Welcome to the Botanic Garden

THE BEST TIMES FOR BLOOMS Each year in the Botanic Garden the first plants to bloom do so around mid-December and early January, initiating a flowering succession that makes a continuous show throughout the year. The monthly schedule below showcases the more prominent plants at their best.

January: silktassels, manzanitas, manzanitas and more manzanitas, osoberry, currants.

February: barberries, Dutchman’s pipe, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, milkmaids, western leather-wood, bluff wallflower, scillaups.

March: ground pink-flowering currant, California poppy, trilliums, shooting stars, wallflowers, fritillaries, fawn lilies, rock cress, pussy willows; trees begin to leaf out.

April: California rose-bay or rhododendron, woolly blue curls, ninebark, summer holly, main ceanothus groups, Chinese houses, irises, blazing star.

May: monkeyflowers, fremontias, carpenteria, tidy tips, bush poppies, brodiaeas, mariposa tulips, cacti, clarkias, mock orange, styrax, spiraea.

June: western azalea, matilija poppy, fireweed, ocean spray, sweetshrub, mariposas, Donner buckwheat, clarkias, columbines, lilies, sages, Antioch primrose.

July: red and yellow bush penstemons and other perennial penstemons, scarlet mimulus, lilies, Antioch primrose, clarkias.

August: wild buckwheats, late penstemons, gum plants, scarlet larkspur, Milo Baker’s lupine.

September: California fuschias, tarweeds, buck-wheats, hibiscus, helianthus, late penstemons, evening primrose.

October-November: snowberries; berries of the madrone; fall color: leaves of cottonwoods, deciduous oaks, dogwoods, hawthorn, willows; the vine maple; chapparral current blooms.

December: first manzanita blooms, colorful twigs of deciduous shrubs.

Imagine 160,000 square miles of California set in a 10-acre garden that can be walked in a day. That is the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, devoted to the collection, growth, display, and preservation of the native plants of California. The state is a vast region of many clearly defined floral areas, such as seacoast bluffs and coastal mountains, interior valleys, arid foothills, alpine zones, and two kinds of desert.

The garden is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5:30 in summer) every day except New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. All specimens are landscaped into a delightful setting, offering opportunities for exploration, relaxation, and contemplation. Lectures and slide shows are scheduled in the Visitor Center on Saturdays from November through February, and an exhibit pertaining to the native flora is usually to be found in the auditorium. A plant sale is conducted each spring and fall by the Garden’s volunteers.

Notable among the many specimens are conifers and oaks, shrubs, grasses, and bulbs. There are representatives of about 300 taxa that are classified in the California Native Plant Society’s landmark study, Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

THE STATE IN 10 SECTIONS To represent the state’s varied graphic sections that represent the state’s varied natural areas of California, the Garden is divided into 10 sections and three subsections. See page 2 for details.

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HUMBOLDT itself, but also from the foothills to the west and the strip of Great Basin Desert and the mountains ranges to the east. We can assure those to whom “rain forest” evokes only a steaming jungle, that in the case of that stretch of our coast where there is as much as 10 feet of rain per year – what we call the Pacific Rain Forest – we have not stretched the meaning. Botanists and ecologists recognize temperate region rain forests as well as tropical ones.

The color-coded maps above show the area of the state from which the plants in each section of the Botanic Garden have originated. It should be noted, though, that some of the words used to name the sections are intended to represent geographical considerations. Horticultural needs rather than historical or geographical considerations.


For more information on the Botanic Garden, see www.nativeplants.org.

WELCOME!
Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE
- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion, and damages plants.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails and paths can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES
- Dogs are not allowed in the Botanic Garden. Elsewhere in the Regional Parks, pets must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Pets must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.
- Bicycles may be walked, but not ridden, through the Botanic Garden.
- Do not sit on or walk on rock outcrops and boulders.
- Keep out of all planting beds and rock outcrops.
- Stay on paths and lawns.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
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- Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
- Do not sit on or walk on rock outcrops and boulders.
- Keep out of all planting beds and rock outcrops.
- Stay on paths and lawns.
- Smoking and fires are prohibited.
- No running.
- Do not sit on or walk on rock outcrops and boulders.
- Do not collect or remove any kind of plants.

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