

# Plant Adaptation Checklist

Plants use different adaptations to help them conserve water. In California where it is hot and dry these water saving adaptations keep plants healthy when they have low or no access to water. Check out some of the water saving adaptations that plants can have!



## *Waxy Leaves*

Some plants have a thick waxy coating on the top of the leaf. This acts almost like chapstick for a plant and helps minimize water loss from the leaves in hot and dry conditions.



## *Light Colored Leaves*

Lighter colored leaves reflect sunlight, which can keep a plant cooler in the hot sun and prevents water loss through the leaves.



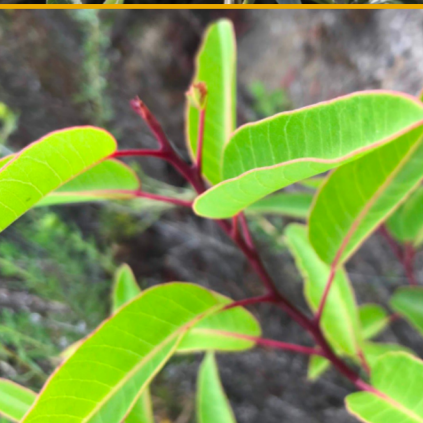
## *Small Narrow Leaves*

Water leaves a plant through the surface of the leaves. Having smaller leaves means there is less surface area for water to escape the plant.



## *Small Hairs on Leaves*

Small hairs on the surface of leaves can reflect sunlight from their surface and reduce the movement of air on their surface, which helps prevent water loss. These can be hard to see sometimes, but the plant might feel soft or hairy to the touch.



## *Taco Shaped Leaves*

Some leaves have a bent or folded shape like a taco shell. This bent shape means that sunlight isn't directly hitting the entire leaf at once. This can keep the leaves from drying out from too much sunlight.

## Directions

Follow the steps below to observe 3 plants to see what water saving adaptations they have!

1. First, describe or draw each plant.
2. Then circle the adaptations they have! They could have none, one, or multiple so circle or write in what adaptations you notice.
3. Lastly, use the soil moisture reader to see how much water is in their soil. This data could help you determine which water saving adaptation is the best!

Plant One

**Description or Drawing:**

**Water Adaptation Strategy:**

Waxy Leaves    Light Colored Leaves    Small, Narrow Leaves

Small Hairs on Leaves    Taco Shaped Leaves    Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Moisture Reading (1-3 Dry, 4-7 Moist, 8-10 Wet):** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Plant Two**

**Description or Drawing:**



**Water Adaptation Strategy:**

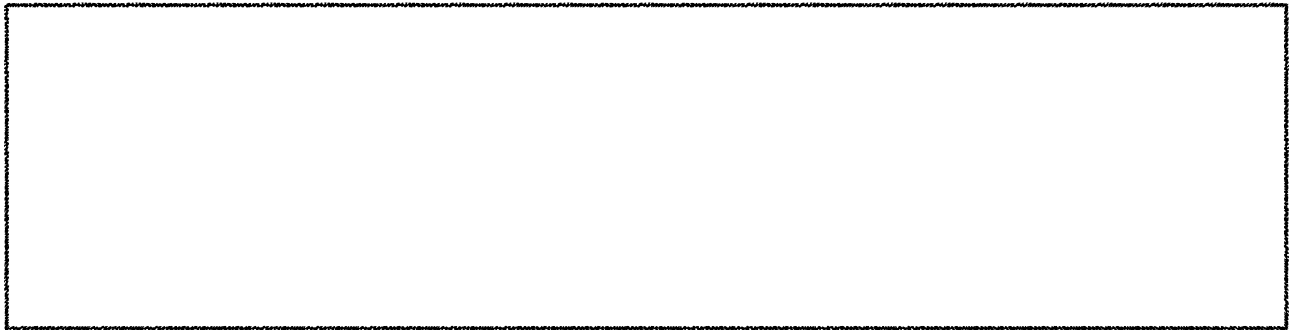
Waxy Leaves    Light Colored Leaves    Small, Narrow Leaves

Small Hairs on Leaves    Taco Shaped Leaves    Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Moisture Reading (1-3 Dry, 4-7 Moist, 8-10 Wet):** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Plant Three**

**Description or Drawing:**



**Water Adaptation Strategy:**

Waxy Leaves    Light Colored Leaves    Small, Narrow Leaves

Small Hairs on Leaves    Taco Shaped Leaves    Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Moisture Reading (1-3 Dry, 4-7 Moist, 8-10 Wet):** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10