



# CLOVERDALE RANCH OPEN SPACE PRESERVE WILDFLOWER GUIDE

108 SELECTED FLOWERING SPECIES





# INTRODUCTION

## Wildflowers at Cloverdale Ranch:

Extending from coastal terraces on the Pacific to the wooded slopes of the Santa Cruz mountains, Cloverdale Ranch comprises a vibrant mosaic of California plant communities. In addition to dominant swathes of coastal prairie and scrubland, this land also contains a mixture of forests, woodlands, and wetlands. Altogether, the area serves as habitat for a rich blend of native flora and fauna, including a number of regionally rare and other special-status species.

This wildflower guide highlights a selection of the numerous flowering plants documented within the Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve. Species were chosen for inclusion based on conservation or aesthetic interest, representation of interesting habitat types, and/or commonness of occurrence within the preserve. There is also an emphasis on those plants which tend to bloom around April-May, towards the typical peak of local wildflower season.

## Format of this Guide:

This is a simple photograph guide with two attributes—usually flower and leaf or broader vegetative structure—showcased for each plant. The majority of species entries are gathered into flower color categories, within each of which they are listed by family, then genus. Following these sections, an additional set of four potentially confusing “Look-alike Species” pairs are separately listed, each accompanied by expanded descriptions and additional photographs. Finally, a notes page and alphabetical indices for common and botanical species names are located at the end of the guide.

Accompanying information for a given species entry includes that plant’s botanical (Latin) name, common name, and family. Regional rarity or California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Inventory rank are provided when applicable. Unless noted otherwise, all species are native and typically have a forb/herb growth habit. Botanical names are current with the *Jepson eFlora* database (as of June 2023).

## Sample species entry:

©2018 Shannon Reilly      ©2019 Shannon Reilly

***Phylla cataria* var. *hirsutula***  
 CATARIACEAE

Family name      Botanical name      Common name      Growth habit (if other than forb/herb)

Locally rare, Shrub

CNPS rank, notation of regional rarity, or non-native status

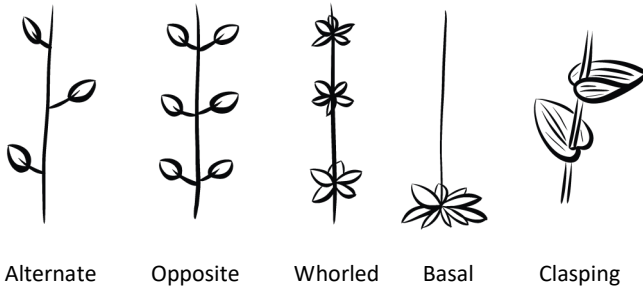
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Finalized June 2023

# CHARACTERISTICS OF LEAVES & FLOWERS

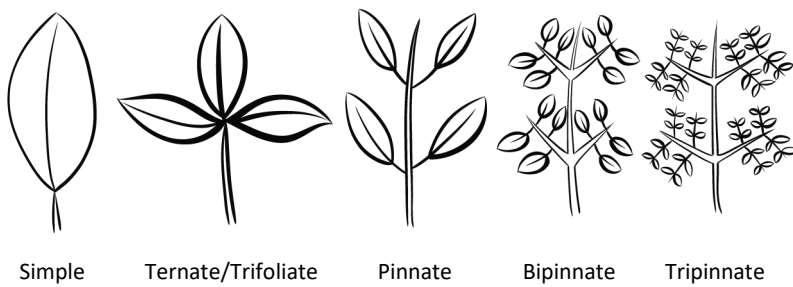
## Leaf Arrangement and Attachment:



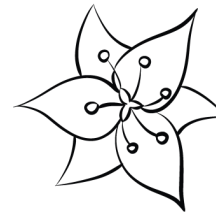
### Photographing for ID? Focus on:

- Flower or cluster of flowers—top and side
- Leaves—top and bottom
- Stem or branches
- Whole plant

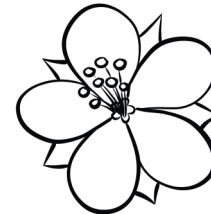
## Simple and Compound Leaves:



## Monocots vs Dicots:

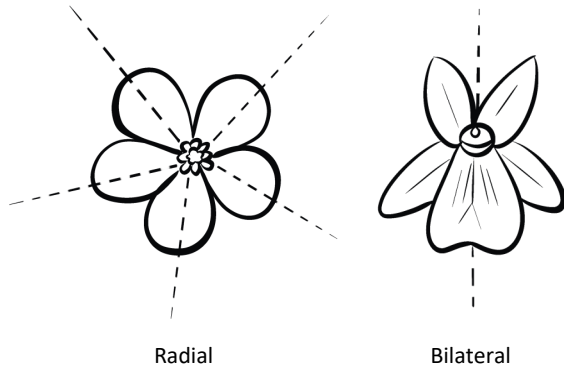


Monocots—parts in 3's, parallel veins; lily, orchid, iris, grass

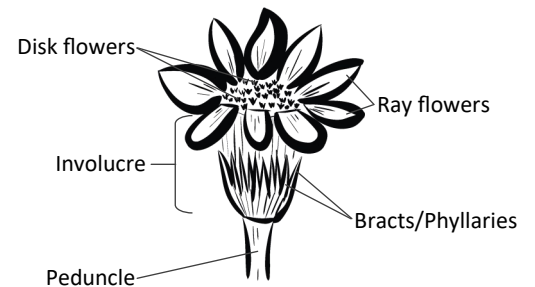


Dicots—parts in 4's or 5's, lattice veins; sunflower, primrose, pea, mustard, mint, violets

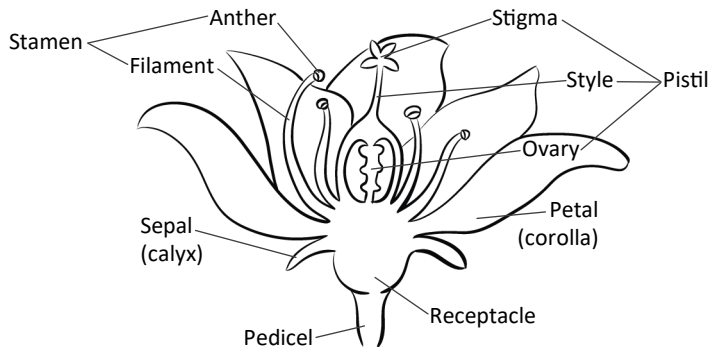
## Floral symmetry:



## Typical composite flower (Asteraceae/sunflower family):



## Typical bisexual flower:



# BLUE/VIOLET



©2021 Shannon Reilly

***Lupinus nanus***  
FABACEAE



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sky lupine



©2018 Amanda Mills

***Sisyrrinchium bellum***  
IRIDACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

western blue-eyed-grass



©2003 Steve Matson

***Prunella vulgaris* var. *lanceolata***  
LAMIACEAE



©2021 Shannon Reilly

lance leaf selfheal



©2021 Marina Ribeiro

***Linum bienne***  
LINACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

pale flax  
Non-Native



©2022 Chris Fluit

***Veronica americana***  
PLANTAGINACEAE



©2022 Zachary Nielsen

American brooklime



©2009 Keir Morse

***Gilia achilleifolia* ssp. *multicaulis***  
POLEMONIACEAE



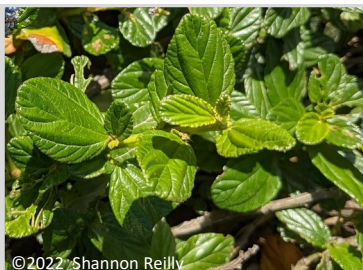
©2005 Midpen Staff

many-stemmed California gilia



©2011 Chris Winchell

***Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *thyrsiflorus***  
RHAMNACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

blue blossom  
Shrub



©2023 Shannon Reilly

***Solanum umbelliferum***  
SOLANACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

bluewitch nightshade  
Subshrub



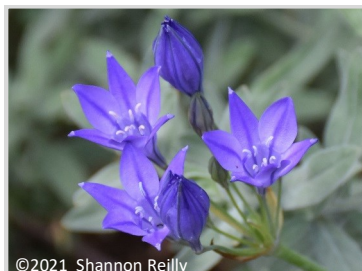
©2004 Carol W. Witham

***Brodiaea terrestris* ssp. *terrestris***  
THEMIDACEAE



©2020 Clint Kellner

dwarf brodiaea



©2021 Shannon Reilly

***Tritileia laxa***  
THEMIDACEAE



©2021 Barry Rice

Ithuriel's spear

# PURPLE/MAGENTA



©2012 Daniel Passarini

***Silybum marianum***  
ASTERACEAE



©2021 Shannon Reilly

milk thistle  
Non-Native



©2020 Shannon Reilly

***Symphyotrichum chilense***  
ASTERACEAE



©2020 Peter Zika

Pacific aster



©2014 Ken-ichi Ueda

***Phacelia californica***  
BORAGINACEAE



©2012 Genevieve K. Walden

California phacelia



©2010 Bob Case

***Vicia sativa ssp. sativa***  
FABACEAE



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spring vetch  
Non-Native, Vine



©2022 Lauren Sullivan

***Iris douglasiana***  
IRIDACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

Douglas' iris



©2020 Shannon Reilly

***Monardella villosa***  
LAMIACEAE



©2020 Shannon Reilly

coyote mint  
Subshrub



©2006 Steve Matson

***Stachys bullata***  
LAMIACEAE



©2006 Doug Fischer

California hedge nettle



©2016 Donna Pomeroy

***Clarkia davyi***  
ONAGRACEAE



©2019 James Bailey

Davy's clarkia



©2023 Shannon Reilly

***Primula hendersonii***  
PRIMULACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

Henderson's shooting star



©2019 Eliot Freutel

***Dipterostemon capitatus***  
THEMIDACEAE



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bluedicks

# PINK/RED



©2019 Andrea Wuenschel

**Allium unifolium**  
ALLIACEAE



©2021 Gina Barton

oneleaf onion



©2015 Midpen Staff

**Cirsium occidentale var. venustum**  
ASTERACEAE



©2015 Midpen Staff

Venus thistle



©2023 Shannon Reilly

**Cardamine californica**  
BRASSICACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

milkmaids



©2021 Jeff Walker

**Silene scouleri ssp. scouleri**  
CARYOPHYLLACEAE



©2022 Morgan Stickrod

Scouler's catchfly  
CRPR 2B.2



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**Acmispon parviflorus**  
FABACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

short-flowered deervetch



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**Sidalcea malviflora ssp. malviflora**  
MALVACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

dwarf checkermallow  
Subshrub



©2019 Ron Vanderhoff

**Calandrinia menziesii**  
MONTIACEAE



©2022 Damon Tighe

red maids



©2020 Curren Frasch

**Epilobium ciliatum ssp. watsonii**  
ONAGRACEAE



©2018 Paul Donahue

fringed willowherb



©2013 Robert Steers

**Eriogonum latifolium**  
POLYGONACEAE



©2008 Paul Donahue

seaside wild buckwheat



©2022 Shannon Reilly

**Persicaria amphibia**  
POLYGONACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

water smartweed  
Locally Rare

# RED-ORANGE/YELLOW



©2020 Peggy Romfh

***Eriophyllum staechadifolium***  
ASTERACEAE



©2022 Eric Cleveland

seaside woolly sunflower  
Shrub/Subshrub



©2022 Jared Manninen

***Solidago elongata***  
ASTERACEAE



©2017 Todd Ramsden

West Coast Canada goldenrod



©2022 Shannon Reilly

***Lonicera involucrata***  
CAPRIFOLIACEAE



©2017 Asa Spade

twinberry honeysuckle  
Shrub



©2019 Shannon Reilly

***Epilobium canum* ssp. *canum***  
ONAGRACEAE



©2015 Keir Morse

California fuchsia



©2021 Shannon Reilly

***Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima***  
ONAGRACEAE



©2021 Shannon Reilly

hairy evening primrose



©2007 Paul Donahue

***Castilleja subinclusa* ssp. *franciscana***  
OROBANCHACEAE



©2022 Charlie Russell

Franciscan paintbrush



©2020 Shannon Reilly

***Eschscholzia californica***  
PAPAVERACEAE



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California poppy



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***Diplacus aurantiacus***  
PHYRMACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

sticky monkeyflower  
Shrub



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***Erythranthe guttata***  
PHYRMACEAE



©2021 Shannon Reilly

seep monkeyflower



©2019 Alexis Babayan

***Scrophularia californica***  
SCROPHULARIACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

California bee plant

# YELLOW



©2021 Eric Brunschwiler

***Delairea odorata***  
ASTERACEAE



©2022 Peter Zika

Cape ivy  
Non-Native, Vine



©2017 James Bailey

***Euthamia occidentalis***  
ASTERACEAE



©2019 Andrey Zharkikh

western goldenrod



©2020 Gina Barton

***Grindelia hirsutula***  
ASTERACEAE



©2020 Will Freyman

San Francisco gumplant  
Subshrub, CRPR 3.2



©2022 Asa Spade

***Heterotheca sessiliflora ssp. bolanderi***  
ASTERACEAE



©2021 Charlie Russell

Bolander's goldenaster  
Subshrub



©2022 Jack Johnson

***Wyethia angustifolia***  
ASTERACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

narrowleaf mule-ears



©2021 Joey Santore

***Lupinus arboreus***  
FABACEAE



©2017 Tim Quinn

coastal bush lupine  
Shrub/Subshrub



©2007 Peter Zika

***Hypericum canariense***  
HYPERICACEAE



©2022 Daniel Mederer

Canary Island St. Johnswort  
Non-Native, Shrub/Tree



©2023 Shannon Reilly

***Taraxia ovata***  
ONAGRACEAE



©2021 Damon Tighe

sun cup



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***Ranunculus californicus var. californicus***  
RANUNCULACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

California buttercup



©2022 Quinn Galbraith-Robertson

***Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica***  
ROSACEAE



©2022 John D. Reynolds

Pacific silverweed



# YELLOW/YELLOW-GREEN



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***Toxicodendron diversilobum***  
ANACARDIACEAE



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western poison oak  
Shrub/Vine



©2020 Jacob Martin

***Sanicula crassicaulis***  
APIACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

Pacific blacksnakeroot



©2014 Richard Spellenberg

***Artemisia douglasiana***  
ASTERACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

mugwort



©2020 Dan Antonaccio

***Madia sativa***  
ASTERACEAE



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Coast tarweed



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***Matricaria discoidea***  
ASTERACEAE



©2020 Shannon Reilly

pineapple plant



©2015 Axel Albano

***Sonchus asper* ssp. *asper***  
ASTERACEAE



©2014 Sara Rall

prickly sow thistle  
Non-Native



©2012 Karlyn H. Lewis

***Berberis pinnata***  
BERBERIDACEAE



©2011 Paul Donahue

Coast barberry  
Shrub



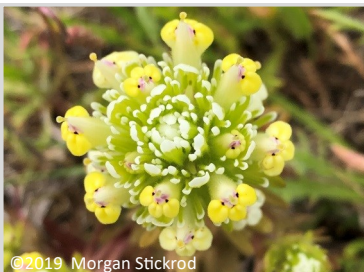
©2017 Leslie Flint

***Cicendia quadrangularis***  
GENTIANACEAE



©2019 Clint Jesol

timwort  
Locally Rare



©2019 Morgan Stickrod

***Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *ambigua***  
OROBANCHACEAE



©2016 Nathalie Martin

Johnny-nip  
CRPR 4.2



©2016 Christian Schwarz

***Galium californicum***  
RUBIACEAE



©2022 Gina Barton

California bedstraw  
Subshrub

# GREEN/BROWN/WHITE



©2008 Neal Kramer

***Artemisia californica***  
ASTERACEAE



©2019 Tina Hortschmi

California sagebrush  
Shrub



©2014 Dee Warenycia

***Cirsium quercetorum***  
ASTERACEAE



©2020 Morgan Stickrod

brownie thistle



©2010 Amanda Mills

***Calochortus albus***  
LILIACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

white globe lily



©2019 Jeff Brown

***Fritillaria affinis***  
LILIACEAE



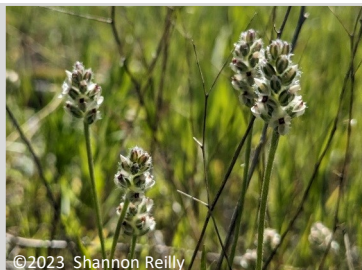
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checker lily



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***Plantago erecta***  
PLANTAGINACEAE



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dotseed plantain



©2019 Lauren Glevanik

***Plantago lanceolata***  
PLANTAGINACEAE



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ribwort plantain  
Non-Native



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***Frangula californica* ssp. *californica***  
RHAMNACEAE



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California coffeeberry  
Shrub



©2022 Emily Wharin

***Salix sitchensis***  
SALICACEAE



©2021 Peter Zika

Sitka willow  
Tree/Shrub, Locally Rare



©2022 Christian Schwarz

***Salix lasiolepis***  
SALICACEAE



©2019 Eric Koberle

Arroyo willow  
Tree/Shrub



©2020 Noah Strycker

***Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea***  
URTICACEAE



©2021 BJ Stacey

hoary stinging nettle



©2022 Glen Mikkelsen  
***Sambucus racemosa***  
ADOXAXEAE

©2022 Shannon Reilly  
red elderberry  
Shrub



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***Chlorogalum pomeridianum***  
AGAVACEAE

©2023 Shannon Reilly  
Wavy-leaved soap plant



©2022 Shannon Reilly  
***Alisma triviale***  
ALISMATACEAE

©2021 Denis Gallant  
northern water plantain



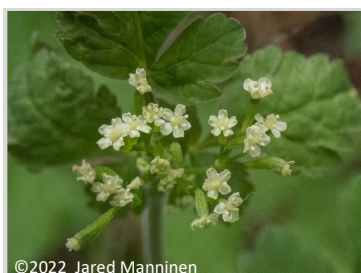
©2016 Karlyn H. Lewis  
***Angelica hendersonii***  
APIACEAE

©2018 Mike Patterson  
Henderson's angelica



©2020 Lena Zentall  
***Oenanthe sarmentosa***  
APIACEAE

©2023 Shannon Reilly  
water parsley



©2022 Jared Manninen  
***Osmorhiza berteroi***  
APIACEAE

©2023 Shannon Reilly  
sweet cicely



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***Achillea millefolium***  
ASTERACEAE

©2023 Shannon Reilly  
common yarrow



©2020 Nancy Fox  
***Pseudognaphalium californicum***  
ASTERACEAE

©2020 Vicki Salazar  
California everlasting



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***Phacelia imbricata***  
BORAGINACEAE

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imbricate phacelia  
Subshrub



©2009 Neal Kramer  
***Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus***  
BORAGINACEAE

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Choris' popcornflower  
CRPR 1B.2

# WHITE



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***Cornus sericea ssp. sericea***  
CORNACEAE



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creek dogwood  
Shrub



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***Clinopodium douglasii***  
LAMIACEAE



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yerba buena  
Subshrub



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***Toxicoscordion fremontii***  
MELANTHIACEAE



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Fremont's star lily



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***Claytonia perfoliata ssp. perfoliata***  
MONTIACEAE



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miner's lettuce



©2019 Julia Housden Proulx

***Actaea rubra***  
RANUNCULACEAE



©2009 Erika Mitchell

red baneberry  
Locally Rare



©2020 Todd Ramsden

***Holodiscus discolor***  
ROSACEAE



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oceanspray  
Shrub



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***Rubus parviflorus***  
ROSACEAE



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thimbleberry  
Vine/Subshrub



©2022 Shannon Reilly

***Rubus ursinus***  
ROSACEAE



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California blackberry  
Shrub/Vine/Subshrub



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***Galium aparine***  
RUBIACEAE



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goosegrass  
Vine



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***Aesculus californica***  
SAPINDACEAE



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California buckeye  
Tree

MULTICOLOR/VARIABLE



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***Carpobrotus edulis***  
AIZOACEAE



©2009 Sylvain Piry

iceplant  
Non-Native



©2015 Jerry James

***Hosackia gracilis***  
FABACEAE



©2020 Sophia Winitsky

harlequin lotus  
CRPR 4.2



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***Lathyrus vestitus* var. *vestitus***  
FABACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

common Pacific pea  
Vine



©2021 Noriko Ito

***Lupinus littoralis* var. *varicolor***  
FABACEAE



©2021 Michael Long

varicolored bluff lupine  
Shrub



©2017 Kathleen Sayce

***Vicia gigantea***  
FABACEAE



©2020 Sophia Winitsky

giant vetch



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***Scoliopus bigelovii***  
LILIACEAE



©2021 Matthew H. Pearson

California fetid adderstongue  
Locally Rare



©2021 Daniel Pietsch

***Trillium chloropetalum***  
MELANTHIACEAE



©2023 Shannon Reilly

giant wakerobin



©2019 Oscar Jimenez-Orocio

***Lysimachia arvensis***  
MYRSINACEAE



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scarlet pimpernel  
Non-Native



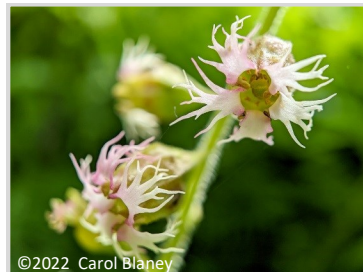
©2020 Arvel Hernandez

***Delphinium californicum* ssp. *californicum***  
RANUNCULACEAE



©2014 Eric Wrubel

California larkspur



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***Tellima grandiflora***  
SAXIFRAGACEAE



©2022 Shannon Reilly

fringe cups

# LOOK-ALIKE SPECIES



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***Conium maculatum***  
APIACEAE

poison-hemlock  
Non-Native

- \*Bi- or tripinnately compound leaves appear fern-like, triangular in outline
- \*Hairless stems hollow, smooth, generally streaked/spotted purple
- \*Typically 0.5-3m tall; numerous smaller, flat-topped flower clusters
- \*Plant parts produce musty odor when damaged; **all parts of plant toxic to humans and livestock**



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***Heracleum maximum***  
APIACEAE

common cowparsnip

- \*Ternate leaves (coarsely toothed leaflets) 0.2-0.5m wide, softly hairy
- \*Fuzzy stems thick, deeply grooved, green or slightly purple
- \*Typically 1-3m tall; flat-topped flower clusters up to 1ft wide
- \***For those with sensitive skin**, contact with sap/outer layers of leaves and stems may cause blistering rash (especially with subsequent sun exposure)



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***Hypochaeris glabra***  
ASTERACEAE

smooth cat's-ear  
Non-Native

- \*Basal leaves in rosette, shallowly lobed, generally smooth/hairless
- \*Stems hairless, sparingly branched, with scale-like alternate leaves
- \*Tips of overlapping phyllaries often brownish or reddish
- \*Ray flowers 5-8mm (about twice as long as wide), barely exceed involucre



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***Hypochaeris radicata***  
ASTERACEAE

rough cat's-ear  
Non-Native

- \*Basal leaves in rosette, toothed or lobed, coarsely hairy
- \*Stems hairless, typically branched, with scale-like alternate leaves
- \*Overlapping phyllaries pressed close/flat together
- \*Ray flowers 10-15mm (about four times as long as wide), greatly exceed involucre



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***Marah fabacea***  
CUCURBITACEAE

California manroot  
Vine

- \*Endemic to California (only found in this state), within which it is widespread
- \*Flowers colored yellow-green to cream or (especially inland) white, with flat bases
- \*Spherical fruit covered in prickles, grows to 4-5cm across



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©2021 Merav Vonshak

***Marah oregana***  
CUCURBITACEAE

Coast manroot  
Vine

- \*Within California mostly found along the northern coast, but also found elsewhere in North America
- \*Flowers white, with deeply cupped bases
- \*Pointy fruit often striped, sometimes prickly but not near its tip, grows to 4-8cm



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***Maianthemum racemosum***  
RUSCACEAE

feathery false lily-of-the-valley

- \*Prefers shadier habitats
- \*More, smaller flowers (20+) form a 5-12cm plume at the end of the arcing stem
- \*Leaves wider, do not clasp the stem



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©2022 Samantha Dunlop



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***Maianthemum stellatum***  
RUSCACEAE

starry false lily-of-the-valley

- \*Prefers sunnier habitats
- \*Fewer, larger flowers (5-15) form a 2-8cm plume at the end of the more-upright arcing stem
- \*Clasping leaves narrower, stiffer



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