

**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
WILDFLOWERS AND FLOWERING SHRUBS
MARCH 1, 2010**

Wildflower season is just beginning along the south boundary and lower elevations of Joshua Tree National Park. Currently there is a limited bloom that was initiated by winter rains and hopefully will be prolonged by more recent early spring rains. The most noticeable plant in bloom is the Bladderpod, a large yellow shrub that will be seen along the road in many areas. Down in the Pinto Basin Ocotillo Patch there is a good display of red flower at the ends of the tall Ocotillo stalks. Along the road shoulder below Cottonwood, in the Cottonwood Canyon, and along the alluvial fans down to the south boundary there are a limited number of other species just showing up in bloom. Wildflowers putting in an appearance include Chia, Desert Gold Poppy, white Pincushions, the red flowered Chuparosa shrubs, and a few yellow flowered Brittlebush. There are also a number of white flowered For-Get-Me-Nots, and Comb Burs. Green patches of leaf rosettes are forming around many shrubs, and several open flat areas have carpets of green. The best way to see wildflowers at this time is to get out at the first sight of wildflower color and take a closer look. You may find as many as twenty different species in a given area. Below are wildflowers and shrubs that have been seen blooming. Scientific names being used are those currently used in the Jepson Manual. Locations: PB=Pinto Basin, CW=Cottonwood, SB=South boundary, QV=Queen Valley, LHV=Lost Horse Valley, IC=Indian Cove, WC=Wilson Canyon, BR=Black Rock, CF=Covington Flats, NEB=Northeast Boundary NE=North Entrance, PH=Panorama Hts., 49P=49 Palms, WE=West entrance, NW = Northwest Mountains.

RED FLOWERS (INCLUDING PINK & RED-ORANGE)

Chuparosa, *Justicia (Beleperone) californica* CW, SB
Fagonia (Small flowered), *Fagonia laevis* SB
Filaree/Heron's Bill, *Erodium cicutarium*, (Eurasian native) CW, SB, NE
Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens* SB

BLUE FLOWERS

Desert Lavender, *Hyptis emoryi* PB, SB
Paperbag Bush, *Salazaria mexicana* SB
Parry's Dalea, *Marina parryi* SB

WHITE FLOWERS

Alyssum, *Lepidium fremontii* PB, IC
Comb-burs, *Pectocarya* species, including *P. recurvata*, *P. heterocarpa* NE, WC, PB
Desert Tobacco, *Nicotiana obtusifolia* SB
Forget-me-nots, (*Crypthanta* species) Including: *C. angustifolia*, *C. pterocarya*, *C. nevadensis*, *C. micrantha* PB, CW, SB, IC
Fremont's Pincushion, *Chaenactis fremontii* SB
Joshua Tree, *Yucca brevifolia* QV

YELLOW FLOWERS

Barrel Cactus, *Ferocactus cylindraceus* SB
Bladder Pod, *Isomeris arborea* IC, NE, WC, CW, SB,
Brittlebush, *Encelia farinosa* SB
Checker Fiddleneck, *Amsinckia tessellata* SB
Creosote Bush, *Larrea tridentata* SB
Desert Dandelion, *Malacothrix californica (glabrata)* SB
Desert Fir/Pygmy Cedar, *Peucephyllum schottii* SB
Desert Rock Pea, *Lotus rigida* CW
Ground Cherry, *Physalis rassifolia*, SB, NE
Mustards, *Brassica* sp. (exotics incl. *B. tournfortia*) PB, CW, SB
Sweetbush, *Bebbia juncea* CW, SB
Yellowheads, *trichoptilium incisum* SB