

# Joshua Tree National Park

## Wildflower Report



Updated March 19 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). Add your observations and photos of wildflowers to the Joshua Tree National Park Wildflower Watch project using the free app iNaturalist, or online at <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/joshua-tree-national-park-wildflower-watch>.

### Black Rock Canyon

Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley, CA



Joshua Tree  
(*Yucca brevifolia*)



Brad Sutton

Black Rock Canyon's Hi-View Nature Trail has thus far stolen the show for colorful annual flowers. However, annuals are starting to show up in other park areas as well. Joshua Trees are blooming at Black Rock as well as Key's View Road, and sporadically elsewhere. Hi-View is a moderate 1.3 mile roundtrip hike where you can see Joshua Tree Poppies (*Escholiza androuxii*), Rock Cress (*Boechera sp.*), Forget-Me-Nots (*Cryptantha barbiger*), (*C. pterocarya*), (*C. micrantha lipida*), (*C. circumcissa*), Baby Blue-Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), Tansy Mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*), Desert Parsley (*Lomatium mohavense*), Fileree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Tidy-Tips (*Layia glandulosa*), Stiff-Haired Lotus (*Acmispon strigosus*), Woolly Daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Pale Primrose (*Camissoniopsis pallida*), Scale-bud (*Anisocoma acaulis*), Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*), Rosy Gilia (*Gilia sinuata*), White Fiesta-Flower (*Pholistoma membranaceum*), and Jones' Blazingstar (*Mentzelia jonesii*).



Fiddleneck  
(*Amsinckia tessellata*)

### Cottonwood

Mastodon Peak to Cottonwood Canyon



Chia & AZ Lupine



At the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon we've been pleasantly surprised by an eruption of poppies (*Eschscholzia sp.*). However, poppies are not known for their durability, so the show may not last. We'll keep you updated.

**Cottonwood  
(Continued)**

Mastodon Peak to  
Cottonwood Canyon



Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) are still showing well in the canyon, especially near MP 33. Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), and Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) are the more obvious flowering shrubs.



Palo Verde Trees (*Cercidium floridum*) are blooming from Cottonwood Canyon and beyond the south entrance. Fragrant Desert Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*) are flowering within the Palo Verde, Catclaw bush (*Senegalia greggii*), and Ironwood Trees (*Olneya tesota*).

**Wilson Canyon**

Pinto Basin Road



Kurt Moses

Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*) flowers are blooming in many places.



Kurt Moses

The longer leaved cousin of the Joshua Tree, Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) are blooming throughout the park.

**Ocotillo Patch**

Pinto Basin Road



Costa's Hummingbirds are enjoying the nectar of Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*).

**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.

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