

SUNOL-OHLONE WILDFLOWER KEY

STEP 1: Determine the **shape** of the flower:

REGULAR flowers have petals that are generally all the **same size and shape**. The petals are *usually* arranged evenly around the flower (radial symmetry), but long floppy petals may be askew.

IRREGULAR flowers have petals of **different shapes or lengths**, like violets and snapdragons, and generally have **bilateral symmetry**. This means that the left side is a mirror image of the right side, but the top half is *not* a mirror image of the bottom half.

STEP 2: (for **REGULAR** flowers) Count the **number of petals** the flower has, then go to the table for that number.
(for **IRREGULAR** flowers) Simply go to the most likely table in the irregular flower section (last two pages).

STEP 3: After finding the most likely table, **go down the left column** until you find the characteristic that fits, and then work your way to the right until you arrive at a flower name.

STEP 4: Consult a guidebook, if you have one, to confirm your tentative identification and to learn more. Some suggested resources are:

- "75 Common Wildflowers of the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness", available at the Sunol and Del Valle Visitor Centers. (The **page numbers** listed in this key refer to the booklet.)
- Wild Plant Photo Guides and Wild Plant Checklists for each park, available for download at the park district's website: <http://www.ebparks.org/about/stewardship/plants>
- Other commercially published wildflower guides and apps.

USEFUL TIPS:

- Use a **magnifier** for a close look at tiny flower parts, hairs on the stems, and other interesting features.
- Look at **more than one flower** before counting the petals. (Some flowers might be missing some petals.)
- If the petals are **too tiny to count**, and you do not have a magnifier, here are some suggested places to start:
 - look in the 4 petal table for tiny white flowers (typically Mustard family members)
 - look under 5 petals, especially yellow or purple (typically Carrot family members)
 - look in the Composite Flowers table (Sunflower family), as the flowerhead might consist of only tiny disk flowers.
- Refer to the **blooming period** to help you in your decision.
- **Scientific names and family names** (current and previous) are listed to help you find these flowers in guide books.
- Do you think you arrived at the **wrong name**? If so, back-track and try a different path through the key. For example, color can vary within a species and different people perceive color differently, so choose the most likely color, and if that doesn't work, try another close color.
- Don't expect to identify every plant you encounter with this key, as there are over 600 species in the Sunol-Ohlone Wilderness! This key covers mainly the more noticeable wildflowers and only a few shrubs and vines. It omits most non-native flowers, non-showy flowers, most shrubs, and does not include trees or grasses.

We hope you enjoy your wildflower exploration!

If you have **QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, or COMMENTS**, please email svisit@ebparks.org or call the Sunol Interpretive Headquarters at 510-544-3249.

Please remember:

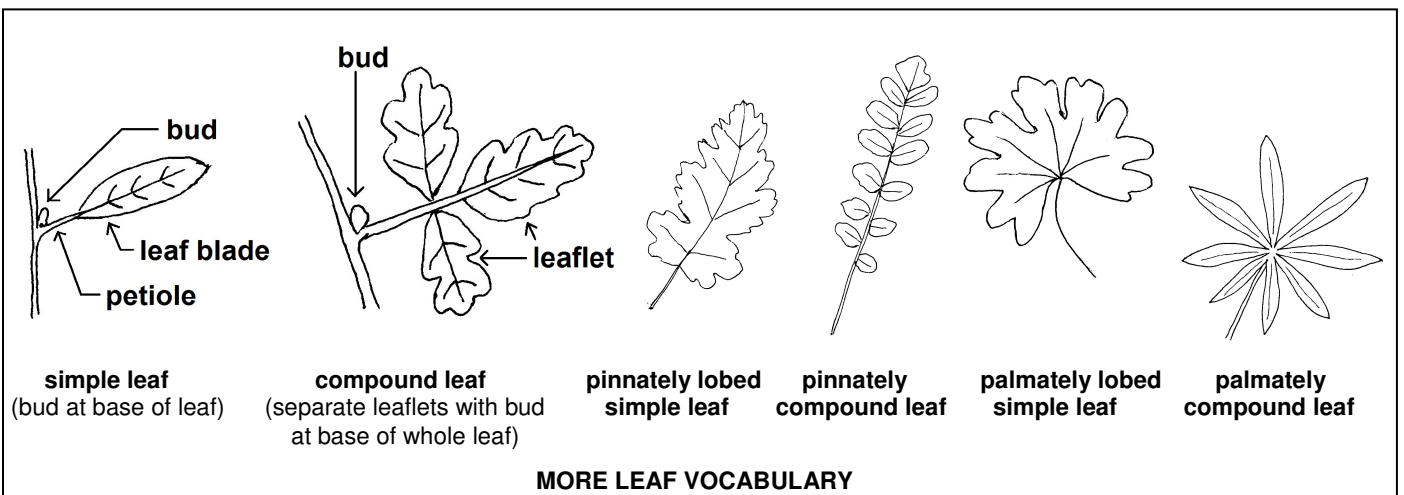
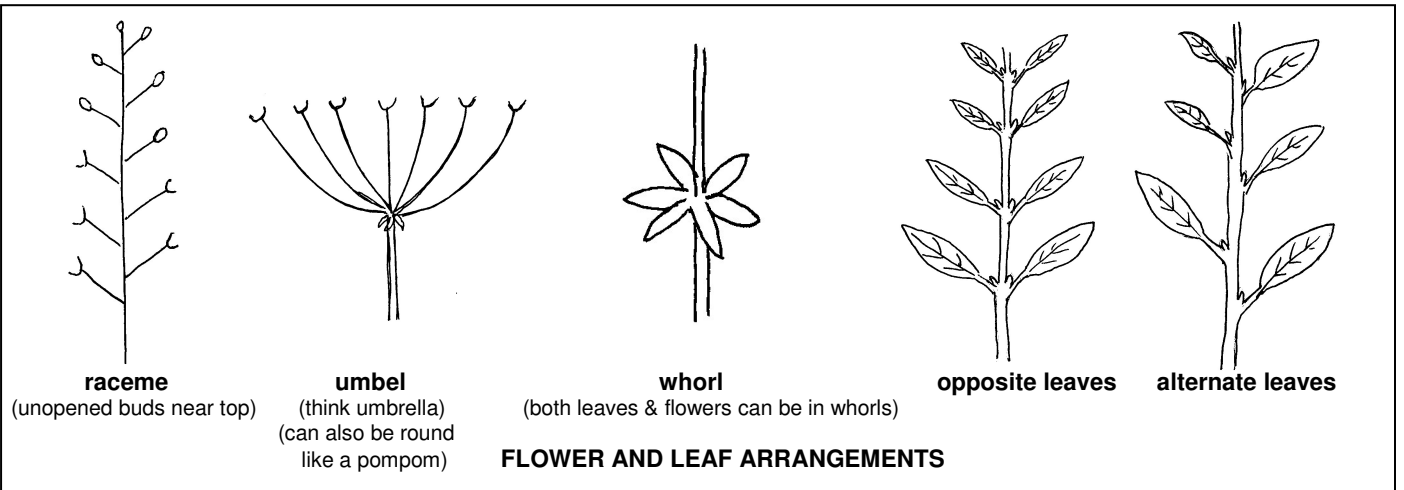
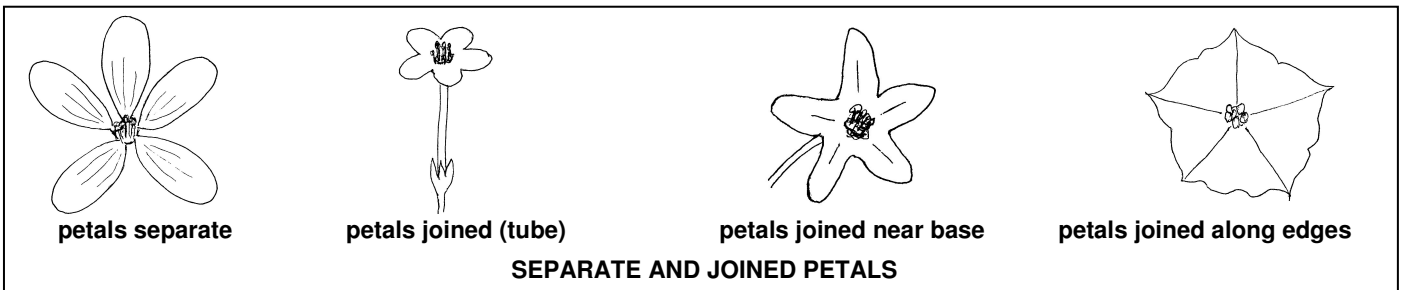
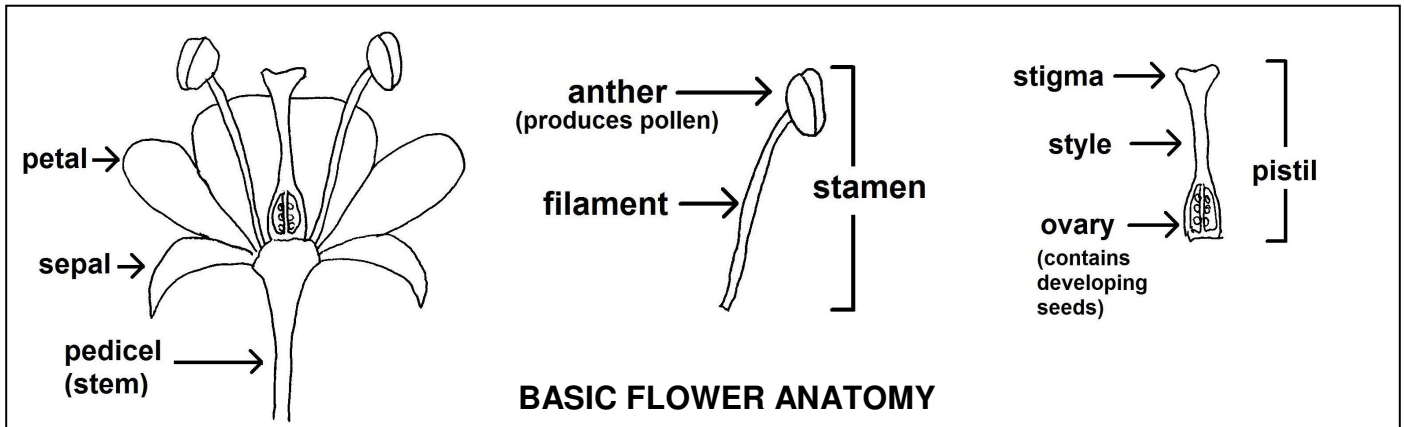
- ❖ **Do not pick the flowers.** A picked flower cannot re-seed itself and cannot be enjoyed by others.
- ❖ **Stay on evident trails.** Shortcutting on steep banks or hillsides causes erosion.



Source: The primary reference used for this guide for plant names, blooming times, habitat, etc., is *Jepson eFlora*: Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2017. *Jepson eFlora*, <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/> [accessed on Jan 03, 2017].


Acknowledgement: This guide was created by the Sunol Docent Wildflower Committee, 2017, and was inspired by *Identifying Common Spring Wildflowers of Henry W. Coe State Park*, by Barry and Judy Breckling, 2001, published by the Pine Ridge Association.



ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY



3 or 6 petals, REGULAR shaped flowers (note: some "petals" may technically be petal-like sepals)					Family & Page in booklet	Blooms
White	3 showy upright petals, tulip-like, mostly white but often have pink, purple, or yellow on petals		MARIPOSA LILY <i>Calochortus argillosus</i> or <i>C. venustus</i>		Lily p. 14 (4)	Apr-Jul
	6 petals, flowers open in late afternoon, long strap-like leaves with wavy edges		WAVY-LEAF SOAP PLANT <i>Chenopodium californicum</i>		Century Plant p. 13 (11)	May-Aug
	6 petals, numerous flowers		STAR-LILY or DEATH CAMAS <i>Toxicoscordion fremontii</i> [<i>Zigadenus</i>]		False-Hellebore	Feb-Jun
Cream colored	3 petals, flowers hang downwards like a little lantern		GLOBE LILY or FAIRY LANTERN <i>Calochortus albus</i>		Lily p. 15 (13)	Apr-Jun
Cream/white with yellow	6 petals		CREAM CUPS <i>Platystemon californicus</i>		Poppy p. 16 (12)	Mar-May
Yellow	3 showy upright petals, tulip-like, bright golden yellow, usually with dark markings		YELLOW MARIPOSA LILY <i>Calochortus luteus</i>		Lily p. 15 (4)	Apr-Jun
Pink	Flower head with many pink 6-petaled flowers		POMPOM ONION <i>Allium serra</i>		Onion p. 53 (--)	Apr-May
Maroon	Single maroon flower (can also be white, greenish, or brownish) in the middle of three large flat leaves		GIANT TRILLIUM <i>Trillium chloropetalum</i>		False-Hellebore	Feb-Jul
Blue/violet or purple, 6 petals	Usually many grass-like leaves at base of plant, deep blue/violet (rarely white) flowers with bright yellow anthers		BLUE-EYED GRASS <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>		Iris p. 61 (47)	Mar-May
	Only 1 to 5 leaves at base of plant	Tight head of many flowers	BLUE DICKS, BRODIAEA <i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i> [<i>Brodiaea pulchella</i>]		Brodiaea p. 64 (48)	Mar-Jun
		Many flowers in loose head, each flower has a stem at least one inch long	ITHURIEL'S SPEAR <i>Triteleia laxa</i> [<i>Brodiaea laxa</i>]		Brodiaea p. 65 (42)	Apr-Jun
Few to several flowers in head, flowers waxy, plants growing in grassland		HARVEST BRODIAEA <i>Brodiaea elegans</i>		Brodiaea p. 65 (--)	Apr-Aug	
Mottled color	6 petals, green and brownish/purplish, flowers hang downwards, leaves in whorls around the stems		MISSION BELLS or CHECKER LILY <i>Fritillaria affinis</i> [<i>Fritillaria lanceolata</i>]		Lily	Mar-Jun

4 petals, REGULAR shaped flowers (note: some "petals" may technically be petal-like sepals)				Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	
White or cream	Flowers 1/2 inch across or more	Short plant found in shady canyons and woodlands, leaves composed of three leaflets	MILKMAIDS <i>Cardamine californica</i> [<i>Dentaria californica</i>]		Mustard p. 4 (5)	Jan-May
		Woody vine spreading over shrubs, no petals (showy parts are actually sepals), many stamens	CLEMATIS, VIRGIN'S BOWER <i>Clematis lasiantha</i> or <i>C. ligusticifolia</i>		Buttercup p. 9 (2)	Jan-Jun
	Flowers tiny	Seedpods heart-shaped	SHEPHERD'S PURSE (from Eurasia) <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>		Mustard p. 5 (--)	Jan-Oct
		Seedpods flat, round, with small notch at tip	PEPPER GRASS <i>Lepidium nitidum</i>		Mustard p. 5 (--)	Feb-Mar
		Seedpods flat, round, with scalloped, lacy, or perforated edge	LACE-POD or FRINGE POD <i>Thysanocarpus laciniatus</i> or <i>T. curvipes</i>		Mustard p. 5 (--)	Feb-Jun
		Leaves in whorls around the stem, square stems with "velcro" hooks	BEDSTRAW <i>Galium aparine</i> (and other species)		Madder	Mar-Jul
Yellow or orange	Several small yellow flowers in a cluster at the top of a tall stem, petals forming a cross		SHORTPOD MUSTARD (from Mediterranean area) <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> (also several other species, native and non-native)		Mustard p. 32 (--)	Apr-Oct
	Many showy yellow-orange flowers in cluster at the top of a stem, petals forming a cross		WESTERN WALLFLOWER <i>Erysimum capitatum</i>		Mustard p. 32 (--)	Mar-Sep
	Bright yellow petals, low-growing plant, basal leaves		SUNCUP (several species)		Evening-Primrose	Mar-Jun
	Individual orange flowers with large petals, fern-like leaves		CALIFORNIA POPPY <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>		Poppy p. 34 (23)	Feb-Sep
	Similar to the California poppy, but petals crinkled, purple-spotted at base		WIND POPPY <i>Papaver heterophyllum</i> [<i>Stylomecon heterophylla</i>]		Poppy p. 35 (25)	Apr-May
Pink, purple, or red	Wine-glass-shaped flowers, petals widen towards tip	Petals about 1/2 inch long, lavender to purple, or deep wine-red, often with darker area near outer edge of petal	FOUR-SPOT CLARKIA or FAREWELL-TO-SPRING <i>Clarkia purpurea</i> subsp. <i>quadrivulnera</i>		Evening-Primrose p. 57 (36)	Apr-Aug
		Petals more than 1/2 inch long, pink with darker color at base of petals	RUBY-CHALICE CLARKIA or FAREWELL-TO-SPRING <i>Clarkia rubicunda</i>		Evening-Primrose p. 57 (--)	May-Aug
	Bright red tubular flowers; stamens and pistil extend beyond petals, gray-green foliage, grows in dry areas		CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA <i>Epilobium canum</i> [<i>Zauschneria</i>]		Eve.Primrose p. 38 (27)	Jun-Dec
	Petals pink, pale lavender, or white, arranged in a cross, anthers yellow, petal tip is blunt, not pointed		WILD RADISH (from Mediterranean area) <i>Raphanus sativus</i>		Mustard p. 32 (--)	Feb-Jul
	Petals very narrow at base, not divided into lobes, petal tip is somewhat pointed		ELEGANT CLARKIA <i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>		Eve.Primrose p. 56 (38)	Apr-Sep
	Petals very narrow at base, each petal divided into 3 lobes		SANTA CLARA RED RIBBONS <i>Clarkia concinna</i> subsp. <i>automixa</i>		Eve.Primrose p. 56 (--)	Apr-Jun


5 petals, REGULAR shaped flowers (note: may look like 10, or may be too small to count without a magnifier)				Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	
White or mostly white (includes cream and greenish-white)	Petals appear to be 10, but are really 5 deeply divided petals		COMMON CHICKWEED (from Europe) <i>Stellaria media</i> [<i>Montia verna</i>]	Pink	Feb-Sep	
	Petals separate to base (if not obvious, try joined first, then try separate)	Circular leaf immediately below flowers, surrounding the stem	MINER'S LETTUCE <i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> subsp. <i>perfoliata</i> [<i>Montia perfoliata</i>]	Miner's Lettuce p. 3 (6)	Jan-May	
		Flat-topped head of small flowers (umbel)	Overlapping green bracts with dark edges at base of each flower, fern-like leaves COMMON YARROW (this is actually a head of composite flowers - see the section on Composite flowers) WOOLLY LOMATIUM, LACE PARSNIP <i>Lomatium dasycarpum</i>	Sunflower p. 12 (9) Carrot p. 21	Apr-Sep Mar-Jun	
	Petal edges jagged	Small flowers with red anthers	CALIFORNIA SAXIFRAGE <i>Micranthes californica</i> [<i>Saxifraga californica</i>]	Saxifrage p. 6 (-)	Feb-May	
		Flower base "V" shaped	WOODLAND STAR <i>Lithophragma affine</i>	Saxifrage p. 10 (8)	Mar-Apr	
			HILL STAR <i>Lithophragma heterophyllum</i>	Saxifrage p. 10 (8)	Feb-Jun	
	Petals joined, at least at the base	White petals with purple edges, with yellow and purple on tube, blue anthers	BIRD'S EYE GILIA <i>Gilia tricolor</i>	Phlox p. 47 (1)	Mar-May	
		Large flower, petals joined along entire edge into bell shape, a vine climbing over shrubs or rocks	WESTERN MORNING GLORY <i>Calystegia purpurata</i> subsp. <i>purpurata</i> [<i>Convolvulus occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>purpurata</i>]	Morning-glory	May-Jun	
		Flower similar to above, but plant is very low-growing in grasslands, not viny	HILL MORNING GLORY <i>Calystegia subacaulis</i> subsp. <i>subacaulis</i> [<i>Convolvulus</i>]	Morning-glory	Apr-Jun	
		White to pale lilac-colored flowers at least 1/2 inch across	LINANTHUS (several species) <i>Leptosiphon</i> [<i>Linanthus</i>] sp.	Phlox p. 46 (33)	Mar-Jun	
		A vine crawling though vegetation; flowers may be yellow-green, pale cream, or white	WILD CUCUMBER or MANROOT <i>Marah fabacea</i>	Gourd p. 8 (-)	Feb-Apr	
		Tight cluster of flowers in a small coil, resembles popcorn, often found in wet grassland	POPCORN FLOWER <i>Plagiobothrys</i> (several species)	Borage p. 11 (10)	Mar-Jun	
		Small plant with rounded-lobed leaves, found in shady woodlands	SMALL WHITE NEMOPHILA <i>Nemophila heterophylla</i> (and others)	Borage p. 7 (7)	Feb-Jun	
	Yellow	Low-growing plant with thick fleshy pointed leaves		LIVE-FOREVER <i>Dudleya cymosa</i> subsp. <i>paniculata</i>	Stonecrop	May-Jun
		Large bright yellow petals, leaves clover-like		BERMUDA BUTTERCUP (from Africa) <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Oxalis	Jan-May
Large bright yellow pointed petals, numerous stamens, grows on steep, often rocky, slopes, leaves deeply lobed		BLAZING STAR <i>Mentzelia lindleyi</i>	Loasa	May-Jun		
Bunches of tiny flowers arranged in a flat-topped head (umbel), base of petiole (leaf-stem) broad & membranous		BLADDER PARSNIP <i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	Carrot p. 21 (17)	Feb-May		
Flowers in pompoms (may look fuzzy when stamens are extended)		Compound leaves divided into many pointed lobes, may smell like cilantro	POISON SANICLE <i>Sanicula bipinnata</i>	Carrot p. 20 (-)	Apr-May	
		Leaves shaped like maple leaves	PACIFIC SANICLE, SNAKEROOT <i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>	Carrot p. 20 (-)	Mar-May	
Yellow or yellowish-orange	Small flowers on the outside of a coiled flower head, stems hairy		FIDDLENECK <i>Amsinckia</i> sp. (<i>menziesii</i> or <i>intermedia</i> - classification of Fiddle-necks is under study)	Borage p. 29 (22)	Mar-Jul	
Orange	Low plant with bright salmon-colored flowers with purple center		SCARLET PIMPERNEL (from Europe) <i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> [<i>Anagallis</i>]	Myrsine p. 36 (24)	Mar-Sep	
Magenta	Low plant with bright magenta flowers, petals separate, and golden pollen		REDMAIDS <i>Calandrinia menziesii</i>	Miner's Lettuce p. 40 (29)	Feb-May	
Maroon-purple	Flower in balls (may look fuzzy when stamens are extended), petals tiny, leaves finely cut. Flowers sometimes yellow.		PURPLE SANICLE <i>Sanicula bipinnatifida</i>	Carrot p. 52 (40)	Mar-May	
Pink, purplish, or blue	See next page (yes, we have lots of 5-petaled flowers!!)					

A note regarding the column labeled **Family and Page in booklet**: This provides information to help you find the flower in guidebooks.

Page in booklet refers to the page number in "75 Common Wildflowers of the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness" and the page number in parentheses refers to the older edition "50 Common Wildflowers of the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness".

Family is the common name of the family the plant is currently classified in. Botanists have recently re-classified several plants as follows: Broomrape, Lopseed, and Plaintain families now contain some plants previously in the Figwort (Snapdragon) family. Miner's Lettuce family members were previously classified in the Purslane family. The Borage family now contains some plants previously in the Waterleaf family. The Brodiaea and Century Plant families were previously in the Lily family. The Myrsine family member (Scarlet Pimpernel) listed in this guide was previously in the Primrose family.

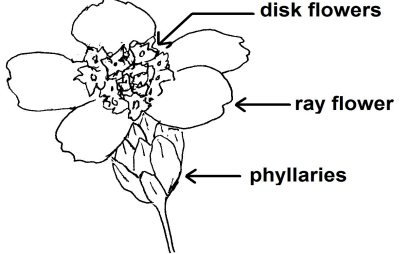
5 petals, REGULAR shaped flowers, continued					Family & Page in booklet	Blooms
(note: may look like 10, or may be too small to count without a magnifier)						
Pink or pinkish-purple	Petals separate to base Note: if not obvious, try joined first, then try separate. Note: some may appear to have 10 petals, but are really 5 deeply lobed petals.	Leaves pinnate (one main central vein with side-veins or side leaflets - see glossary); needlelike seedheads over 1 inch long	Solid pink petals (may have faint lines), leaves compound	RED-STEMMED FILAREE (from Eurasia) <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> , or WHITE-STEMMED STORKSBILL <i>Erodium moschatum</i> (from Europe)	Geranium p. 50 (35)	Feb-Sep
			Pink petals with three noticeable purple lines, leaves not compound	LONG-BEAKED STORKSBILL, FILAREE <i>Erodium botrys</i> SHORT-FRUITED STORKSBILL, FILAREE <i>Erodium brachycarpum</i> (both from Europe)	Geranium p. 50 (--)	Mar-Jul
			Deepest leaf lobes cut almost to the leaf base	CUT-LEAVED GERANIUM (from Europe) <i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Geranium p. 51 (--)	Mar-Jul
			Deepest leaf lobes cut a little more than halfway to leaf base. Lobes rounded.	DOVE'S FOOT GERANIUM (from Europe) <i>Geranium molle</i>	Geranium p. 51 (--)	Feb-Aug
			Leaves palmate, flowers >3/4 inch wide	GERANIUM-LEAVED CHECKERBLOOM <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> subsp. <i>laciniata</i>	Mallow p. 54 (--)	Mar-Jun
	Petals joined, at least at the very base	Pink to magenta rocket-shaped flowers with the petals facing backwards	Stems green, grows mostly in open; 2 yellow bands (base of petals & base of anthers)	LOWLAND or PADRE'S SHOOTING STAR <i>Primula clevelandii</i> var. <i>patula</i> [<i>Dodecatheon</i>]	Primrose p. 49 (34)	Feb-May
			Stems with some red, mostly in shade	HENDERSON'S SHOOTING STAR <i>Primula hendersonii</i> [<i>Dodecatheon</i>]	Primrose p. 49 (34)	Mar-Jul
		Small plants with many slender leaves in whorls around stem	Flowers pink; reddish thread-like tube; yellow inside tube; generally 1 flower open at a time in each cluster	TRUE BABY STARS <i>Leptosiphon bicolor</i> [<i>Linanthus</i>]	Phlox p. 46 (33)	Mar-Jun
			White, pink, or lavender flowers with long threadlike tube; generally several flowers open at a time in each cluster	SHOWY LINANTHUS, FALSE BABY STARS <i>Leptosiphon androsaceus</i> [<i>Linanthus</i>]	Phlox p. 46 (33)	Apr-Jun
			Flowers pink; purple inside tube; stem thread-like; grows on serpentine soils	SERPENTINE LINANTHUS <i>Leptosiphon ambiguus</i> [<i>Linanthus</i>]	Phlox p. 46 (33)	Apr-May
			Leaves opposite (at least near base of plant), not lobed, small flowers with long tubes	SLENDER PHLOX <i>Microsteris gracilis</i> [<i>Phlox</i>]	Phlox p. 48 (--)	Mar-Aug
	Blue, violet, or purplish-blue	Leaves not lobed	Forget-me-knot like flowers (blue with white centers), very large leaves at base of plant	HOUND'S TONGUE <i>Cynoglossum grande</i>	Borage p. 60 (49)	Feb-May
Shrub, bluish-purple flowers with green spots toward the center, petals joined along edges			BLUE WITCH <i>Solanum umbelliferum</i>	Nightshade p. 71 (46)	Mar-Jun	
Leaves lobed Note: Lobes can be broad or narrow & threadlike		White petals with purple edges, with yellow and purple on tube, blue anthers	BIRD'S EYE GILIA <i>Gilia tricolor</i>	Phlox p. 47 (1)	Mar-May	
		Blue or purplish trumpet shaped flowers, no white on petals, in tight head, blue anthers	BLUE GILIA, CALIFORNIA GILIA <i>Gilia achilleifolia</i>	Phlox p. 67 (45)	Mar-Jun	
		Pale or bright blue bowl-shaped flowers, often white towards center, more than 3/4 inch across	BABY BLUE EYES <i>Nemophila menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i>	Borage p. 62 (50)	Feb-May	
	Flowers blue to purple, viny plant with large bristly lobed leaves	FIESTA FLOWER <i>Pholistoma auritum</i>	Borage p. 63 (--)	Mar-Jun		

More than 6 petals, REGULAR shaped flowers					Family & Page in booklet	Blooms
Yellow	Numerous shiny bright yellow petals, numerous stamens	CALIFORNIA BUTTERCUP <i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	Buttercup p. 17 (15)		Feb-Aug	
Not shiny yellow	See the section for Composite flowers, since these may really be a flower head of many small flowers, like daisies, dandelions, etc.					


No obvious petals, REGULAR shaped flowers		Family & Page in booklet	Blooms
See the section for Composite flowers, since these may really be a flower head of many tiny flowers, like pineapple weed. Other species with no petals include many trees, grasses, etc., which are not covered in this guide.			

Composite Flowers -- flower heads like a daisy, thistle, or dandelion (disk & ray flowers, or disk only, or ray only)		Family & Page in booklet	Blooms
			

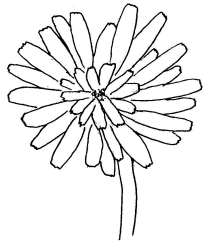
Composite flowers can take many forms, so here are some additional illustrations to help you:



Yarrow has both ray and disk flowers



Pineapple Weed and Thistles have disk flowers only



Dandelions have ray flowers only

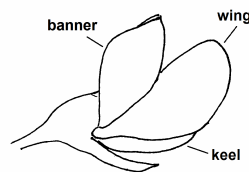
Note that composite flowers have many overlapping bracts, called **phyllaries**, at the base of the flower head.

White	Flat-topped head of small flowers, overlapping green bracts with dark edges at base of each flower, fern-like leaves. Each "flower" is actually a composite head of small ray and disk flowers.	COMMON YARROW <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Sunflower p. 12 (9)	Apr-Sep
Silvery-white	Pompoms of shiny pappus (bracts) are actually the seed head. The young flowers are tightly closed flowerheads with barely noticeable yellow to reddish petals.	BLOW-WIVES <i>Achyraea mollis</i>	Sunflower p. 27 (--)	Mar-Jun
Greenish-yellow	Flower head cone-shaped, about 1/2" long, consists of only disk flowers, has fruity smell when crushed, plant very low growing, along roadways or other disturbed sites.	PINEAPPLE WEED, RAYLESS CHAMOMILE <i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Sunflower p. 26 (--)	Feb-Aug
Yellow or orange	Small shrub	Flower heads about 1/2 inch across, leaves large and woolly	GOLDEN YARROW <i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Sunflower Apr-Aug
	Not a shrub	Many strap-like petals (no disk flowers), lobed leaves	DANDELION (from Europe) <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> , or one of our native dandelions, such as <i>Agoseris grandiflora</i> , or others	Sunflower Jan-Dec
		Large sunflower-like flower head, over 2 inches across, large woolly leaves	WOOLLY MULE EARS <i>Wyethia helenioides</i>	Sunflower p. 24 (18) Mar-Aug
		Large sunflower-like flower head, over 2 inches across, long narrow leaves	NARROW-LEAVED MULE EARS <i>Wyethia angustifolia</i>	Sunflower p. 24 (--) Apr-Aug
		Flower heads about 1 inch across, with thick white fluid in center	GUM PLANT <i>Grindelia camporum</i>	Sunflower p. 25 (--) May-Nov
		Flower heads about 1/2 inch across, low-growing in masses that color the ground	CALIFORNIA GOLDFIELDS <i>Lasthenia californica</i> [<i>Lasthenia chrysostoma</i>]	Sunflower p. 18 (--) Feb-Jun
		Flower heads < 1/2 inch across, plant very sticky, with strong unpleasant odor	STICKY TARWEED <i>Holocarpha virgata</i> subsp. <i>virgata</i>	Sunflower p. 28 (--) May-Nov
		None of the above	One of the many yellow composites in the park!	Sunflower
Red	Tall thistle (stems, leaves, and flower head spiny), deep red color, flower head appears "cobwebby"	VENUS THISTLE, RED COBWEB THISTLE <i>Cirsium occidentale</i> var. <i>venustum</i>	Sunflower p. 39 (--)	May-Jul
Pink or purple	Thistle (stems, leaves, and flower head spiny)	THISTLE (many non-native species, such as Bull, Italian, and Milk Thistle) (from southern Europe, Mediterranean area)	Sunflower p. 39 (--)	Mar-Jul

IRREGULAR SHAPED (bilateral symmetry)

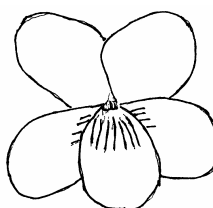
Choose one of the sections below, A-F:

A: Pea Flower: 5 petals -- banner petal at top, two "wing" petals at the sides which enclose the canoe-shaped "keel" (two fused petals). Leaves compound with 3 or more leaflets.



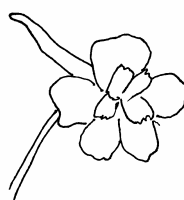
		Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color		
Leaves composed of leaflets arranged like spokes of a wheel	Small shrub, woody base	SILVER BUSH LUPINE <i>Lupinus albus</i>	Legume p. 68 (43)	Mar-Jun	blue-purplish	
	Not a woody shrub	Small plant, usually <1 foot tall, small blue and white flowers	MINIATURE LUPINE <i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	Legume p. 69 (44)	Mar-Jun	blue & white
		Medium plant, usually >1 foot tall, white banner spot turns magenta with age	ARROYO LUPINE <i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	Legume p. 69 (-)	Feb-May	blue/white/magenta
		Young flowers white, turning yellow with age, seeds end up on one side of the stem	GULLY LUPINE <i>Lupinus microcarpus</i> var. <i>densiflorus</i>	Legume p. 30 (16)	Apr-Jun	white or yellow
		Purplish or blue flowers in a raceme, seed pod short, containing only two seeds	VALLEY LUPINE, CHICK LUPINE <i>Lupinus microcarpus</i> var. <i>microcarpus</i>	Legume p. 69 (-)	Mar-Jun	purplish or blue
Leaves composed of 3 leaflets	Flowers in heads, lavender to purple, three very narrow leaflets, with small teeth along edge	TOMCAT CLOVER <i>Trifolium willdenovii</i>	Legume p. 45 (37)	Mar-Jun	lavender to purple	
	Flowers in heads, pink, white, or yellow, leaflets may or may not have teeth, may have notches or white markings	CLOVER (many native species & non-native species from Mediterranean region) <i>Trifolium</i> (many species)	Legume p. 45 (-)	Mar-Jun	pink or other color	
Leaves usually 4-8 leaflets, no tendrils, small yellow flowers	Low growing plant, hairy, leaves generally irregularly arranged, small yellow pea-like flowers	SHORT-PODDED LOTUS, DEERVETCH <i>Acmispon brachycarpus</i> [<i>Lotus humistratus</i>], or one of the other <i>Acmispon</i> species in the park	Legume p. 31 (-)	Mar-Jun	yellow	
Leaves have more than four pinnately arranged leaflets, plants have coiling tendrils	Sprawling vine, flowers usually pale pink or whitish, turning brown with age	HILLSIDE PEA, PACIFIC PEA <i>Lathyrus vestitus</i>	Legume p. 43 (31)	Feb-Jul	pink, white, or brownish	
	Flowers numerous (10-20) along stem, usually on one side of stem, usually deep blue-purple but can be lavender to white	WINTER VETCH (from Europe) <i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>varia</i>	Legume p. 42 (-)	Mar-Jun	blue-purplish	
	Flowers less numerous (3-9) along stem, not just on one side of stem, usually blue-purple to lavender	AMERICAN VETCH <i>Vicia americana</i> subsp. <i>americana</i>	Legume p. 42 (-)	Mar-Jun	blue-purplish	
	Usually 1-2 (up to 4) flowers at base of each leaf, two-tone magenta/purple or pink/purple	SPRING VETCH (from Europe) <i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	Legume p. 42 (-)	Mar-Jun	magenta-purple	

B: Pansy-like flower: 5 separate petals, but may overlap, lower middle petal larger and has noticeable guidelines for pollinators



		Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color	
Flowers golden yellow, growing in open fields		JOHNNY-JUMP-UP <i>Viola pedunculata</i>	Violet p. 23 (19)	Feb-Apr	yellow
Flowers lemon yellow, growing mostly in shade or at higher elevations		MOUNTAIN VIOLET, OAK VIOLET <i>Viola purpurea</i> subsp. <i>quercetorum</i>	Violet p. 23 (-)	Feb-Jul	yellow

C: Flowers with a single LONG POINTED SPUR in the back



		Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color	
Flowers arranged along stem in a raceme	Pale pink, purple or blue flowers with spur on back	WESTERN or COAST LARKSPUR <i>Delphinium hesperium</i> subsp. <i>pallescens</i>	Buttercup p. 70 (-)	Mar-May	pink, purple, blue
	Deep blue or violet flowers with spur on back	LARKSPUR <i>Delphinium decorum</i> , <i>D. patens</i> , or <i>D. variegatum</i>	Buttercup p. 70 (41)	Mar-Jun	blue or violet
	Bright reddish-orange flowers with spur on back	RED or ORANGE LARKSPUR <i>Delphinium nudicaule</i>	Buttercup p. 70 (-)	Mar-Jun	red

D: Flowers in elongated heads with many leaf-like or thread-like bracts:

The bracts give the flower heads a shaggy or paintbrush-like appearance, and are often colorful.



			Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color	
Flowers and tips of bracts bright red. Bracts among the flowers are leaf-like and look like they have been dipped into colorful paint.	Stems and leaves green		PAINTBRUSH <i>Castilleja affinis</i>	Broomrape p. 37 (26)	Mar-Jun	red
	Stems and leaves woolly, felt-like, whitish or grayish		WOOLLY PAINTBRUSH <i>Castilleja foliolosa</i>	Broomrape p. 37 (26)	Mar-Jun	red
Soft, narrow, pinkish-purple or white bracts; small flowers scattered amongst bracts. Two dots on flowers make them look like little owl faces. Flowers often have yellow spot.	Bracts pinkish-purple	Flowers finely hairy (use a magnifier to see)	PURPLE OWL'S CLOVER <i>Castilleja exserta</i> subsp. <i>exserta</i> [Orthocarpus]	Broomrape p. 44 (30)	Mar-May	pink-purple, white, yellow
	Bracts usually white (at least in Sunol)	Flowers not hairy (use a magnifier to see)	WHITE OWL'S CLOVER <i>Castilleja densiflora</i> subsp. <i>densiflora</i> [Orthocarpus]	Broomrape p. 44 (30)	Mar-May	white, yellow, purple
Bracts are mostly green, tips white or pale yellow, less dense than the Owl's Clovers; small flowers scattered amongst bracts	Lower lip of flower white with purple dots		VALLEY TASSELS <i>Castilleja attenuata</i>	Broomrape	Mar-May	white, yellow, purple
Flowers with three bright yellow pouches or sacks and a dark purple "beak"	Many red-purple leaf-like bracts among flowers, leaves very narrow, thread-like		BUTTER AND EGGS <i>Triphysaria eriantha</i> [Orthocarpus]	Broomrape p. 19 (14)	Mar-May	yellow

E: Flower petals joined at base into a tube or funnel, flower often "two-lipped", that is, top part of flower looks different from bottom

Note: Leaves are opposite on stem (at least toward the base of plant) for all of these.



			Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color	
Woody shrub	Leaves dark green & sticky. Orange flowers, upper lip has two lobes, lower lip has three.		STICKY MONKEYFLOWER <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Lopseed p. 33 (21)	Mar-Jun	orange
Not a shrub, stem square (at least older stems near base)	Flowers pink with faint rose dots		HEDGE NETTLE <i>Stachys rigida</i> var. <i>rigida</i>	Mint p. 58 (32)	Jul-Aug	pink
	Tiny fluorescent-blue flowers in spiny head		CHIA <i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Mint p. 66 (-)	Mar-Jun	blue
	Purplish-blue flowers in heads (not spiny). Plant may be somewhat woody.		COYOTE MINT <i>Monardella villosa</i> subsp. <i>villosa</i>	Mint p. 66 (-)	May-Aug	purple
	Small reddish brown or maroon flowers, large toothed leaves		CALIFORNIA BEE PLANT <i>Scrophularia californica</i>	Figwort p. 41 (28)	Mar-Jul	maroon
Not a shrub, stem round	Bright red	Large plant growing along or in creek beds, bright red flowers	SCARLET MONKEYFLOWER <i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	Lopseed	May-Sep	red
		Bright red tubular flowers; stamens and pistil extend beyond petals, gray-green foliage, grows in dry areas	CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA <i>Epilobium canum</i> [Zauschneria]	Evening-Primrose p. 38 (27)	Jun-Dec	red
		Bright red tubular flowers with small non-spreading lobes, stamens and pistil do not extend beyond petals	SCARLET BUGLER <i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>	Plantain	Apr-Jul	red
	Pinkish or purple, may have white	white, rose, blue or purple flowers in whorls around stem, deeper color on the lower lip	CHINESE HOUSES <i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	Plantain p. 55 (39)	Mar-Jun	purple-white
		Lower lip white, upper lip has pink on top	BELLARDIA or MEDITERRANEAN LINESEED <i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Plantain p. 55 (-)	Apr-Jun	pink-white
	Yellow	Yellow flower with red dots, growing in wet places	SEEP-SPRING MONKEYFLOWER <i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Lopseed p. 22 (20)	Mar-Aug	yellow

F: Some other shape

			Family & Page in booklet	Blooms	Color	
5 white (or pinkish white) petals	One petal longer than others, tiny clustered flowers, leaves ferny, long needle-like seed pods		SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE (from Mediterranean region) <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Carrot	Apr-Jun	white
	One or more petals larger than others, leaves very large, palmately lobed, tall plants (3-9 feet), grows in moist areas		COW PARSNIP (found in Welch Creek) <i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Carrot	Apr-Jul	white
	Small plant with a head of tiny five-lobed, white or pink flowers. Opposite leaves, not lobed. (Flowers are almost regular, but have a small blunt spur or swelling.)		PLECTRITUS <i>Plectritis congesta</i> subsp. <i>brachystemon</i> or <i>Plectritis macrocera</i>	Valerian	Mar-Jun	white or pink
4 blue petals	Flowers blue, purple-lined, with white center, low-growing plant. Flower appears almost regular, but petals are different widths.		PERSIAN SPEEDWELL (from Asia Minor) <i>Veronica persica</i>	Plantain p. 59 (-)	Feb-May	blue