

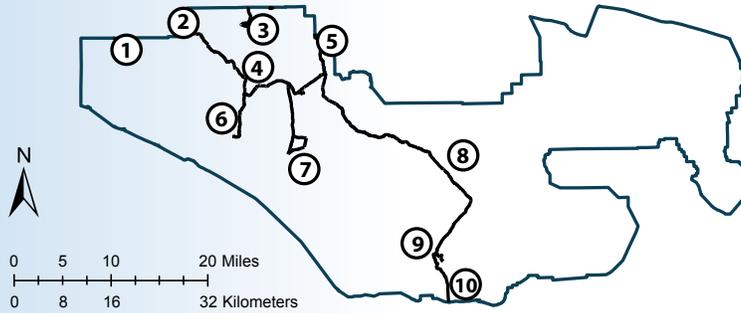
# Joshua Tree

## Wildflower Report

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



February 17, 2016



- ① Black Rock area
- ② West Entrance
- ③ Indian Cove
- ④ Wonderland of Rocks
- ⑤ North Entrance
- ⑥ Keys View
- ⑦ Geology Tour Rd.
- ⑧ Pinto Basin
- ⑨ Cottonwood Spring
- ⑩ Bajada

## Where are the wildflowers blooming?

This report offers weekly highlights on wildflower conditions for seven general regions within Joshua Tree National Park. For each region, we list the most charismatic blooms with pictures to aid in identification. Particularly vibrant or large areas of bloom will be indicated on the map when present.

### This week in the park

Spring has sprung in the lower elevation areas of the park, where it is warmer. Check our next edition for updates on wildflowers in the north of the park.

## ① Black Rock area

### Joshua Trees are blooming!

Buds have appeared on Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) in the Black Rock area, and some are beginning to bloom! Look for these spectacular blossoms at the ends of branches.



## 8 Pinto Basin

A widespread bloom of perennial shrubs has begun in the Pinto Basin, including bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), desert senna (*Senna armata*), creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), and desert lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*).



Bladderpod (NPS/  
Hannawacker)



Desert senna (NPS/  
Ingersoll)



Creosotebush (NPS/  
Ingersoll)



Desert lavender

### Annual Plants



**Yellow cups**  
(*Chylismia brevipes*)  
This plant has dark green leaves with speckles, arranged in a low rosette. Look for it in washes.



**Notch-leaf phacelia**  
(*Phacelia crenulata*)  
This phacelia has dark, fleshy leaves and flowers with pale centers.



**Arizona lupine**  
(*Lupinus arizonicus*)  
The lupines are here! Arizona lupine is distinguished by its warm, fuschia-purple color of blossom. Look for it in disturbed areas such as washes and roadsides.

## 9 10 Cottonwood Spring and Bajada

The Bajada area encompasses the southernmost portion of the park, and some of the lowest elevations as well. The shrubs mentioned for the Pinto Basin have also begun to bloom here (see above). Ocotillos are beginning to bloom south of Cottonwood Visitor Center, and they may begin to bloom to the north as well! The ocotillo is a charismatic plant of the Colorado Desert, known for its unique form and striking red flowers.



Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) full plant; detail of ocotillo buds; and detail of ocotillo in bloom.

## Perennial Shrubs



**Brittlebush** (*Encelia farinosa*)  
The leaves of this shrub are fair in color and feel fuzzy due to protective hairs on their surface. Before it flowers, brittlebush can have a domed appearance.



**Bladderpod** (*Peritoma arborea*)  
These bushes are in full bloom across the lower elevations. Look for anthers that extend far past the petals to positively identify bladderpod.



**Chuparosa** (*Justicia californica*)  
This shrub's tube-shaped red flowers are adapted for pollination by birds. It is much shorter and more densely branched than the ocotillo.

## Annual Plants



**Browneyes** (*Chylismia claviformis*)  
This cheerful annual is popping up across the lower elevations. It is named for the brown receptacle at the center of its snow-white petals.



**Arizona lupine** (*Lupinus arizonicus*)  
The lupines are here! Arizona lupine is distinguished by its warm, fuchsia-purple color of blossom. Look for it in disturbed areas such as washes and roadsides.



**Cryptantha** (*Cryptantha spp.*)  
These annuals, known variously as catseye or popcorn-flower, are notoriously difficult to identify without their nutlets (seeds) present.



**Parish's poppy** (*Eschscholzia parishii*)  
This poppy can be distinguished from the California poppy by its smaller size, lemon-yellow color and usual lack of an orange center.

## Let Them Grow

Collecting vegetation is prohibited in the park. Leave wildflowers for all to enjoy!