

SARATOGA HORTICULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC.

15185 Murphy Avenue
San Martin, CA 95046

(408) 779-3303

Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'

Amidst the vivid display of autumn foliage, a California native shrub with evergreen leaves received much comment and acclaim at a past Fall Color Festival as presented by the Associates of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation. That shrub was Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case' which has become one of the most commonly used native plants in the landscape trade.

'Eve Case' is the result of a complex seedling selection project directed by Barrie Coate utilizing Rhamnus californica 'Seaview' as the parent. Parenthetically, 'Seaview' was introduced by the Foundation in 1957.

'Eve Case' has 3/4" x 1 1/2" leaves which are densely borne on reddish stems. The upper surface of new leaves is glossy bright green, changing to a rich dull green at maturity, while the under surface is much lighter, almost glaucous. The flowers are inconspicuous. The cherry-like 3/4" fruit is borne in heavy clusters, ripening in stages from green to red and finally a dark polished-black by late summer and fall. Although the fruit looks delicious enough to eat, it should be avoided. Fruits of some species of Rhamnus may be cathartic. In all aspects 'Eve Case' is larger than 'Seaview'; leaves, fruit and plant. The ultimate height of 'Eve Case' will be about 4-6 feet, but with the compact, dense appearance of 'Seaview'. It can readily be trained as a handsome clipped hedge, even tolerating partial shade and some summer irrigation with good soil drainage; or it can be allowed to grow naturally as a screen or specimen. Because of its compact character, there is little necessity for pinching and pruning to maintain a neat appearance in the garden. Propagation is relatively easy by cuttings.

We are pleased to name this selection in honor of our neighbor, Dr. Eve Case, in whose yard the parent plant is growing. Dr. Case and her brother-in-law were at one time the owners of the Homestead Nursery in Santa Clara and members of the Peninsula Chapter of the California Association of Nurserymen.