

Joshua Tree National Park

Wildflower Report



Updated May 8, 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>.

Queen Valley

Portion of the park including Barker Dam, Wall Street Mill, Desert Queen Mine, and Split Rock



Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) continues to bloom in Queen Valley along with Hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), Desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), and Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*).



Bees and wildflower hunters alike can still find Chia (*Salvia columbariae*) throughout the park.



Desert sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa*), Desert marigold (*Baileya pleniradiata*), and Hole-in-the-sand plant (*Nicolletia occidentalis*) are still thriving in drainages along the dirt roads east of Barker Dam.

Keys View Road

From Cap Rock to Keys View. Includes the Lost Horse and Ryan Ranch areas as well.



Look closely to see the Calico (*Loeseliastrum matthewsii*) next to a house key.



Scaly-stemmed sand plant (*Pholisma arenarium*) is difficult to find, but its grandeur provides a spectacular reward for those willing to search for them. Look for them around Ryan Ranch blooming alongside Beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), Pancake-pear (*Opuntia chlorotica*), and Silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*).



Sand mat can be found on many trails near Keys View Road, in particular on the California Riding and Hiking Trail. Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*), and Bristly gilia (*Langloisia setosissima*) are also blooming in the region.



The easy to overlook Desert mariposa lilies (*Calochortus kennedyi*) are a treat to see this time of year, and are blooming in the Keys View area and throughout the park. Look for them among the branches of Blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*).



Wire lettuce (*Stephanomeria pauciflora*), Tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), Desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), and Arizona lupine (*Lupinus arizonicus*) can be seen at Keys View.

Black Rock Canyon

Joshua Lane,
Yucca Valley, CA



California buckwheat
(*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)



Beavertail cactus
(*Opuntia basilaris*)



Black Rock Canyon continues to be one of the park's premier locations for wildflower enthusiasts. In this unique area of the park hikers can gaze upon Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Wire lettuce (*Stephanomeria pauciflora*), Bristly gilia (*Langloisia setosisimma*), Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*), Wishbone bush (*Mirabilis bigelovii*), Golden gilia (*Linanthus aureus*), and White tidytips (*Layia glandulosa*).

Cottonwood

The portion of the park
from the South Entrance
to the Cholla Cactus
Garden.



Wild flower season in
Cottonwood has mostly come
to an end, but keep an eye out
for Purple mat (*Nama
demissum*), Palo verde
(*Parkinsonia florida*), Desert
senna (*Senna armata*), and
Chia (*Salvia columbariae*).



This particular Pancake prickly pear (*Opuntia chlorotica*) can be found right next to the Cottonwood Visitor Center.

Park Boulevard West
From the West Entrance
to Hidden Valley



Search for the flowers of
Desert senna (*Senna armata*),
Spiny hop sage (*Grayia
spinosa*), and White rhatany
(*Krameria grayi*).



Parry's nolina (*Nolina parryi*) is blooming in abundance on the Hidden Valley trail and can be seen from Park Boulevard.

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.