

A Picture Guide to Interesting Flowering Plants

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Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

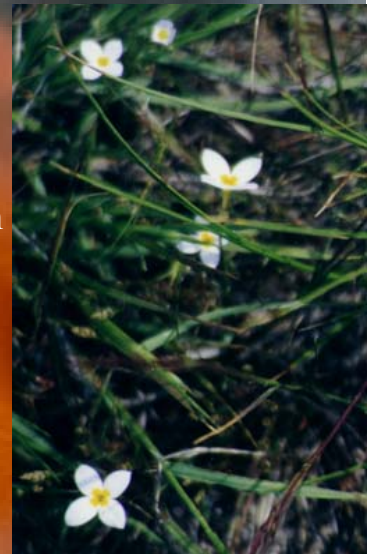
Heath Family

Heathlands at Wasque and Long Point are composed of many species. Some, such as Black Huckleberry, are highly flammable. Others such as Bearberry resist flames. A spring burn can char all vegetation surrounding Bearberry, while barely affecting this species (left). Bearberry forms low mats of dense vegetation and have flowers that are bell-shaped like blueberries (similar in part because they are in the same family). They produce large red fruits similar to cranberries (also a heath species), but they should not be eaten.

Bluets (*Hedyotis caerulea*)

Madder Family

This species is one of the first plants to flower in the spring. It continues to flower until the beginning of June. Bluets occur in open areas of sandplains, mainly where high soil disturbance has occurred. Like violets in the sandplains, these flowers are patchy, occurring in white patches across the landscape.



Yellow Stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)

Amaryllis Family

This species occurs at Long Point in only one known location where the soils are highly disturbed. It blooms in May and is found alongside Bluets in many cases.



Golden Heather (*Hudsonia ericoides*)

Rockrose Family

A low-lying shrub with yellow flowers, Golden Heather blooms beginning in May. This species is found in open areas of the sandplain grasslands and coastal heathlands.

Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*)

Rose Family

Beach Plum blooms beginning in late May prior to leafing out. Fruit is picked in late summer to make jellies and is excellent for wildlife. This species occurs on well developed dunes or in sandy soils near the shore.



Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*)

Beech Family

Blooming in late May, Scrub Oak is a common shrub in open areas. Many rare moth species feed on Scrub Oak as larvae (caterpillars). Scrub Oaks dominate frost bottoms, a glacial relict.



Late Lowbush Blueberry **(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)**

Heath Family

Three species of blueberries bloom in May. Their berries ripen in the summer. Late lowbush blueberry is low-lying and is abundant, especially at Wasque.



Nantucket Shadbush (*Amelanchier nantucketensis*)

Rose Family

Nantucket Shadbush blooms in May. This species is a rare shrub that occurs only on the Islands of Massachusetts. Shadbush bloom when the shad are arriving in the spring. It is common at Long Point and Wasque.

Dwarf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis*)

Rose Family

This small plant blooms beginning in early May or late April. This species is a common plant spreading through the sandplains. Its leaves are often mistaken for wild strawberry, which also occurs in these open habitats.



Chokeberry (*Aronia spp.*)

Rose Family

Two species of chokeberry exist in the sandplains: Red and Black Chokeberry. Both closely resemble one another. This species blooms beginning in May and is found in the sandplains along with other shrubs such as Northern Bayberry and Black Huckleberry.



Rockrose (*Helianthemum spp.*)

Rockrose Family

Four species of rockrose inhabit the sandplains.

Each of these species is similar in that they all have bright yellow flowers. One of the four species, Bushy Rockrose, is a rare, state-listed plant. These species bloom in late May and early June.



Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)

Rose Family

Within the sandplains are brambles: dewberries and blackberries. These species all share similar flowers and berries, which are edible in late summer. Blackberries bloom beginning in late May.

Blue Toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*)

Figwort Family

Blue Toadflax is a common plant in the dunes of Cape Poge. It blooms beginning in May. The flowers are small, yet can be seen if one looks carefully.



Sandplain Blue-eyed Grass **(*Sisyrinchium fuscatum*)**

Iris Family

This is a rare species characteristic of the sandplains. It blooms beginning in June. Several species of blue-eyed grass occur on Martha's Vineyard, yet the Sandplain Blue-eyed Grass grows only in the sandplains, in more diverse, disturbed areas.



Yellow Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*)

Composite Family

This thistle blooms in late May and June. It is a common species in the sandplains. The flower head is actually composed of hundreds of tiny flowers, each of which will produce a seed.

Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*)

Legume Family

This beach pea blooms beginning in June. Its nitrogen-fixing capabilities enrich the sterile soils of beach dunes. It occurs along with Beach Grass. Later in the summer, beans can be seen. They are edible.



Beach Heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*)

Rockrose Family

This species is closely related to the Golden Heather found in the sandplains. Found in the foreground of this picture, Beach Heather grows in the sand dunes of Cape Poge. Pictured here is a dune near The Cedars.



Arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Honeysuckle Family

Native Americans made arrows from the narrow, straight branches of this shrub. Arrow-wood blooms in June and is abundant in the sandplains.

Field Thistle (*Cirsium discolor*)

Composite Family

This invasive exotic species blooms in July and is common throughout the sandplains. Its spiny leaves deter herbivores such as deer or grazing sheep.



Goat's Rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*)

Legume Family

Goat's Rue blooms in July and occurs in dense patches within the sandplains. Its flowers are creamy rose.



Wild Morning Glory (*Calystegia sepium*)

Morning Glory Family

This species blooms during the summer, predominately in July. It is found in shrubby areas in the sandplains, near dunes. This species is more common at Long Point.



Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*)

Rose Family

Roses range from Virginia Rose to Salt-spray Rose. Most of these species bloom throughout the summer, predominately in July. Roses are abundant and form dense patches. The rose hips (fruit) are edible and high in Vitamin C.



Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctora*)

Legume Family

Wild Indigo blooms in mid summer. It is a common plant in open areas of the sandplains. In the fall, its stem breaks and the plant rolls around like tumbleweeds, dispersing its seed.

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

Composite Family

This species blooms in August, yet retains its white blooms into the fall, as its seeds develop. This species favors grassy areas and is fairly common.





Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Composite Family

This species blooms in July and is commonly found in the sandplains at both Wasque and Long Point. It appears similar to Queen Ann's Lace, which is in the parsley family and occurs in richer meadows.



Sickle-leaved Golden Aster (*Chrysopsis falcata*)

Composite Family

This aster blooms throughout the late summer on dunes and within heavily disturbed areas of the sandplains. Little Copper and other insects (see photo) feed upon its nectar.



Racemed Milkwort (*Polygala polygama*)

Milkwort Family

This species blooms predominately in July in the sandplains, mainly in grassy areas. In this photograph it is blooming along with two common grasses of the sandplains: Sheep Fescue and Poverty Grass.

Wood Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)

Lily Family

Wood Lily occurs at Long Point in several locations. This species is more uncommon on our properties. It blooms in August.



Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Pokeweed Family

Pokeweed occurs in more disturbed areas. Its small flowers bloom in the summer, but its purple berries in the fall are more conspicuous and provide food for birds. The berries are, however, toxic to humans.



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

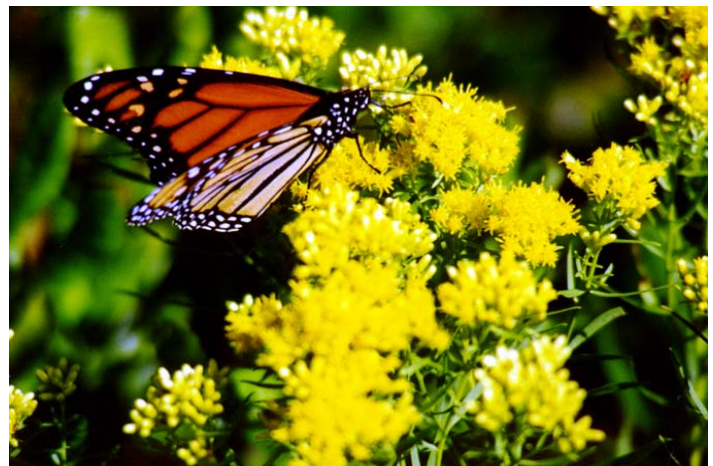
Milkweed Family

This species blooms in August and September, providing food for many insect species feeding on its nectar. It is uncommon at both Wasque and Long Point.

Grass-leaved and Lance-leaved Goldenrods (*Euthamia spp.*)

Composite Family

These two goldenrods are abundant throughout the sandplains, often associated with shrubs such as Northern Bayberry. Their leaves are long and thin, distinguishing them from other goldenrods.



Northern Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa*)

Composite Family

This brilliant purple flower is common at Wasque. It is a rare species found only in open areas such as the sandplains and blooms in late summer and early fall.



Downy Goldenrod (*Solidago puberula*)

Composite Family

Downy Goldenrods are fairly common. They bloom in the sandplains in September.

Asters (*Aster spp.*)

Composite Family

Asters with purple flowers such as Showy Aster and Stiff Aster cover the sandplains with color in September. They occur in patches along with Little Bluestem, the tall brown grass in the background of this photo.



Asters (*Aster spp.*)

Composite Family

Asters with white flowers are also common in the sandplains. Several species exist, ranging from the Flat-topped Asters, which bloom during the peak of summer, to the Heath Aster, pictured here, which blooms in late summer.

Jointweed (*Polygonella articulata*)

Buckwheat Family

This species (pictured below) has very small white flowers which bloom in late summer. This species is common in sandy areas of Cape Poge and on the sandplains of Wasque.



Rough-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)

Composite Family
Rough-stemmed Goldenrod occurs in thick patches with large drooping flower clusters.



Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)

Composite Family

Seaside Goldenrod (left) is abundant on dunes and saltmarshes and is the last goldenrod to bloom. It blooms into October and is characterized by thick fleshy leaves.