

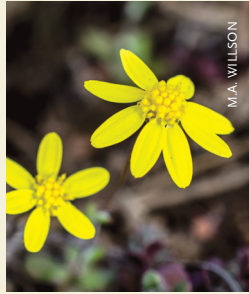
WILDFLOWERS OF WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE



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WILDFLOWERS OF WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

From high desert to mountain meadows, Central Oregon is home to a wide variety of wildflowers. Whychus Canyon Preserve is a great place to enjoy some of the best native wildflowers in our region. Here are ten of our favorites:



Goldfields

Crocidium multicaule

One of our very first wildflowers of the season! Find these dime-size, yellow flowers carpeting the sagebrush flats at the Preserve. Plant height: up to 6" tall.

Blooms: March-April



Yellow bell

Fritillaria pudica

Beautiful yellow, pendant-shaped lily found in grasslands to pine forest. Flowers are 3/4" long and can be yellow to brownish-orange. Leaves are grasslike. Plant height: up to 8" tall.

Blooms: March-April



Sand lily

Leucocrinum montanum

Another early bloomer found in sagebrush flats and pine forests. It grows in rosette-like bunches with 4-8 star-shaped white flowers per bunch. Plant height: up to 4" tall.

Blooms: April-May



Spreading phlox

Phlox diffusa

Low-growing flower that prefers rocky crevices and exposed locations. Flowers are pink, purple, and white and create a mass of color. Plant height: up to 4" tall.

Blooms: April-May



Common larkspur

Delphinium nuttallianum

Distinctive dark purple flowers shaped like a claw (larkspur = a lark's spur or claw). Flowers cluster in groups of 3-12 atop a slender stem. Grows in a wide variety of habitats. Plant height: 6-16" tall.

Blooms: May-June

Threadleaf phacelia

Phacelia linearis

Dense cluster of small, light purple flowers that grow on single or branched stems. Found in dry sandy soils in our sagebrush meadows. Plant height: up to 20" tall.

Blooms: May-June



Foothill death camas

Toxicoscordion paniculatum

Delicate, white flowers on a tall stem. Found in open grasslands and meadows. Poisonous! It is often confused (especially when not blooming) with blue camas, whose bulbs are edible. Plant height: 8-20" tall.

Blooms: May-June



Arrowleaf balsamroot

Balsamorhiza sagittata

One of our showiest wildflowers! Large, bright yellow sunflower-like faces. Grows in clumps in a wide variety of habitats. Plant height: 12-36" tall.

Blooms: May-June



Mariposa lily

Calochortus macrocarpus

A sagebrush jewel that blooms intensely lavender on tall stems. Mariposa means butterfly in Spanish, kalo and chortos are Greek for beautiful and grass. Plant height: 8-23" tall.

Blooms: June-July



Scarlet gilia

Ipomopsis aggregata

Trumpet-shaped, bright red flowers on stems up to 3' tall. Flower color may vary from scarlet, speckled with white, to pale pink speckled with red. Grows in dry soils in woodland openings and meadows.

Blooms: June-August



Wildflower Fun Facts



Not just a pretty face! Native wildflowers provide important nectar and pollen resources for native bees, butterflies, and other insects. Other wildlife rely on their seeds and leaves for food.



From food, medicine, ceremony, or construction, many native plants and wildflowers have cultural significance to Indigenous people of Central Oregon.



Wildflowers, like all plants, help reduce the impact of climate change and help clean our air via photosynthesis. This process that they use to create their own food pulls carbon dioxide from the air, helping keep our air clean and removing climate change-causing gasses.



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