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, milkmaid, western leather-wood, bluff wallflower, scillaopus.

March: scilla, pink-flowering currant, California poppy, trilliums, shooting stars, wallflowers, fritillaries, fawn lillies, 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, spireas.

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.

August: wild buckwheats, late penstemons, gum plants, small flowered 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 currant blooms.

December: first manzanita blooms, colorful twigs of decidous 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.

The Botanic Garden is located in Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Road at its intersection with South Park Drive. From Hwy. 24 coming from Oakland or Walnut Creek, exit at Fish Ranch Road and proceed uphill to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right and follow Grizzly Peak to South Park Drive. Turn right into Tilden on South Park and drive to Wildcat Canyon Road. The Garden is ahead of you on Wildcat Canyon; parking is on the left.

From November through March, South Park Drive is closed. To reach the Garden during this closure, continue north on Grizzly Peak until you see Shasta Road, and right onto Wildcat Canyon Road. The Garden will be on your left on Wildcat Canyon Road.

AC TRANSIT INFORMATION: On weekends take #67, which stops at the Brazil Building (1/8 mi. walk to the Garden). On weekdays the closest stop is the #65 at Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Shasta Road (65 mi. walk). Call to confirm: AC TRANSIT: 817-1717 (TDD/TTY: 1-800-448-9790), or see www.511.org.
Humboldt itself, but also from the foothills to the west and the strip of Great Basin Desert and the mountain 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 that corresponds to those on the state map. For more information on the Botanic Garden, see www.nativeplants.org.

The four seasons, journal of the regional parks botanic garden.