



Varicolored Lupine



California Poppy



Clustered Boomrape



Coast Wallflower



Cow Parsnip



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Indian Paintbrush



Pussy Ears



Rock Phacelia



Yarrow



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Gumplant



Coast Angelica



Powdery Dudleya

Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja affinis*, Spring/Summer

On the hills and mountain slopes along the coast and inland from Washington to Baja California, this perennial hemiparasitic herb paints a vibrant landscape. The “flower” cluster is actually a series of leaf-like bracts in shades of bright red to yellowish. These bracts resemble paintbrushes dipped in paint. The plant limits pollinators by hiding its tiny, creamy yellow flowers deep inside each cluster of bracts.

Pussy Ears, *Calochortus tolmiei*, Spring/Summer

Native to California, but found in other western states, Pussy Ears, also known as Cat’s Ears or Hairy Star Tulips, are a treat to find. Growing on ocean bluffs and at the edge of forests these sweet little flowers are actually hairy and soft to the touch. Recognized by their long, slender leaves the delicate lavender flowers become easier to spot.

Rock Phacelia, *Phacelia californica*, Spring/Summer

Growing in chaparral, woodland, and coastal bluffs the Rock Phacelia is a native of coastal northern California and Oregon. The dense, coiled flower cluster is made up of small, bell-shaped flowers of white, pale blue or lavender. The flower is a food source for the Mission Blue butterfly, which is an endangered species.

Stinging Phacelia, *Phacelia malvifolia*, Spring/Summer

(Not pictured) This annual herb enjoys the forest and scrub habitat on the California coast. It is coated in stiff, yellowish hairs with bulbous bases that produce a stinging reaction when touched. At its top sits a bristly coil of bell-shaped cream colored flowers. The Stinging Phacelia can grow up to 1 meter in height.

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, Spring/Summer

Native to the Northern Hemisphere this flowering plant is frequently found in the mildly disturbed soil of grasslands and open forests. Bright green foliage is topped with white flowers in dense heads. Native Americans had many uses for the plant, including pain relief, fever reduction and treating blood issues of all kinds.

Coastal Buckwheat, *Eriogonum cinereum*, Spring/Summer/Fall

A common resident of coastal bluffs and scrub of the western United States this perennial herb forms neat mounds and has pale white-green, oval, woolly leaves with white to pinkish pompom flowers. This helpful native provides pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies, larval food for butterflies, seeds for birds and cover for many creatures.

Gumplant, *Grindelia strict* var. *platyphylla*, Spring/Summer/Fall

Native and endemic to California this bluff top plant is easily recognized by the sticky white liquid that appears on its buds and beneath the blooms. Numerous flower heads sit at the top of the plant and each flower can grow to 2 1/2 inches wide with a yellow center surrounded by golden ray florets.

Coast Angelica, *Angelica California*, Summer

Found in northern California and sometimes southern Oregon this wildflower, an uncommon member of the carrot family, can grow up to 6 feet tall and is topped with clusters of white flowers perched above very large, twice-compound pinnate leaves. Butterflies, bees and other pollinators use this plant for nectar.

Powdery Dudleya, *Dudleya farinosa*, Summer

This succulent plant also goes by the names Sea Lettuce and Powdery Liveforever. Its variable appearance can run from drab to spectacular with pale green leaves that often boast brightly colored tips. The plant erects a tall stem, atop which a branching flower cluster of pale to bright yellow flowers sits. Powdery Dudleya is a favorite among hummingbirds.



The Sea Ranch Lodge
60 Sea Walk Dr, Sea Ranch, CA 95497

**Wildflower Walk
Black & Bihler Points Footpaths,
The Sea Ranch Lodge**



The abundance of flora and fauna at The Sea Ranch makes it a special place and treasured ecosystem. Every year wildflowers grace our Sea Ranch canvas, painting a vibrant and colorful landscape. Finding, identifying and appreciating these fragile beauties is one of the highlights of spending time exploring The Sea Ranch.

Please enjoy our Wildflower Walk by using the simple footpath map and wildflower guide. We ask that you stay on the established footpaths to help us protect these delicate plants and flowers. For your safety, please use extreme caution when walking near the bluffs. With care and compassion for our environment we can keep The Sea Ranch ecosystem healthy and thriving for years to come, giving generations of visitors the pleasure of experiencing our wonderful wildflowers in full bloom.

Blue Eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium bellum*, Winter/Spring

Growing throughout California this member of the Iris family with small purplish-blue flowers and grassy, tufted leaves, can grow to 1 foot tall and be found in open grassy places from March through May. Blue Eyed Grass is known to be drought tolerant and deer-resistant, wonderful attributes for northern California native plant gardens.

California Buttercup, *Ranunculus californicus*, Winter/Spring

Growing in a wide variety of habitats including chaparral, grasslands, coastal bluffs, woodlands, and moist meadows, the glossy, deep yellow flowers of the California Buttercup are a cheerful harbinger of spring in California. The flower may have 9-17 petals which produce a highly directional, reflective optical response that may help in luring pollinators or proving whether you enjoy eating butter.

Creamcup, *Platystemon californicus*, Winter/Spring

Part of the Poppy family, the Cream Cups are common spring wildflowers running from the California coast inland to the foothills. The leaves are arranged opposite one another with a single stem and flower of six creamy white petals that surround a tuft of flattened stamens. Either the bases or tips of the petals (sometimes both) may be golden yellow. Once much more common, Cream Cups are being crowded out by non-native grasses and weeds.

Goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*, Winter/Spring

This species is native to large parts of California and Oregon and is a member of the Sunflower family. Its appearance can vary based on the climate, but most produce a yellow disc of florets surrounded by small ray petals, resembling a tiny sunflower. Large populations of the flower bloom all at once in the spring carpeting the hillsides and coastal bluffs in yellow.

Miner's Lettuce, *Clayton perfoliate*, Spring/Winter

A western North American native, Miner's Lettuce, can be found in almost every county in California. This trailing plant can grow to 40 centimeters in length. Mature leaves are round, succulent and edible and have small white flowers that appear from February to May or June. A little inland the presence of Miner's Lettuce indicates a healthy oak woodland.

Bush Monkey Flower, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, Winter/Spring/Summer

Native to southwestern North America and growing throughout most of California, the Bush Monkey Flower has deep green sticky leaves and tubular flowers in a variety of shades from white to red, with the most common color being orange. The Miwok and Pomo used the plant to treat minor ailments such as sores, burns and stomach upset.

Seaside Daisy, *Erigeron glaucus*, Winter/Spring/Summer

This native daisy-like flower is found on California and Oregon beaches, bluffs and dunes. The plant produces thick, rounded spoon-shaped leaves with stems bearing clusters of one to 15 flower heads. The center yellow disc flowers are surrounded by ray flowers which vary in color ranging from deep blue and purple to lavender to nearly white.

Coastal Bush Lupine, *Lupinus arboreus*, Spring

Thriving from Humboldt County all the way down to southern California and reaching distinctive heights up to 6 feet, the evergreen Bush Lupine showcases beautiful yellow, and sometimes lilac or blue flower spikes to welcome spring. The fragrant flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds and pollinators. The blue species on TSR has almost disappeared as it has hybridized with the dominant yellow variety.

Coastal Onion, *Allium dichlamydeum*, Spring

The steep sea cliffs on the West coast of California are home to the Coastal Onion. This wild onion starts as a bulb and then, a stout green stem emerges to produce a flower cluster about a centimeter wide in colors ranging from bright magenta to fuchsia. The greens and bulbs were eaten raw or cooked by the Pomo and Kashaya.

Douglas Iris, *Iris douglasiana/inominata*, Spring

Calling the Pacific Coast woodlands and meadows home, the Douglas Iris begins with dark green, ½ to 1-inch wide grass-like leaves and from February through April gives way to diversely colored and wonderfully patterned fan shaped, flowers with three inner petals “standards” and three outer petals “falls”. Fittingly, the word Iris means rainbow. Our local flowers range from deep purple to white.

Dwarf Brodiaea, *Brodiaea jolonensis*, Spring

Found on the coastal ranges from the Oregon border through the Bay Area, to San Diego, and in the Sierra Nevada this delicate, six-petal, urn shaped, lavender and blue flower has very short stems, and is often found growing close to the ground in paths and along trails. The Dwarf Brodiaea is in the cluster-lily family and flowers in the spring and summer.



Blue-Eyed Grass



California Buttercup



Creamcup



Goldfields



Miner's Lettuce



Bush Monkey Flower



Seaside Daisy



Coastal Bush Lupine



Douglas Iris



Coastal Onion



Dwarf Brodiaea



Footsteps of Spring



Johnny Tuck



Popcorn Flower



Sea Thrift

Footsteps of Spring, *Sanicula arctopoides*, Spring

The West coast of the United States is home to the Footsteps-of-Spring also known as Yellow Mats. This perennial herb has short thick branches, carrot-like or maple-shaped leaves of yellowish-green and tiny yellow flowers. The plant grows in low matted patches along the ground resembling “footsteps”. This is a protected species in some areas.

Johnny Tuck, *Triphysaria eriantha*, Spring

Johnny Tuck is native to California and grows in many types of habitats. As a facultative root parasite, the plant attaches to other plant's roots to tap nutrients. Each flower has a thin, narrow purple upper “lip” and a wider lower “lip” that is divided into three rose or white pouches. A yellow version of this plant is often called Butter-and-Eggs or Johnny Nip.

Popcorn Flower, *Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*, Spring

Found predominantly in western North America this small herbaceous plant bears tiny white flowers. The flower only measures 1 to 3 millimeters wide, but can spread to blanket a hillside in vibrant white. The plant itself is covered with long, white hairs giving it a unique texture. Don't let the name fool you as this little flower is not edible.

Sea Thrift, *Armeria maritima*, Spring

A compact evergreen perennial, Sea Thrift or Sea Pink is found in wild coastal areas across the Northern Hemisphere growing in dry, sandy, saline conditions such as coastal cliffs, grasslands, and salt marshes. This plant grows in low clumps and sends up long stems to support globes of bright pink flowers.

Varicolored Lupine, *Lupinus variicolor*, Spring

The branches of this perennial lupine are often plastered against coastal bluffs as it creeps along the coastline. The gray-green leaves compliment the blue, purple, yellow, white or pink flowers. Often there are several colors in one flower. The Varicolored Lupine is known for its special value to native bees.

California Poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, Spring/Summer

Chosen as California's State flower in 1903, the California Poppy is native to the western United States throughout California, Oregon, southern Washington, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. It's waxy, pale blue-green foliage sets off the bright orange (inland), or yellow (coastal), silky-textured petals. These delicate petals close at night or in the cold, windy weather and open again with the shining sun.

Clustered Broomrape, *Orobanche fasciculata*, Spring/Summer

Native to much of western and central North America from Alaska to northern Mexico to the Great Lakes region, Clustered Broomrape is actually a parasite. As a result, it doesn't need leaves for Chlorophyll and simply grows stems that produce a flower cluster ranging in color from yellowish to purple. It attaches itself to the roots of other plants and takes nutrients from its host as needed.

Coast Wallflower, *Erysimum ammophilum*, Spring/Summer

Endemic to California, the Coast Wallflower is an uncommon beach-dwelling wildflower. This short-lived perennial has densely crowded clusters of yellow, 4-petalled and cross-shaped flowers atop leafy upright stems in late spring and can grow to over half a meter in height.

Cow Parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum*, Spring/Summer

This giant of the carrot family is common in coastal bluff and meadow habitats. The very large plant can be more than 6 feet tall with huge leaves divided into maple-shaped leaflets. A flat cluster of flowers sometimes measuring a foot in diameter sits atop the stout hollow stalk.

Golden Eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium elmeri*, Spring/Summer

Growing primarily in the North Coast and Central Coast regions this native perennial thrives in the wet winters, cool summers and abundant fog drip. Its dainty, bright yellow flowers bloom May through June. it is a member of the Iris family.

Goose Tongue, *Plantar maritima*, Spring/Summer

A flowering seaside plant from the plantain family, Goose Tongue grows in the temperate and arctic regions. With a dense rosette of somewhat succulent linear leaves and small, greenish-brown flowers produced in a spike this herbaceous perennial has a unique appearance. In some cultures, the leaves and seeds were harvested and eaten raw or cooked.