

Phacelia californica

Rock phacelia, California phacelia, California scorpionweed



Photo: gardenia.net

Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 1-3' tall

Leaf: Deeply-veined, lanceolate, crinkly, green leaves with a silvery hairy texture and smooth edges. Most leaves found toward the bottom of the plant. Leaves 4-8" long, at times divided into several leaflets.

Stem: Decumbent or erect, hairy branching stems up to 30-35" long.

Flower: Many pale blue or white, papery, bowl-shaped flowers with long stamens found in a dense, hairy inflorescence that uncoils as it blooms. Flowers higher up on the inflorescence may still be blooming while flowers further down start to go to seed.

Seed collection*: April-September. Seed heads should be removed and shaken upside down into a bag to remove the seeds.

Habitat: Coastal bluffs, rocky areas, woodlands. Endemic to California.

Other notes: Hairs on this plant can cause irritation to some when it comes into contact with skin. Gloves are recommended while harvesting California phacelia.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Phacelia californica

Rock phacelia, California phacelia, California scorpionweed



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Photo: Calflora



Photo: Watershed Nursery



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Asclepias fascicularis

Narrowleaf milkweed

**Bloom Period:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:Duration: PerennialType: HerbSize: 1-3' tall

Leaf: Whorls of 3-5 leaves, each 3-6 inches long and very narrowly lanceolate with a tapered base. Axillary clusters of small leaves are often found. Like other milkweeds, leaves and other parts of the plant exude a milky white sap when the plant is cut or broken.

Stem: Stems are erect, sparsely to moderately branched, green, and smooth.

Flower: Pale gray-pink to dark pink and at times greenish, found in umbel-like clusters, with reflexed corolla and elevated, cuplike hoods or "horns" that give each flower the appearance of a crown. Erect, 4-5 mm in size. Seed pods are long and skinny, almost resembling a green bean.

Seed collection*: July-October. Seeds can be collected once the pods are ripe but ideally just before they split open. Seeds are wind dispersed, so should be placed directly in a bag to avoid losing them.

Habitat: Dry areas in valleys and foothills up to 7,000'. Found throughout much of California.

Other notes: Care should be taken to not get milkweed sap in eyes or mouth. Wash hands thoroughly if you come into contact with the sap.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Asclepias fascicularis

Narrowleaf milkweed



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Photo: elnativogrowers.com



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Eschscholzia californica

California poppy

**Bloom Period:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:Duration: Perennial or annualType: HerbSize: 5-24" tallLeaf: Alternately branching, basal, smooth, blue-green to green, divided into lobed segments.Stem: Erect or spreading, emerging from a taproot.Flower: Individual bowl-shaped flowers made up of 4 large (0.75-2.5"), bright orange or yellow petals found at the end of a long stem. Petals close at night or during cold, windy weather.Seed collection*: March-November. Long, dehiscent capsules emerge from the base of the flower and are ready to harvest when the pods are dried and tan/grey-colored and the seeds inside are dark brown to black. Harvest by either breaking open the pods directly into a breathable bag or simply removing the entire capsule and placing it in a bag. They will eventually pop open on their own, releasing the seeds.Habitat: Open areas throughout much of California, up to 6,500'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Eschscholzia californica

California poppy



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© Salicyna



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weedingwildsuburbia.com



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Eschscholzia californica
1 to 1.5mm wide.

Asclepias cordifolia

Heartleaf milkweed, purple milkweed



© 2008 Keir Morse

Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 1-2.5' tall

Leaf: Opposite, oval, cordate (heart-shaped), large (4-7" long), clasping at the leaf base, and smooth. Often dark green or purplish green, but at times quite purple. Like other milkweeds, leaves and other parts of the plant exude a milky white sap when the plant is cut or broken.

Stem: Stout, branching stems.

Flower: Found in umbels with flowers on long pedicels. Dark red-purple, reflexed, winglike petals and white or pale purple hoods or "horns" that extend above the base of the corolla and surround the central stigma, giving each flower the appearance of a crown. Erect, 4-6 mm in size.

Seed collection*: April-August. Seeds can be collected once the pods are ripe but ideally just before they split open. Seeds are wind dispersed, so should be placed directly in a bag to avoid losing them.

Habitat: Forest openings and rocky slopes in the north coast ranges and foothills.

Other notes: Care should be taken to not get milkweed sap in eyes or mouth. Wash hands thoroughly if you come into contact with the sap.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Asclepias cordifolia

Heartleaf milkweed, purple milkweed



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westerncascades.com

Asclepias speciosa

Showy milkweed



Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 2-6' tall

Leaf: Broad greyish-green, felty, opposite, lanceolate or ovate, 3-8" long leaves with smooth edges on petioles less than 1" long.

Stem: Erect single stem (or at times several stems), hairy, often unbranched.

Flower: Many fragrant flowers found on dense umbel-like inflorescences. Reflexed dark-pink corolla. White or pale pink hoods or "horns" are longer than other milkweeds, resembling a star more than a crown and surrounding darker colored fused anthers. Light green seed pods are somewhat slender and teardrop-shaped with horns or spikes giving it a rough texture.

Seed collection*: July-August. Seeds can be collected once the pods are ripe but ideally just before they split open. Seeds are wind dispersed, so should be placed directly in a bag to avoid losing them.

Habitat: Dry areas, disturbed areas up to 6,000'. Found in much of California.

Other notes: Care should be taken to not get milkweed sap in eyes or mouth. Wash hands thoroughly if you come into contact with the sap.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Asclepias speciosa

Showy milkweed



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Asclepias eriocarpa

Woolypod milkweed, Indian milkweed, kotolo



gardenia.net

Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 1-3' tall

Leaf: Greyish green, lanceolate or ovate to oval, entire leaves covered in dense white hairs and with a large midrib. Can be opposite or in whorls of 3-4, on a 0.25-0.75" petiole, and often have a wavy or folded look.

Stem: Erect, rarely branched, hairy. Rhizomatous so it can often be found alongside many other stems.

Flower: Found in inflorescences of 15-60 densely hairy flowers. Greenish cream, off-white, or pinkish reflexed corolla and elevated, white, cup-like hoods or "horns" that give each flower the appearance of a crown. These horns surround dark brown, fused anthers. Flower buds are particularly hairy. Seed pods are roughly tear drop-shaped and light pale green before they dry.

Seed collection*: July-September. Seeds can be collected once the pods are ripe but ideally just before they split open. Seeds are wind dispersed, so should be placed directly in a bag to avoid losing them.

Habitat: Many habitat types, especially dry areas throughout the Coast Range.

Other notes: Care should be taken to not get milkweed sap in eyes or mouth. Wash hands thoroughly if you come into contact with the sap.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Asclepias eriocarpa

Woolypod milkweed, Indian milkweed, kotolo



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Sisyrinchium bellum

Blue-eyed grass



Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 6-12" tall

Leaf: Narrow, sword-shaped, blue-green leaves resembling grass blades.

Stem: Erect, clump-forming, emerging from a rhizomatous base.

Flower: Clusters of small, blue to violet-blue, six-petaled flowers with yellow centers, each about 1 inch across.

Seed collection*: March-June. Following flowering, dark brown fruits develop, releasing abundant seeds upon maturation. Seeds can be collected when capsules are dry, hard, and dark brown, and seeds inside are dark brown to black. Harvest by breaking open the capsules directly into bag or by removing the entire capsule and placing it into a bag. They will eventually open on their own, releasing the seeds.

Habitat: Open, grassy slopes, woodlands, and coastal shrub, typically below 3000'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Sisyrinchium bellum

Blue-eyed grass



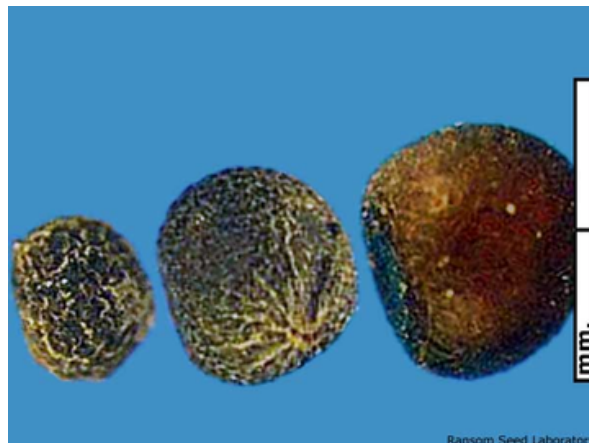
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Ransom Seed Laboratory

Clarkia purpurea

Winecup clarkia



Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Annual

Type: Herb

Size: Up to 3' tall.

Leaf: Lance-shaped, linear leaves arranged alternately along the stem.

Stem: Erect, slender, reddish stems.

Flower: Bowl-shaped flowers with four petals, each 0.5 to 1 inch long, in shades of pink, purple, or deep wine red. Flowers often have a spot or streak of pink or red in the center.

Seed collection*: May-August. After flowering, dry capsules form, which split open when mature to release numerous seeds. Seeds can be collected when capsules are dry and tan/gray, and seeds inside are dark brown to black. Harvest by breaking open the capsules directly into bag or by removing the entire stem with numerous capsules and place it upside down in a bag. They will eventually open on their own, releasing the seeds.

Habitat: Found in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, chaparral, foothill woodlands, yellow pine forests, and mixed conifer forests, from sea level to 6,000'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Clarkia purpurea

Winecup clarkia



©Robert Mathesont



©Jean Pawek

Lupinus albifrons

Silver bush lupine



Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Shrub

Size: 3-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide

Leaf: Silvery-green, palmate leaves with silky texture, each composed of multiple narrow leaflets.

Flower: Dense spikes of fragrant, pea-like flowers ranging from pale blue to deep blue-purple, each featuring a white or yellow patch. Flowers are quite fragrant.

Seed collection*: April-July. After flowering, produces seed pods that mature in late spring to early summer. Harvest pods when they turn tan or gray and begin to dry. Collect pods by placing in breathable bag; they will split open eventually, releasing the seeds.

Habitat: Thrives in dry, well-drained soils, commonly found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, foothill woodlands, and open areas, typically below 5,000'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Lupinus albifrons

Silver bush lupine



© Steve Matson



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© Barry Breckling



© Steve Matson



© Craig P. Burrows

Symphyotrichum chilense

Pacific aster

**Bloom Period:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:Duration: PerennialType: HerbSize: 1 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wideLeaf: Alternate, narrowly oval leaves, 1-4 inches long, decreasing in size up the stem; basal leaves, 1-8 inches long, wither by flowering time.Stem: Ascending or erect stems, often hairless, emerging from rhizomes.Flower: Star-like flowers with violet to pink or white ray florets surrounding yellow disc florets.Seed collection*: July-November. After flowering, prolific amounts of wind-borne seeds are produced; collect seeds when heads are dry and tan-colored by cutting and placing them in a breathing bag to release seeds as they dry.Habitat: Found in coastal regions, including salt marshes, dunes, grasslands, and coniferous forests, at elevations below 1,600'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Symphotrichum chilense

Pacific aster



© Bob Sikora



© Bob Sikora



© Slichter



© Portland State University

Solidago velutina spp. *californica*

California goldenrod

**Bloom Period:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:Duration: PerennialType: HerbSize: 1-5 feet tallLeaf: Lance-shaped, gray-green leaves covered with fine hairs, giving a fuzzy appearance.Stem: Erect, hairy stems emerging from creeping rhizomes.Flower: Clusters of small, bright yellow flowers arranged in dense, wand-like inflorescences.

Seed collection*: August-November. After flowering, seed heads mature in late fall. Harvest seeds when the heads are dry and tan-colored and full of fluffy-looking seeds. Collect by cutting the seed heads and placing them in a breathable bag; you can strip the seeds from the stem with your hand. Be sure to do so out of the wind, as the small, wind-dispersed seeds easily take flight.

Habitat: Found in various habitats, including oak woodlands, valley grasslands, chaparral, and disturbed areas from sea level to higher elevations up to 6,900'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Solidago velutina spp. *californica*

California goldenrod



© Neal Kramer



© Steve Matson



© Steve Matson



© Steve Matson



© Rik Littlefield

Achillea millefolium

Common yarrow



© EcoBlossom Nursery

Bloom Period:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Plant Characteristics:

Duration: Perennial

Type: Herb

Size: 1-3 feet tall and 6-18 inches wide

Leaf: Finely divided, fern-like, aromatic leaves that are 5-20 cm long, appearing alternately along the stem.

Stem: Erect, slightly hairy stems emerging from creeping rhizomes.

Flower: Flat-topped clusters of small, white to light pink flowers.

Seed collection*: After flowering, small achene-like fruits called cypselsae develop. Seeds can be collected when the flower heads are dry and tan-colored. Harvest by cutting the seed heads and placing them upside down and shaking them in a breathable bag.

Habitat: Adaptable to many habitats, including meadows, disturbed places, forests and various plant communities. Widespread throughout California. Elevations up to 10,500'.

*Seed collection times will vary due to location and weather conditions during the growing season. This is a general time seed may be ready. Locations will need to be scouted to get a more accurate timetable for each location.

Achillea millefolium

Yarrow



©Petar Milosevic



© Prairie Moon Nursery



© Sheldon Navie



Yarrow, *Achillea millifolium*

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