

Welcome to the Botanic Garden

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden was founded on January 1, 1940. Situated in Tilden Regional Park's beautiful Wildcat Canyon in the heart of the north Berkeley Hills, the Regional Parks Botanic Garden is devoted to the collection, growth, display, and preservation of the native plants of California. The state is a vast region of many clearly defined floral areas, such as seacoast bluffs and coastal mountains, interior valleys, arid foothills, alpine zones, and two kinds of desert. California embraces nearly 160,000 square miles—imagine 160,000 square miles of California set in a 10-acre garden that can be walked in a day.

The public is most welcome in this garden, which is open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (5:30 in summer) every day except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. All specimens are landscaped into a delightful setting, offering many enjoyable days of exploration, relaxation, and contemplation. To the student, the Botanic Garden offers the premiere Northern California venue in which to study the state's native plants without wandering far from home or dorm. Indoors, in the Visitor Center, lectures and slide shows are scheduled on Saturdays from November through February, and an exhibit pertaining to the native flora is usually to be found in the auditorium. Should the visitor wish to purchase plants, not merely view them, a plant sale is conducted each spring by the Garden's volunteers.

Notable among the many specimens that have been brought in from all corners of the state are representatives of nearly all the state's conifers and oaks, and very extensive collections of California shrubs, grasses, and bulbs. There are representatives of about 300 taxa that are classified in the California Native Plant Society's landmark study, *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*.

THE STATE IN 10 SECTIONS For the sake of clarity of display, the Garden is divided into 10 sections and three subsections. The sections are Southern California (plants designated by sand-colored labels), Shasta-Klamath (green labels), Valley-Foothill (yellow labels), Santa Lucia (orange labels), Channel Islands (black labels), Sierran (blue labels), Redwood (red labels), Sea Bluff (dark brown labels), Pacific Rain Forest (green labels), and Franciscan (yellow labels).

The subsections are: Antioch Dunes (yellow labels), Coastal Dunes, and Pond. Each section and subsection represents a distinctive natural area of California. When

a plant specimen is collected in one of those natural areas in the wild, it must, according to the Garden plan, be set in a corresponding part of the Garden.

THE BEST TIMES FOR BLOOMS Each year in the Botanic Garden the first plants to bloom do so around mid-December and early January, initiating a flowering succession that makes a continuous show for fully seven months. No month, however, is devoid of plants of some attraction or other. The following schedule names the more prominent plants and the months in which they are usually at their best.

January: silktassels, manzanitas, manzanitas and more manzanitas, osoberry, currants.

February: barberries, Dutchman's pipe, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, milkmaids, western leatherwood, bluff wallflower, scoliopus.

March: redbud, pink-flowering currant, California poppy, trilliums, shooting stars, wallflowers, fritillaries, fawn lillies, rock cress, pussy willows; trees begin to leaf out.

April: California rose-bay or rhododendron, woolly blue curls, ninebark, summer holly, main ceanothus groups, Chinese houses, irises, blazing star.

May: monkeyflowers, fremontias, carpenteria, tidy tips, bush poppies, brodiaeas, mariposa tulips, cacti, clarkias, mock orange, styrax, spiraea.

June: western azalea, matilija poppy, fireweed, ocean spray, sweetshrub, mariposas, Donner buckwheat, clarkias, columbines, lilies, sages, Antioch primrose.

July: red and yellow bush penstemons and other perennial penstemons, scarlet mimulus, lilies, Antioch primrose, clarkias.

August: wild buckwheats, late penstemons, gum plants, scarlet larkspur, Milo Baker's lupine.

September: California fuschias, tarweeds, buckwheats, hibiscus, helianthus, late penstemons, evening primrose.

October-November: snowberries; berries of the madrone; fall color: leaves of cottonwoods, deciduous oaks, dogwoods, hawthorn, willows; the vine maple; chaparral currant blooms.

December: first manzanita blooms, colorful twigs of deciduous shrubs.



The Botanic Garden is located in Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Road at its intersection with South Park Drive. From Hwy. 24 coming from Oakland or Walnut Creek, exit at Fish Ranch Road and proceed uphill to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right and follow Grizzly Peak to South Park Drive. Turn right into Tilden on South Park and drive to Wildcat Canyon Road. The Garden is ahead of you on Wildcat Canyon; parking is on the left. From November through March South Park Drive is closed. Continue north on Grizzly Peak and turn right onto Golf Course Road, then keep bearing right. **AC TRANSIT INFORMATION:** On weekends take #67, which stops at the Brazil Building (adjacent to the Garden). On weekdays the closest stop is the #65 at Grizzly Peak and Shasta Road. Call to confirm: AC TRANSIT : 817-1717 (TDD/TTY: 1-800-448-9790), or see www.511.org.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200, fax (510) 635-3478, TDD (510) 633-0460, or info@ebparks.org.



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