Indian Paintbrush

Found on dry, brushy, or rocky hillsides. The small flowers form dense clusters among brightly colored, scarlet bracts. May be partially parasitic on roots of other plants.

Full to partial sun
Sandy and decomposed granite soil
6” – 18”
Blooms February through June

Tidy Tips

A member of the sunflower family. Distinct white-tipped ray flowers found in grassland areas. Although widespread, this species is declining due to increasing urbanization.

Full sun
Sandy soil
4” – 12”
Blooms March through June

Forget-me-not

Forms large white patches within openings on hillsides. Annual wildflower with stiff hairs on stems and leaves.

Full sun
Sandy to rocky soil
6” – 20”
Blooms March through July

Red Maids

Following good winter rains, this common early spring wildflower can be found on grassy slopes, burn areas and cultivated fields.

Full sun
Sandy to leamy soil
2” – 8”
Blooms February through May

Photos by: William Wagner, Larry La Com, Tom Blicher, and Debra Sass - Cover photo by: Rick Ravenstine
California Poppy

Full sun
Light to sandy soil
12" - 18"
Blooms April through August

Designated state flower in 1903, the poppy is a mainstay of the California spring landscape. Use for color accent on banks, borders, rock gardens and meadows.

Arroyo Lupine

Full sun
Heavy, clay soils
To 4'
Blooms late winter to early spring

This annual has an extensive root system that makes it useful for bank stabilization. The deep blue flowers attract birds and butterflies. Part of the plant is poisonous if eaten.

California Goldfields

Full sun
Poor soil
To 10'
Blooms mid-winter to late spring

A fast-growing annual that requires little water and grows with spring rains. Attracts butterflies and birds.

Owl’s Clover

Full to partial sun
Sandy soil
To 2'
Blooms March through May

A plant with purple flowers that is commonly seen throughout California. The flowers are in dense terminal spikes. Owl’s clover is partially parasitic and can be found on grassy slopes.

Caterpillar Phacelia

Full sun
Sandy soil
To 2'
Blooms March through June

Branches are covered with long, white hairs. The pale blue to lavender flowers appear in dense soils. Common on dry slopes.

Baby Blue Eyes

Full sun
Light, sandy soil
2" - 6"
Blooms March through May

A California native wildflower, Baby Blue Eyes prefers moist flats and hillsides. Bright blue blooms with light blue to white centers.

Blue Dicks

Partial to full sun
Light to sandy soil
1" - 2'
Blooms March through May

A fast growing plant native to the Southwest. The purple flowers are clustered at the end of a bare stalk. Found scattered throughout the hillsides.

Canterbury Bells

Full sun
Sandy soil
4" - 2'
Blooms March through June

Prefers dry disturbed areas such as burns, around rock outcrops and roadsides. The purple bell-shaped flowers are a true California native.

Rancher’s Fiddleneck

Full sun
Light to sandy soil
1" - 3'
Blooms early spring through late spring

The small trumpet-shaped flowers are clustered at the top of called flower spikes. The yellow to orange flowers are found along the high water road.

Brittlebush

Full sun
Sandy soil
To 3'
Blooms late spring to early summer

A hardy, heat-resistant shrub with yellow daisy-like flowers that are attractive to butterflies and birds. Easy to grow from seed or cuttings. Once established, doesn’t require water.

Chia

Full sun
Sandy and decomposed granite soil
6" - 15"
Blooms March through June

This plant is a fire follower and is commonly found on dry disturbed soils. Look for chia on cut slopes along the North Hills high water road.

Bush Monkey Flower

Shade to partial sun
Dry slopes among boulders
24" - 48"
Blooms fall through spring

Found at base of rock outcrops. Perennial shrub with sticky leaves. Flowers range from orange to bright red. Tubular flowers attract bees and hummingbirds.

(Phacelia minimus)

(Octosolenia captivatum)

(Castilleja miniata)

(Chamaesyce californica)

(Hyptis emoryi)

(Penstemon antirrhiniflorus)

(Eschscholzia californica)

(Mirabilis arvensis)

(Lupinus succulentus)

(Phacelia minor)

(Phacelia ciliata)

(Phacelia tanacetifolia)

(Phacelia coccinea)

(Castilleja exserta)

(Brachycome iberidifolia)