

Wildflower Report

Joshua Tree National Park
CA

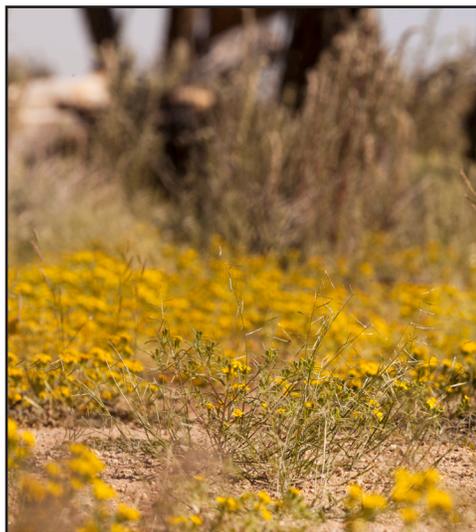


Summer Special Edition: August 31, 2015

This report will guide you to the most spectacular wildflower blooms occurring throughout the park. Information is time-sensitive and may no longer be accurate when significant time has elapsed since publishing.

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>.

West Entrance



Spotlight: *Pectis papposa* (manybristle cinchweed), a small annual flower, covers the ground in spectacular golden carpets.

As you drive in the West Entrance of the park, keep an eye out for expanses of *Pectis papposa* (manybristle cinchweed) blooms, yellow bushes of *Senna armata* (desert senna), daisy-like *Baileya pleniradiata* (wooly desert marigold), and gracefully nodding fronds of *Amaranthus fimbriatus* (fringed amaranth). Other sights include *Krameria bicolor* (white ratany), *Boerhavia triquetra* (fivewing spiderling), *Psoralea arborescens* (indigobush), and *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (apricot globemallow).



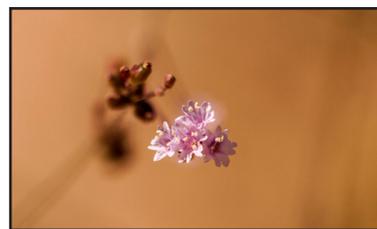
Krameria bicolor



Psoralea arborescens



Amaranthus fimbriatus



Boerhavia triquetra

North Entrance



Spotlight: recent rainfall on the Queen Mountains!

Keep an eye on the foliage near the North Entrance of the park and around the Queen Mountains area--our recent rainfall on August 27th may result in a surge of blooms in those areas. Watch for *Senna armata* (desert senna), *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (apricot globemallow), *Datura wrightii* (sacred Datura), and *Scutellaria mexicana* (bladdersage).

Queen Valley Area



Spotlight: *Abronia villosa*, the desert sand verberna, has cheerful bursts of fuschia blooms.

Walk the Barker Dam trail for a view of graceful white *Datura wrightii* (sacred datura) and vibrant orange *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (apricot globe mallow). Near the end of the loop, watch for the blooms of *Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*, the silver cholla. Also present in this area: *Amaranthus fimbriatus* (fringed amaranth), *Psoralea argophylla* (California indigo bush), *Acamptopappus sphaerocephalus* (rayless goldenhead), *Pectis papposa* (manybristle cinchweed), and *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush).



Sphaeralcea ambigua



Larrea tridentata



Cylindropuntia echinocarpa



Datura wrightii

Wilson Canyon Area



Spotlight: *Senna armata*, the desert senna, is still in bloom in Wilson Canyon.

The bloom has faded somewhat in Wilson Canyon, but there are still blossoms to be found. Keep an eye out for the golden flowers of *Senna armata* (desert senna) and *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush).

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.