

# Death Valley National Park



## Wildflower Update

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January 20, 2008

So far this winter season, Death Valley has received only two significant rains. An early soaking rain in September created the right combination of ample moisture and warm soils that caused some wildflower seeds to sprout in the central part of the valley near Furnace Creek. These plants continued to grow despite an abundance of drying winds and receiving only one other soaking rain in December, which produced additional sprouts.

Scattered patches of well established Desert Gold (*Geraea canescens*) can currently be found blooming along the first few miles of Highway 190 west of Furnace Creek. Beds of purple Phacelia (*P. calthifolia* and *P. crenulata*) and Golden Evening Primrose (*Camissonia brevipes*) can be found in the washes and along the roadsides of Highway 190 near the park boundary east of Furnace Creek. Wildflowers are also beginning to show along the Beatty Cut-Off and Mud Canyon Roads below Hell's Gate.

Although the peak of the bloom is currently predicted for the usual time in late March, the bloom will be spotty at best, unless we receive more rain in February. Do not expect a spectacular bloom like we had in 1998 and 2005 with their wet El Niño winters.



Desert Gold

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