

WILDFLOWERS

of the TEJON PASS

*"May our walking on Earth
be gentle as the union of the
butterfly and the flower"*





Welcome to one of the finest wildflower viewing areas in the State of California. Located at Tejon Pass in northern Los Angeles and Ventura counties, Hungry Valley SVRA offers over 19,000 acres of recreational opportunities for off-highway enthusiasts as nature lovers of all ages. This wildflower guide is provided by Hungry Valley for visitors to help identify the many varieties of wildflowers that bloom in the park and the best areas to view them. We invite you to take the time to explore the many roads and trails available in the park where you can view a brilliant display of wildflower colors and one of nature's greatest celebrations of spring.

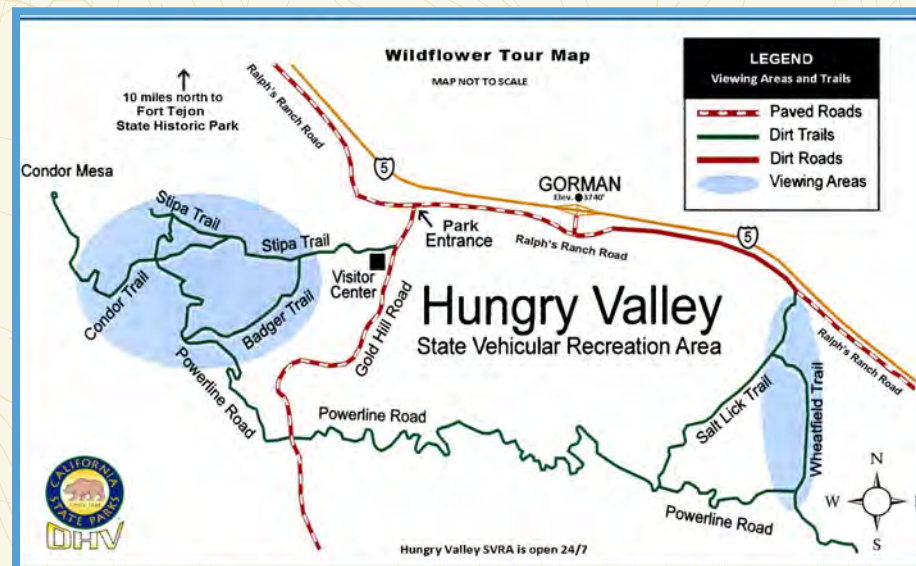


GUIDED WILDFLOWER TOURS

In spring, mid-April through May, guided tours are available at Hungry Valley SVRA by appointment. From the Visitor Center, our Park Staff

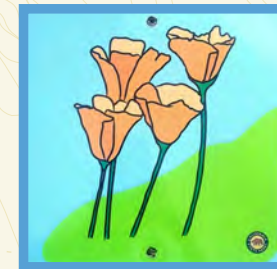


will lead tours to a variety of wildflower viewing sites within the recreation area. You'll drive on dirt roads, park and walk to a variety of viewing areas. So bring your walking shoes, sunscreen, water, and camera.



SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Hungry Valley SVRA also provides a self-guided wildflower touring route, for those on their own schedule. The self-guided tour begins at the Visitor Center and is marked with distinctive Poppy flower signs to guide you to some of the best viewing areas. There are no designated parking areas along the tour route. If you stop to walk into the flower fields, please do not block the roads or park on vegetation.



CALIFORNIA POPPY

The State Flower



The golden poppy has always symbolized California's good life. Its color mirrors California's climate and charm. The profusion of its blooms reflects the richness of the Golden State. Poppies respond to sunlight and will open fully on bright sunny days and close on cloudy, windy days and at night. These beautiful orange, bowl-shaped flowers also vary in color from a pale, creamy yellow to a deep orange-red. All white albino poppies occasionally will appear on hillsides. They range from 8" to 24" with lacy, blue-green leaves.

Eschscholzia californica

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DESERT DANDELION

Malacothrix glabrata

This ray flower head often exceeds 3 inches in diameter with yellow center petals that fade to white on the outer edges. Grows 4 to 18 inches tall with hollow stems. It may have a red "button" in the middle composed of immature flowers. It blooms from March through June, more abundantly in wet years.



GOLDENSTARS

Bloomeria crocea

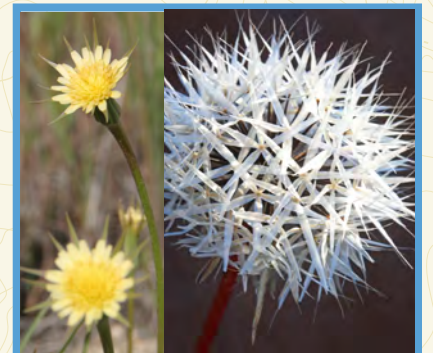
Goldenstars appear like twinkling stars when spotted in the brown grasses of late spring. Star-like, butter yellow flowers cluster to form a rounded ball shape. Grows 6 to 14 inches tall.



SILVERPUFF

Uropappus lindleyi

The silverpuff grows 1-2 feet tall and sends up a single flower stalk without leaves with a light yellow flower head. Wind dispersed seed clusters look like common dandelions with longer white wings. They bloom April-May.



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BIGELOW'S COREOPSIS

Coreopsis californica

Coreopsis belongs to the sunflower family and is endemic to California (it only grows in California). It traditionally is one of the earliest to blossom in Tejon Pass. Its name comes from a Greek word meaning "like a tick." It grows 6 to 14 inches tall with narrow leaves mostly at the base and in hard, bricklike soil.



WESTERN WALLFLOWER

Erysimum capitatum

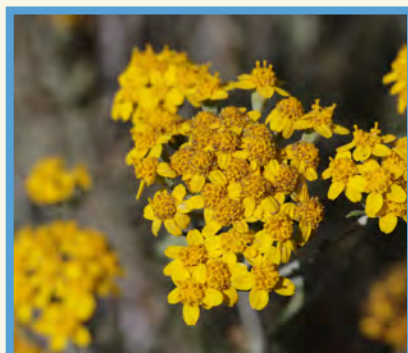
The Western Wallflower blossoms in early summer and grows from 12 to 40 inches tall. The flower varies in color from yellow to orange. Appearing similar to and named after a like species in Britain found growing from walls. Erysimum means "to help or save" referencing the medicinal uses of plants in this genus.



GOLDEN YARROW

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

Beginning in April, bright yellow flower heads blossom in rather flat-topped clusters 2 to 4 feet in height. The Golden Yarrow's woody stems and leaves are covered with grayish-white fuzzy "wool." Many plants in arid climates exhibit woolliness which reduces the heat and water vapor transfer to the environment.



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GOLDFIELDS

Lasthenia californica

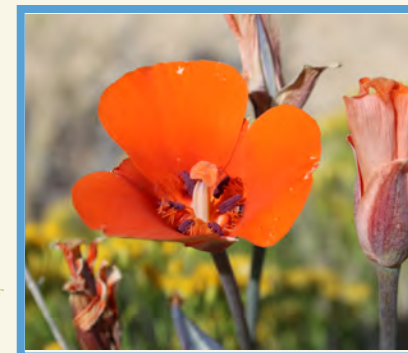
Usually the first to bloom in large numbers, Goldfields can carpet thin, poor soil with color. Goldfields exhibit synchronized flowering and can grow in dense populations of 500-800 plants per sqft. The fragrant flowers can vary from yellow to pale white on the petal tips. Grow 4 to 8 inches tall with slender, opposing leaves and reddish stems.



DESERT MARIPOSA

Calochortus kennedyi

This wildflower grows from a bulb but is rarely found grouped together as most bulb plants are. These flowers do not bloom every year. Picked flowers destroy generations of future seedlings. Bowl shaped with reddish orange petals and long, narrow, curling leaves, this Mariposa can grow 2 to 14 inches tall.



SCARLET BUGLER

Penstemon centranthifolius

This upright wildflower is a perennial herb which dies back to the roots every winter and produces new, above-ground tissue each spring. Blossoms emerge from opposite bracts above opposing leaves on 12 to 36 inch stems. Scarlet tubular flowers are especially attractive to hummingbirds.



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DESERT PAINTBRUSH

Castilleja chromosa

Desert Paintbrush is one of the best recognized flowers in the western states with over 20 species found in California. The flower bract is characterized by its bright orange-red coloring with yellow tips. Height is 4 to 16 inches.



OWL'S CLOVER

Castilleja exserta

Owl's Clover is an early bloomer, often seen in March, creating splashes of color on hillsides. Not really a clover, but with a little imagination, you can see the "owl's eyes and beak." The flower is pinkish-red to maroon and grows from 4 to 8 inches tall. The Castilleja genus are all plants that are hemiparasites- they obtain or may obtain part of its food from other plants.



DAVY'S GILIA

Gilia latiflora ssp davyi
CA Endemic

These fragile flowers are characterized by their dark throats with pink or red coloring on the inside of the flower petal and blue tips. Sometimes referred to as Birdseye Gilia, Davy's Gilia grow from 8 to 14 inches high.



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BABY BLUE EYES

Nemophila menziesii

The bright blue saucer shaped flowers with a white center grow atop thin, hairy stems, low to the ground, 4 to 14 inches high. It grows in part shade and moist, fertile soil- only found in select areas of Hungry Valley. Cultivated in Britain for more than a century, seeds are often in wildflower seed mixtures.



PARRY GILIA

Linanthus parryae
CA Endemic

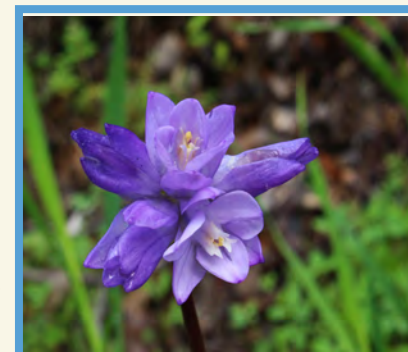
Parry Gilia varies from snow color to light blue or purple. Flowers grow up to 2 inches high in clusters and often lay as if thrown scattered from a basket. Leaves are short, prickly and usually hidden by the blooms. Flowers are exclusively cross-pollinated by a Melyrid beetle.



BLUE DICK

Dichelostemma capitatum

A wild hyacinth, Blue Dick tends to grow in small groups among other plants from and underground corm. The compound flowers have 6 tiny blue-violet petals in a compact ball emerging atop a thin, reedy stem, 1 to 2 feet high.



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GLOBE GILIA

Gilia capitata

Globe Gilia has tiny, 5 petal, blue flowers that form a globe on long, thin stems 6 to 24 inches in height. Compound leaves are found mostly growing at the base of the plant. Native Americans commonly used this plant for medicinal purposes.



LACY PHACELIA

Phacelia tanacetifolia

Adapted to drier climates, these fragrant flowers are characterized by clusters of tiny, lavender bell like petals unfurling from pods at the ends of thick stems. Hairy, deeply notched leaves grow alternately, in a fern like appearance, 8 to 32 inches in height.



GRAPE SODA LUPINE

Lupinus excubitus

Flowers are rich purple with a bright yellow spot, 12 to 18 inches in height with a sweet, grape soda like fragrance. Although the Latin name implies robbing, meaning "wolf" or "thief," it actually adds nutrients to the soil. Over 60 species of Lupine are found in California.



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CALIFORNIA CHIA

Salvia columbariae

Bright purple flowers grow from a round pod with as many as 5 ascending pods per stalk. The seeds are very nutritious, easily digested and have been used for centuries by Native Americans to make pinole a type of ground meal. Grows 6 to 24 inches high.



PYGMY LUPINE

Lupinus bicolor

Often growing alongside California Poppies, pygmy lupine is a small blue-violet and white annual lupine growing to 4 to 16 inches in height. Flowers are especially attractive to native bees and bumblebees that land on the wing petals which sway under the insect's weight and cause the stamens to brush against the insect's underside and deposit pollen.



PRICKLY PHLOX

Leptodactylon californicum

CA Endemic

Typically a cliff-hanger, the showy Prickly Phlox flowers vary from magenta to pale lilac. The woody stems are covered with small prickly, needle-like leaves. found widely in wetter years blossoming February to June, this many-branched shrub grows up to 3 feet in height.



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PRICKLY POPPY

Argemone munita

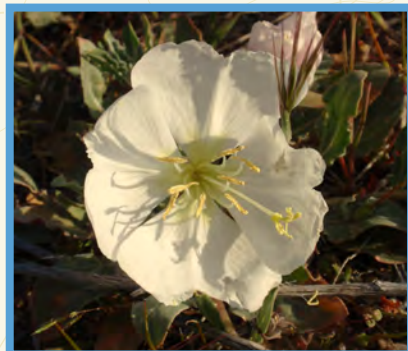
Reaching 2 to 4 feet in height, this perennial favorite is usually found growing in small colonies over a wide spread area. The large fragrant flower petal (up to 9 inches across) are bright white and texture thin, resembling crepe paper. Easily recognizable by its prickled stem and leaves and its "fried egg" flower appearance.



CALIFORNIA PRIMROSE

Oenothera californica

The fragrant California Primrose has four white to pinkish heart-shaped petals that open in the evening. Attractive to large native bumblebees, they remain open until late in the morning, closing by midday to conserve water loss. Height is 4 to 8 inches.



FLESHY PINCUSHION

Chaenactis xantiana

As its name implies, this wildflower appears rather like a pincushion. The flower head is 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter, leaves are narrow, alternate, and are not too noticeable when in bloom. Grows 4 to 16 inches tall on sandy slopes.



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DESERT TIDY TIPS

Layia glandulosa

Tejon Pass is the host to both the two-toned Tidy Tips (yellow with white petal tips) and the desert variety (all white petals) shown here. The leaves are rough hairy and some what glandular, they grow 4 to 16 inches high and are often confused with daisies.

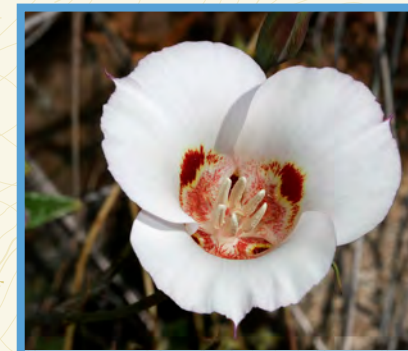


BUTTERFLY MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus venustus

CA Endemic

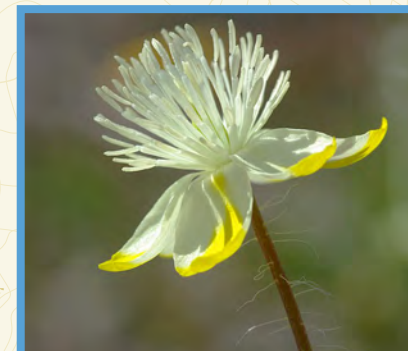
A striking bulb plant, Mariposa lilies have a relatively short bloom, usually from May-June. They can vary in color including white, purple, pink, and red or can be a combination of colors.



CREAMCUPS

Platystemon californicus

In early spring, Creamcups can turn entire fields a creamy white color. The six-petal flower is often two-toned creamy white with yellow streaks. Tiny hairs on the long 10 to 12 inch stems collect moisture droplets as an adaptation to dry climates.



GRASSLANDS



Native perennial bunchgrasses, which once dominated most of California, now exist only in a few small valleys across the state.

A unique six square mile area along the northern boundary of Hungry Valley SVRA still contains California native grass plant communities in their

original condition. This area has been set aside as a natural preserve called "Hungry Valley Native Grasslands Management Area," in order to protect, maintain and enhance these native grasses. The bunch grasses grow in dense up-right tufts and can be seen in every spring in the park.

"Today, only 1% of the original California valley grasslands remain in their original pristine condition."



DESERT NEEDLE GRASS

Stipa speciosa

A densely to loosely tufted perennial is found throughout the Hungry Valley grassland area. This native grass grows in dry soil and acts as a valuable soil binder along roadways and on disturbed brushland soils. The hairs on the seed help in catch in animal coats and drift on the wind for dispersal. An awn (the hair- or bristle-like appendage on the seed) twists when wet, helping the seed to bury into the soil.

YUCCA



Also known as "Our Lord's Candle," the Chaparral yucca bloom often and grows to 14 feet high from a rigid fibrous stalk.

In summer, Yucca plants bloom across the southern portion of Hungry Valley SVRA as far as the eye can see. Growing from stiff leaf blades at the base, hundreds of creamy white, 6-petaled flowers sprout on top of tall green stalks standing 6 to 14 feet high. The existence of the Yucca depends entirely on the Tegiticula Moth, which pollinates the plant when the female moth deposits her eggs in the flower pistil.

Native Americans had many uses for the different parts of the Yucca plant. The seeds were ground into flour, made into cakes and stored for winter food. The very young flower stalks were roasted or used to make a beverage. The leaves and roots were pounded and used as soap. The fiber from the dead leaves were woven into clothing, mats, and baskets and the sharp points of the leaves were used for needles.

WHERE TO CALL FOR WILDFLOWER VIEWING UPDATES

The Kern County Wildflower Hotline at (800) 500-KERN, providing the latest bloom information for the southern San Joaquin Valley and Tehachapi Mountains.

The Southern California Wildflower Hotline at (818) 768-3533, a service of the Theodore Payne Foundation.

Wildflower Viewing Tips



- Please stay on the trails when walking to view the wildflowers.
- All roads and trails are subject to temporary closures during wet weather conditions.
- If you stop to take a photograph, do not park on vegetation and make sure your vehicle is parked at a wide spot in the road so other vehicles may pass. There are no designated parking areas along the tour route.
- Help keep the park clean and beautiful. Put litter in a proper receptacle.
- Please do not climb or cut any fences.



Physical Location:

5301 Ralphs Ranch Road
Lancaster CA 93243 (661)
248-7007
www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

California Department of
Parks and Recreation
OHMVR