

## Wildflower Hotspot

# SHORT CANYON

Over 300 species of plants  
have been identified here.



California  
Poppy

**WHEN TO GO:** March to May

**HOW TO GET THERE:** High clearance vehicle advised. From Ridgecrest, take Inyo-kern Rd. (SR 178) west to US Hwy 395. Take US395 north 4.9 miles to junction with Hwy 14. Continue north 1 mile to Leliter Rd. Turn left (west) on Leliter Rd across southbound lanes of US395, across a frontage road and a cattle-guard. Note BLM sign. You are now on dirt roads. Go 0.4 miles. Turn south (left) at BLM sign onto Power Line Rd. Go 1.0 mile to SE 139, BLM sign. Turn west (right) and follow BLM signs to trailhead parking lot. The foot trail is less than 1 mile long but one can wander further up the canyon.

### WILDFLOWERS TO SEE:

#### **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. In years of good rainfall, the prolific *Coreopsis* paint the south facing slopes of the canyon so yellow they can be seen from Ridgecrest.

#### **Bladderpod** *Isomeris arborea*

Rounded shrub that is profusely branched and may be as much as 6' tall. Leaves are dark green and oval. Flowers are bright yellow and are followed by inflated seed pods approximately 2" long. The shrub is characterized by a strong odor.

#### **California Evening Primrose** *Oenothera californica*

A spreading, low growing, gray-green perennial with fuzzy stems and leaves. Leaves are oblong with wavy edges. The flowers are 1.5-2" across and open white in the morning but fade to pink by the evening. They last only one day.

#### **Purple Mat** *Nama demissum*

Spreading, prostrate annual with a forked branching pattern and 1-8" long stems. There are spoon-shaped leaves in dense clusters at the stem tips, and few basal leaves. Flowers are about 0.5" across, magenta to rose-purple with yellow centers and may be numerous at the leafy stem tips.

#### **Chia** *Salvia columbariae*

Square-stemmed annual 4-20" tall that is topped by 0.5-1.5" diameter flower clusters, one above the other on the stalk. The flowers are tiny & blue with 2-lipped petals. Leaves have a pungent odor when crushed.

#### **California Poppy** *Eschscholzia californica*

Gray-green annual 4 to 24" tall. Leaves are lacey and fernlike. Flowers have 4 petals and are vivid orange, vivid yellow or sometimes bi-colored. This is our state flower.

#### **Sand Blossom** *Linanthus parryae*

Short annual less than 4" tall with tiny, linear leaves that are mostly hidden by the flower heads. Flowers are funnel-shaped, blue-purple, or white and 1" across. They are the showiest of 'belly flowers'.

#### **Blue Sage** *Salvia dorrii*

Broad shrub 1-3' tall with many small, ashy gray, opposing leaves on woody stalks. Flowers are small, 2-lipped, blue to purple, and appear in dense whorls or spiral cluster at the tops of the branches. Leaves have a strong sage fragrance.

#### **Beavertail Cactus** *Opuntia basilaris*

Succulent with one to several flat stem-pads that are covered with brown clusters of very tiny bristles that transfer readily to the finger when touched and may be removed with tweezers or adhesive tape. The flowers are brilliant pink to magenta and up to 4" across with many, many bright yellow stamens.

#### **Larkspur** *Delphinium parishii*

Perennial with mostly basal leaves and flower stalks up to 2' tall with multiple flowers that are sky blue. The flowers are placed alternately around the stem and bloom from the bottom up. It gets its name from the bird-shaped buds.

#### **Monkey Flower** *Mimulus aurantiacus*

Perennial shrub with a 1-4' spread that is found hanging from rocky walls. Opposing, lance-like leaves are thick on the branches. Flowers are long, pale yellow, showy, and trumpet shaped with five, unequal lobes.

#### **Cream Cups** *Platystemon californicus*

Fuzzy annual 2" to 12" tall with narrow, basal leaves. Flowers are soft white or white and yellow with so many fluffy, white stamens that they appear to be topped with whipped cream.

#### **Parry Beargrass** *Nolina parryi*

Follow the trail up the canyon to see these large striking yucca relatives. Fragrant, creamy flowers appear on towering 6-8' spikes.

*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.