



Wally Wood's Wonderful World of Wildflowers



of Sycamore Grove Park

A Work in Progress
November 2021 Version

Photos and text by Wally Wood unless otherwise noted.



Thank you!



Many thanks to Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Open Space Volunteer Wally Wood for putting together this wildflower reference specific to plants found in Sycamore Grove Park!

It is a work in progress, feel free to email any errors you find to valleywilds@larpd.org

How this binder is organized:

Section 1: White Flowers, Green Flowers, Variable Flowers

Section 2: Red/ Orange Flowers

Section 3: Yellow Flowers

Section 4: Blue and purple/blue flowers

Section 5: Pink and purple/pink flowers

Section 6: Bushes with Flowers

Within each section plants are in order by scientific family.

Within families, plants are alphabetical by genus.

When using the electronic guide you can use “find” to locate a plant: Click on the edit menu of your pdf reader and select the “find” command*. Type in the name of the plant you are looking for and the document should let you click through all mentions of the word you typed in.

*You can also press the CTRL and F keys on your keyboard simultaneously to bring up the find dialog.

Section 1:

WHITE FLOWERS

GREEN FLOWERS

VARIABLE FLOWERS

POISON HEMLOCK

Conium maculatum

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Bloom time: April - July

Found in: Moist, especially disturbed places

Warning – highly poisonous. The flowers are small, white, clustered in umbels up 4–6 inches across. The plant grows between 5–8 feet tall, with a smooth green hollow stem, usually spotted or streaked with red or purple on the lower half of the stem. It is often found on poorly drained soils, particularly near streams, ditches, and other surface water.

Other common names: POISON PARSLEY, SPOTTED COROBANE, AND SPOTTED HEMLOCK.

White

SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE

Scandix pecten-veneris

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Photo by Steve Matson, via Calflora



Photo by Barry Breckling, via Calflora

Bloom time: March – May

Found in: Grasslands

Description: This small member of the Carrot Family usually doesn't grow more than a foot tall. It is often seen in the hills of Sycamore Grove Park. It gets its name from the needle-shaped seeds it grows after the delicate white flowers are done blooming

Other common names: SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE, SHEPHERDS NEEDLE, VENUS' NEEDLE

White

YAMPAH

Perideridia kelloggii

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Photos by Aaron Arthur, via Calflora

Bloom time: May - August

Found in: Grasslands

Description: This native member of the carrot family can grow to be about four feet tall before beginning to bloom as the grasses go from green to golden. The seeds provide food for birds. Many Indian groups ate the roots of these plants. After seeds fall the plant dies back to the roots and regrows after rains begin.

Other common names: KELLOGG'S YAMPAH

COMMON YARROW

Achillea millefolium

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Many habitats

The many small white flowers are in flat-topped clusters in a radiate head. The leaves are usually 3-pinnate dissected and often confused with being a fern. Perennial, strongly scented. Cultivars come in many colors. It is found world-wide. Called *plumajillo* in Spanish for 'little feather', from its leaf shape and texture.

Other common names: MILFOIL, THOUSAND-LEAF

WOOLY MARBLES

Psilocarphus brevissimus

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: April - Oct

Found in: Vernal pools

Woolly Marbles grow only in dried vernal pools. The small, gray-green leaves are erect, pointing up parallel to the stem. The plant grows to 4 inches tall. Each flower (marble) is 1 to 2 cm across. Each Flowerheads is made up of 20 or more disc flowers. Flowers are hidden in the cobweb like fuzz.

Other common name: WOOLYHEADS

SALT HELIOTROPE

Heliotropium curassavicum

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage or Waterleaf)



Bloom time: May - June

Found in: Moist to dry saline or alkaline flats

The small bell-shaped flowers are in in double rows on a curled, coiling stem. Each flower is white with five rounded lobes and a purple or yellow throat. It thrives in salty soils, such as beach sand and alkali flats.

Other common names: ALKALI HELIOTROPE, SEASIDE HELIOTROPE, CHINESE PARSLEY

White

Purple

Native

Early Spring

Mid Spring

Late Spring

POPCORN FLOWER

Plagiobothrys sp.

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage or Waterleaf)



Bloom time: February - June

Found in: Grassland, Woodland

We have at least 3 species of popcorn flower in Sycamore Grove Park! They are small herbaceous plants which bear tiny white flowers, sometimes with a yellow center. Each five-lobed white flower measures 2 to 3 millimeters wide. The plant is coated in long, rough hairs and sometimes bristles. Stems can be erect or prostrate.

Other common names: VALLEY POPCORNFLOWER, GREY POPCORN FLOWER

White

SHEPHERD'S PURSE

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Family: Brassicaceae (Mustard)



Photo by Wally Wood



Photo by Amy Wolitzer

Bloom time: January - March
Found in: Disturbed areas

Tiny white flowers grow on a stalk up to 6 inches tall. Note its triangular, purse-like seed pods. They are edible and taste like its relative, mustard. Its name is from Latin meaning "little box, resembling a medieval wallet or purse."

White

WILD RADISH

Raphanus sativus

Family: Brassicaceae (Mustard)



Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Disturbed areas, fields

Flower is usually pale yellow to various shades of pink or white, four petals. Plant grows up to 4 feet tall. Originally from Mediterranean Europe and is now found in temperate regions worldwide.

Pink
Purple
White
Yellow

COMMON CHICKWEED

Stellaria media

Family: Caryophyllaceae (Pink)



Bloom time: February - April
Found in: Grassland, Woodland

The flowers are small and white, followed quickly by the seed pods. This plant flowers and sets seed at the same time. It has fine hairs on only one side of the stem in a single band.

Other common names: CHICKENWORT, CRACHES, WINTERWEED

White

BINDWEED

Convolvulaceae arvensis

Family: Convolvulaceae (Morning Glory)



Bloom time: March - August

Found in: Open areas in many plant communities

The flower has five fused petals. The plant grows as a vine. It is very invasive and difficult to get rid of. A large family of about 60 genera and more than 1,650 species.

Other common names: MORNING GLORY, ORCHARD MORNING GLORY

White
Pink

WILD CUCUMBER

Marah fabacea

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd)



Photo by Wally Wood



Photo by Amy Wolitzer

Bloom time: February - April
Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

The flower can vary in color from yellowish green to cream to white. Vines appear in late winter in response to increased rainfall, and can climb or scramble to a length of 20 feet. The large tuber can be processed for a soap-like extract. Has spiky fruits that contain slippery seeds.

Other common name: MANROOT

CLUSTERED CLOVER

Trifolium glomeratum

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: Oct - May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

This is a small, straggling Clover plant, with trifoliate leaves, and little rounded flowerheads in the leaf axils. Blooms from March to July. Mainly found in poor, sandy soil. Due to its small size, it can easily be overlooked.

White

WHITE GLOBE LILY

Calochortus albus

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)



Bloom time: April - May

Found in: Shady to open woodland

Flower globe about an inch across. Look inside to see crescent-shaped, depressed nectary. Only found a few places in Sycamore Grove Park.

Other common names: FAIRY-LANTERN, SATIN BELLS, WHITE GLOBE TULIP

SUPERB MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus superbus

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)



Bloom time: May - July

Found in: Grasslands

The stem growing up to 40 to 60 centimeters tall with a basal leaf up to 30 centimeters long which withers by flowering. The inflorescence is a loose cluster of 1 to 3 erect, bell-shaped flowers three petals all up to 4 centimeters long and blotched with yellow at the bases. There is generally a darker spot within the yellow area, and the base color of the segments may be white to light purple or solid yellow.

Other common name: SUPERB MARIPOSA LILY

Pink

White

MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus venustus

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)



Bloom time: May - July

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

The stem growing up to 40 to 60 centimeters tall with a basal leaf up to 30 centimeters long which withers by flowering. The inflorescence is a loose cluster of 1 to 3 erect, bell-shaped flowers three petals all up to 4 centimeters long and blotched with yellow at the bases. There is generally a darker spot within the yellow area, and the base color of the segments may be white to light purple or solid yellow.

Other common name: BUTTERFLY MARIPOSA LILY

Pink

White

WAVY-LEAF SOAP PLANT

Chlorogalum pomeridianum

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)



Bloom time: May -August

Found in: Open grassland, chaparral, woodland

Flowers open only in the late afternoon or evening, remaining open during the night but closing by the morning. The flower is white with noticeable mid-veins which can be purple or green. Flower stalks can be up to 7 feet tall. The Native Americans roasted and ate the bulbs. They made brushes from the fibers of the bulb coat. Bulb juices lather in water, hence the names soap plant or soaproot.

Other common names: CALIFORNIA SOAPROOT, AMOLE

White

Introduced

Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer

MEDITERRANEAN LINSEED

Bellardia trixago

Family: Orobanchaceae (Broomrape)



Bloom time: April - June

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland (LSGP+USGP)

An erect plant sometimes reaching over half a meter in height. Its foliage is rich green and dotted with glands and hairs. The saw-toothed leaves extend about halfway up the plant. It has showy purple and white lipped, hooded flowers, each over two centimeters wide. We began seeing these plants in SGP in about 2003.

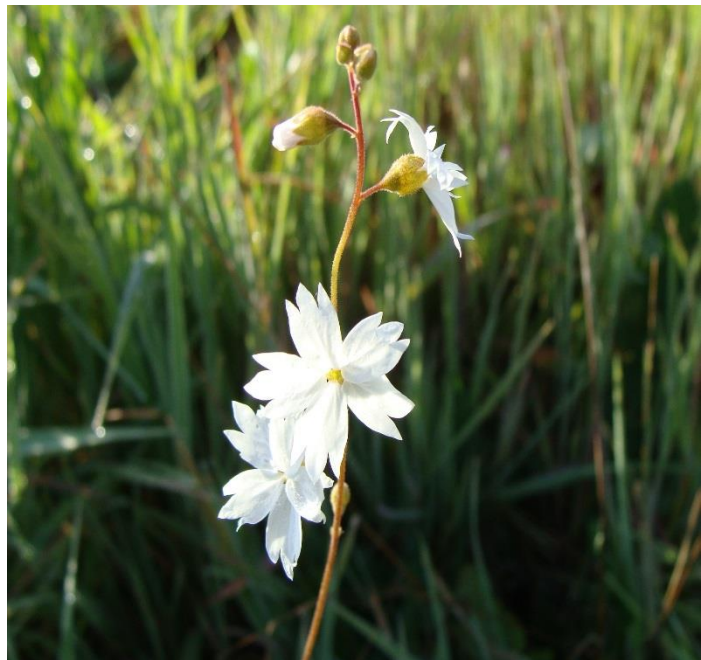
Other common names: BARTSIA TRIXAGO, BELLARDIA TRIXAGO

White
Pink

WOODLAND STAR

Lithophragma affine

Family: Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage)



Bloom time: March - April

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

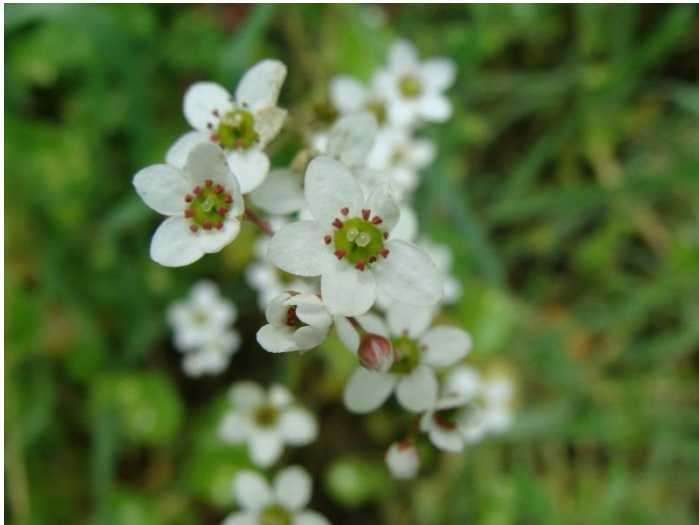
Woodland star is a perennial herb growing erect or leaning with a tall naked flowering stem. The leaves are located on the lower part of the stem, each divided into sharp-pointed lobes. The stem bears up to 15 widely spaced flowers. The flowers are bright white with five petals.

Other common names: SAN FRANCISCO WOODLAND STAR, COMMON WOODLAND STAR

CALIFORNIA SAXIFRAGE

Micranthes californica

Family: Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage)



Bloom time: February - April

Found in: Woodland; moist, shady places

Each flower has five green to reddish sepals, five small white petals, and ten stamens at the center. It is a perennial herb producing a small basal rosette of shallow-toothed oval leaves up to 10 centimeters long. The woody stem generally has long slender rhizomes and bulblets. As a result of DNA studies, *Saxafraga californica* changed to *Micranthes californica*.

MINER'S LETTUCE

Claytonia perfoliata

Family: Montiaceae (Miner's Lettuce)



Bloom time: January - March

Found in: Shady, damp areas

The small white flowers have five petals 2–6 mm long and are grouped 5–40 together above a pair of leaves that are united together around the stem to appear as one circular leaf. Highly variable. The name miner's lettuce refers to its use by California Gold Rush miners who ate it to get their vitamin C to prevent scurvy. It can be eaten as a leafy vegetable.

JIMSON WEED

Datura wrightii

Family: Solanaceae (Nightshade)



Bloom time: June - August

Found in: Sandy soils, open, often disturbed areas

Notorious for its toxicity, JIMSON WEED is a large flowering plant that forms a bush up to 2 to 5 feet. It has long white trumpet-like flowers 2 to 3 ½ inches long.

Other common names: THORNAPPLE, MOON FLOWER

WILD TOBACCO

Nicotiana quadrivalvis

Family: Solanaceae (Nightshade)



Bloom time: May - October

Found in: Open well-drained washes, slopes

The flowers are tubular white, greenish, or purple-tinged with tubular throats up to 5 centimeters long. It is a bushy, sprawling annual herb, glandular-hairy, growing up to two meters in maximum height. Native Americans cultivated the plants.

Other common name: INDIAN TOBACCO.

Section 2:

RED FLOWERS

ORANGE FLOWERS

COBWEB THISTLE

Cirsium occidentale

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: May - July

Cobweb thistle is native to California and is limited to California. It is a tall, stout, leafy plant growing from 2' to 5' tall crowned by showy maroon-red flowers with cobweb hairs on the bracts. The grey or whitish leaves are narrow-lanceolate, wavy-margined and up to 12" long. Cobweb thistle inhabits across most of California: in its mountain ranges, valleys, Mojave Desert, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

Other common names: COBWEBBY THISTLE

FIDDLENECK

Amsinckia menziesii

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage or Waterleaf)



Bloom time: February - April

Found in: Grassland

Fiddleneck has a terminal flowering whorl somewhat shaped like the head of a violin or fiddle, hence the name fiddleneck. There can be several bristly branches from the base. It is shade tolerant and can grow in open disturbed areas. Goldfinches like its seeds.

Other common names: COMMON FIDDLENECK, SMALL-FLOWERED FIDDLENECK

Yellow

Orange

Introduced

Early Spring

Mid Spring

Late Spring

SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Anagallis arvensis

Family: Myrsinaceae (Mersine)



Bloom time: March - May
Found in: Disturbed places

Low growing on sprawling stems reaching about 20 inches long. Flowers are open only when the sun shines. Common. Toxic to livestock and humans. From Europe.

Other Common names: RED CHICKWEED, POORMAN'S BAROMETER, POOR MAN'S WEATHER-GLASS

Red

Orange

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

Epilobium canum

Family: Onagraceae (Evening-Primrose)



Bloom time: June - December
Found in: Dry slopes and ridges

The bright red flowers are up to 2 inches long and an inch wide. They have a tubular or funnel shape, with a slight bulge at the base. The stamens and style extend considerably beyond the flaring ends of the 4 petals and 4 sepals. The flowers appear at the ends of short stems and cluster along the many branches of the plant which can grow to 2 feet tall. Pollinated by hummingbirds.

Other common names: HUMMINGBIRD TRUMPET, ZAUSCHNERIA.

COAST PAINTBRUSH

Castilleja affinis

Family: Orobanchaceae (Broomrape)



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Chaparral

Plant grows up to 2 feet tall. The flowers are generally bright red to orange-red. It hybridizes with other species. Native Americans found the plant good for a variety of uses.

Other common names: PAINTBRUSH, OWL'S-CLOVER, INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

CALIFORNIA POPPY

Eschscholtzia californica

Family: Papaveraceae (Poppy)



Bloom time: February -July

Found in: Grassland

California state flower. Four petals up to two inches long. Color ranges from deep orange to pale yellow. Named for J.F.G. von Escholtz, Russian surgeon and botanist, (1793-1831.)

CALIFORNIA FIGWORT

Scrophularia californica

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)



Bloom time: February - May

Found in: Woodland

The short brownish-magenta tubular flowers are about a centimeter long with two upper lobes. The plant has triangular, toothed leaves in pairs opposite each other on a spindly, long stem.

Other common name: CALIFORNIA BEE PLANT

Section 3:

YELLOW FLOWERS

POISON SANICLE

Sanicula bipinnata

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Bloom time: April-May

Found in: Grassland, Woodland

This perennial has 3-10 small yellow flowers in small umbels; *bipinnata* because its compound leaves are 2-pinnate. It is called “poison,” but there is no record of poisonings.

PACIFIC SANICLE

Sanicula crassicaulis

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Bloom time: March-May

Found in: Open slopes, Ravines, Woodland

This perennial has yellow flowers with tiny, curving, yellow petals arranged in a cyme. Note the leaflike bracts at the base of the cyme. The maple-like leaves have blades up to 12 centimeters long edged with small teeth.

Other common names: GAMBLE WEED, PACIFIC SNAKEROOT

BLOW WIVES

Achyrachaena mollis

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - June
Found in: Grassland, often clay soils

The flower is rather inconspicuous, but the seed head is quite dramatic. It is a ball of flat, white papery pappus on maturing seeds. Compare with the seed head of a dandelion. Both are wind dispersed.

YELLOW STAR-THISTLE

Centaurea solstitialis

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: Oct - May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

The plant is a thorny annual. During the vegetative stage it forms a rosette of non-spiny upright leaves. As the summer approaches, it produces a flowering stem up to 3 feet tall which will produce numerous spiny flower heads with yellow flowers. Flowering plants range from ankle to shoulder height and change color from green to bluish green in summer. Flowerheads are generally produced from June through September. The heads are initially produced on branch tips, but robust plants may produce heads in the branch axils later in the season. Its spines can be fatal if ingested by horses.

Other common names: GOLDEN STAR-THISTLE, YELLOW COCKSPUR, ST. BARNABY'S THISTLE

GREAT VALLEY GUMPLANT

Grindelia camporum

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: May - November

Found in: Grassland

This species is a gangly plant topping two feet in maximum height. Its erect, branching stems are lined with many stiff, wavy-edged, serrated leaves 1 to 2 inches long. Atop the stem is a single large flower head up 1 ¼ inch wide. The flower head fills with a white gummy substance, especially during the early stages of blooming. This plant has a number of historical medicinal uses.

Other common names: COMMON GUMPLANT, GUMWEED

CALIFORNIA MATCHWEED

Gutierrezia californica

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: May - October

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

California Matchweed is a dicot perennial shrub to western North America reaching up to 20 inches in height. It grows clumpy, gangly and generally erect stems. Growing in sunny sandy or rocky areas in grasslands, scrub, or open woodlands. Its tiny flowers are yellow .3 to .4 inches across with a number of ray petals: 4 to 13.

Other common names: MATCHWEED, SNAKEWEED, SAN JOAQUIN
SNAKEWEED

HAYFIELD TARWEED

Hemizonia congesta

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: May - November

Found in: Grassland

The plant is spindly, thin-stemmed growing erect to 3 –31 inches high. The daisy-like inflorescences are covered in glandular hairs. Each flower head has a center of yellowish disc florets with dark purple anthers, and a fringe of bright yellow to white ray florets, often with purplish striping on the undersides. The ray florets are toothed or lobed on the tips, with the middle tooth thinner than the others. Native Americans gathered the seeds and made a pinole.

GOLDFIELDS

Lasthenia californica

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - May

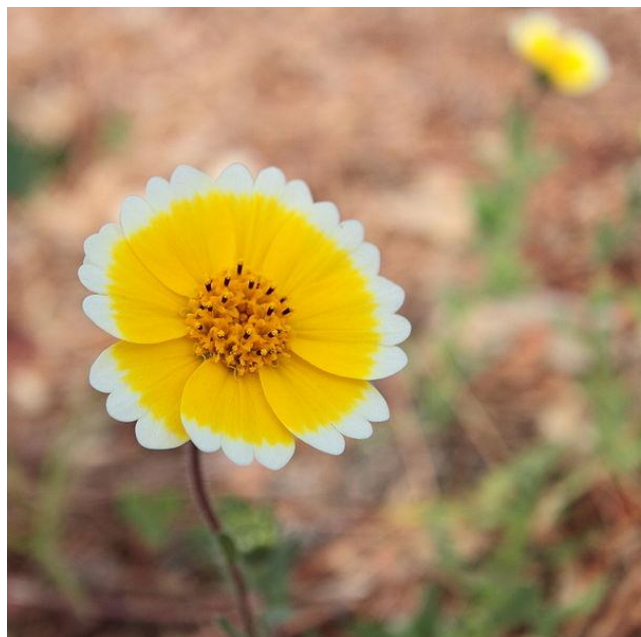
Found in: Grasslands

This small daisy-like flower can appear in the thousands and carpet fields in some places. In Sycamore Grove Park they are usually found in smaller numbers. They are an important nectar providing plant.

TIDY-TIPS

Layia platyglossa

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: February - May

Found in: Grassland, many habitats

The flower heads are composed of five to eighteen yellow ray flowers with white tips and many central yellow disk flowers with dark purple anthers. The plant can grow to about one foot tall. It is common in grassy places at low elevations.

Introduced

Mid Spring

Late Spring

Summer

PINEAPPLE WEED

Matricaria discoidea

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Disturbed areas

The plant grows 2 to 16 inches high. The discoid flower cone is shaped like a pineapple. It shatters at maturity. The leaves are lacy pinnate. Sweet-scented. Common. Its close relative, *M. chamomilla*, GERMAN CHAMOMILE, is used medicinally and as an herb tea.

Other common name: RAYLESS CHAMOMILE

Yellow

Green

NARROW-LEAVED MULE EARS

Wyethia angustifolia

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Grassland

The inflorescence usually consists one sunflower-like flower head at the top of the hairy stem. There are 8-21 ray flowers. The corolla of disk flowers is 10-11 mm across. The leaves are narrow lance-shaped blades; up to 1 ½ feet tall.

Other common name: CALIFORNIA COMPASS PLANT

GRAY MULE EARS

Wyethia helenioides

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - May

Found in: Grassland

This plant is a short, low growing golden-rayed wildflower, that resembles a garden sunflower. The basal leaves are gray-haired, becoming glabrous, elongated ovals, 25-45 mm long.

Other common names: WHITEHEAD MULE EARS, WOOLLY MULE EARS, WHITEHEAD WYETHIA

Introduced

Invasive

Mid Spring

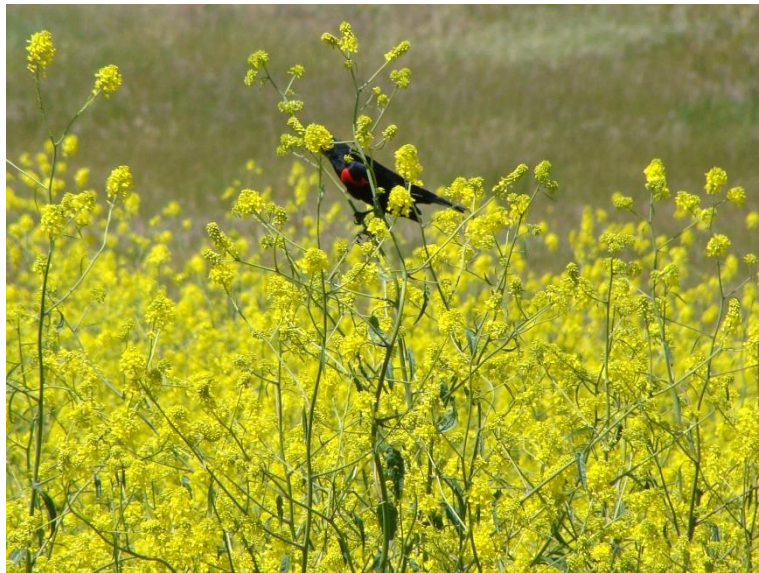
Late Spring

Summer

BLACK MUSTARD

Brassica nigra

Family: Brassicaceae (Mustard)



Bloom time: April – September
Found in: Disturbed areas, fields

This plant can grow from two to eight feet tall, with small yellow flowers. Flowers are usually up to 1/3" across, with four petals each. The seed pods are erect and hug the stem. Plants may grow close together shading out all other plants. *Brassica* genus includes the most important vegetable, seed-oil and condiment crops in the Brassicaceae family.

Yellow

Introduced

Early Spring

Mid Spring

Late Spring

Summer

FIELD MUSTARD

Brassica rapa

Family: Brassicaceae (Mustard)



Photos by Neal Kramer via CalFlora

Bloom time: February- May

Found in: Disturbed areas

The plant can grow from one to four feet tall, with small yellow flowers. Flowers are usually up to 1/3" across, with four petals each. Plants may grow close together shading out all other plants. The elongated seed pods are rounded and do not hug the stem.

Other common names: TURNIP, CANOLA, BIRD RAPE, COMMON MUSTARD, RAPE MUSTARD, COLZA

Yellow

DEERWEED

Acmispon glaber
(previously *Lotus scoparius*)

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: March - August
Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

Deerweed is a green bush growing to 4 feet tall. Flowers are yellow and clustered along the stem. As the flowers age they turn red. Deerweed is an important food for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and deer. The Ohlone Indians used the fibrous foliage as building material for house thatching and as a decoction for coughs.

Other common names: CALIFORNIA BROOM, BROOM LOTUS

CHILEAN TREFOIL

Acmispon wrangelianus

Family: Fabaceae (Legumes)



Bloom time: March - April

Found in: grassland and mountain slopes

This is a hairy, prostrate annual herb. Its slender branches are lined with leaves each made of generally four small leaflets. It bears a solitary tiny yellow pea like flower $\frac{1}{4}$ inch across. It is a native of California despite the "Chilean" in the name.

Other common names: CALIFORNIA LOTUS, CHILEAN BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL, CHILE LOTUS

YELLOW MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus luteus

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)



Bloom time: April - June

Found in: Heavy soils in grassland, woodland

Beautiful bowl shaped flower on a slender stem 8 to 20 inches tall. Each of the 3 petals have red dots about mid way. The nectary is not depressed, is crescent-shaped to oblong and is densely matted-short-hairy.

Other common name: GOLD NUGGETS

BUTTER AND EGGS

Triphysaria eriantha

Family: Orobanchaceae (Broomrape)



Bloom time: March to May

Found in: Grassland

The inflorescence is a spike of flowers. Each flower has a very thin, narrow upper lip which is purple in color, and a wide lower lip which is divided into three pouches. The color of the pouches depends on subspecies: the common *ssp. eriantha* has white and bright yellow pouches, and the less common coastal *ssp. rosea* has white pouches tinged with pink.

Other common name: JOHNNY TUCK

Yellow

Purple

BERMUDA BUTTERCUP

Oxalis pes-caprae

Family: Oxalidaceae (Oxalis)



Bloom time: December - May
Found in: Grassland, Woodland

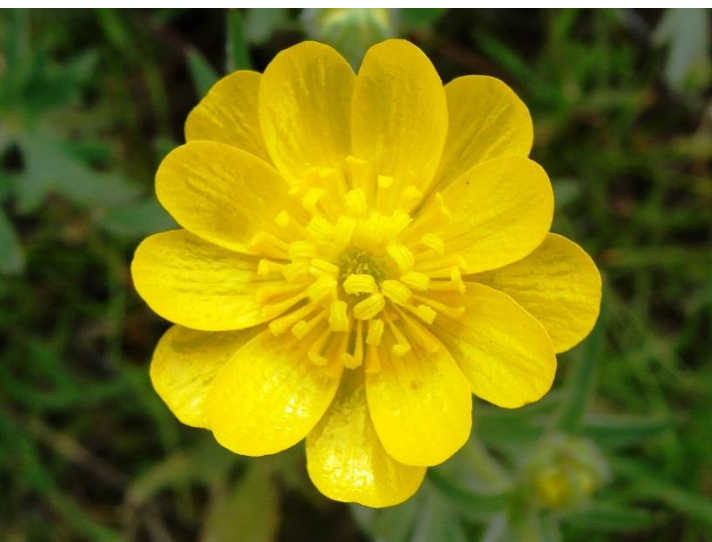
The yellow flowers are "star shaped," "radial". Indigenous to South Africa, it is an invasive species. It is a common garden weed, very difficult to get rid of. Because it reproduces by tiny underground bulbs. Seen mostly near the Arroyo Road Entrance.

Other common names: BERMUDA BUTTERCUP, SORREL, SOURGRASS

CALIFORNIA BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus californicus

Family: Ranunculaceae (Buttercup)



Bloom time: March - August

Found in: Grassland, Open Woodland

The bright yellow flower of this perennial is roughly one inch in diameter and has 9 to 17 shiny, teardrop-shaped petals. Each flower grows on a long, green, leafless stem. The leaves are basal.

Introduced

Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer
Fall

MOTH MULLEIN

Verbascum blattaria

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)



Bloom time: March - October

Found in: Grassland

The flowers of the moth mullein consist of five petals and five anther-bearing stamens, and each flower can reach a diameter of one inch. The flowers can be either yellow or white and typically have a slight purple tinge. The stamens of the flower are orange in color and are covered in purple hairs, reminiscent of a moth's antennae. The flowers are produced during the second year of growth, and are found in loose clusters near the top of the flowering stem. In the second year of growth, the stem of the mullein grows slender and erect, and can reach a height of 2 to 5 feet.

Yellow

WOOLLY MULLEIN

Verbascum thapsus

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)



Bloom time: May-September

Found in: Grassland

The small yellow flowers are densely grouped on a tall stem, which bolts from a large rosette of leaves. It is a hairy plant that can grow to 5 feet tall or more. From Eurasia.

Other common names: COMMON MULLEIN, BIG TAPER

JOHNNY-JUMP-UP

Viola pedunculata

Family: Violaceae (Violet)



Bloom time: February - April

Found in: Grassland

The fragrant flowers appear in March and April, and are a rich, saturated yellow to yellow-orange, with brown-purple nectar guides on the lower petals. The plant is often low-growing, but can reach a height of 6 inches. The common name "JOHNNY-JUMP-UP" is usually associated with *Viola tricolor*, the introduced garden annual.

Other common names: CALIFORNIA GOLDEN VIOLET, YELLOW PANSY

Section 4:

BLUE FLOWERS

PURPLE/BLUE

FLOWERS

PURPLE SANICLE

Sanicula bipinnatifida

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)



Bloom time: March - May

Found in: grassland, woodlands, and mountain slopes

The purple sanicle flower is flowers are tiny, curving, reddish, purple, or yellow petals. The plant is bright green to dark purple in color. The leaves are borne on long petioles, measuring up to 19 centimeters long with blades divided into several toothed lobes.

Other common names: PURPLE BLACKSNAKEROOT, SHOE BUTTONS

HARVEST BRODIAEA

Brodiea elegans

Family: Asparagraceae

Subfamily: Brodiaeoideae

(formerly treated as Family Themidaceae)



Bloom time: April - August

Found in: Grassland, open woodland, chaparral

A stout stem up to 1 ½ feet tall with a group or cluster of flowers. Each funnel-shaped flower has six curving petals up to 1 ¼ inch long in shades of bright purple. It has three stamens and three staminodes.

Other common name: ELEGANT BRODIAEA

OOKOW

Dichelostemma congestum

Family: Asparagraceae

Subfamily: Brodiaeoideae

(formerly treated as Family Themidaceae)



Bloom time: Oct - May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

Ookow flowers grow on a thin naked stem 8 inches tall with a tight cluster of 6 to 15 flowers at the top. Each tight lobe has 6 petals in shades of purple.

Other common names: FORK-TOOTHED OOKOW

BLUE DICKS

Dipterostemon capitatus

(formerly Dichelostemma capitatum)

Family: Asparagraceae

Subfamily: Brodiaeoideae

(formerly treated as Family Themidaceae)



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Grassland, open woodland

The flower head usually contains 2 to 15 tightly packed flowers, which can be blue, blue-purple, pink-purple, or white. A stalk can grow to a height of 2 feet. Bulbs (corms) were an important starch source for Native Americans. California tribes dug up the corms before flowering, during flowering, or after seeding depending on the tribe and individual family. If planting seeds, they will take several years to reach flowering size. Propagation by corms is much easier.

Other common names: BRODIAEA, PURPLEHEAD

Blue

Purple

ITHURIEL'S SPEAR

Triteleia laxa

Family: Asparagraceae

Subfamily: Brodiaeoideae

(formerly treated as Family Themidaceae)



Bloom time: April - July

Found in: Grassland on clay soil

The plant bears an umbel of purple, or blue flowers on a naked stem. The flower is tubular, opening into a sharply six-pointed star. The basal strap leaves wither when flowers appear. The plant grows from a corm which is edible and similar in taste and use as the potato. Common.

Other common names: GRASSNUT, WALLYBASKET

Blue

Purple

BABY BLUE-EYES

Nemophila menziesii
var. menziesii

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage or Waterleaf)



Bloom time: March - May

Found in: Grassland, Woodland

The flowers are bright blue with white centers that are generally dotted with black, 10-40 mm wide. It is found throughout California in meadows, grasslands, woodland slopes, chaparral and desert washes.

DWARF LUPIN

Lupinus bicolor

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

This lupin has a short, hairy stem up to 8 centimeters tall and thin, palmate leaves. As its name suggests the flowers are usually two colors, with one often a deep blue. The banner spot is white and becomes a light purple or magenta in age.

Other common names: MINIATURE LUPINE, BICOLOR LUPINE

VALLEY LUPIN

Lupinus microcarpus

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: May - June

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

The flowers are generally pink to purple in color, arranged in open whorls on an erect spike. Abundant. Sometimes used to seed new roadbanks. *Lupinus* is from Latin for *wolf* from the mistaken idea that plants rob the soil of nutrients. Legumes actually add nitrogen to the soil and some are cultivated for green manure.

Other common names: WIDE-BANNERED LUPINE, CHICK LUPINE

Pink

Purple

ARROYO LUPIN

Lupinus succulentus

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: February - May

Found in: Grassland, Open disturbed areas

The flower is generally purple-blue with a white banner that turns magenta in age. Abundant. Sometimes used to seed new roadbanks. *Lupinus* is from Latin for *wolf* from the mistaken idea that plants rob the soil of nutrients. Legumes actually add nitrogen to the soil and some are cultivated for green manure.

Other common names: HOLLOWLEAF ANNUAL LUPINE, SUCCULENT LUPINE

Native

Early Spring

Mid Spring

Late Spring

BLUE-EYED-GRASS

Sisyrinchium bellum

Family: Iridaceae (Iris)



Bloom time: February - May

Found in: Grassland

The flowers are 1–2 centimeters (0.39–0.79 in) in diameter and purplish-blue, varying somewhat in color from a true blue to a definite purple; occasional white-flowering plants are found. It grows in open places where there is some moisture, particularly grassy areas.

Blue

VINEGAR WEED

Trichostema lanceolatum

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)



Bloom time: June-November

Found in: Dry, open disturbed habitats

The flowers on this annual are a striking purple-blue. The plant is well adapted to its native range in California, where it thrives in dry, nutrient-poor, sun-baked clay soil. In hot weather the vinegar smell of the plant becomes intense as the oils in the tissues permeate the air.

Other common names: BLUE CURLS, TURPENTINE WEED, CAMPHOR WEED

NIGHTSHADE

Solanum americanum

Family: Solanaceae (Nightshade)



Bloom time: May - November
Found in: Woodland; Shrubland

The flowers are about 1 cm diameter, white or occasionally light purple, with yellow stamens. The plant grows up to 39–59 inches tall. The leaves are alternate on the branch, and vary greatly in size, up to 3.9 inches long and 2.8 inches broad, with a coarsely wavy or toothed margin. Potatoes, eggplant, and tomatoes are relatives.

Other common names: SMALL FLOWERED NIGHTSHADE, COMMON NIGHTSHADE

Section 5:

PINK FLOWERS
PURPLE/PINK
FLOWERS

NARROW-LEAVED MILKWEED

Asclepias fascicularis

Family: Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed)



Bloom time: June – August

Found in: Grassland, Woodland (LSGP+USGP)

Milkweed is the host plant of monarch butterflies. It is where they lay their eggs. The caterpillars eat the plant and store compounds in the plant that make them (and the butterflies they will become) taste terrible to would-be predators. The fibers in the stems of milkweed plants were used by California Indians to make cordage.

White

Pink

ITALIAN THISTLE

Carduus pycnocephalus

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: Oct - May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

Italian thistle is a spiny annual or sometimes biennial that can grow 6 to 8 feet in height. The thimble-sized, rose to pink to purple flowers are clustered in groups of two to five and has narrow bracts under its heads with many tiny, firm, forward-pointing hairs on them. Leaves green and deeply cut into two to five pairs of spiny lobes. The terminal lobe spine grows longer and more rigid than the other spines. It is common in chaparral and oak savanna. It also occurs in meadows, pastures, and ranges, on roadsides, and in disturbed wildland areas. Blooms from February to July.

Other common names: SLENDER THISTLE, SHORE THISTLE, ITALIAN PLUMELESS THISTLE

BULL THISTLE

Cirsium vulgareum

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: Oct - May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

Bull Thistle grows to a stem 2 to 6 feet tall. The stem is winged, with numerous longitudinal spine-tipped wings along its full length. The leaves are stoutly spined, grey-green, deeply lobed spear-shaped. Pink-magenta flower heads top each stem. The flower heads are "gumdrop" shaped and spines extend all around the base of the flower heads. The flowers are a rich nectar source used by numerous pollinating insects, including bees, and many butterflies. The seeds are eaten by goldfinches, linnets and greenfinches. The seeds are dispersed by wind, mud, water, and by ants. The stems can be peeled and then steamed or boiled. The tap roots can be eaten raw or cooked, but only on young thistles that have not flowered.

Other common names: SCOTS, SCOTTISH, SCOTCH THISTLE, COMMON THISTLE

CALIFORNIA-ASTER

Corethrogyne filaginifolia

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: July - November

Found in: Grassland

Generally daisy like in appearance with white, pink, or purple ray flowers. Flower stem approaching 3.3 feet in maximum length or height. The hairy leaves are linear to ovate; toothed or entire; smaller farther up the stem. Formerly in *Lessingia* genus.

Other common name: SAND-ASTER

MILK THISTLE

Silybum marianum

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: March - August
Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

Milk Thistle grows to 6 feet or taller. It has shiny pale green leaves with white vanes. Leaves are spiny along the edges. The flower heads are 1 to 4 inches long and wide, red-purple in color. The roots can be eaten raw, or par-boiled and roasted. Because of potassium nitrate content, it is used in traditional Chinese medicine though its efficacy in treating diseases is still unknown the plant has been found to be toxic to cattle and sheep.

Other common names: BLESSED MILKTHISTLE, MARY THISTLE, SAINT MARY'S THISTLE, MEDITERRANEAN MILK THISTLE

Introduced

Mid Spring

Late Spring

Summer

SALSIFY

Tragopogon porrifolius

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)



Bloom time: April - May

Found in: Grassland

The flowers are large and dull purple, 30-50mm across. The plant grows to around 120 cm in height. The flower turns into a large cream colored seed-puffball similar to a dandelion.

Other common names: OYSTER PLANT, VEGETABLE OYSTER, JERUSALEM STAR, GOATSBEARD

Purple

SAND SPURRY

Spergularia rubra

Family: Caryophyllaceae (Pink)



Bloom time: April - Oct

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland

This is a small plant found in disturbed places, wetland-riparian. Flowers have five round-oval pink petals. Leaves dark green, not very fleshy, linear in pairs on stems. Plant only grows a few centimeters high.

Other common names: RED SAND SPERRY

HILLSIDE PEA

Lathyrus vestitus

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: February - April

Found in: Chaparral, Oak Woodland

A showy array of up to 15 white to yellowish to pale lavender to pink flowers, sometimes densely packed together. Note the 90-degree bend in the banner petal.

Other common names: BOLANDER'S PEA, PACIFIC PEA, COMMON PACIFIC PEA, WOODLAND PEA

White

Purple

SPRING VETCH

Vicia sativa

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: February - July

Found in: Grassland

The pea-like flowers occur in the leaf axils, solitary or in clusters of up to three. The flower corolla is 1 to 3 centimeters in length and whitish to bluish to red or bright pink-purple in color. The hollow, four-sided stems may or may not be hairy and can reach up to two meters in length.

WINTER VETCH

Vicia villosa

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)



Bloom time: February - April

Found in: Grassland

Up to 9 blue-purple or lavender to white flowers occur on one side of the stem. The plant can sprawl, climb or ascend up to a meter. It is an important green manure, cover crop.

Other common name: HAIRY VETCH

LONG-BEAKED STORK'S BILL

Erodium botrys

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)



Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Dry, open or disturbed sites

Small 5 petaled pink flower. The single seed has a long (up to 4 inches) slender beak, hence the stork's bill name. The leaf lobes are joined in an elongated leaf blade.

Other common names: BIG HERON BILL, BROAD LEAF FILAREE, LONG BEAKED FILAREE

Introduced

Early Spring
Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer

REDSTEM FILAREE

Erodium cicutarium

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)



Bloom time: February - September

Found in: Open, disturbed sites; Grassland

Small 5 petaled pink flower and red stems. The leaves are deeply dissected. The long seed beaks coil when dry. When moistened by rain, they uncoil to drive the seed into the ground to germinate.

Other common names: COASTAL HERON'S BILL, RED STEMMED FILAREE AND REDSTEM STORK'S BILL

Pink

Introduced

Early Spring
Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer

WHITE STEMMED FILAREE

Erodium moschatum

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)



Photo by Neal Kramer via CalFlora



Photo by Luigi Rignanese via CalFlora

Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Dry, open or disturbed sites

Small 5 petaled pink flower.

Other common names: MUSKY STORK'S BILL, WHITE STEMMED FILAREE,
WHITESTEM FILAREE

Pink

Introduced

Early Spring

Mid Spring

Late Spring

Summer

CUT-LEAVED GERANIUM

Geranium dissectum

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)



Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Open disturbed areas

Flower has 5 rose-purple petals. The plant grows to about 2 feet tall but can grow prone. The lobed leaves are pointed. The fruit is beaked, resembling a crane's bill. Common.

Other common name: CUT-LEAVED CRANESBILL

Pink

Introduced

Early Spring
Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer

DOVE'S-FOOT GERANIUM

Geranium molle

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)



Bloom time: February - August
Found in: Open to shaded disturbed sites

Flower has 5 notched petals and is rosy-pink. The plant grows low to the ground. Leaves are rounded. The fruit is beaked, resembling a crane's bill.

Other common names: CRANESBILL, WOODLAND GERANIUM

Pink

Introduced

Early Spring
Mid Spring
Late Spring
Summer

CLASPING HENBIT

Lamium amplexicaule

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)



Bloom time: February - September
Found in: Grassland

Each tubular flower is about ½" long and semi-erect. The upper lip is shaped like a hood with a patch of fine hairs on its outer side, while the lower lip hangs downward. Flower is pink to purplish pink, while its inner surface is white with a few purplish pink dots. The common name 'Henbit' refers to the seeds, which presumably can be eaten by chickens.

Other common names: GIRAFFE'S HEAD, HENBIT, HENBIT DEADNETTLE

Pink
Purple

COYOTE MINT

Monardella villosa

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)



Bloom time: April - July

Found in: Chaparral, Woodland

The flowers are small, thready, bright lavender or pink. The plant forms a small bush or matted groundcover of hairy mint-scented foliage. The Native Americans used its flowers as a remedy for stomach upset, respiratory conditions, and sore throat. It may also be steeped into a bitter mint tea.

Pink

Purple

CHECKERBLOOM

Sidalcea malviflora

Family: Malvaceae (Mallow)



Photo by Amy
Wolitzer



Bloom time: March - June

Found in: Grassland

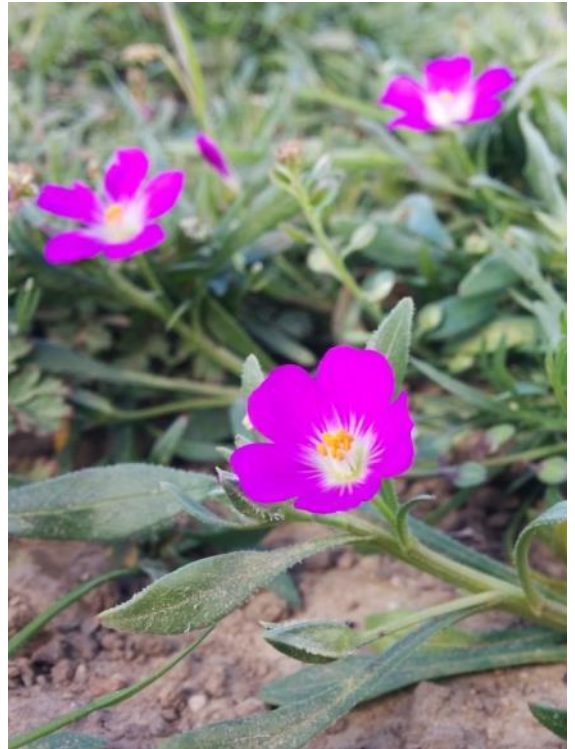
The flower has five petals in shades of bright to dark pink, often with white veining, and measuring one to over three centimeters in length. The plant stem reaches about 60 centimeters in maximum height. It is sparsely to densely hairy in texture.

Other common names: WILD HOLLYHOCK, CHECKERMALLOW, DWARF CHECKERBLOOM

RED MAIDS

Calandrinia ciliata

Family: Montiaceae (Miner's Lettuce)



Bloom time: February - May

Found in: Grasslands

Late morning bloomer. Brilliant deep rose to red five-petaled flower one-half to one inch wide. Very short/low spreading plant in open grassy areas and cultivated fields. Likes sandy to loamy soil. Common.

Pink

Red

SMALL CLARKIA

Clarkia affinis

Family: Onagraceae (Evening-Primrose)



Bloom time: May - June

Found in: Woodland openings, chaparral

The petals may have darker spots near the base and purple or red speckling. The buds are erect. The stigma is not exerted beyond the anthers.

Other common name: CHAPARRAL CLARKIA

HERALD-OF-SUMMER

Clarkia amoena

Family: Onagraceae (Evening-Primrose)



Bloom time: June - August

Found in: Openings in Woodland

The flower is bowl-shaped with pinkish lavender petals 1 to 4 centimeters long and bearing a red splotch or marks near the middle. The bud is erect.

Other common names: FAREWELL-TO-SPRING

WINECUP CLARKIA

Clarkia purpurea

Family: Onagraceae (Evening-Primrose)



Bloom time: April - August

Found in: Grasslands

The bowl-shaped flowers have four petals, up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long. They are in shades of pink, purple, or deep wine red; often with a streak or spot of pink or red in the middle. Flower stalk is a thin reddish stem which may approach 3 feet. Highly variable. Common.

Other common names: FOUR-SPOT, WINECUP FAIRYFAN, PURPLE CLARKIA

ELEGANT CLARKIA

Clarkia unguiculata

Family: Onagraceae (Evening-Primrose)



Bloom time: April - September

Found in: Woodland

Petals can be lavender-pink to salmon or dark red-purple. The buds are reflexed. The stigma is exerted beyond the anthers. Common.

Other common name: MOUNTAIN GARLAND

Purple

Pink

PURPLE OWL'S-CLOVER

Castilleja exserta

Family: Orobanchaceae (Broomrape)



Bloom time: March to May

Found in: Grassland

The plant is an annual up to 1 foot tall with a hairy stem covered in thready leaves. The tube-shaped flower is somewhat hidden by colorful bracts. It often occurs in masses. Highly variable.

Other common names: OWL'S-CLOVER, ESCOBITA, EXSERTED INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

LOWLAND SHOOTING STAR

Dodecatheon clevelandii

Family: Primulaceae (Primrose)



Bloom time: February - June
Found in: Grasslands

The flowers are magenta to deep lavender to white. Stem is up to 1 foot high with a cluster of flowers. Flowers are about a ½ long. It is one of the first wildflowers to come up in the spring. They can be found in open, sunny areas often on a north facing slope. Possibly hybridizes with *D. hendersonii* complex.

Other common names: PADRES SHOOTING STAR

White
Purple

HENDERSON'S SHOOTING STAR

Dodecatheon hendersonii

Family: Primulaceae (Primrose)



Bloom time: February - June

Found in: Grasslands

The flowers are magenta to deep lavender to white. Stem is up to 1 foot high with a cluster of flowers. Flowers are about a ½ long. It is one of the first wildflowers to come up in the spring. They can be found in open, sunny areas often on a north facing slope. Possibly hybridizes with *D. hendersonii* complex.

Other common names: PADRES SHOOTING STAR, MOSQUITO BILLS

White

Purple

CHINESE HOUSES

Collinsia heterophylla

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)



Bloom time: March – May

Found in: Grasslands, Woodland (LSGP+USGP)

Chinese Houses blooms from mid spring to early summer. Like other species in the genus *Collinsia*, which also includes the blue-eyed Marys, it gets its name from its towers of clustered flowers in decreasing diameter, which give the plants in full flower a certain resemblance to a pagoda. It can be found in Foothill Woodland, Chaparral, Valley Grassland, (many plant communities).

Other common names: PURPLE CHINESE HOUSES, INNOCENCE

White

Purple

Section 6:

BUSHES WITH FLOWERS

POISON OAK

Toxicodendron diversilobum

Family: Anacardiaceae (Sumac or Cashew)



Photos from wikipedia

Bloom time: March - August

Found in: Grassland, Woodland

The white flowers form in the spring. It can grow as a dense 1.6–13.1 feet tall shrub in open sunlight; a treelike vine; as dense thickets in sun or shade, or any form in between. The leaves are divided into three leaflets. Touching any part of the plant can cause serious dermatitis in humans, even the leafless twigs or branches in winter. "Leaves of three, let it be."

Yellow

White

HILLSIDE GOOSEBERRY

Ribes californicum

Family: Grossulariaceae (Gooseberry)



Bloom time: January - March

Found in: Woodland

The flowers hang pendent from the branches in shades of deep red or green with a red tinge. The shrub is erect, growing to a maximum height of around 4 1/2 feet. The branches have nodal spines. The fruit is an edible red berry about a centimeter wide which is covered in stiff spines.

BLACK SAGE

Salvia mellifera

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)



Bloom time: March - July

Found in: Woodland, Chaparral

The flowers on this aromatic bush are usually white, sometimes with a pale blue or lavender or rose tinge. The upper lip of the flower is 2-lobed. The flowers are in a circular cluster around the stem. Black sage is a perennial shrub that grows approximately 3–6 feet tall. Native Americans made a strong sun tea of the leaves and stems of the plant. This was rubbed on a painful area or used to soak one's feet. The plant contains diterpenoids, such as aethiopinone and ursolic acid, that are pain relievers.

Native

Mid Spring

Late Spring

Summer

STICKY MONKEY FLOWER

Mimulus aurantiacus

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)



Bloom time: March - August

Found in: Rocky slopes

The flowers are tubular at the base and about 2 centimeters long with five broad lobes; attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies; occurs in a variety of shades from white to red, the most common color being a light orange. The plant grows up to 4 feet tall, has deep green sticky leaves. California Indians used its flowers and roots to treat a number of ailments.

Orange

Yellow

Are there species we left out?

Send us a photo of a flower not in this book and we'll make a page for it in our next update.

Planned additions:

Fennel, California Lotus, Bur Clover Medicago polymorpha, 3rd erodium?, Peppergrass?

Sand Crocus Romulea rosea, Speedwell

Veronica arvensis, Corn speedwell

Send emails to valleywilds@larpd.org

We also welcome ideas for finding funding to produce a print version!