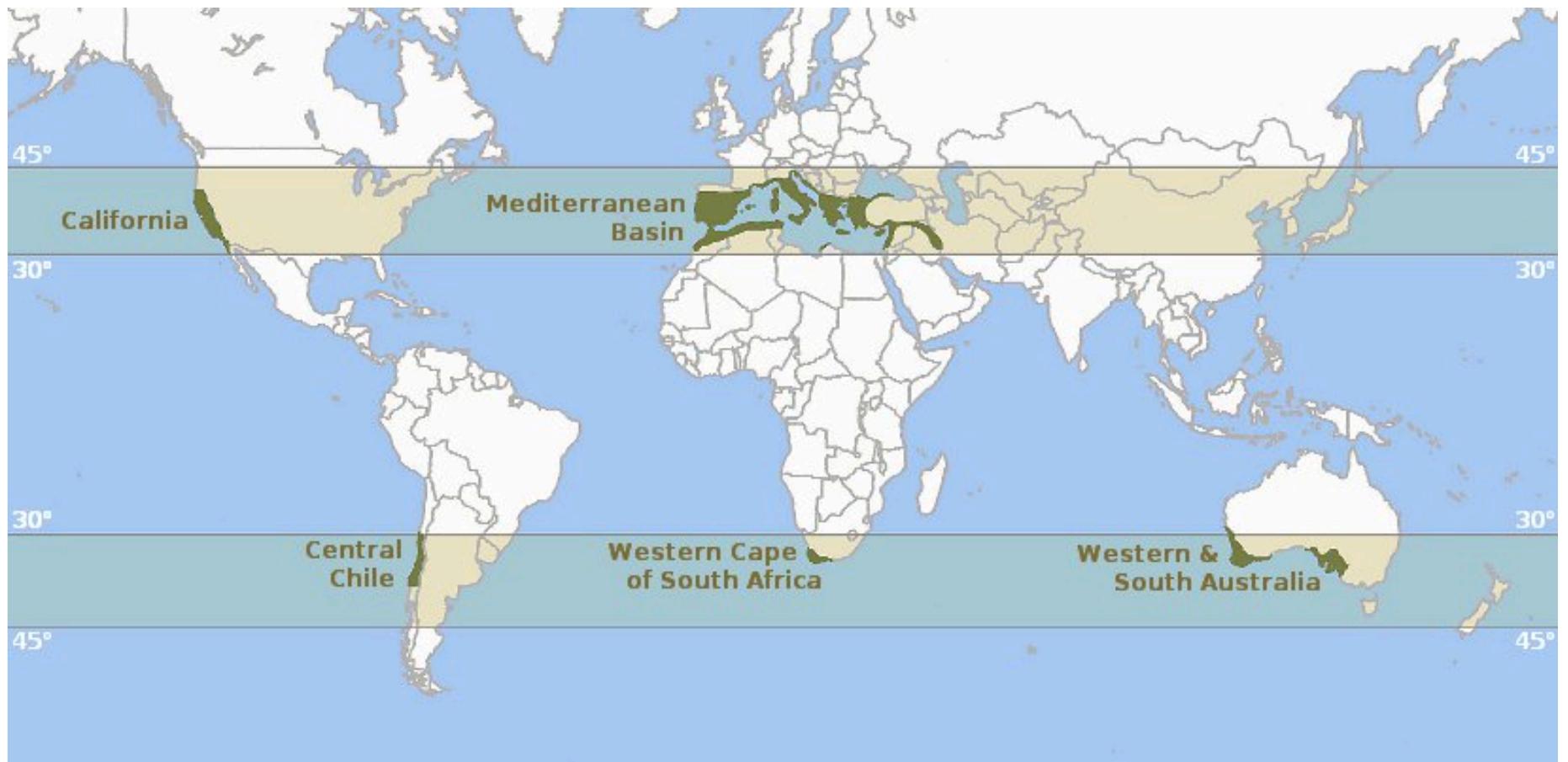


# A map of mediterranean climates:



Some plants are from the Mediterranean, some plants are from mediterranean climates. Here at the San Francisco Botanical Garden we have geographic gardens that represent each of the 5 mediterranean climate regions.



Map of the Mediterranean Region, which spans regions of Africa, Asia and Europe that border the Mediterranean Sea.



Commonly called the Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus unedo* is a Mediterranean tree. It thrives here at the San Francisco Botanical Garden – and as a street tree in the Bay Area.

Flowers



*Arbutus unedo* flowers (Wikimedia Commons)

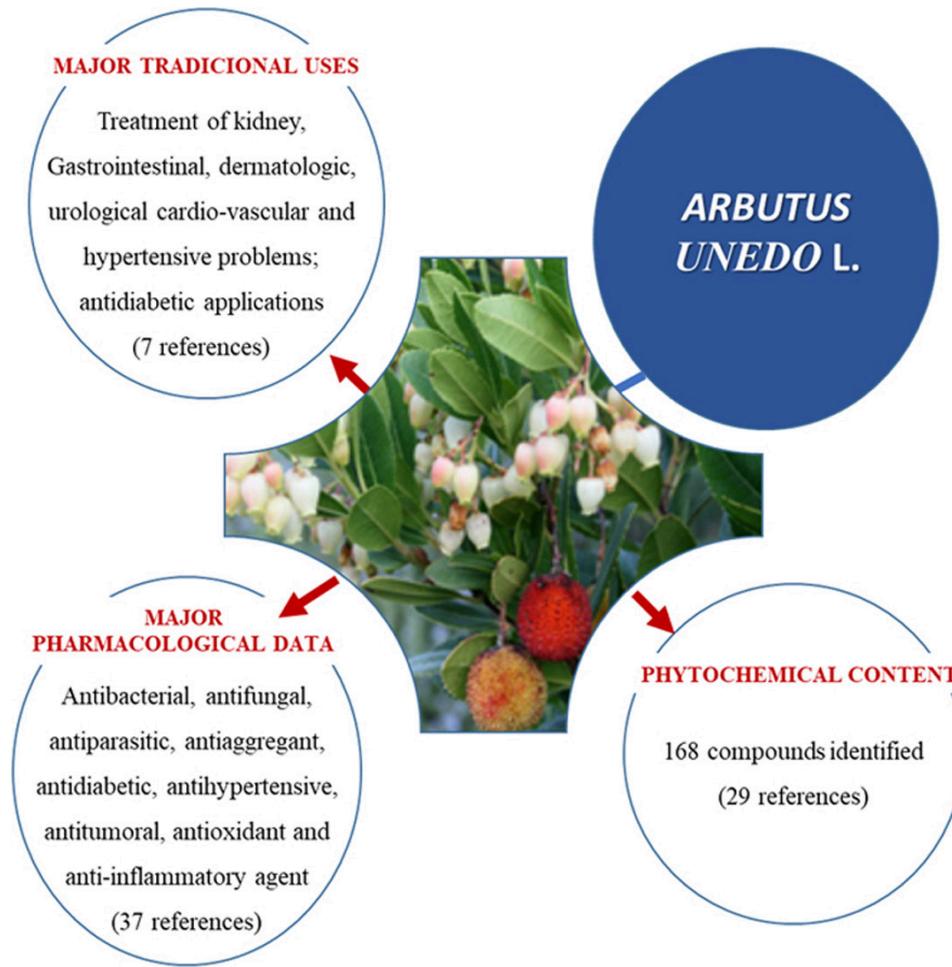
Fruits



*Abutus unedo* fruits (Wikimedia Commons)

Each Fall/Winter you will notice that many Strawberry Trees have both flowers and fruits at the same time! The flowers become fruits that will take a full year to ripen. We are seeing fruits that have been growing for the past year and flowers that will become fruits one year from now.





A graphic from a review of literature on the Strawberry Tree (*Arubutus unedo*) summarizes research on the traditional uses and pharmacological potential of this plant.

Parts of this plants have been used in traditional medicine to treat a range of ailments of the kidneys, heart and circulatory system, particularly in Morocco.

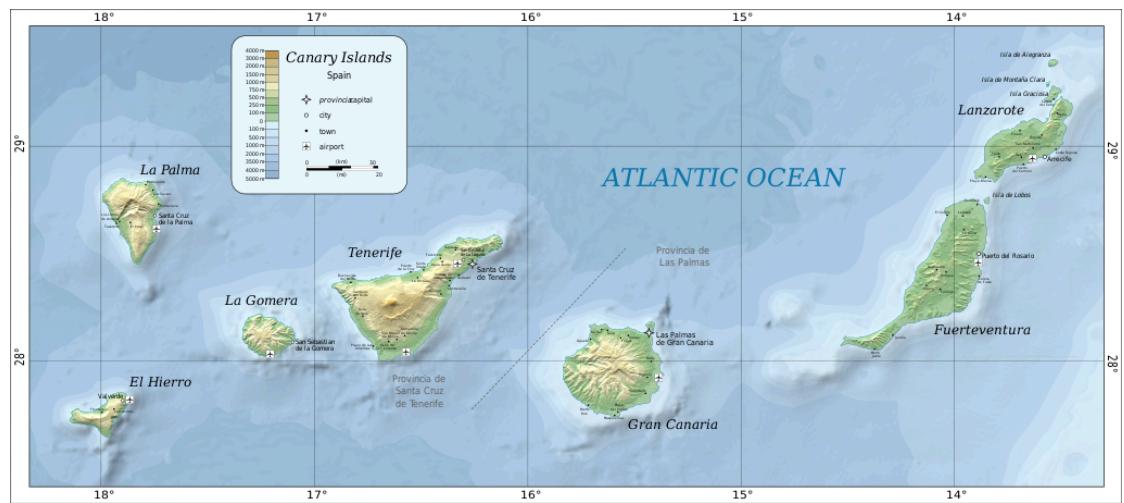
Recent laboratory and studies on rats have found that compounds from these plants show a range of beneficial properties, and some studies have begun to test whether compounds from this plant could be used to treat diabetes and high blood pressure. While science is still many steps away from creating a pharmaceutical product from this plant, this demonstrates how many plants around us may have health benefits that have not yet been fully revealed.

(source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0378874118312388>)



*Echium* – commonly called ‘Tower of Jewels’ - are native to the Mediterranean (Europe, North Africa & Central Asia) but a common sight in San Francisco Botanical Garden as well as backyard plantings.





**The Mediterranean Garden is also home to many species from the Canary Islands**

Isolated groups of islands like the Canary Islands are home to many unique plant species, but island plants and ecosystems are also particularly vulnerable to habitat loss, including some *Echium* species. Some species that are common in cultivation are at risk of extinction in the wild. Botanical Gardens like ours keep collections of plants from across the world including species that are vulnerable to extinction. We call this *ex situ* conservation - conservation of plants outside of their wild habitat. Sometimes a botanical collection may be the only place a species can be found if it has become extinct in the wild. While garden collections may play a role in conservation of rare, endangered or extinct-in-the-wild species, it is no substitute for conservation of their native habitats and populations.