

Wildflower Hotspot RADEMACHER HILLS

WHEN TO GO: late Feb. to April or May

NORTH SLOPES

HOW TO GET THERE: From Ridgecrest, take S. China Lake Blvd. south to the stop light at College Heights Blvd. Turn left at light and drive 2.6 miles to stop sign at Cerro Coso College. Continue straight through the campus to a wide dirt road, note BLM sign on right for the Rademacher Hills. The road is usually passable for a low-clearance vehicle to the top of the Rademacher Hills ridge line only, 1.6 miles. Do not drive a passenger vehicle beyond this point.

WILDFLOWERS TO SEE:

Coreopsis *Coreopsis bigelovii*

8-12" annual with bright yellow, daisy-type flowers with orange-yellow or gold centers.

Desert Dandelion *Malacothrix glabrata*

4" annual with dandelion-shaped, yellow flowers. Sometimes the new ray flowers in the center have a red tip on the petals. Flowers open in the morning, track the sun all day, then close at night

Sun Cup *Camissonia campestris*

Short-lived annual. Flowers are about 1" wide, bright lemon-yellow with red dots at the base of each of the 4 petals. The pistil is a knob.

Phacelia *Phacelia distans* or *P. tanacetifolia*

24-30" annuals with lacy leaves and slender stalks, 5 blue petals, white pollen, flowers uncurl in a caterpillar shape. Both can be found under, and supported by, creosote bushes.

Yellow Throats *Phacelia fremontii*

A 3-6" annual with basal, fern-like leaves. Flowers are bright blue with yellow or white throats. In years of good rainfall, these little plants will form dense carpets under and between the Creosote bushes.

Fiddleneck *Amsinckia tessellata*

Fuzzy gray annual up to 10". Flowers are orange-yellow and uncurl from a caterpillar shape when they open. Stiff hairs cover the stems and leaves leaving the plant very prickly as it matures.

Desert Trumpet *Eriogonum inflatum*

2-3' perennial with basal leaves and inflated, bulbous stems. Tiny, yellow flowers top the stems.

Gilia *Gilia ssp*

Several species of 5-7" delicate, fragrant, blue flowers with 5 petals and blue pollen.

Chia *Salvia columbariae*

Square-stemmed annual, 4-6" topped by a 0.5-1" diameter flower whorl of 2-lipped, mint-like, blue flowers. In years of good rain, a plant can make 2-3 whorls of flowers per stem. The leaves have a distinctly pungent odor when crushed.

Brown-eyed Primrose *Camissonia clavaeformis*

A 6" annual with reddish-brown stems and green leaves that are mostly at the base. Flower buds droop before opening. Flowers have 4 white petals, each with a brown spot at its base, and 8 stamens.

Pincushion *Chaenactis fremontii*

A 4-8" annual topped by a cluster of white disk flowers resembling a pincushion.

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.

SOUTH SLOPES

HOW TO GET THERE: A 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Follow directions for North Slopes to the Rademacher Hills ridge line. Many dirt roads/trails blanket the top of the ridge and the south-facing slopes. Proceed carefully, many are dirt-bike trails.

WILDFLOWERS TO SEE:

Goldfields *Lasthenia californica*

3-5" annual with daisy-type, gold flowers that can form vast, yellow fields, hence the name.

Desert Candle *Caulanthus inflatus*

Stems are 8-14" and conspicuously inflated. Leaves are on the lower third of the stalk. Tiny, white flowers are on the sides of the stalks, and the buds at the top are bright purple. It's a truly remarkable looking annual.

Thistle Sage *Salvia carduacea*

Erect-growing 15-30", mostly basal-leaved annual. Leaves are dissected with wavy margins and short spines. Stalks can get 3-5 whorls of flowers in good years. Flowers are light purple in a whorl, pollen is orange. Stems, leaves and flower whorls are covered with a dense, white wool.

Blue Dicks *Dichelostemma capitatum*

Slender, 1' stem topped by a cluster of 2-10 small, blue flowers, each with 6 petals. Basal leaf is 6-16" long, grass-like and curly.

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.