



Joshua Tree National Park

Wildflower Report

Updated February 27, 2015

Weekly wildflower reports are posted on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/blooms.htm>, throughout the peak season (typically mid-February through early May).

Black Rock Canyon

Northwest Joshua Tree National Park



Joshua Trees are budding and blooming at Keys View & Black Rock Campground. Annual flowers on Black Rock's Westside Loop Trail include: Desert Parsley (*Lomatium mohavense*), Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Tidy-Tips (*Layia glandulosa*), Forget-me-nots (*Cryptantha sp.*), Checker Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and Pale Primrose (*Camissoniopsis pallida*).



SARAH JANE PEPPER

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) flowering on the Barker Dam Trail.

Cottonwood Canyon

Mile Post 33 Cottonwood Springs Road



(left photo) Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*). Yellow blooming bushes are Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*). Less common are (right photo) Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Desert Rock-Pea (*Lotus rigidus*), and Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*).

Ocotillo Patch

Pinto Basin Road



CARYN DAVIDSON

Though the Ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*) are green with leaves, their red-torch-tip blossoms are still hard to find. Last year, the patch didn't bloom widely until the end of March. Other flowers in the area are Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), and Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*).

**Wilson Canyon to
Cholla Garden**
Pinto Basin Road



The showiest flowers in the canyon are Bladderpod Bushes (*Peritoma arborea*). The pollen and nectar feeders are grateful for their reliability (photo of honey bee). Other plants starting to show their flowers are (bottom photo) Turpentine Broom (*Thamnosma montana*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Thick-Leaf Ground-Cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*), Desert Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*), New Mexico Silverbush (*Ditaxis neomexicana*), Sacred Datura (*Datura wrightii*) and Desert Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*).

Porcupine Wash
Pinto Basin Road



Though Mistletoe flowers (*Phoradendron californicum*) are anything but showy, they make up for it with their pleasant fragrance. Male flowers (bottom photo) are an important source of nectar for pollinators, and phainopepla birds rely on their berries for food. Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Bladderpod Bushes (*Peritoma arborea*), and Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*) are common here. Other blooms in the area are: Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), Desert Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Emory's Rock-Daisy (*Perityle emoryi*), Parish goldeneye (*Bahiopsis parishii*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), and Canterbury Bells (*Phacelia campanularia*).

Let Them Grow

Leave wildflowers undisturbed for others to enjoy. Joshua Tree was first established as a national monument in 1936 to protect desert vegetation that was being carried away and planted in Los Angeles gardens. Today, help us continue in our mission “to preserve unimpaired” the beautiful plants of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: don't pick wildflowers.