



# Wild Plants of Big Break Regional Shoreline

## Common Name Version

### A Photographic Guide

Sorted by Form, Color and Family  
with Habitat Descriptions and Identification Notes

Photographs and text by Wilde Legard  
District Botanist, East Bay Regional Park District



New Revised and Expanded Edition - Includes the latest  
scientific names, habitat descriptions and identification notes



# A Photographic Guide to the Wild Plants of Big Break Regional Shoreline

More than 2,000 species of native and naturalized plants grow wild in the San Francisco Bay Area. Most are very difficult to identify without the help of good illustrations. This is designed to be a simple, color photo guide to help you identify some of these plants. This guide is published electronically in Adobe Acrobat® format so that it can easily be updated as additional photographs become available. You have permission to freely download, distribute and print this guide for individual use. Photographs are © 2014 Wilde Legard, all rights reserved.

In this guide, the included plants are sorted first by form (Ferns & Fern-like, Grasses & Grass-like, Herbaceous, Woody), then by most common flower color, and finally by similar looking flowers (grouped by genus within each family). Each photograph has the following information, separated by '-':

COMMON NAME	According to <i>The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition (JM2)</i> and other references (not standardized).
(Scientific Name)	According to <i>JM2</i> and <i>eFlora</i> ( <a href="http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html">ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html</a> ).
Origin & Longevity	Native, Naturalized, or Waif (not reproducing without human care). Annual, Biennial, Perennial, or a combination.
Family Name	Common family name according to <i>JM2</i> ,
(Bloom date range)	Period during the year when the plant blooms, according to <i>JM2</i> and other sources. '-' if plant does not bloom (ie. Ferns).
Habitat	Habitat description according to <i>JM2</i> and other sources.
ID Characteristics	Plant description with identification characteristics and other notes, based on multiple sources including: <i>Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora, Second Edition (2013)</i> , <i>JM2</i> , <i>Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region (Revised Edition)</i> , and <i>Weeds of California and Other Western States</i> .
Additional notes	Occasionally, an additional note may appear (ie. NOXIOUS weed, INVASIVE weed, Fed & Calif. ENDANGERED, etc.).

Revision: 3/2/2014

## Grass-like - Green/Brown

## Wild Plants of Big Break Regional Shoreline - Sorted by Form, Color and Family

Page 1



**NARROW-LEAVED CATTAIL** (*Typha angustifolia*) Native Perennial - Cattail Family - (May–Aug) - Nutrient-rich freshwater to brackish marshes, wet disturbed places - Plant 4.9-9.8' tall. Leaves gen < 0.4" wide. Flower cluster gap > 0.4".



**BROAD-LEAVED CATTAIL** (*Typha latifolia*) Native Perennial - Cattail Family - (Jun–Jul) - Unpolluted to nutrient-rich freshwater (brackish) marshes - Plant 4.9-9.8' tall. Widest leaves 0.4-1.1" wide. Flower cluster with no gap between flower types.



**GIANT REED** (*Arundo donax*) Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (Mar–Sep) - Moist places, seeps, ditchbanks - Stem 6-33' tall, matures woody. Leaves evenly spaced on stem. Flower cluster 8-28" tall, up to 5" wide. Spikelet ~0.5" long. NOXIOUS weed.



**SLENDER WILD OAT** (*Avena barbata*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Mar–Jun) - Disturbed sites - Plants gen 24-32". Spikelets 0.8-1.2" long. Awns 0.8-1.8" long. Lemma tip bristles >= 0.1" long. Seeds EDIBLE whole or ground for flour. INVASIVE weed.





WILD OAT (*Avena fatua*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Apr-Jun) - Disturbed sites - Plants 1-5' tall. Spikelets 0.7-1.3" long. Low awn 1-1.6" long. Lemma tip bristles < 0.04" long. Seeds EDIBLE whole or ground for flour. INVASIVE weed.



RESCUE GRASS (*Bromus catharticus* var. *catharticus*) Naturalized Annual-Perennial - Grass Family - (Apr-Nov) - Open, disturbed places - Plant 8-48" tall. Flower cluster 3-12" long, ~ open. Spikelet flattened, 0.6-1.2" long. Lemma 0.4-0.7" long, awn < 0.2" long.



RIPGUT GRASS (*Bromus diandrus*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Apr-Jul) - Open, gen disturbed areas - Plant 6-40" tall. Spikelet 1-2.8" long. Lemma body 0.8-1.2" long, awn > 1.2" long. Barbed seeds can stick in flesh of animals. INVASIVE weed.



SOFT CHESS (*Bromus hordeaceus*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Apr-Jul) - Fields, disturbed areas - Plant 4-26" tall. Leaf hairy. Flower cluster 1-5" long, dense, some stalks > spikelet. Spikelet 0.5-0.9". Lemma 0.26-0.4", awn 0.16-0.4". INVASIVE weed.



HAIRY PAMPAS GRASS (*Cortaderia jubata*) Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (Sep-Feb) - Disturbed sites, many habitats, esp coastal - Plant 6-23' tall. Leaf blades 0.1-0.5" wide, sheathes hairy. NOXIOUS weed.



SMOOTH PAMPAS GRASS (*Cortaderia selloana*) Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (Sep-Mar) - Disturbed sites - Plant 6-13' tall. Leaf blades 0.1-0.5" wide, sheathes smooth. Cultivar, rarely escaped. INVASIVE weed.



SALT GRASS (*Distichlis spicata*) Native Perennial - Grass Family - (Apr-Sep) - Salt marshes, coastal dunes, moist, alkaline areas - Stem 4-20" long. Leaves 0.8-4" long, flat, stiff. Flower cluster 0.8-3" long, narrow. Spikelets straw-colored to purple, 2-20/group, 0.24-0.8" long.



BARNYARD GRASS (*Echinochloa crus-galli*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Jun-Oct) - Gen wet, disturbed sites, fields, roadsides - Stem 12-39" long. Leaf blades to 25" long, 0.2-1.2" wide. Spikelet 0.1-0.16" long, floret ~0.14" long, 1 per node. Awns 0-2" long on same plant.





BEARDLESS WILD RYE (*Elymus triticoides*)  
Native Perennial - Grass Family - (Jun-Jul) - Dry to moist, often saline, meadows - Plant 18-50" tall, from rhizomes. Flower cluster 2-8" long. Spikelets generally 2/node. Lemmas 3-7, 0.2-0.5" long, awn to 0.12" long.



RYE GRASS (*Festuca perennis*) Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (May-Sep) - Dry to moist disturbed sites, abandoned fields - Stem 20-40" tall. Spikelet 0.2-0.9" long, > glume, awned or awnless. Sterile shoots at base. INVASIVE weed.



MEDITERRANEAN BARLEY (*Hordeum marinum* subsp. *gussoneanum*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Apr-Jun) - Dry to moist, disturbed sites - Stem 4-20". Leaf blades to 32" long, auricles < 0.08". Central lemma awn 0.25-0.7" long. INVASIVE weed.



WALL BARLEY (*Hordeum murinum* subsp. *murinum*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Feb-May) - Moist, gen disturbed sites - Stem 1-2'. Leaf auricles notable. Central spikelet stalk 0-0.02". Central floret gen = lateral florets. INVASIVE weed.



DALLIS GRASS (*Paspalum dilatatum*)  
Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (May-Nov) - Disturbed areas - Tufted, weedy. Stem 1.6-5.7' tall. Leaves to 14" long. Flowering stem w/3-6 branches. Spikelet groups 2-7, each 0.6-4.7" long. Spikelets ~0.14", paired.



HARDING GRASS (*Phalaris aquatica*)  
Naturalized Perennial - Grass Family - (Apr-Aug) - Disturbed areas, roadsides - Plant 16-79" tall, tufted. Flower cluster 0.6-6" long, unbranched. Lower florets 1 or or unequal. Glume wing untoothed. INVASIVE weed.



COMMON REED (*Phragmites australis*) Native Perennial - Grass Family - (Jul-Nov) - Pond & lake margins, sloughs, marshes - Stem 6.6-13', gen < 0.4" diam. Leaf blades gen 8-18" long, base gradually narrowed. Flower cluster 6-20". Spikelet 0.4-0.6", lemmas smooth.



RABBITFOOT GRASS (*Polygomon monspeliensis*) Naturalized Annual - Grass Family - (Apr-Aug) - Moist places, along streams - Stem 8-39". Leaf 0.4-8" long, 0.16-0.24" wide. Flower cluster 0.4-6.7" long, plume-like. Glume awn > 0.14". Lemma awn gen < 0.1". INVASIVE.





**BALTIC RUSH** (*Juncus balticus* subsp. *ater*) Native Perennial - Rush Family - (Jul–Nov) - Moist to ± dry sites - Stem 14–43" tall, round, not twisted. No leaf blade. Flowers generally 0.1–0.2" long.



**IRIS-LEAVED RUSH** (*Juncus xiphioides*) Native Perennial - Rush Family - (Jul–Oct) - Wet places - Plant 16–32" tall. Leaf blades 0.2–0.5" wide, flat, iris-like. Heads many, few-flowered. Anthers 6, < filaments, flowers self-pollinating.



**SEACOAST BULRUSH** (*Bolboschoenus robustus*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (Summer) - Brackish to saline coastal marshes - Plant 20–60" tall. Stem sharply triangular. Flower cluster dense, stemless, just above bracts. Spikelets 5–25, 0.4–1.2" long.



**TALL NUTSEDEGE** (*Cyperus eragrostis*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (May–Nov) - Vernal pools, streambanks - Leaves basal. Flower cluster bracts 4–8. Spikelets 0.2–0.8" long, oblong, in heads to 1.6" wide. Seeds short-stalked.



**COMMON SPIKERUSH** (*Eleocharis macrostachya*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (Spring–summer) - Common. Fresh to brackish wetland - Stem 8–39" tall, 0.06–0.1" wide. Spikelet 0.2–1.6" long, 0.08–0.2" wide, style 2-branched.



**COMMON TULE** (*Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *occidentalis*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (Summer) - Common. Marshes, shores, fens, shallow lakes, often emergent - Stem 3.3–13' tall, fat, round x-section, blue-green.



**OLNEY'S THREE-SQUARE BULRUSH** (*Schoenoplectus americanus*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (Summer) - Mineral-rich or brackish marshes, shores, fens, springs - Stem 1.2–8.2' tall, sharply 3-angled, not leafy. Flower cluster head-like.



**SOUTHERN BULRUSH** (*Schoenoplectus californicus*) Native Perennial - Sedge Family - (Spring–summer) - Common. Brackish to fresh marshes, shores - Stem 3.3–13' tall, slender, bright green, bluntly 3-angled. Flower cluster somewhat open.





PANICLED / WEEDY WILLOWHERB (*Epilobium brachycarpum*) Native Annual - Evening Primrose Family - (Jun-Sep) - Common. Dry open or disturbed woodland, grassland, roadsides - Plant 8-79" tall, diffuse. Petals 2-15 mm long, white to rose-purple.



COMMON WILLOWHERB (*Epilobium ciliatum* subsp. *ciliatum*) Native Perennial - Evening Primrose Family - (Jun-Oct) - Common. Disturbed places, moist meadows, streambanks, roadsides - Plant 20-48" tall, smooth or short-hairy. Petals 2-6 mm, white to pink.



MONTEREY CENTAURY (*Zeltnera muehlenbergii*) Native Annual-Biennial - Gentian Family - (Jun-Aug) - Moist coastal bluffs, forest openings - Plant 1.2-12" tall. Leaf 0.6-1" long. Flowers pink, 0.5-0.75" mm long, lobes 0.08-0.28" long; flower stalk < 0.0" long.



LONG-BEAKED FILAREE (*Erodium botrys*) Naturalized Annual - Geranium Family - (Mar-Jul) - Dry, open or disturbed sites - Stem 4-35" tall, coarse-hairy. Leaves lobed. Petals pink, 0.3-0.5" long. Sepals w/reddish tip. Fruit beak 2-4.7" long.



GREENSTEM FILAREE (*Erodium moschatum*) Naturalized Annual - Geranium Family - (Feb-Sep) - Open, disturbed sites - Stem 4-24", short-hairy. Leaves compound, leaflets toothed. Sepal tip glabrous. Petals 0.4-0.6" long, pink. Fruit beak 0.8-1.6" long.



CALIFORNIA LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum californicum*) Native Perennial - Loosestrife Family - (Apr-Sep) - Marshes, pond and stream margins - Stem 8-24" tall. Leaves 0.4-2.8" long, gray-smooth, linear. Petals purple, 0.2-0.3" long; 2 style forms.



GRASS-POLY (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*) Naturalized Annual-Perennial - Loosestrife Family - (Apr-Oct) - Marshes, drying pond margins, disturbed ground - Stem 4-24". Leaves 0.2-1.2" long, ~ elliptical. Petals pink, 0.1-0.2" long. 2 awl-like appendages. INVASIVE weed.



BULL MALLOW (*Malva nicaeensis*) Naturalized Annual - Mallow Family - (Mar-Jun) - Disturbed places - Stem 0.7-2'. Leaf blade 1.2-4.7" wide, 5-7 shallow lobes. Bractlets egg-shaped, 0.16-0.2" long. Petals pink to blue-violet, 0.2-0.5" long.





**RADISH** (*Raphanus sativus*) Naturalized Annual - Mustard Family - (May-Jul) - Disturbed areas, fields - Stem 16-51" long. Petals 0.6-1" long, white to purple. Fruit a fat cylinder w/constrictions between seeds. **INVASIVE weed.**



**SPANISH CLOVER** (*Acmispon americanus* var. *americanus*) Native Annual - Pea Family - (May-Oct) - Coast, chaparral, waterways, roadsides, disturbed areas - Plant 2-24", hairy. Flowers white to pink, solitary, bract lobes >> flower tube.



**LEATHER ROOT** (*Hoita macrostachya*) Native Perennial - Pea Family - (May-Aug) - Streamsides, marshes, spring-moist places - Stem erect, < 6.6' tall, much-branched. Leaflets 0.8-4" long, both sides sticky. Flowers ~0.4" long, blue to purple.



**SPRING VETCH** (*Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa*) Naturalized Annual - Pea Family - (Mar-Jun) - Roadsides, disturbed areas, grassland, open areas in oak and riparian woodlands - Flowers 1-2 at leaf bases, pink-purple to white, 0.7-1.2" long. Leaflets 0.16-0.4" wide.



**WATER HYACINTH** (*Eichhornia crassipes*) Naturalized Perennial - Pickerel-weed Family - (Jun-Oct) - Locally abundant. Ponds, sloughs, waterways - Aquatic. Leaf < 4" wide, inflated leaf stalk base. Flower lilac or pale blue to white. **NOXIOUS.**



**ITALIAN THISTLE** (*Carduus pycnocephalus* subsp. *pycnocephalus*) Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family - (Mar-Jul) - Roadsides, pastures, disturbed areas - Stems 8-79", narrow spiny-wings. Lower leaves 4-10 lobed, heads 2-5, flower bracts woolly. **NOXIOUS.**



**BULL THISTLE** (*Cirsium vulgare*) Naturalized Biennial - Sunflower Family - (May-Oct) - Common. Disturbed areas - Plant 12-79" tall. Top of leaves bristly; leaf base forming decurrent wings on stem. Flowers purple, gen 1-2" wide. **NOXIOUS weed.**



**SALTMARSH-FLEABANE** (*Pluchea odorata* var. *odorata*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Jun-Nov) - Moist, often saline valley bottoms - Plant 20-48"+, sticky. Leaves 1.6-4.7" long, egg-shaped. Flowers purple, ~0.2" long, in leaf axis.





**WEEDY CUDWEED** (*Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*) Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family - (Apr–Aug) - Disturbed sites, fields, streambeds - Heads 0.12-0.16" long, yellowish, female flowers < 0.08" long, pappus bristles connected.



**MILK THISTLE** (*Silybum marianum*) Naturalized Annual-Biennial - Sunflower Family - (Feb–Jun) - Roadsides, pastures, disturbed areas - Stem 1-10', stout. Leaves spiny, shiny green w/white veins and spots. Flowers red-purple. **INVASIVE** weed.



**SUISUN MARSH ASTER** (*Symphyotrichum lentum*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (May–Nov) - Marshes - Stem 16-47" tall, not hairy. Leaves 1.6-3.1" long, 0.2-0.3" wide. Flower cluster openly branched. Ray flowers violet, 20-45, 0.31-0.55" long.



**TALL VERVAIN** (*Verbena bonariensis*) Naturalized Annual-Biennial - Vervain Family - (Jun–Oct) - Disturbed, often wet places, fields - Plant 20-60". Leaf 3-6" long, gen clasping stem. Flowers white or purple, 0.2-0.24" long; 8-17/cluster.



**GREEN DOCK** (*Rumex conglomeratus*) Naturalized Perennial - Buckwheat Family - (May–Aug) - Common. Moist places - Stem 12-32" tall, unbranched below. Flower cluster open. Fruit valves ~0.1" long, scarcely winged around the 3 tubercles, smooth edged.



**CURLY DOCK** (*Rumex crispus*) Naturalized Perennial - Buckwheat Family - (All year) - Abundant. Disturbed places - Stem 16-39" tall. Flower cluster dense, valves 0.2-0.24", winged around tubercles, smooth edged. 1 tubercle enlarged. **INVASIVE**.



**FLOATING MARSH PENNYWORT** (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) Native Perennial - Ginseng Family - (Mar–Aug) - Lake margins, ponds, slow-moving streams - Plant fleshy, floating-creeping. Leaf 0.8-2" wide, kidney-shaped, deep lobes, 1 reaching center.



**WHORLED MARSH PENNYWORT** (*Hydrocotyle verticillata*) Native Perennial - Ginseng Family - (Apr–Sep) - Lake margins, ponds, slow-moving streams, canals, seeps, springs, marshes - Plant creeping. Leaf 0.4-1.6" wide, round, 8-13 shallow lobes.





**FAT-HEN** (*Atriplex prostrata*) Native Annual - Goosefoot Family - (Apr–Oct) - Wet places, marshes - Plant 4-48" tall, branched at base. Leaves alternate, blades 0.4-3.5" long, triangular, green, not dense-scaly underneath.



**PACIFIC PICKLEWEED** (*Salicornia pacifica*) Native Perennial - Goosefoot Family - (Jul–Nov) - Salt marshes, alkaline flats - Plant 4-28" tall, branching from base, branches opposite. Flower clusters 0.8-3.3" long, 0.1-0.2" wide.



**RUSSIAN THISTLE** (*Salsola tragus*) Naturalized Annual-Perennial - Goosefoot Family - (Jul–Oct) - Common. Disturbed places - Plant < 5' tall. Stem gen red-striped, widely branched. Leaves succulent, 0.3-2" long, upper spine-tipped. **NOXIOUS.**



**HORNWORT** (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) Native Annual - Hornwort Family - (Jun–Aug) - Common. Ditches, lakes, ponds, pools, slow watercourses; water 0.1–4 m deep, fresh to ± brackish, medium to high nutrient levels. - Leaves forked, serrate, stiff.



**COMMON PLANTAIN** (*Plantago major*) Naturalized Annual-Perennial - Plantain Family - (Apr–Sep) - Disturbed areas - Leaves basal, blades 5-18 cm long, broadly oval, not hairy. Flowers + stem 2-24" tall, flower cluster gen 1.2-8" long.



**CROTON** (*Croton californicus*) Native Perennial - Spurge Family - (Apr–Jul) - Sandy soils, dunes, washes - Plant < 39" tall, covered with short, matted hairs. 1 sex/plant. Leaf blades 0.8-2.2" long, gray underneath.



**WESTERN RAGWEED** (*Ambrosia psilostachya*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Jun–Nov) - Common. Roadsides, dry fields - Plant 1-6.5' tall, upright with long roots. Leaves 1-5" long with narrow lobes. Fruits spineless. Allergenic pollen.



**MUGWORT** (*Artemisia douglasiana*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (May–Nov) - Common. Open to shady areas, often in drainages - Plant 20-60" tall. Leaves gen 0.4-4" long, densely hairy below, some 3-5 lobed. Flower bracts hairy.





**SPINY COCKLEBUR** (*Xanthium spinosum*)  
Native Annual - Sunflower Family - (Jul-Oct) -  
Disturbed, seasonally wet, often alkaline sites, in  
grassland, marshes, watercourses - Plant 4-24".  
Stem node spines 0.6-1.2" long, golden, gen  
3-lobed. Bur 0.4-0.5" long.



**COCKLEBUR** (*Xanthium strumarium*) Native  
Annual - Sunflower Family - (Jul-Oct) -  
Disturbed, seasonally wet, often alkaline sites, in  
grassland, marshes, watercourses - Plant 4-32"  
tall. Stem spineless. Bur 0.4-1.2"+ long.



**EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL** (*Myriophyllum  
spicatum*) Naturalized Perennial - Water-milfoil  
Family - (Jul-Sep) - Uncommon. Ditches, lake  
margins - Aquatic. Stem > 39" long. Leaf  
divisions > 28, paired, 0.4" long. Inflor leaves <  
0.12" long. **INVASIVE.**



**SEASIDE HELIOTROPE** (*Heliotropium  
curassavicum* var. *oculatum*) Native Perennial -  
Borage Family - (Feb-Oct) - Moist to dry, saline  
to alkaline soils, gen near water - Plant fleshy.  
Leaf 0.4-2.4 cm long. Flowers white w/ yellow  
center, 0.12-0.2" long.



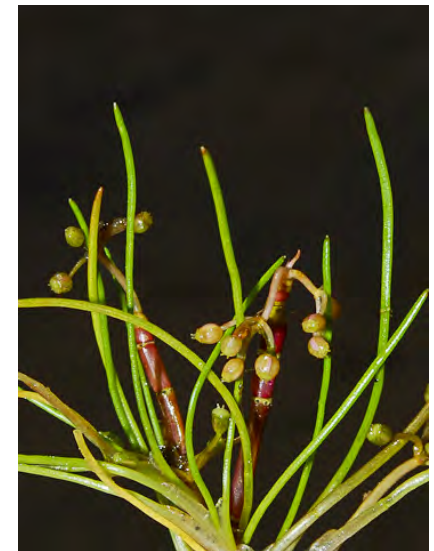
**WATER SMARTWEED** (*Persicaria punctata*)  
Native Annual-Perennial - Buckwheat Family -  
(Jun-Nov) - Shallow water, shores, marshes,  
floodplain forest - Flowers ~0.15" long, 5-lobed,  
white margins, gland-dotted. Fruit black, shiny.



**KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum aviculare* subsp.  
*depressum*) Naturalized Annual - Buckwheat  
Family - (May-Nov) - Disturbed places - Stem  
4-20", mat-forming. Flowers 2-8/leaf axil, ~0.1"  
long, fused 1/2 length, w/white or pink margins.



**POISON HEMLOCK** (*Conium maculatum*)  
Naturalized Biennial - Carrot Family - (Apr-Jul) -  
Common. Moist, esp disturbed places - Plants  
2-10' tall. Stems purple-spotted. Leaves fern-like,  
gen 2x divided. Flowers white. **TOXIC. INVASIVE  
weed.**



**MASON'S LILAEOPSIS** (*Lilaeopsis masonii*)  
Native Perennial - Carrot Family - (Jun-Aug) -  
Intertidal marshes, streambanks. - Plants < 4"  
tall. Leaves tufted, thread-like, cylindrical, < 0.05"  
wide, 0.1-0.3" long. Petals white. Calif. **RARE,  
SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED.**





**WATER PARSLEY** (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*) Native Perennial - Carrot Family - (Jun–Oct) - Streams, marshes, ponds, gen aquatic - Plant 20-60" tall. Young shoots curled, tendril-like. Leaves twice-pinnate, leaflets alike, broad, serrate to lobed. Flowers white.



**GARDEN ASPARAGUS** (*Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *officinalis*) Naturalized Perennial - Lily Family - (Mar–Sep) - Disturbed places, roadsides, fields - Stem 3-10' tall. Flowers green-white, 3-7 mm long. Fruits red, ~0.3" long. Escaped garden vegetable.



**YERBA MANSA** (*Anemopsis californica*) Native Perennial - Lizard's-tail Family - (Mar–Sep) - Common. Saline or alkaline soil, wet or moist areas, seeps, springs - Stems 3-32" long. 4-9 petal-like bracts 0.2-1.4" long, white often tinged red. Was used medicinally.



**CUTLEAF BUGLEWEED** (*Lycopus americanus*) Native Perennial - Mint Family - (Aug–Sep) - Moist areas, marshes, streambanks - Stem 8-32" tall, nodes short-hairy. Leaves 0.8-3" long, w/short stems, irregularly lobed and cut. Flowers white, ~0.1" long.



**WHITE-STEM HEDGE-NETTLE** (*Stachys albens*) Native Perennial - Mint Family - (May–Oct) - Swamps, seeps - Plant 1.6-8' tall, densely cobwebby-hairy. Leaf felty, blade 1.2-6" long. Flowers white to pink; tube 0.2-0.4" long, hidden in bracts.



**HEDGE BINDWEED** (*Calystegia sepium* subsp. *limnophila*) Native Perennial - Morning-glory Family - (May–Jul) - Marshes, riverbanks - Stem climbing, < 13', smooth (hairy). Flower 1.2-2.4" long, white to pink-tinged. Bractlets concealing flower bracts.



**BINDWEED** (*Convolvulus arvensis*) Naturalized Perennial - Morning-glory Family - (Mar–Oct) - Roadsides, open areas in many pl communities - Trailing. Leaf 0.8-1.2" long, w/round tip, pointed lobes. Flowers white to pink, 0.8-1" long. NOXIOUS.



**PERENNIAL PEPPERGRASS** (*Lepidium latifolium*) Naturalized Perennial - Mustard Family - (Jun–Sep) - Pastures, disturbed areas, fields, grassland, saline meadows, streambanks, sagebrush scrub, edge of marshes - Plant 14-47". Petals white. NOXIOUS.





**BLACK NIGHTSHADE** (*Solanum nigrum*)  
Naturalized Annual - Nightshade Family -  
(Mar–Oct) - Disturbed places - Flower 0.4" wide  
w/deep lobes, white. Anthers 0.08" long. Seeds  
0.08". Bracts 0.08-0.12" long, not curled back in  
fruit.



**WHITE SWEETCLOVER** (*Melilotus albus*)  
Naturalized Annual-Biennial - Pea Family -  
(May–Sep) - Locally abundant. Pastures, open  
disturbed sites - Stem 1.6-6.6' long. Leaflets 3,  
0.4-1" long, toothed. Flowers white, 0.14-0.2"  
long.



**ENGLISH PLANTAIN** (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Naturalized Annual - Plantain Family - (Apr–Aug)  
- Common. Disturbed areas - Leaves basal,  
hairy, 2-10" long, <= 1" wide. Flowers + stem  
8-31" tall, flower cluster 0.8-3" long. **INVASIVE**,  
lawn weed.



**DELTA MUDWORT** (*Limosella australis*)  
Naturalized Annual - Snapdragon Family - (Apr) -  
Muddy or sandy intertidal flats, brackish water -  
Leaf 0.4-1.2" long, awl-like, cylindric. Flower stalk  
< leaves. Flowers white, 0.12" long w/rounded  
lobes.



**SEASIDE BROOKWEED** (*Samolus parviflorus*)  
Native Perennial - Theophrasta Family -  
(Spring–summer) - Moist sites - Stem 6-16" long.  
Leaves 0.8-2" long, mostly basal, alternate on  
stem. Flowers white, 0.06" wide, at stem ends.



**PUNCTURE VINE** (*Tribulus terrestris*)  
Naturalized Annual - Caltrop Family - (Apr–Oct) -  
Dry, disturbed areas incl roadsides, railways,  
vacant lots - Sprawling. Leaflets 6-12. Flowers  
yellow, < 0.2" wide. Fruits star-like, spines  
0.16-0.28" long. **NOXIOUS**.



**FENNEL** (*Foeniculum vulgare*) Naturalized  
Perennial - Carrot Family - (May–Sep) -  
Roadsides, disturbed sites - Plants 3-6.5' tall,  
anise-scented. Stems waxy-blue, canelike.  
Flowers yellow. Leaf segments thread-like, edible  
when young. **INVASIVE** weed.



**YELLOW WATER PRIMROSE** (*Ludwigia*  
*peploides* subsp. *peploides*) Native Perennial -  
Evening Primrose Family - (May–Oct) -  
Lakeshores, streambanks, seasonal wetlands -  
Aquatic w/floating-creeping stems. Leaves  
alternate. Sepals 0.25-0.4", petals 0.35-0.5".





**HOOKER EVENING-PRIMROSE** (*Oenothera elata* subsp. *hookeri*) Native Biennial - Evening Primrose Family - (Jun-Sep) - Moist, coastal, slightly inland, sandy bluffs - Plant 16-32", sticky-hairy. Leaves 1.6-10" long, flat. Petals yellow, 1-2" long. Seeds all fertile.



**GOLDEN MONKEYFLOWER** (*Mimulus guttatus*) Native Perennial - Lopsed Family - (Mar-Aug) - Common. Wet places, gen terrestrial, occ emergent or floating in mats - Plant 0.8-60". Flower yellow, gen > 0.8" long; mature bracts flattened sideways, inflated in fruit.



**SHORTPOD MUSTARD** (*Hirschfeldia incana*) Naturalized Biennial-Perennial - Mustard Family - (Apr-Oct) - Disturbed areas - Stem 16-60". Longest leaves 1.6-4" long, dense-hairy. Petals pale yellow, ~0.2" long. Fruit appressed. Fall-blooming. **INVASIVE.**



**BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL** (*Lotus corniculatus*) Naturalized Perennial - Pea Family - (Jun-Sep) - Open, disturbed areas - Leaflets 5, 0.16-0.9" long. Flower cluster 3-7 flowered on 0.6-4.7" stalk. Flowers bright yellow, 0.4-0.55" long, banner often reddish.



**PURSLANE** (*Portulaca oleracea*) Naturalized Perennial - Purslane Family - (Late spring-early fall) - Disturbed soil - Stem 1.2-16" long, spreading. Leaves 0.12-1.2" long, ~ spoon-shaped, flat. Flowers solitary. Petals yellow, 4-6, 0.12-0.2" long.



**BUR-MARIGOLD** (*Bidens laevis*) Native Annual-Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Aug-Nov) - Freshwater wetlands - Plant 8"-8' tall, with round stem. Leaves w/o stalks, simple, 2-6" long, serrate edges. Flowers showy, yellow; rays 7-8, 0.6-1.2" long.



**YELLOW STAR-THISTLE** (*Centaurea solstitialis*) Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family - (May-Oct) - Invasive, roadsides, disturbed grassland or woodland - Plant 4-39" tall. Leaves woolly, extend down the stem. Flower bract spines 0.4-1" long. **NOXIOUS weed.**



**COMMON SPIKEWEED** (*Centromadia pungens* subsp. *pungens*) Native Annual - Sunflower Family - (Apr-Nov) - Grassland, saltbush scrub, disturbed sites - Spiny. Leaves smooth or rough to the touch.





**BRASS-BUTTONS** (*Cotula coronopifolia*) Naturalized Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Mar-Dec) - Common. Saline and freshwater marshes, mud flats - Plant 2-16"+ tall, smooth, ± fleshy. Leaves linear to lance-shaped w/linear teeth or lobes. **INVASIVE.**



**WESTERN GOLDENROD** (*Euthamia occidentalis*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Jul-Nov) - Marshes, streambanks, meadows - Stem < 6.6', smooth. Leaves < 4" long, <= 0.24" wide, w/dark glandular pits. Flowers yellow, rays 0.06-0.1" long.



**GREAT VALLEY GUMPLANT** (*Grindelia camporum*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (May-Nov) - Sandy or saline bottomland, roadsides - Stem non-woody, 2-8' tall, whitish. Leaves gen resinous. Head to 1.2" wide, bracts bend downward.



**BIGELOW SNEEZEWEED** (*Helenium bigelovii*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Jul-Aug) - Wet meadows, marshes, bogs, fens, streambanks, lake margins - Plant 1-4' tall. Flower head spherical, disk flowers 0.1-0.2" long; rays 0.5-1" long, pointing down.



**ROSILLA** (*Helenium puberulum*) Native Biennial - Sunflower Family - (Jun-Aug) - Streambanks, seepage areas, lake margins - Plant 20-63". Flower head spherical, disk flowers ~0.1" long, yellow on sides, brown-purple on top; rays 0.15-0.4" long, point down.



**COMMON SUNFLOWER** (*Helianthus annuus*) Native Perennial - Sunflower Family - (Jun-Oct) - Disturbed areas, scrub, grassland, many other habitats - Plant < 10'. Leaf blades 4-16" long, <= 2x width. Rays 0.2-2" long, disks reddish. Head bracts 0.2-0.3" wide.



**BRISTLY OX-TONGUE** (*Helminthotheca echioides*) Naturalized Annual-Biennial - Sunflower Family - (All year) - Common. Disturbed areas - Stem 1-6.5' tall, bristly. Leaf 2-8" long, covered with prickly bumps. Flower heads 0.8-1.6" wide. **INVASIVE weed.**



**TELEGRAPH WEED** (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) Native Annual - Sunflower Family - (Jun-Oct(± all year)) - Disturbed areas, dry streambeds, sand dunes - Plant 0.3-8' tall, bristly, sticky, branched above. Leaf 0.8-2.8" long, lower clasp stem. Rays 25-40, 0.2-0.3" long.





**WILLOW LETTUCE** (*Lactuca saligna*)  
Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family -  
(Jul–Nov) - Roadsides, grassland - Stem 12-39"  
tall. Leaf lobes entire or few-toothed, no prickles  
underneath. Flowers 5-12, pale yellow, open in  
morning.



**PRICKLY LETTUCE** (*Lactuca serriola*)  
Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family -  
(May–Oct) - Abundant. Disturbed places - Stem  
1.6-10' tall, prickly-bristly. Leaves deeply-lobed,  
midvein and edges prickly-bristly. Flowers pale  
yellow, 0.16-0.2" wide.



**COMMON SOW THISTLE** (*Sonchus oleraceus*)  
Naturalized Annual - Sunflower Family - (All year)  
- Abundant. Disturbed places - Plant 4-55" tall.  
Leaf teeth soft to touch. Basal lobes of upper  
leaves sharply pointed, straight to curving  
upward.



**COMMON DANDELION** (*Taraxacum officinale*)  
Naturalized Biennial-Perennial - Sunflower Family  
- (All year) - Abundant. Esp disturbed areas -  
Stem hollow. Leaves bright green with sharp  
down-pointing lobes. Outer head bracts reflexed.  
Fruit ~ brown.



**CALIFORNIA ROSE** (*Rosa californica*) Native  
Perennial - Rose Family - (Feb–Nov) - Gen ±  
moist areas in sun, esp streambanks - Shrub  
2.6-8.2' tall w/thick curved spines, forming  
thickets. Petals pink, 0.6-1" long; sepals unlobed.



**IODINE BUSH** (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) Native  
Perennial - Goosefoot Family - (Jun–Aug) - Flats,  
hummocks, in alkaline soils - Succulent shrub  
1-5' tall. Jointed stem, each green joint 0.1-0.4"  
long by 0.1-0.2" wide. Leaves alternate,  
scale-like, 0.1-0.2" long.



**COAST LIVE OAK** (*Quercus agrifolia* var.  
*agrifolia*) Native Perennial - Oak Family -  
(Mar–Apr) - Valleys, slopes, mixed-evergreen  
forest, woodland - Tree 30-80'. Leaves convex,  
hair-tuft below in vein axils. Acorns on 1st year  
twigs, shell glabrous inside.



**N. CALIFORNIA BLACK WALNUT** (*Juglans*  
*hindsii*) Native Perennial - Walnut Family -  
(Apr–May) - Along streams, disturbed slopes -  
Tree 20-75'. Leaflets 13-21, 3-5". Fruit 1.4-2"  
wide. CNPS: SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED  
(unplanted).





FREMONT COTTONWOOD (*Populus fremontii* subsp. *fremontii*) Native Perennial - Willow Family - (Mar-Apr) - Scattered. Alluvial bottomland, streambanks - Tree < 66' tall. Leaves heart-shaped to triangular, coarsely scalloped, blade 1.2-2.8" long.



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera japonica*) Naturalized Perennial - Honeysuckle Family - (May-Jul) - Disturbed places - Twining shrub. Leaf gen 1.2-3.1" long. Flowers white turning yellow, 1-1.6" long, in pairs. Fruits black. INVASIVE watch list.



WOOLLY FIRETHORN (*Pyracantha angustifolia*) Naturalized Perennial - Rose Family - (Feb-Jun) - Disturbed areas, fencerows, abandoned fields, roadsides - Plant < 13', gray-hairy. Leaves narrow, entire. Calyx and below leaves often woolly. INVASIVE.



HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY (*Rubus armeniacus*) Naturalized Perennial - Rose Family - (Mar-Jun) - Common. Disturbed areas, roadsides - Shrub w/thorny 5-angled stem. Leaflets 3-5, white-hairy beneath. Blackberry-type fruit. INVASIVE.



PEPPER TREE (*Schinus molle*) Naturalized Perennial - Sumac Family - (Jun-Aug) - Washes, slopes, abandoned fields - Tree 16-60' tall. Flowers white to yellow. Leaves compound, leaflets stemless. Fruits pink to red, 0.2-0.3" diam.



CALIFORNIA WILD GRAPE (*Vitis californica*) Native Perennial - Grape Family - (May-Jun) - Streambanks, springs, canyons - Woody vine to 33'+long. Leaves deciduous, heart-shaped to kidney-shaped. Fruit purple when mature, gen > 0.3" wide.



TREE TOBACCO (*Nicotiana glauca*) Naturalized Perennial - Nightshade Family - (Apr-Aug) - Open, disturbed flats or slopes - Shrub or small tree, waxy-blue. Leaves 2-8" long. Flowers yellow, 1.2-1.4" long. INVASIVE. TOXIC to livestock.



HINDS' WILLOW (*Salix exigua* var. *hindsiana*) Native Perennial - Willow Family - (Apr-May) - Common. Floodplains, sandy gravel - Shrub or tree < 17' tall. Leaf blades 1.2-6" long, linear, mature dense soft-hairy below. Ovary hairy.





ARROYO WILLOW (*Salix lasiolepis*) Native  
Perennial - Willow Family - (Jan-Jun) - Common.  
Shores, marshes, meadows, etc - Shrub-tree,  
bark smooth. Leaf-like stipules. Leaf egg-shaped,  
waxy below. Fruit smooth, bract persistent, dark,  
stamens 2.







