

Peak Blooming Periods for Wildflowers in the Eastern Sierra and Surrounding Deserts

March

April

May

June

July

.....Death Valley (lower elevation).....

Best Areas: Jubilee Pass, Hwy. 190 near Furnace Creek Inn, base of Daylight Pass.

Dominant species: desert star, blazing star, geraea, mimulus, encelia, poppies, verberna, evening primrose.

....Eureka Dunes (mid-elevation)

Dominant species: evening primrose, gillias, encelia, desert star, desert five-spot.

.....Owens Valley (2,500-4,000 ft)

Best Areas: Lone Pine, Alabama Hills, Division Ck., Volcanic Tablelands.

Dominant species: gillias, phacelias, blazing stars, daisies, apricot globe mallow, penstemons, cacti, purple sage, buckwheats.

....Bodie Hills (6,500-8,000 ft.)

Best Areas: Masonic Mtn., Geiger Grade.

Dominant species: lupines, mariposa lily, paintbrush, larkspur, buckwheats, mules ears.

....Mono Basin (7,500-8,000 ft.)

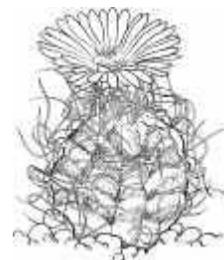
Best Areas: Hwy. 120 – Sagehen Summit, June Lake Loop.

Dominant species: lupines, hulsea, verberna, mimulus.

....High Sierra (8,000 +)

Best Areas: Tioga Pass, And from other major Trailheads.

Dominant species; monkshood lilies, lupine, paintbrush, buckwheats.



SOME YEARS the eastern Sierra is spectacular with wildflowers; other years the blossoms are almost nonexistent (but never totally absent). A "good" wildflower year depends on three things: well-spaced rainfall through winter and early spring months; sufficient warmth from the sun; and the lack of desiccating winds.



Scarlet locoweed – Alabama Hills



Inyo bush lupine – Division Creek



For more information on where to see wildflowers and what's blooming, contact the BLM Bishop Field Office Botanist at (760) 872-5022.