



Butter-and-Eggs

Triphysaria cristata

Scrophulariaceae Family

HABITAT

Found in grasslands and foothills in the Livermore Valley. Butter-and-Eggs flower from February to May, on a plant one to three feet tall.

ORIGIN OF NAME

The origin of the genus name, *Triphysaria*, comes from the Greeks and means "three bladders" which refers to the inflated pouches of the three lower petals.

POLLINATORS

Bees and other flying insects alight on the flower's lower petals and weigh them down. This causes the petals to open and exposes the shallow nectary. The stamens, enclosed in the purple beak, dust pollen on the insect's back as it moves in and out of the flower.



Red Stem Fillaree

Erodium cicutarium

Geraniaceae Family

HABITAT

Fillaree is a nonnative agricultural weed which is becoming naturalized, covering vast areas of grasslands with a pink haze in early spring. It is found throughout the Livermore Valley in many habitats. Fillaree plants grow one to two feet tall.

ORIGIN OF NAME

The Fillaree's fruit is needle-like with five seeds at the base. When mature, if the fruit is agitated between two fingers it will release its seed with an attached tail. Fillaree has evolved a clever way to plant its seeds. Once the seeds separate, the tail corkscrews, drilling the seed into the ground. The circular motion of the tail gives the plant its common name "clocks."



Livermore Area
Recreation & Park District
An independent special district
8881 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

WILDFLOWERS

SPRING BLOOMERS

These plants tend to be at their "peak" during the cool months of late winter and early spring. They are adapted to moist soil conditions and cool air and soil temperatures as well as shorter daylight hours. These plants are common in the Livermore/Amador Valley. Look for them in the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's regional parks and preserves, and in other local natural areas.



Blue Dicks

Dichelostemma capitatum

Lily Family

HABITAT

Commonly found in grasslands and hillsides in the Livermore Valley

BLOOM PERIOD

Blue Dicks grow from a deep-seated corm (root-like structure), and their flowers bloom atop short, round flower tubes during the months of March, April and May. The plant grows from one to three feet tall.



Red Maids

Calandrinia ciliata var. *menziesii*

Purslane Family

HABITAT

Red Maids are common throughout the valley, in a wide range of habitats.

BLOOM PERIOD

Red Maids bloom during the months of March, April and May. With their delicate blossoms, Red Maids last but one day, opening only in bright sunshine and having a somewhat musky perfume. This wildflower is small, being only two to six inches high.

SEEDS

This annual has a fruit capsule that is 4-7 mm long and contains many shiny, black, lens-shaped seeds. These seeds provide food for many ground foraging birds such as Juncos, Horned Larks, Mourning Doves and Towhees.



Goldfields

Lasthenia californica

Sunflower Family

HABITAT

Goldfields prefer clay and sandy soil in sun-drenched areas, grassy fields and rolling hills. They are found nearly everywhere in the Livermore Valley.

BLOOM PERIOD

This annual herb grows only four to ten inches tall, making a carpet of golden yellow daisies from March until May.

POLLINATORS

In their natural habitat, Goldfields are pollinated by solitary bees that look like flies and that live in underground areas near the blooming flowers. During bloom time, they carve out underground cells where they store pollen to provide food for developing larvae.



California Golden Violet

Viola pinnatifida

Violet Family

HABITAT

California has about 23 species of violets that vary in flower color and leaves. California Golden Violets are found in the Livermore Valley in the grasslands below 2500 feet.

BLOOM PERIOD

These small beauties, only two to nine inches high, bloom from February through April. Also known as "Johnny Jump-ups," the California Golden Violets' markings look like a monkey's face, and that makes them a favorite of children.