

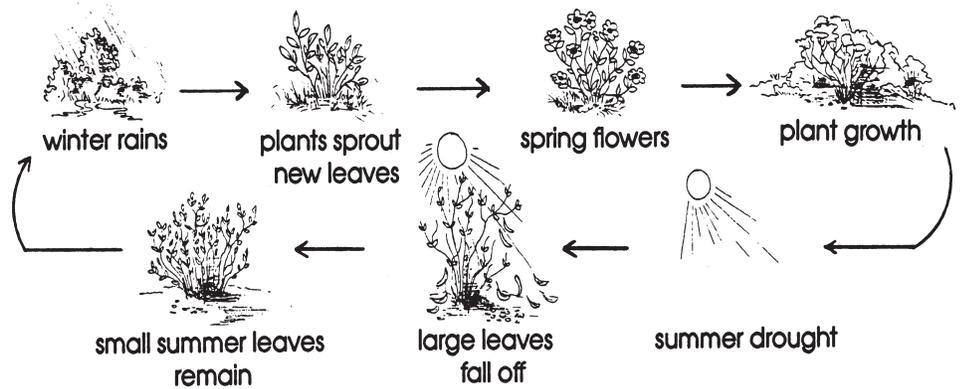


CYCLES IN NATURE

Plants in the coastal sage scrub ecosystem have many natural challenges to overcome. Lack of rainfall, wildfires, flood, and frost are all part of life for plants in this ecosystem. These plants have evolved adaptations to survive these climatic conditions.

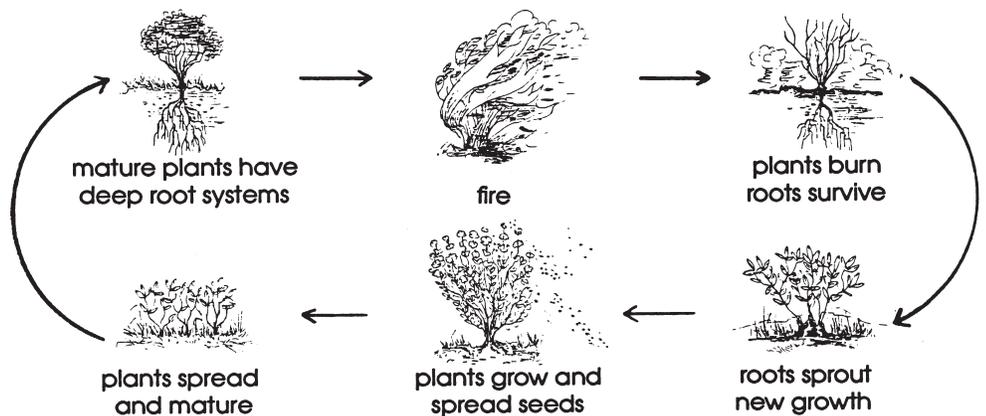
DROUGHT CYCLE

The average amount of rainfall for most of the coastal sage scrub ecosystem is about 10 inches a year. The influences of the ocean climate, high humidity, moderate temperatures, and occasional fog help keep evaporation loss low, but hot dry summers require special adaptations.



FIRE CYCLE

Wildland fires are common during the summer and autumn months in southern California and many of the plants of the coastal sage scrub are adapted to regrow or resprout quickly after these fires.



FLOOD CYCLE

Some coastal sage scrub ecosystems are found in lowland areas that are subject to flooding during heavy rains. If the flooding is severe and root systems are swept away, the plants rely on seeds to resprout.

