

Joshua Tree National Park

Wildflower Report



Updated May 1, 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 check it out online at <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/joshua-tree-national-park-wildflower-watch>.

North Entrance

North Entrance Station to White Tank Campground



Look for desert globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), and wooly daisy (*Eriophyllum pringlei*).



Desert dandelions (*Malacothrix glabrata*) are on full display in the park's northern region.

Queen Valley

Includes Barker Dam, Pine City, Wall Street Mill, and Bighorn Pass Road



Frémont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*) on the Bighorn Pass Road, along with desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*) and chia (*Salvia columbariae*).



Queen Valley is currently one of the best places in the park for wildflower viewing. Diligent hikers may see notch-leaved phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*), Parry's nolina (*Nolina parryi*), and hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*).



The elusive fishhook cactus (*Mammillaria tetrancistra*) can be found in rocky crevices on the Pine City Trail, and in various areas throughout the Wonderland of Rocks. This pint-sized cactus can be identified by its distinct fishhook-shaped thorns and vibrant red flowers.

Cottonwood

Near the South Entrance
in the Colorado Desert.



Catch the last remaining blooms of sacred datura (*Datura wrightii*) while you still can.



The flowers of the sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucreta*) can still be found sporadically. Chicory (*Rafinesquia neomexicana*) and Frémont's pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*) are also on their way out.



While no longer in peak season, there are still many wildflowers to view in the southern half of the park, including creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), indigo bush (*Psoralea aborescens*), prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*), palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), purple mat (*Nama demissum*), desert globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), and paper bag bush (*Scutellaria mexicana*).

West Park Boulevard

From the West Entrance
Station to Keys View
Road



Prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*) in a wash.



Some beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*) remain in bloom.



Desert senna (*Senna armata*) blooming in the evening sun.

Keys View Road

From the intersection at Park Boulevard to Keys View. Includes Juniper Flat, Lost Horse Mine, the Cap Rock Nature Trail, and Keys View.



While hiking the trails off of Keys View Road, keep an eye out for Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum palmerianum*), and western tansymustard (*Descurainia pinnata*).



Chia (*Salvia columbariae*) and Arizona lupine (*Lupinus arizonicus*) share some soil. Both flowers can be found on the Cap Rock Nature Trail.

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.