

wild flowers of the Sierra



why wild flowers?



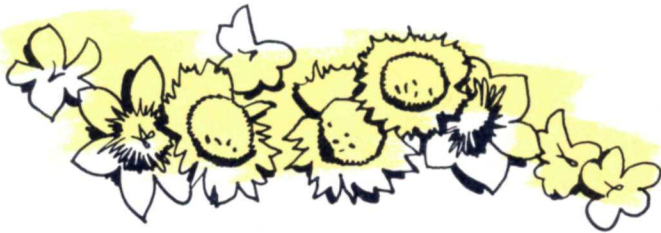
CALIFORNIA POPPY
Eschscholtzia californica

California—"the Golden State" was named for the fields of golden poppies which blanket its valleys and foothills in springtime.

Flowers appeal to everyone: the delight of a child in a field of wildflowers will be reflected when the child becomes adult and gazes again upon familiar flowers—the finest examples of Nature's skill.

But our expanding civilization has drastically changed the face of the earth. Where a colorful blanket of wildflowers once lay, factories and freeways have sterilized the soil forever.

America's National Parks were set apart by our government to preserve for all time small portions of our country unchanged and unspoiled. In the National Parks all is protected, from the great cliffs to the most minute flower.



In this booklet are but a few of the hundreds of flowering plants of California's Sierra Nevada range. All color reproduction material in this book has been supplied as a public service by Richfield Oil Corporation and is taken from its annual publication, *Wild Flowers of the West*.

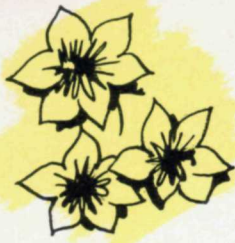
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wild flowers of the sierra



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the foothills

The foothills of the Sierra are the first to be carpeted with wildflowers of countless varieties. As the foothills turn golden brown, flowers are in bloom in the meadows and valleys higher in the range. By summer's end the flowers of the high country will be at their prime.

The flowers in this booklet are divided into three groups according to where they are most commonly found—*foothills*, *meadows and valleys*, and *the high country*.



One of the largest groups of flowering plants is the sunflower family. Many California wildflowers belong to it, including the Gold Fields (*Baeria* sp.), a common foothill flower.



RED MAIDS
Calandrinia ciliata

In late afternoon these small ($\frac{3}{4}$ "), bright flowers open. Common western wildflower 6" to 2 ft. high. March-April.



**YELLOW-AND-WHITE
MONKEY FLOWER**
Mimulus bicolor

Monkey flowers come in many colors and sizes in the Sierra. This species is 6 to 10" high, has $\frac{1}{2}$ " flowers.



PRICKLY POPPY or CHICALOTE
Argemone platyceras

The Prickly Poppy, well-named for its thorny exterior, prefers dry areas. Plants to 3 ft. high with 4" flowers. April-July.



RABBIT BRUSH
Chrysothamnus nauseosus

A shrub common on the east side of the Sierra, 1 to 5 ft. tall. Rabbit Brush has flower heads up to 3" in diameter.



CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE
Aesculus californica

A foothill species 10 to 20 ft. tall with bright green leaves. The showy flowers grow in clusters up to 6" long. June.



FIVE SPOT or CALICO FLOWER
Nemophila maculata

The attractive Five Spot is an abundant flower in foothill meadows. Stems 5 to 10", flowers up to 1" across. April-August.



FREMONTIA or FLANNEL BUSH
Fremontia californica

The furry underside of the leaves of the Flannel Bush gave it its name. Flowers 2" on shrubs usually 6 to 10 ft. tall.



CHAPARRAL YUCCA
Yucca whipplei

“The Candle of Our Lord” is the Spanish name for the Yucca. This member of the Lily family grows 8 to 14 ft. high. May-June.



BLUE-EYED GRASS
Sisyrinchium bellum

Small ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") flowers on stems 10 to 20" high, Blue-eyed Grass is found in many parts of the West. March-May.



More than one hundred kinds of Lupine brighten California's fields.



CHAPARRAL PEA
Pickeringia montana

This spiny, evergreen shrub lends bright color to the foothills. Flowers $\frac{3}{4}$ " on plants 3 to 8 ft. high. May-June.



GOLDEN YARROW
Eriophyllum confertiflorum

The flowers of the Golden Yarrow grow in clusters which average $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Dry area shrub 9 to 24" high. June-July.



WESTERN REDBUD
Cercis occidentalis

The Redbud is an attractive foothill shrub 8-15 ft., with clusters of $\frac{1}{2}$ " flowers. It is also called Judas Tree. (See cover) March-April.



OWL'S CLOVER
Orthocarpus purpurascens

A bright wildflower common in open fields and hillsides, Owl's Clover grows 4 to 15" high. April-May.



INDIAN PAINT BRUSH
Castilleja sp.

The Indian Paintbrush is a common wildflower in many parts of the West. Sometimes called *Castilleja*, its Latin name, it grows 1 to 2½ ft. high.



AMADOR DUDLEYA
Dudleya cymosa

An attractive perennial herb with flowering stems, this succulent grows to 12". Usually found in rocky places. June-July.



MOUNTAIN LILY
Leucocrinum montanum

The beautiful and fragrant flowers of the Mountain Lily grow in a central cluster close to the ground.



SYRINGA or MOCK ORANGE
Philadelphus lewisii

The fragrant Syringa, 4 to 11 ft. tall, will be found in many parts of California. Shoots were used by Indians for making arrow shafts.



Many species of flowers including Purple Owl's Clover and Popcorn Flowers combine to make a colorful blanket.

CREAM CUPS

Platystemon californicus

These flowers grow on stems 3 to 12" high with leaves on lower portion only. In clay or sandy soils.



BUSH LUPINE

Lupinus sp.

One of the largest lupines, the Bush Lupine, may grow to 6 ft. high. Common along foothills of central and southern Sierra.



WYETHIA

Wyethia helenioides

A common perennial along the lower slopes of the Sierra, the Wyethia has flowers up to 4" in diameter on stems 1 to 2 ft. high.



meadows and valleys

Many kinds of wildflowers grow in the middle elevations of the Sierra. In traveling from the San Joaquin Valley to the crest of the range, you will pass through six life zones—the Lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-Alpine. Each zone has plant and animal “indicators” which tell the visitor that he is in that particular climatic belt.



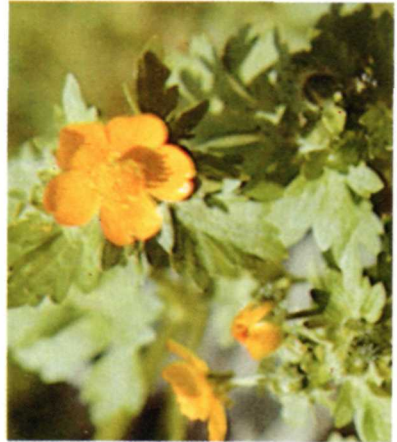
Half Dome overlooks Yosemite Valley and a field of Sneezeweed.



WESTERN AZALEA

Rhododendron occidentale

The fragrant Western Azalea grows along stream sides and in moist meadows in many Sierran regions. Shrubs 3 to 10 ft. tall, flowers to 2". May-July.



BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus sp.

Many kinds of buttercups are found in the West. Their latin name means “little frog”, since some species grown in marshy places.



EVENING PRIMROSE

Oenothera hookeri

A showy Sierran flower which bursts rapidly into full bloom early in the evening. Stems 3 to 6 ft., flowers 2 to 4" across. June-September.



BEAR GRASS *Xerophyllum tenax*

This 2 to 6 ft. high plant was important to the Indians. The roots, roasted, were eaten and leaf fibres used in making clothing. May-July.



PACIFIC DOGWOOD *Cornus nuttallii*

Modified leaves of white, usually 6, surround a small crowded head of flowers on this spectacular Sierran plant, which grows 10 to 30 ft. high.



RED RIBBONS *Clarkia* sp.

A colorful annual, *Clarkia* is found in many parts of California. It was named for Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



TIGER LILY or LEOPARD LILY
Lilium pardalinum

Wet meadows are the usual home of the beautiful Tiger Lily, which may grow to heights of 7 ft. June-August.



PITCHER PLANT or COBRA PLANT
Darlingtonia californica

This unique plant can trap and digest small insects. Grows to 18" with 2" flowers. In moist areas. May-July.



TIDY-TIPS
Layia platyglossa

A bright member of the sunflower family, abundant in many parts of California. Stems 4 to 16" high, flowers to 2". April-May.



BITTER ROOT
Lewisia rediviva

These beautiful flowers may be red or white. This $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2" high plant was named for Captain Lewis of Lewis and Clark. April.



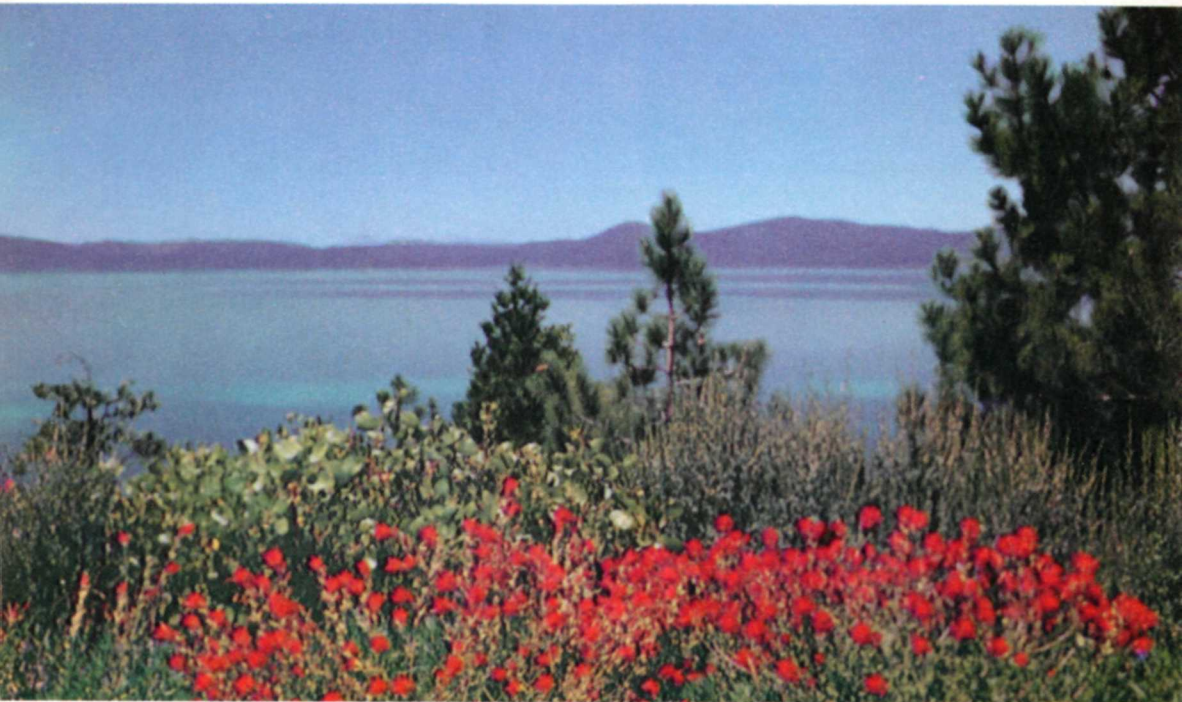
MONKEY FLOWER
Mimulus sp.

Monkey Flowers are among the most attractive of California wildflowers. Their Latin name, *Mimulus*, means a comic actor, because the flowers appear to be grinning.



MAHALA MAT or SQUAW MAT
Ceanothus prostratus

The branches of this plant often root and form a dense mat 2 to 10 ft. wide. In pine woods of the Sierra.



Tahoe, one of the world's largest high lakes, is shared by California and Nevada. The red Indian Paint Brush (*Castilleja*) is a common western wildflower.



Ponderosa or yellow pines form a backdrop for the fragrant Western Azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*). These shrubs, common also along streamsides in the Sierra, bloom during early summer.



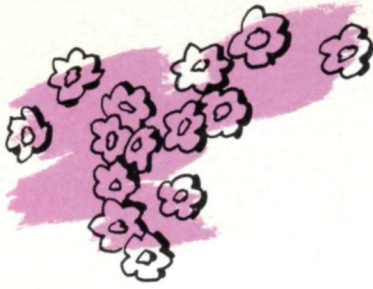
PINK MONKEY FLOWER
Mimulus lewisii

The beautiful Pink Monkey Flowers grow on stems 1 to 2 ft. high in moist places of the Sierra and Cascades.



INDIAN RHUBARB,
UMBRELLA PLANT
Peltiphylum peltatum

Sturdy plant 1 to 4 ft. tall, frequently growing along streamsides. The fleshy leaf stalks, peeled, were considered a delicacy by Indians. June-July.



WESTERN WALLFLOWER
Erysimum asperum

Common on rocky hillsides and in mountains in much of California, the Western Wallflower grows 1 to 2½ ft. high. March-April.



MOUNTAIN VIOLET
Viola purpurea

Grows from 2 to 6" high on short stems from a sturdy root. Common from Southern California to Modoc County. March-July.



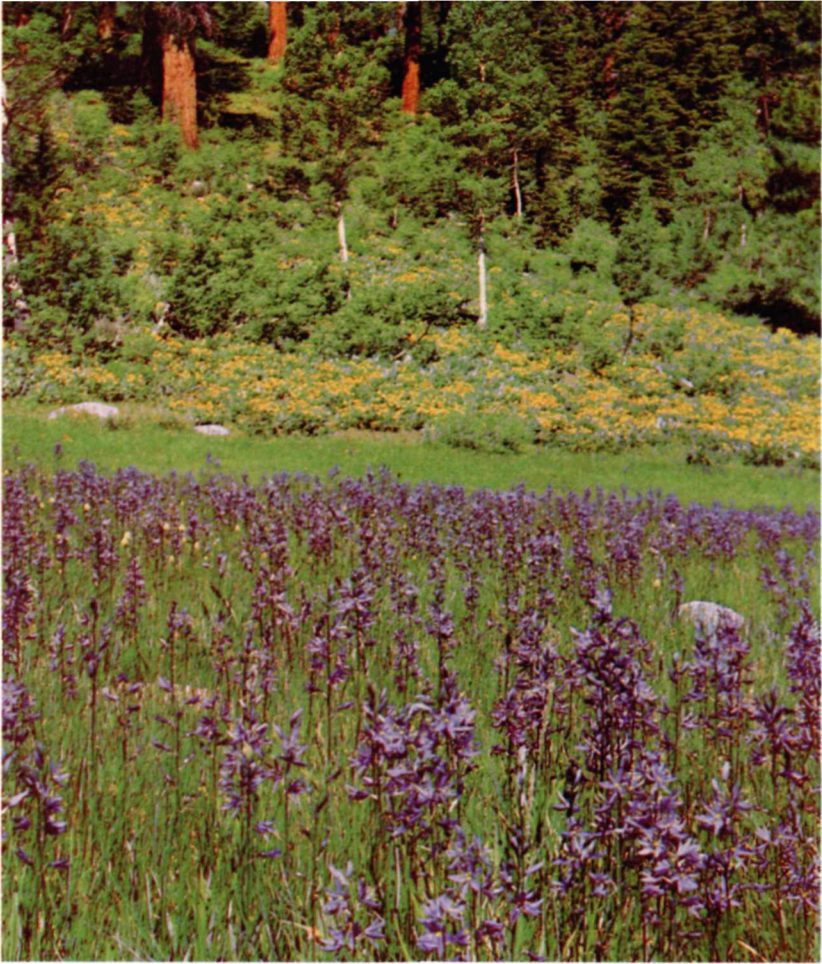
LADY'S SLIPPER
Cypripedium californicum

Beautiful showy orchids on stems 1 to 2 ft. tall, flowers 1 to 6. Grows in many places, Central California to Oregon.



WESTERN BLUE FLAG
Iris missouriensis

Many moist meadows in the Sierra and the northwest are brightened by these flowers. Height 10 to 24", flowers to 3" long. July.



A forest of giant trees looks down on a meadow of blue Camass and yellow Wyethia.



THIMBLEBERRY
Rubus parviflorus

Common along streams and open forests, the Thimbleberry grows 3 to 6 ft. high. Flowers to 2" across. Leaves often velvety beneath.



INDIAN PINK
Silene californica

In open woods of cañons. Plants up to 12" high, flowers to 1¼" broad. An abundant genus in the west. May-June.



Vernal Fall in Yosemite National Park was named for the lush vegetation at its base. Western Azaleas blossom in the foreground.



MOUNTAIN PRIDE
Penstemon newberryi

On rocky ledges, 4,000 to 10,000 ft., both in Sierra and Coast Ranges. Stems 8 to 20" high, flowers to 1½" long. June-July.



BABY BLUE EYES
Nemophila menziesii

Found frequently in moist places on valley floors and hillsides. Stems 3 to 18" long, flowers to 1½" wide. April-July.



SNOW PLANT
Sarcodes sanguinea

One of the most spectacular Sierran plants, the snowplant grows 6 to 15" high. Numerous fleshy flowers on a single stem. June-July.



VIRGIN'S BOWER or PIPE STEM
Clematis lasiantha

The profuse flowers of this plant often brighten an entire hillside. Flowers to 2¼" in diameter. In both Sierra and Coast Ranges. April-May.



YELLOW BELLS
Fritillaria pudica

The stems of Yellow Bells are 3 to 9" high, may bear 1 to 3 flowers ¾" in diameter. April-May.



CALIFORNIA DUTCHMAN'S PIPE
Aristolochia californica

A deciduous climber, Dutchman's Pipe may twine 5 to 12 ft. high on other plants. Flowers to 1½" long. March-April.



MOUNTAIN MISERY
Chamaebatia foliolosa

A common ground cover in the Yellow Pine belt, rarely taller than 2 ft. with 1" flowers. Extremely pungent, also called Bear Clover. May-July.



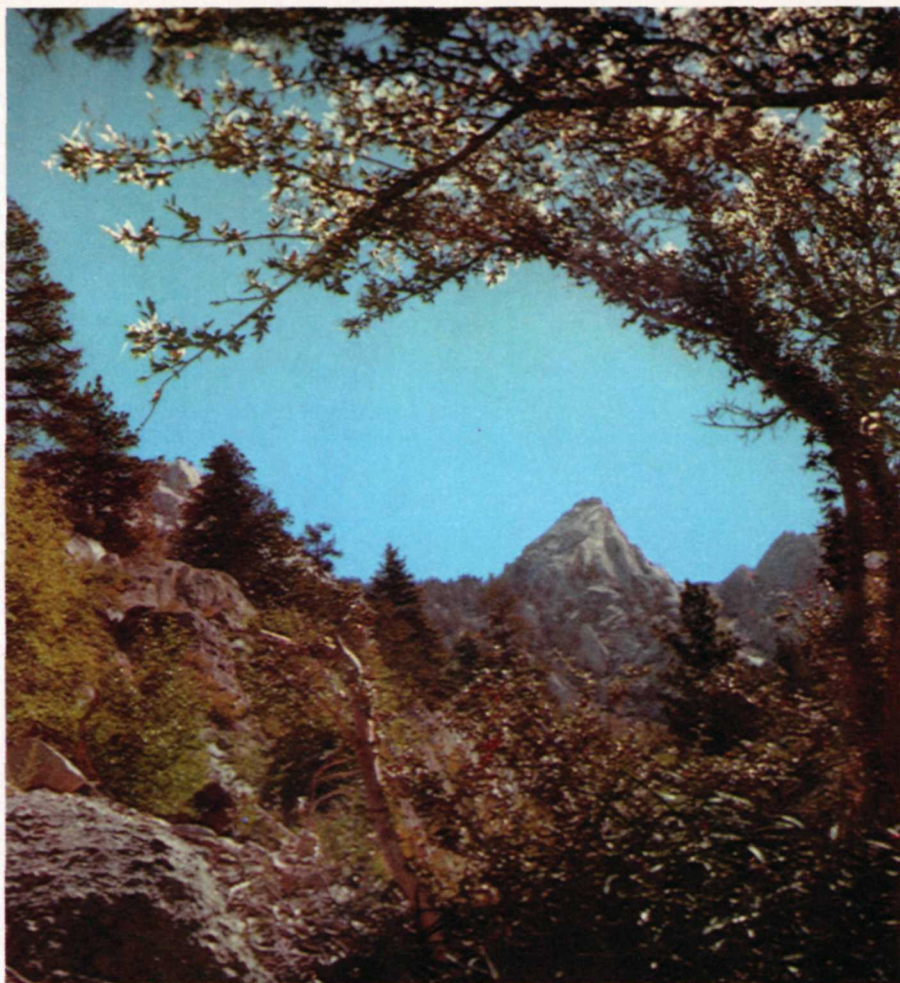
BLEEDING HEART
Dicentra formosa

In shady forests of Sierra and Coast Range; 8 to 18" high, leaves at base of stems. Flowers to ¾" long. April-June.



SPICE BUSH
Calycanthus occidentalis

Often growing in moist places in the Coast Range and Sierra, also called Sweet Shrub from fragrant wood. Height 5 to 9 ft., flowers 3"



Rugged Sierran scenery is framed by Mountain Mahogany.



BLAZING STAR
Mentzelia laevicaulis

Well-named, Blazing Stars grow on shiny white stems, 2 - 3½ ft. high in dry stream beds. Flowers 3 to 4" broad, in clusters.



WESTERN ASTER
Aster sp.

Asters are profuse and colorful in many parts of the west. Their star-like flowers make them easy to recognize.



FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL
Smilacina amplexicaulis

These shade-loving plants are members of the lily family. Stems leafy, 1 to 3 ft. high. Undersides of leaves usually rough with short hairs.



LANGUID LADY or MERTENSIA
Mertensia ciliata

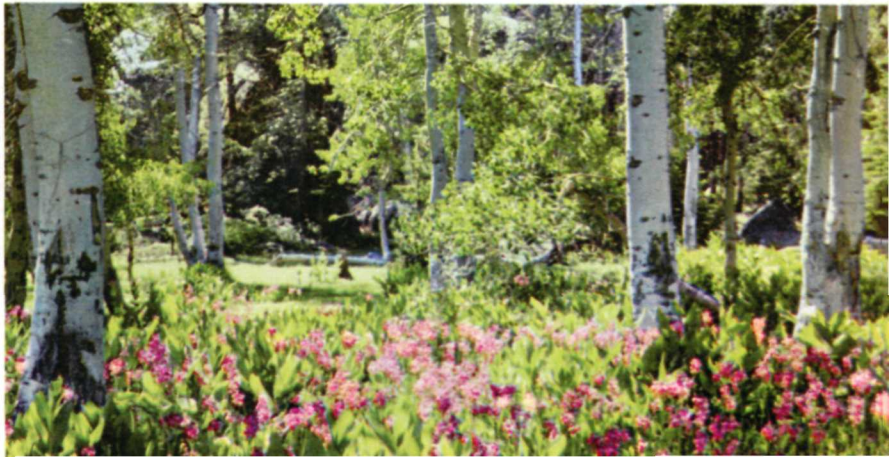
Tube-like flowers are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long on stems 2 to 5 ft. high. In mountains 5,000 to 8,500 ft. June-August.



WESTERN CHOKECHERRY
Prunus demissa

Usually grows as a deciduous shrub 2 to 10 ft. high. Flowers $\frac{1}{2}$ " across in clusters 2 to 4" long. In Coast Range and Sierra.

Quaking Aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) prefer moist areas as do many wildflowers such as Shooting Stars.



the high country

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the Sierra is at the crest of the range. Here near timberline are species which know only a few short weeks of sunshine. In late summer when the flowers of the foothills and meadows have bloomed and faded, the hanging gardens of the high country bring a touch of color and a saying that there is springtime all summer in the Sierra.



On the east side of the Sierra, Sulphur Flowers and Indian Paint Brush brighten a promontory. Minarets in distance.



WHITE HEATHER
Cassiope mertensiana

The bell-shaped white flowers of this beautiful alpine plant grow on stems up to 12" high. Rocky ridges and under ledges near timberline.



ELEPHANT'S HEAD
Pedicularis groenlandica

The "trunks" of the Elephant's Head grow to 1/2" on stems 6 to 14" high. In wet meadows of the high Sierra, northward to B. C.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL
Kalmia polifolia

This diminutive shrub is 1 to 2 ft. high with flowers to 3/4" wide. Found on edges of wet meadows or swamps, 7,000 to 12,000 ft.



Close to timberline Western Wall Flowers and Whitebark Pines overlook Gaylor Lakes near Tioga Pass in Yosemite National Park.



MOUNTAIN BUTTERCUP
Ranunculus eschscholtzii

A bright perennial with erect stems 4 to 6" high. Flowers to $\frac{3}{4}$ " across. Grows in gravelly streamlets on cool slopes. July-August.



DOUGLAS PHLOX
Phlox diffusa

Grows in low mat 3 to 10" across. Flowers may be white, lavender or lilac, terminal on short (3 to 4") branchlets. On gravelly slopes and summits.



**PURPLE ASTER,
MOUNTAIN DAISY**
Erigeron salsuginosus

Usually a single flower up to $1\frac{3}{4}$ " across on a stem $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. Over much of the West, 6,200 to 10,000 ft. July-August.



ALPINE COLUMBINE
Aquilegia pubescens

The showy Columbine is one of the most beautiful of western flowers. Stems 9 to 18" high, flowers nodding, with slender spurs to 1" long.



ALPINE DANDELION
Hulsea algida

The high country from 11,000 to 14,000 ft. is the home of the Alpine Dandelion. Stems 2" to 7" high. Leaves and stems sticky, with soft hairs.



SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL
Potentilla fruticosa

Many branches 1 to 4 ft. high bear flowers up to 1" across. Grows at or near timberline 8,000 to 12,000 ft., Sierra north to sub-arctic.



FIREWEED
Epilobium angustifolium

Named because it often comes up in moist burned-over places, Fireweed has erect stems 2 to 6 ft. high with flowers to 1" across.



BLUE GENTIAN
Gentiana sp.

Several species occur in moist or boggy places throughout the west.



STEER'S HEAD
Dicentra uniflora

Leafless stems 1 to 3" high with 1 or 2 flowers up to $\frac{5}{8}$ " long with tips of outer petals recurved $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Rocky slopes 6,000 to 12,000 ft.



**STICK-SEED,
SIERRA FORGET-ME-NOT**
Hackelia velutina

Erect, velvety stems 1 to 2 ft. high with flowers blue or pink about $\frac{1}{2}$ " across. Name "Stick-Seed" from prickly fruits. June-July.

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