



Fiddleneck

Amsinckia menziesii

Forget-Me-Not Family

HABITAT

Fiddlenecks grow in a variety of habitats. They flourish in grain fields, orchards, vineyards, meadows and roadsides.

BLOOM PERIOD

In good years the Fiddleneck's flowers, which bloom March through June, will cover rolling foothills in a deep orange blanket. It grows one to three feet tall.

ORIGIN OF NAME

If you take a closer look at this annual, you may notice a coiled up flower spike resembling the neck of a violin or "fiddle," which is where the plant gets its name. As the coil unwinds, the small yellow flowers open.



Valley Lupine

Lupinus sp.

Pea Family

Lupines like moisture, and in the Livermore Valley, they can be found in low valleys and fields, as well as in Oak and Sycamore groves.

BLOOM PERIOD

Valley Lupine blooms from April through June. Each flower spike rises above the foliage, forming a narrow tower, triangular in shape. It grows six to sixteen inches tall.

ORIGIN OF NAME

The name *Lupinus* comes from the Latin meaning wolf. It was once thought that these plants robbed the soil of rich nutrients, like wolves robbed shepherds of sheep, because they were seen growing in poor soil. However, as members of the legume family, lupines put nitrogen back into the soil. An outstanding attribute of this plant is its magnificent foliage.



Livermore Area
Recreation & Park District
An Independent Agency of District
West Coast Insects, Livermore, CA 94550

WILDFLOWERS

LATE SPRING BLOOMERS

These plants tend to be at their "peak" during the late spring months. They are lush and colorful, taking advantage of optimal moisture, moderate temperatures, and lengthening daylight hours. Look for these easily identifiable plants in the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's regional parks and preserves.



California Poppy

Eschscholzia californica

Poppy Family

HABITAT

California poppies are found nearly everywhere throughout the Livermore Valley.

BLOOM PERIOD

Our beautiful state flower, with its striking orange blooms, flowers from March through November, on a plant eight to 24 inches tall.

POLLINATORS

California poppies have no nectar for insect visitors, but insects are found on the poppy, including spittle bugs, aphids, mealybugs and several kinds of beetles. The flower's stamens offer a plentiful supply of pollen which bees collect to feed their young. Small, dark-colored beetles are attracted to the flowers because of their spicy fragrance. They munch on the flower petals leaving small holes, simultaneously pollinating the plant.



Pineapple Weed

Chamomilla suaveolens

Sunflower family

HABITAT

You will often find this plant in hard-packed trampled soil, disturbed sites, in full sun and in cracks of sidewalks.

BLOOM PERIOD

Have you ever walked through a vacant lot or a trodden field and smelled a sweet pineapple-like odor? You were probably smelling Pineapple Weed whose foliage you have crushed underneath your feet. Take a closer look at this annual's flowers, which bloom May to August, the small blossoms are clustered together in the shape of a tiny pineapple. The plant grows only three to six inches tall.

SEEDS

Spent flowers produce five-sided, egg-shaped, light brown seeds.



Ithuriel's Spear

Triteilia laxa

Lily family

HABITAT

Ithuriel's Spear habitat is in fields, open grasslands, or brush. They prefer clay soils, and depending on the moisture and richness of the soil, the stems can be eight inches to four feet tall.

BLOOM PERIOD

Ithuriel's Spear, also known as Wally Basket, is a perennial herb that blooms from April through June.

ORIGIN OF NAME

In Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Ithuriel was one of the cherubim sent by Gabriel to search for Satan. Touched by Ithuriel's spear, Satan was revealed. A plant lover long ago must have thought that the straight slim stem of the tall flower looked like the spear used by Ithuriel.



Blow Wives

Achyrocline satureioides

Sunflower family

HABITAT

Self-pollinated Blow Wives thrive in moist grasslands, chaparral and open woodlands in the Livermore Valley.

BLOOM PERIOD

Blow Wives usually bloom in April and May, on a plant that is nine to twelve inches tall.

REPRODUCTION

Blow Wives are a spring annual whose flowers are yellow and are not showy. Their attractiveness lies in the flower's one-seeded fruit, each of which wears two rows of white, satiny pappus scales. The longer scale alternates with the shorter, giving the impression that these are double petioled flowers. These small silvery puffs are picked up and spread by the wind.