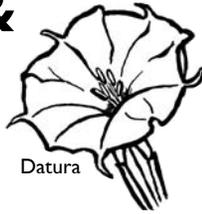


Wildflower Hotspot INYOKERN & BROWN ROADS



WHEN TO GO: March to May

HOW TO GET THERE: From Ridgecrest, take Inyokern Road (SR178) west 9 miles to Brown Road in Inyokern. Flowers appear around Inyokern along roadsides east and west on Inyokern Road, and north and south on Brown Road.

WILDFLOWERS TO SEE:

Desert Dandelion *Malacothrix glabrata*

Basal-leafed, 4-16" tall annual with one to several stems terminating in a 1.5" dandelion-shaped, bright yellow to pale yellow flower that has a maroon spot in the center when young.

Evening Snow *Linanthus dichotoma*

Tiny 2-6" annual that is almost invisible during the day. After the sun goes down, a blanket of 1", white, very fragrant flowers uncurl and appear to be floating above the ground.

Apricot Mallow *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

Very showy, gray shrub 20-40" tall that bears multiple flower stalks with many 0.5-1" flowers. Leaves are gray and have scalloped margins. Flowers have 5 red-orange to apricot colored petals. Leaves and stalks have star-shaped hairs that can be irritating to the touch.

Desert Marigold *Baileya multiradiata*

12-18" tall perennial with several, long, straight stems emerge from a compact base,

each with a single, multi-petaled, yellow flower. Pinnate (deeply lobed) leaves grow mostly on the lower third of the flower stalks.

Brittle Bush *Encelia farinosa*

Shrub 20-24" across and 12-18" tall with few to many branches. Silvery leaves appear alternately on flower stalks, generally toward the lower half. Bright yellow flowers 1-1.5" across with yellow-orange centers top the long stalks and appear to be hovering above the shrub.

California Evening Primrose

Oenothera californica

Spreading, low-growing, gray-green perennial with fuzzy stems and leaves. Leaves are oblong with wavy edges. Showy, fragrant white flowers are 1.5-2" across and open after sunset, but fade to pink & wilt by the following evening.

Brown-eyed Primrose *Camissonia claviformis*

6-18" tall annual with reddish-brown stems and green leaves that are mostly at the base. Flower clusters grow at the end of the stems and buds have a drooping posture before opening. Flowers have 4 white petals, each with a characteristic small, brown spot at its base.

Indigo Bush *Psoralethamnus arborescens*

Intricately branched, woody shrub with purplish stems and tiny, pinnately-compound, green leaves. Clusters of deep indigo-purple, pea-shaped flowers appear at the tips of the branches followed by sticky, spotted pods.

California Mustard *Thelypodium lasiophyllum*

8-16" tall annual with basal leaves, occasionally growing to 20". Leaves are green and deeply saw-toothed. Tiny 0.25-0.5", 4-petaled, white to pale yellow flowers grow from the top of a central stock, followed by slender seed pods 1.5-2.5" long.

Coreopsis *Coreopsis bigelovii*

8-12" annual with basal, linear, shiny leaves. Bright yellow flowers with orange-yellow or gold centers sit atop mostly leafless stalks.

Jimson Weed or Datura *Datura wrightii*

Common along roadsides and gravelly places, this sprawling plant has large, spade-shaped, 6" long dark green leaves, and large white solitary flowers. The petals of the 6-8" long tubular flower are fused and unfurl as the flower opens at dusk, remains open all night and is pollinated by various night-flying insects and bats, then withers in the morning. Each flower makes a brown, prickly fruit. All parts of this plant are HIGHLY toxic.

Wildflower Pollinators

Daytime pollinators include the many solitary bees (honey bees [from Europe] are rare in our desert), butterflies, beetles, and all manner of insects. Bees can see blue and ultraviolet well, but not red. Hummingbirds see red and love tube-shaped flowers. Flowers must have color to attract their pollinators and be strong enough to support them.

Nighttime pollinators include moths and bats. Most nighttime flowers are white and very fragrant, like the big evening primrose that opens at sunset along Inyokern Road.

Most flowers without "showy" flowers, like grasses and Burweed for example, are wind pollinated - which works well in our desert!

Note that flower/shrub size and abundance depends upon rainfall and temperature.

Please do not pick the flowers; leave them for others to enjoy.



This brochure was produced by the Creosote Ring Subchapter (Bristlecone Chapter), California Native Plant Society with the cooperation of the Ridgecrest Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.