G	9.00		.
Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta', Oregon Grape	D1G	9.00		.
Philadelphus lewisii GooseCr, CA Mock Orange	2GF	8.00	X	.
Prunus virginiana demissa, Chokecherry	1G	7.00	X	.
Rhamnus CA 'Mound San Bruno', SB Cofeeberry	D1G	8.00	X	.
Rhamnus californica, California Coffeeferry	D1G	8.00		.
Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case', Coffeeferry	D1G	8.00		.
Rhamnus crocea illicifolia, Red Berry	D1G	8.00		.
Rhododendron occidentalis, Western Mt Azalea	5GF	50.00		.
Rhus ovata, Sugar Bush	D1G	8.00		.
Ribes aureum, Golden Currant	1G	7.50		.
Romneya coulteri, Matilija Poppy	2GF	16.00		.
Rosa californica, CA Wild Rose	1G	7.00	X	.
Rosa woodsii, Wood's Wild Rose	1G	7.00	X	.
Salix scouleriana, Scouler Willow	D1G	8.00		.
Salvia apiana, White Sage	1G	7.00		.
Salvia 'Bees Bliss', Bee's Bliss Sage	1G	7.00		.
Salvia clevelandii, Cleveland Sage	1G	7.00		.
Salvia leucophylla, Purple Sage	1G	7.00		.
Salvia sonomensis 'Dara's Choice', Sage	1G	7.00		.
Sambucus mexicana, Blue Elderberry	1G	7.00		.
Sphaeralcea ambigua, Apricot Globe Mallow	1G	7.00		.
Sphaeralcea incana, Globe/Orange Mallow	1G	7.00		.
Vitis californica, CA Wild Grape	D1G	8.00		.
Yucca whipplei, Our Lord's Candle	1G	7.00		.

PERENNIALS

Achillea lanulosa, Common White Yarrow	1G	7.00		.
Aquilegia chrysantha, Golden Columbine	1G	7.00		.
Aquilegia formosa, Western Columbine	1G	7.00		.
Artimesia douglasiana, Douglas' Mugwort	1G	6.00		.

Asarum lemmonii, Lemmon's Wild Ginger	1G	7.00	.
Aster occidentalis, Western Mountain Aster	5"	5.00	.
Dicentra formosa, Bleeding Heart	1G	7.00	.
Dudleya cymosa, Hen and Chickens	1G	7.00	.
Equisetum arvense, Common Horsetail	1G	7.00	.
Eriogonum nudum 'morunum', Nude Buckwheat	1G	7.00	.
Eriophyllum confertiflorum, Woolly Sunflower	1G	7.00	.
Erysimum capitatum, Western Wallflower	5"	5.00	.
Fragaria virginiana, Mountain Strawberry	1G	7.00	.
Helenium bigelovii, Bigelow Sneezeweed	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera 'Bridget Bloom', Coral Bells	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera 'Canyon Melody', Coral Bells	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera 'Canyon Pink', Coral Bells	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera 'Opal', Opal Coral Bells	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera 'Santa Ana Cardinal', Coral Bells	1G	7.00	.
Heuchera micrantha, Coral Bells	1G	6.00	.
Heuchera rubescens, Pink Coral Bells	1G	6.00	.
Hypericum anagalloides, Tinker's Penny	1G	7.00	.
Iris PCH 'Cherry Cheesecake, PCH Hybrid	1G	7.00	.
Iris PCH 'Lavender', PCH Hybrid	1G	7.00	.
Iris PCH 'Silver Moon', PCH Hybrid	1G	7.00	.
Iris PCH 'Yellow', PCH Hybrid	1G	7.00	.
Iris douglasii, Douglas Iris	1G	7.00	.
Iris innominata, Purple Native Iris	1G	7.00	.
Linum lewisii, Western Blue Flax	1G	5.50	.
Lupinus polyphyllus, Meadow Lupine	1GF	7.00	.
Mimulus a. calycinus, Yellow Monkeyflower	1G	7.00	.
Mimulus cardinalis, Cardinal Monkeyflower	1G	7.00	.
Penstemon heterophyllus, Blue Bladder Penst.	1G	7.00	.
Penstemon laetus, Foothill Penstemon	1G	7.00	.
Penstemon newberryi, Mountain Pride	1G	7.00	.
Penstemon rostriflorus, Beard's Penstemon	1G	7.00	.
Potentilla glandulosa, Sticky Cinquefoil	1G	5.00	.
Prunella vulgaris, Self-Heal	5"	5.00	.
Zauschneria 'Cloverdale', Cloverdale Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'Etterii', Etterii Ca. Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'Everetts Choice', Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'Hurricane Point', Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'Matthole Select', Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'arizonica, Arizona Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria californica, CA Fuchsia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria cana, Grey CA Fuschia	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria canum latifolium, High Elevation	1G	7.00	.
Zauschneria 'Solidarity Pink', Pink Fuschia	1G	7.00	.

WILD GRASSES

Aristida ternipes, Tree-Awn	1G	5.00	.
Carex barbarae, Barbara Sedge	1G	5.00	.
Carex tumulicola, Berkeley Sedge	1G	5.00	.
Deschampsia cespitosa, Tufted Hairgrass	1G	5.00	.
Festuca californica, California Fescue	1G	5.00	.
Festuca idahoensis, Idaho Fescue	1G	5.00	.
Juncus 'Carmen's Grey', Carmen's Gray Rush	1G	5.00	.
Juncus balticus, Baltic Rush	1G	5.00	.
Juncus effusus, Rush	1G	5.00	.
Muhlenbergia rigens, Deer Grass	1G	5.00	.

Nassella cernua, Foothill Needle Grass	1G	5.00
Nassella nelsonii, Nelson's Needlegrass	1G	5.00
Nassella pulchra, Purple Needle Grass	1G	5.00
Sporobolus airoides, Alkali sacaton	1G	5.00

	TOTAL
20% DISCOUNT (MEMBERS ONLY)	MINUS
	SUBTOTAL
Add 7.25%	SALES TAX
	SUBTOTAL
	SUBTRACT 50%
	MAIL THIS DEPOSIT

D=Deep

F=fiber pot

X=available in 5G, 7G or 15G for additional cost

TP4=Tree pot, 15" deep, 4" wide

5"=2"x4" pot

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all, and includes informative publications, free field trips, programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included is the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and this chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

New Membership Application

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Tel. _____

Membership category:
____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
____ Individual, Library, \$35
____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45
____ Supporting, \$75
____ Plant Lover, \$100
____ Patron, \$250
____ Benefactor, \$500
____ Life, \$1000

I wish to affiliate with:

____ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)
____ Other _____

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 1722 J Street., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814

Chapter Board Members And Committee Chairs, January 2002

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Insignis News, CNPS

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