



Wildflowers of the Stanislaus National Forest

Parts of the Flower to look for:

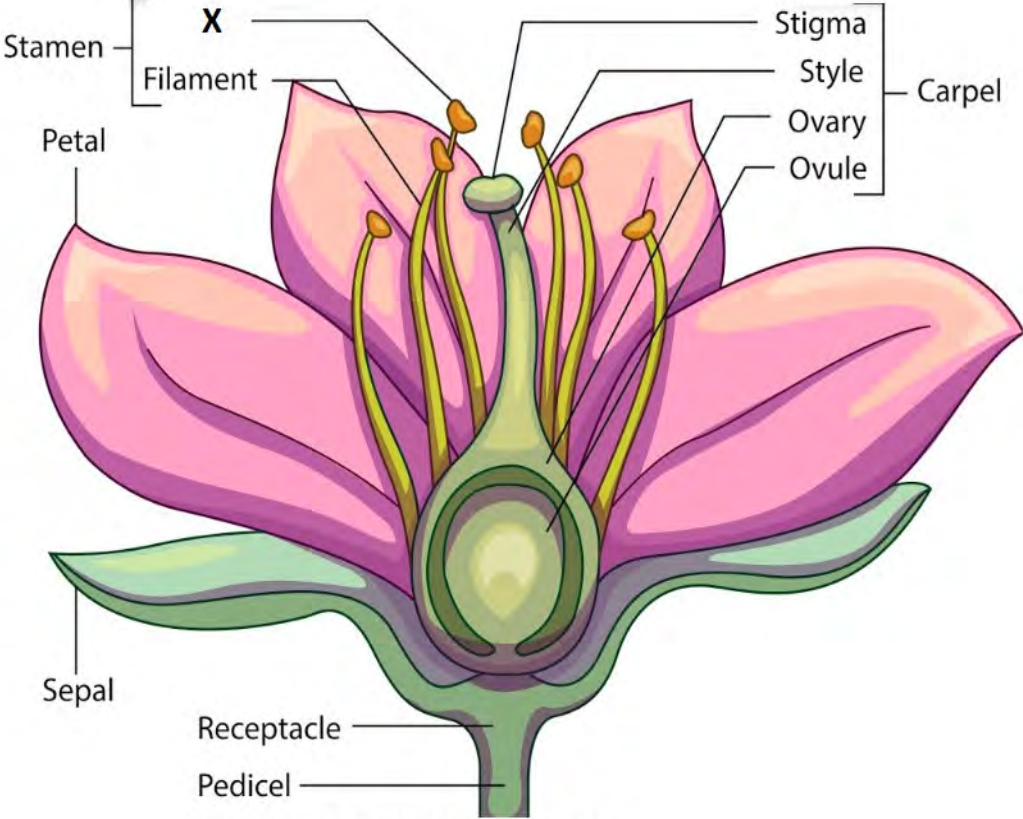


FIGURE- PARTS OF A FLOWER

Regular-shaped Flowers: Radial Symmetry



Petals separate:

Fragaria vesca



Petals united, tubular:

Phlox speciosa



Composite:

Balsamorhiza deltoidea

Irregular-shaped Flowers - Bilateral Symmetry

Petal Free:

Viola lobata

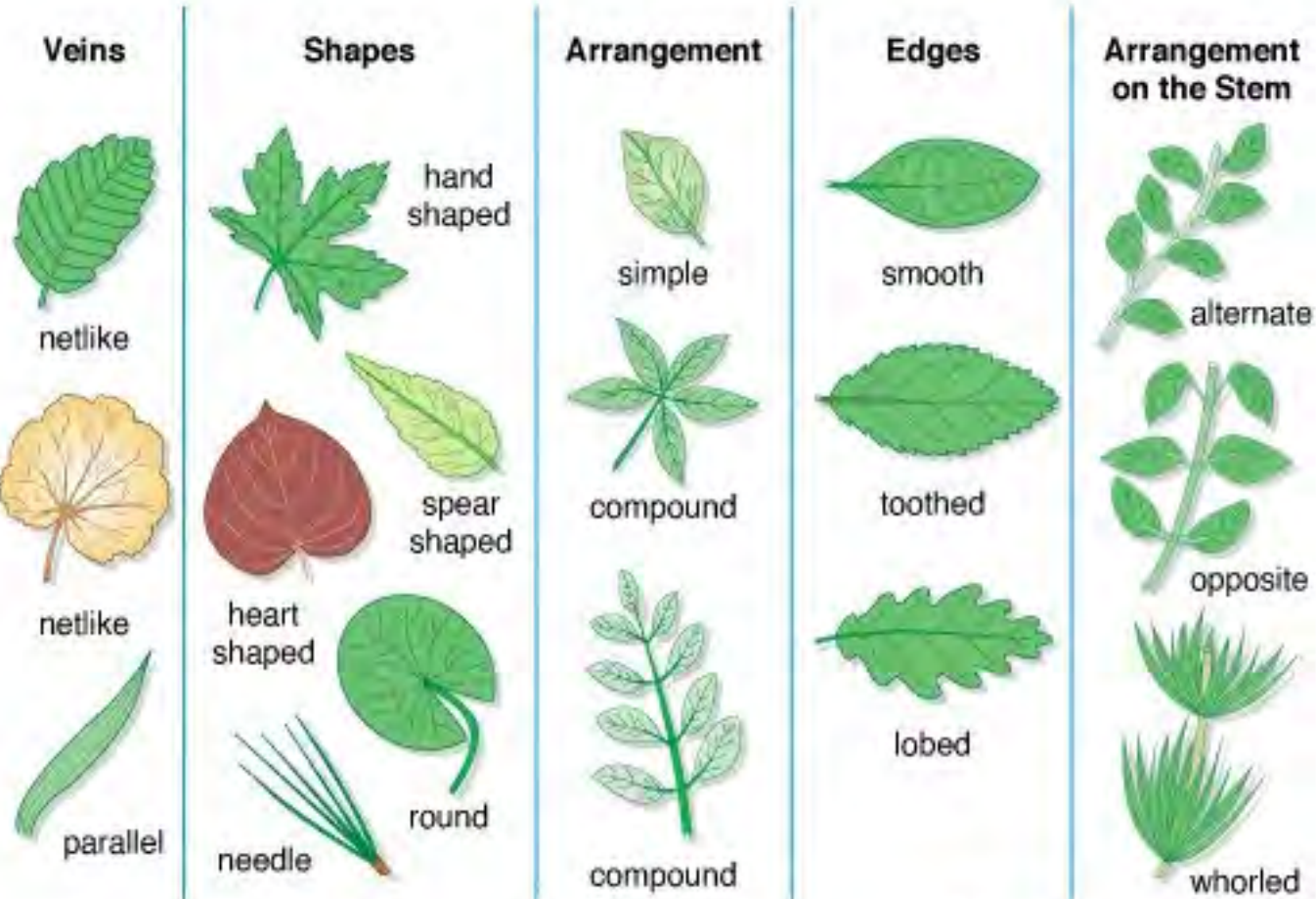


Petals united:

Penstemon azureus



Leaf shape matters too!



Compound leaves (divided into leaflets)

Palmately compound:
Lupinus stiversii



Pinnately compound:
Rosa gymnocarpa



Things to take with you to make it a good experience...

Wear Layers of Clothes and Sturdy Footwear



In your daypack include: Water, Food, Sunscreen, A guide book, A hand Lens or loop, First aid kit (include tweezers or a tick removing element), Matches, A Compass, A Map, Insect repellent, A Whistle, A Knife, Toilet Paper with plastic bags to “Leave No Trace”

Take some binoculars to see those cliff hanging plants or maybe get lucky and check out some birds while you’re out there, too.

We are not going to cover Poison Oak. Just remember - “Leaves of three, leave them be”.

California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) *

California Buckeye or California Horse-chestnut is a species in the Sapindaceae family that is endemic to California, and the only buckeye native to the state. It is found over a large part of the state. It is a large shrub or small tree growing to 4-12 meters tall, with gray bark often coated with lichens or mosses. It typically is multi-trunked with a crown as broad as it is high. The leaves are dark green with five (rarely seven) leaflets, each leaflet 6-17 centimeters long, with a finely toothed margin and (particularly in spring) downy surfaces. The leaves are tender and prone to damage from both spring freezing or snow and summer heat and desiccation. It tends to drop its leaves readily. Caution should be exercised in using this plant in the garden because the fruits are toxic.

Distribution: Foothill belt of the west slope up to 5000 feet. Hillsides or stream borders.



Bitter Dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)

Apocynum androsaemifolium (Fly-trap dogbane, Spreading dogbane) is a flowering plant in the Gentianales order. It has branching stems, hairs on the underside of the leaves, and no hair on the stems. Milky sap appears on broken stems. Leaf margin is entire and leaf venation is alternate. Its leaves appear as pointed ovals, while its flowers appear terminally on a stalk. The plant is poisonous, due to the cardiac glycosides it contains. Distribution: Mixed conifer Belt to Subalpine belt at 5,000 to 9,500 ft on dry flats and slopes.



Mugwort or Wormwood

***Artemisia douglasiana* is an aromatic shrub in the Asteraceae (Sunflower) family, although plants in this genus don't look like it. It is commonly called California Mugwort or Douglas' Sagewort. Found in virtually every county of California, this plant has been used as a ceremonial plant in many Native American cultures, for use in treating a minor injury or as a dream potentiator. The plant is native to the western United States and into Baja California where it is often found in moist areas**

such as drainages. It's often riparian in the drier parts of its range. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, often not producing viable seed. It spreads by rhizomes, especially in damp areas. This plant is not often seen in residential gardens but is sometimes grown for medicinal purposes. It is also useful in restoration projects and for erosion control.



Milkweed *

Heart Leaf Milkweed(*Asclepias cordifolia*)

Asclepias cordifolia is a species of milkweed commonly called Heart-leaf milkweed or Purple milkweed (not to be confused with *Asclepias purpurascens*, also commonly called Purple milkweed). It is native to the western United States (California, Nevada, Oregon), growing between 500 - 6300 ft. elevation in the northern Sierra and Cascade ranges. Heart-leaf milkweed was valued by the Native American Miwok for its stems, which they dried and processed into cordage (string and rope). Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the Heart-leaf milkweed leaves, which contain alkaloids that cause the butterfly to be unpalatable to predators. The species name, *cordifolia* (Latin for 'heart-leaved'), refers to the heart-shaped leaves, while the genus name honors the Greek physician Asclepius. Heart-leaf milkweed is a perennial that grows to a height of 0.3-0.6 meter, with dark red-purple flowers whose hoods are slightly elevated above the base of the corolla. The flower structure is unusual-it has five stamens fused into a column, with five circular attachments called 'hoods', and an anther head surrounding the large stigma at the flower's center. The fruit is a follicle with many flat seeds that have silky hairs which disperse easily in the wind. The large opposite leaves are heart-shaped. The plant grows in open or shaded woodland, often on rocky slopes and in mixed coniferous forest.



Narrow-leaf Milkweed *

Narrow Leaf Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

Narrowleaf milkweed or Mexican whorled milkweed is a flowering perennial sending up many thin, erect stems and bearing distinctive long pointed leaves which are very narrow and often whorled about the stem, giving the plant its common names. It blooms in clusters of lavender or lavender-tinted white flowers which have five reflexed lobes that extend down away from the blossom. The fruits are smooth milkweed pods which split open to spill seeds along with plentiful silky hairs. This plant is common in the western United States and has the potential to become weedy.

Milkweeds in general are the larval host plants for Monarch butterflies, and this species is probably the single most important host plant for Monarch butterflies in California. Milkweed gardeners should be prepared for the plant to be eaten by Monarch caterpillars, but will be rewarded by the presence of beautiful Monarch Butterflies. The plant is deciduous in winter and will sometimes die back to the ground before reviving in the Spring, and is often covered with aphids, so often best to plant in less prominent spots in a garden.

It's very easy to grow in soils with with good drainage, even with no summer water.





Red Maids *

Calandrinia menziesii is a species of flowering plant in the purslane family known by the common name fringed redmaids. It is native to western North America from British Columbia to New Mexico, where it is widespread and common. It can also be found in parts of Central and South America. This is an annual herb which varies greatly in size from a small patch a few centimeters wide to an erect form approaching 40 centimeters tall. The linear or lance-shaped leaves are one to ten centimeters long and slightly succulent in texture. The flower cluster is a raceme bearing flowers on short pedicels. The flower has usually five deep pink to red petals, each up to 1.5 centimeters in length. There are two sepals at the base beneath the petals. Grows in grasslands and disturbed areas, along trails or roads, and where gophers have been active. Grows in elevations up to 7,200 ft.

Mariposa Lily



Calochortus venustus is a species of flowering plant in the lily family known by the common name butterfly mariposa lily. It is endemic to California, where it can be found in the sandy soils of a number of habitats in the mountains and foothills in the central part of the state. It is a perennial herb producing a branching stem 10 to 60 centimeters tall. There is a basal leaf up to 20 centimeters long which withers by the time the plant blooms. The flower cluster is a loose cluster of 1 to 6 erect, bell-shaped flowers. The flowers are variable in size and color pattern, though white is the most common color. They are often showy and intricately patterned. They generally have three curving sepals 2 or 3 centimeters long and three oval-shaped, clawed petals up to 5 centimeters long. The petals may be a variety of colors from white to pale pink or purple to bright red or orange, and sport a large dark central blotch and a smaller, paler blotch above. The fruit is an angled capsule 5 or 6 centimeters long. Although they tend to grow singly in the wild, they have more visual impact when massed in the garden. This plant needs summer dormancy, so withhold water after it has finished blooming. 4,000 - 11,000 ft. elevation.



Whiteleaf Manzanita *

***Arctostaphylos viscida* is a species in the Ericaceae (Heath) family known by the common names whiteleaf manzanita and sticky manzanita. This is a treelike shrub reaching up to five meters in height. The stems may be smooth or fuzzy, and are often hairy. The leaves are rounded to oval, sometimes slightly toothed or with hairs along the edges, and usually dull green on both surfaces. When in flower the shrub is packed heavily with densely bunching flower clusters of urn-shaped white to pale pink flowers. The fruits are shiny red or greenish-brown drupes between one half and one centimeter wide. Seeds require fire for germination. This is a plant of chaparral and coniferous forests of 3,000-5,000 ft. elevation. It is native to California and Oregon. The Miwok of northern California used the fruits to make cider.**

Occurs at elevations of about 100 to 7,200 feet

Buck Brush

Ceanothus cuneatus is a species of flowering shrub in the Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn) family known by the common names Buckbrush and Wedgeleaf Ceanothus. This Ceanothus is native to Oregon, California, and northern Baja California, where it can be found in a number of habitats, especially chaparral. It is one of the most common and widespread native plants in California. It is a spreading bush, rounded to sprawling, reaching up to 3 meters in height. The evergreen leaves are stiff, tough and fleshy, and may be slightly toothed along the edges. The bush flowers abundantly in short, thick-stalked racemes bearing rounded bunches of tiny flowers, each about half a centimeter wide. The flowers are white, sometimes tinted strongly with blue or lavender. The fruit is round capsule with horns. It is about half a centimeter wide and contains three shiny dark seeds which are dispersed when the capsule explodes and propels them some distance. Harvester ants have been known to cache the seeds, which can lie dormant for a long time since fire is required for germination. Distribution: Foothill Belt at 300 to 6,000 ft on dry slopes.



Mountain Misery

Chamaebatia foliolosa is a species of aromatic evergreen shrub in the rose family known by the common names mountain misery and bearclover. The Miwok tribe's name for this plant was kit-kit-dizze. This shrub is endemic to the mountains of California, where it grows in coniferous forests. The stems are covered in dark brown bark. The foliage is made up of 3-pinnate leaves, meaning the frond like leaves are made up of leaflets which in turn are made up of smaller leaflets which are also subdivided. The fern like leaves are up to 10 centimeters long, frilly in appearance and dotted with sticky glands. The roselike flowers have rounded white petals and yellow centers ringed with many stamens.





Virgin's Bower *Clematis ligusticifolia*

A climbing, spreading vine with showy flowers. It is also known as Old-man's Beard and Yerba de Chiva, and Virgin's bower, (though the last name may also refer to *C. lasiantha*). It is native to North America where it is widespread across the western United States **in streamside thickets, wooded hillsides, and coniferous forests up to 4,000 feet**. It was called "pepper vine" by early travelers and pioneers of the American Old West. They used it as a pepper substitute to spice up food since real black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) was a costly and rarely obtainable spice. Like the rest of the *Clematis* genus, it contains essential oils and compounds which are extremely irritating to the skin and mucous membranes. Unlike Black Pepper or *Capsicum*, however, the compounds in *clematis* cause internal bleeding of the digestive tract if ingested internally in large amounts. The plants are essentially toxic. Despite its toxicity, Native Americans used very small amounts of *clematis* as an effective treatment for migraine headaches and nervous disorders. It was also used as an effective treatment of skin infections. A whole-plant hot water extraction was used to treat eczema, and a leaf compress is used to treat chest pain, sores, and boils.

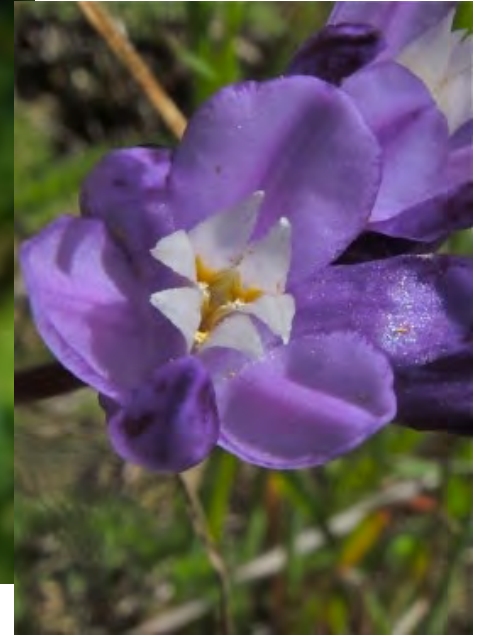
Sticky Chinese Houses *Collinsia tinctoria* *

***Collinsia tinctoria* is a species of flowering plant in the plantain family known by the common names sticky Chinese houses and tincture plant. It is endemic to California, where it grows in the woodlands and forests of the mountain ranges of the central and northern regions of the state. It is an annual herb producing a sturdy erect stem up to about 60 centimeters tall. The oppositely arranged leaves are triangular lance-shaped, sometimes toothed, and hairy on the undersides. The flower cluster is a series of widely spaced dense whorls of flowers, each whorl a crowded ring of flowers held on erect pedicels. The flower has five elongated sepals with rounded tips, the corolla angling sharply down from the mouth of the calyx. The corolla may be any of several colors from white to yellow to deep lavender and may be mottled or speckled and tinted in the throat. The flower cluster and some flower parts are hairy. Found in mixed conifer belt of west slope 2,000 - 7 500 ft**



Blue Dicks *Dichelostemma capitatum* ssp. *capitatum*

Blue Dicks are a native perennial herb that grow in northern, southern and central California. It tends to grow in open places, at elevations from 0-7500 feet. Stems 6 - 15 in. Erect. Flowers to 0.67 inch long, deep blue, four to 15 in with a dense compact head.





Canyon Dudleya *Dudleya cymosa* *

It's a succulent plant known by the common name canyon live-forever. It is a distinctive plant sending up erect red-orange stems from a gray-green basal rosette. The small yellowish-red thimble-shaped flowers top the stems in large flower cluster. The plant is found in rocky areas in the low elevation mountains of California and southern Oregon. Some subspecies are considered threatened locally. Hummingbirds love this plant.

It tends to grow in rocky slopes, at elevations from 200-8500 feet.

Leafy Fleabane *Erigeron foliosus*

A species of flowering plant in the daisy family known by the common name leafy fleabane. This wildflower is native to western North America from Oregon to Baja California, where it can be found in many habitats. There are several Varieties: In general, this is an erect, clumping and branching perennial daisy growing from woody roots to heights of anywhere between 20 centimeters and one meter. Unlike some other fleabanes, it has leaves evenly spaced all over the stem. They may be thready or wide and flat, and are between one and seven centimeters long. Atop each branch of the leafy stem is an flower cluster of one to several flower heads, each one to one and a half centimeters wide. The head has a center of golden disc florets and a fringe of up to 60 pale to medium purple ray florets.





Common Woolly Sunflower *Eriophyllum lanatum* *

The Common Woolly Sunflower, also known as Oregon Sunshine, is a widespread, herbaceous dicot of the sunflower family Asteraceae. It is native to western North America, commonly growing in dry, open places below 10,000 feet, but it also grows on rocky slopes and bluffs. It is most common in California, primarily in the mountains of the northern part of the state where it is widespread. This perennial plant grows from 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters) in height. Flowers are yellow and composite, looking much like true sunflowers, and sometimes grow to 2 inches wide. Both the ray and disk flowers are yellow, with one flower head on each flowering stalk. The leaves are linear on the upper stems; the lower portions of the stem have slender, pinnately lobed leaves. The species exhibits great variability. There are many recognized varieties, and some are classified as rare.



Frying pans *Eschscholzia lobbii* *

A species of poppy known by the common name frying pans. It is endemic to California, where it grows in the Central Valley and adjacent Sierra Nevada foothills. Frying pans is a small annual herb growing from a patch of segmented leaves with pointed leaflets. It produces erect stalks up to 15 centimeters in height each bearing a single poppy flower. The 4 petals are about a centimeter long and bright yellow to somewhat orange. The fruit is a capsule 3 to 7 centimeters long containing tiny brown seeds. They are smaller than the California Poppy.





Brown Bells

Fritillaria micrantha

Known by the common names brown fritillary and brown bells, is a California species of fritillary in the lily family. This wildflower is native to the Sierra Nevada of California, where it is a common resident of dry mountain slopes and to the foothills west of the main range.





Bigelow's Sneezeweed *Helenium bigelovii* *

The daisy like plant *Helenium bigelovii* is known as Bigelow's sneezeweed. It is a plant of meadows and marshes that bears flowers that are usually bright yellow in color. Brown-black disk flowers in a round head. Toothed ray flowers. It grows in moist areas. It is found at moderate elevation in the foothills and low mountains of California. Cultivars are raised as ornamentals. It is one of the later blooming flowers of the meadows.

Tinker's Penny *Hypericum anagalloides*

Is a species of St. John's wort known by the common names creeping St. John's-wort, tinker's penny and bog St. John's-wort. It is native to western North America from British Columbia to California and Nevada, where it grows in wet areas such as mountain meadows and streambanks. This is a stoloniferous annual or perennial herb forming lush green patches on the ground. The stems lie across the ground or rise erect somewhat at the ends and grow to about 25 centimeters in maximum length; they are often much shorter and form a carpetlike mat. Each round or oval gland-dotted green leaf is 4 to 15 millimeters long. The flowers grow singly or clustered together. Each has five oval-shaped petals which are usually golden yellow, and up to 25 yellow- or white-anthered stamens. Habitat: Moist places to 9,500 ft.



Yawning Penstemon



Gaping Keckiella *Keckiella breviflora*

Formerly *Penstemon breviflorus*) is a species of flowering shrub in the Plantaginaceae (Plantain) family known by the common name Gaping Keckiella. It is native to many of the mountain ranges and foothills of central California, and its range extends just into Nevada. This is a branching, bushy shrub with many thin stems, approaching a maximum height near two meters. Its shiny green leaves are arranged oppositely on the branches, and each is one to four centimeters long, generally lance-shaped and finely serrated or smooth along the edges. The shrub produces tall flower clusters which are loose, hairy spikes of flowers. Each flower is one to two centimeters wide with five pale pink or pinkish-streaked white lobes whose external surfaces have long, shiny hairs. The three lower lobes curl outward from the mouth and under, and the two upper lobes are joined into a lip that curves forward over the mouth. Within the mouth are long stamen filaments bearing anthers, and a flat, hairless, sterile stamen called a staminode.

Eveningsnow *Linanthus dichotomus*

A species of flowering plant in the phlox family known by the common name eveningsnow. It is native to western North America, including most of the southwestern United States, where it is a common member of the flora in a number of habitat types. It is often found on the serpentine soils of California. This is an annual herb producing several thin, waxy, erect stems up to 20 centimeters tall. The leaves are divided into linear lobes 1 or 2 centimeters long. The inflorescence produces a cyme of vespertine flowers which unroll into funnel-shaped corollas. The white lobes are just over a centimeter long and have purple shading on the undersides. This is a night blooming flower; look for them near sunset!



Mustang Clover *Leptosiphon montanus*

Is a species of flowering plant in the phlox family known by the common name mustang clover. It is endemic to California. It grows in dry openings of oak woodland habitats in the western Sierra Nevada foothills, from 300-1,700 metres (980-5,580 ft) in elevation. An annual herb producing a thin, hairy stem up to 60 centimeters tall. The leaves are divided into needle-like linear lobes each 2 or 3 centimeters in length. The inflorescence is a head of small but showy flowers. Each flower has a long, hairy, dark red tube up to 3 centimeters long spreading into a flat corolla. The corolla lobes are white or light to deep pink marked with reddish spots at the yellow and white throat. Its bloom period is from April to July.



Silver Bush Lupine

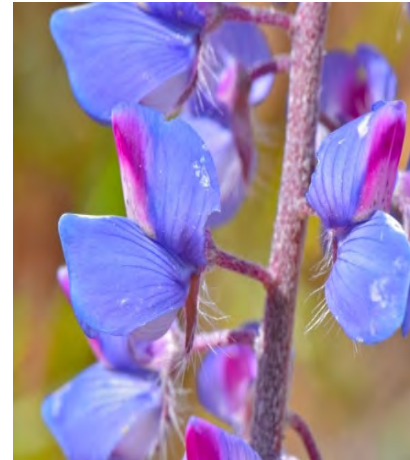
Lupinus albilfrons var. *albilfrons*

Silver Lupine is a native shrub that grows in northern, southern and central California. It tends to grow in the open and sand or rocks, at elevations from 0-4900 feet. Needs excellent drainage, susceptible to root rots. The silver bush lupine grows into a rounded shrub growing 3-5 ft. tall with silky gray-green leaves. Blue to purple flowers grow on 8-12 in. long spikes from early to late spring.



Spider Lupine *Lupinus benthamii* *

A species of lupine known by the common name spider lupine. It is endemic to central California, where it is known from the Central Coast Ranges across the Central Valley into the Sierra Nevada foothills. It is common in some areas, covering hillsides with its blue blooms in the spring. This is a hairy annual herb growing 20 to 70 centimeters tall. Each palmate leaf is made up of 7 to 10 leaflets each up to 5 centimeters long. They are narrow and linear in shape, just a few millimeters wide. The flower cluster is an erect raceme of flowers up to 30 centimeters tall, the flowers sometimes arranged in whorls. The flower is between 1 and 2 centimeters long and bright to deep blue in color, generally with a white or pink spot on the banner, or upper petal. The fruit is a hairy legume pod about 3 centimeters long.



Miniature Lupine *Lupinus bicolor*

A species in the Fabaceae (Legume) family known as the Miniature Lupine due to its diminutive size. It is a showy flowering plant native to western North America from California to British Columbia. In California it is very widespread, often appearing in huge numbers. It is an annual wildflower which often shares a habitat with the California poppy. It has a short, hairy stem and thin, palmately-arranged leaves. The flower cluster is short for a lupine at up to 8 centimeters tall. As its name suggests the flowers are usually two colors, with one often a deep blue. The other color is often white and sometimes a light purple or magenta. There are sometimes small speckles or spots on the petals. The plant's hairy pods are quite small, only a couple of centimeters long and very thin, and they contain tiny brownish peas. This plant can be variable in appearance and there are several purported subspecies whose relationships are as yet unclear. Like other Lupines it is nitrogen-fixing and so is useful in restoration projects.



Harlequin Lupine *Lupinus stiversii*

Harlequin Lupine is a species of lupine known by the common name harlequin lupine. It is endemic to California, where it has a disjunct distribution in several separate mountain ranges. It is a plant of the Sierra Nevada and its foothills, and populations also occur in the Transverse Ranges above Los Angeles and the Santa Lucia Mountains of Monterey County. It grows in open, dry habitat, such as forest clearings and exposed slopes. It is a hairy annual herb growing 10 to 50 centimeters tall with an erect, branching stem. Each palmate leaf is made up of usually 7 leaflets measuring 2 to 5 centimeters in length. The flower cluster is a dense array of a few flowers, often just one or two layers. The unique flower is between 1 and 2 centimeters long and is pink with a yellow banner. The fruit is a legume pod around 2 centimeters long containing usually 5 seeds. The plant was named for Army physician Dr. Charles Austin Stivers, who first collected it in 1862 near Yosemite.



Seep Monkey Flower *Erythranthe guttata* *

Seep Monkey Flower is a yellow bee-pollinated wildflower that grows along the banks of streams and seeps in western North America and throughout most of California. It is also well liked by hummingbirds. This is a highly variable plant, taking many forms. It is a species complex in that there is room to treat some of its forms as different species by some definitions. Both annual and perennial forms occur throughout the species' range. It is found in a wide range of habitats including the splash zone of the Pacific Ocean, the geysers of Yellowstone National Park, alpine meadows, serpentine barrens, and even on the toxic tailings of copper mines. It is sometimes aquatic, its herbage floating in small bodies of water. It has been a model organism for studies of evolution and ecology. There may be as many as 1000 scientific papers focused on this species. The scientific name of this plant was recently changed from Mimulus guttatus to Erythranthe guttata.





Miner's Lettuce *Claytonia perfoliata*

Miner's lettuce, Winter Purslane, Spring Beauty, or Indian lettuce is an annual herb in the Montiaceae (Montia) family. It is native to a large portion of western North America, including almost every county in California. It is a trailing plant, growing to a maximum of 40 centimeter in length, but mature plants can be as small as 1 centimeter. The cotyledons are usually bright green (sometimes purplish or brownish-green), succulent, long and narrow. The first true leaves form a rosette at the base of the plant, and are 0.5-4 centimeter long, with an often long petiole (exceptionally up to 20 centimeter long). Mature leaves are round, succulent and edible, leading to the common name. The small white flowers have five petals 2-6 millimeter long; they appear from February to May or June, and are grouped 5-40 together above a pair of leaves that are united together around the stem to appear as one circular leaf. Mature plants have numerous erect to spreading stems that branch from the base. The presence of Miner's Lettuce is indicative of a healthy oak woodland. This plant tends to be more drought tolerant near the coast or in other cool weather areas.



Fivespot *Nemophila maculata* *



Fivespot is a species of flowering plant in the Borage family, Boraginaceae. It is an annual herb that flowers in the spring, and it is endemic to California. In the wild it is found primarily in the Sierra foothills, but it is also planted extensively in gardens. The seeds are often included in wildflower mixes. The flowers are bowl-shaped consisting of five petals, white with dark veins and dots. The lobe tips are purple-spotted, leading to the common name. The corolla is 1 to 2 centimeters long and up to 5 centimeters wide. The leaves are up to 3 centimeters long and 1.5 wide, and are divided into several smooth or toothed lobes. This species should not be confused with Desert Fivespot (*Eremalche rotundifolia*).
Distribution: Valley Grassland, Redwood Forest, Southern Oak Woodland and Yellow Pine Forest.

Baby Blue Eyes *Nemophila menziesii* *

Baby Blue Eyes is a common annual herb of California, Oregon, and Baja California, and a popular garden plant. It is a spring-blooming wildflower that gets its name from the bright blue flowers of two of the three varieties that are recognized. One variety, var. *atomaria*, is found in the north coast and has almost pure white flowers. It can occasionally be found outside its native range as an introduced species, in Alaska, for example. Baby Blue Eyes grows virtually throughout California at heights from sea level up to almost 6500 feet (2000 meters) in many types of habitat. It is easy to grow from seed along with other annuals in a wildflower meadow or in openings between trees and shrubs.



Purple Owl's Clover *Castilleja exserta* *

Owl's Clover is a species in the Orobanchaceae (Broomrape) family. The genus *Castilleja*, which includes the Indian paintbrushes, includes numerous species. This species is native to the southwestern United States but may be found in places where it has been introduced, such as Hawaii. In California there are three recognized subspecies with fairly distinct geographical ranges. The plant is an annual about a foot tall with a hairy stem covered in thready leaves. Although this species is variable in appearance and easily hybridizes with other *Castilleja*, it generally bears a brightly-colored flower cluster of shaggy pink-purple or lavender flowers that resemble clover (but they are not related). The thin, erect leaves are usually tipped with the same color, giving the flower cluster the appearance of a paintbrush. It produces pods containing seeds

Grows at elevations to 5,250 ft.





Caterpillar Phacelia

Phacelia cicutaria

Caterpillar Phacelia or Caterpillar Scorpionweed is an annual species in the Boraginaceae (Borage) family that is native to California, southern Nevada, and Baja California. It grows mainly in chaparral, frequently in burnt areas or on rocky slopes. It's an upright annual shrub growing up to than 0.6 meter (2') high. Its foliage is deeply lobed, 2-15 centimeter. (1-6") long, with spiked segments. The flower buds are held in tight, hairy coils which uncoil as the flowers open one by one. The flowering stems' resemblance of caterpillars lends this plant its common name. Flowers appear Mar-May and are dirty-white to pale lavender in color. Elevation: -32" - 7672"

Blue Elderberry *Sambucus mexicana*

Blue Elderberry, Mexican Elderberry, or Tapiro is a deciduous shrub or small tree, growing up to as tall as 30 feet. It is native from Oregon to Baja all the way to western Texas. It has cream or yellow flowers in the spring and purple berries in the fall. Its berries are one of the most important source of food for birds in California. It is generally found in drier open forests, edges, and slopes; often along roadsides. Blue Elderberry has opposite, relatively large, pinnately-divided compound leaves with 5-9, broadly lance-shaped, smooth, toothed leaflets. Small, creamy white flowers are borne in flat-topped clusters. Berries are bluish-black, with a waxy bloom, making them appear powdery blue. Twigs are soft and pithy. The berries and flowers are both edible and can be used to make many things. ie. wine, jam, medicine, etc.

Elevation: 10 - 9,800 feet.



California Indian Pink

Silene laciniata ssp. *californica*

California Indian pink (*Silene laciniata* ssp. *californica*) is a showy California-native perennial herb. Also known as cardinal catchfly, this plant's beautiful, reddish-orange flowers attract the attention not only of curious hikers, but also of hummingbirds. Wildflowers in the pink family (*Caryophyllaceae*) are so-named not for their color (in this case, clearly not pink), but for their roughly-edged petals, which often have the appearance of having been tattered by pinking shears. California Indian Pink (*Silene californica*) is a native annual herb that grows in northern, southern and central California. It tends to grow at elevations from 0-5000 feet.



Naked Broomrape *Orobanche uniflora*

Commonly known as broomrape, one-flowered cancer root, ghost pipe or naked broomrape, is an annual parasitic herb. It is native to much of North America, where it is a parasitic plant, tapping nutrients from many other species of plants, including those in the Asteraceae and Saxifragaceae families and in the genus *Sedum*. It grows to a height of five centimeters, and has short (up to 3 centimeter) scaly leaves. The flowers grow singly on 5-15 centimetres (2.0-5.9 in) stalks and may be up to 3.5 centimetres (1.4 in) long. The corolla is violet to yellow-brown, two-lipped, finely fringed with five similar lobes. You can find this one going out Buchanan Mine Rd going towards Cherry, Groveland Area, Clark's Fork Rd., Emigrant Wilderness and in the Carson/Iceberg going toward Sword Lake and near the Dardanelles.



Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Other common names common yarrow, gordaldo, nosebleed plant, old man's pepper, devil's nettle, sanguinary, milfoil, soldier's woundwort, thousand-leaf, and thousand-seal) is a flowering plant in the family Asteraceae, native to the Northern Hemisphere. In Spanish-speaking New Mexico and southern Colorado, it is called plumajillo, or "little feather," for the shape of the leaves. In antiquity, yarrow was known as *herbal militaris*, for its use in staunching the flow of blood from wounds. Native Americans had many uses for the plant, including pain relief, fever reduction, and blood issues of all kinds. Yarrow grows up to 11,000 feet above sea level. The plant commonly flowers from May through August, and is a frequent component in butterfly gardens. Common yarrow is frequently found in the mildly disturbed soil of grasslands and open forests. Active growth occurs in the spring.





Places to look:

Italian Bar Rd.

Buchanan Mine Rd.

Tuolumne RR Grade

Hwy 120

Rd. Thompson Meadow

Borland Meadow

Fehey Cabin/Meadow

Lyons Lake

Highland Lake Rd.

Alpine Lake Area

Eagle Meadow Road

Basin Creek Day Use

Iceberg Meadow

Herring Creek

Wheat's Meadow

Kennedy Meadows

Sonora Pass

Pinecrest Area

Candy Rock Trail

Mather Rd.

Sources - Thank you to the following:

CalScape.Org

Stanislaus National Forest

Department of Agriculture

Guide to the Sierra Nevada - John Muir Laws

Wildflower Walks and Roads of the Sierra Gold Country – Toni Fauver

tim@wildmacro.com for description of Indian Pink