



# PLANTS AT THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species



The Santa Susana Field Laboratory is a former federal government rocket engine testing and energy research facility in Southern California. The site sits in the middle of a critical wildlife linkage connecting inland Sierra Madre Mountains to the Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Coast. It is home to endangered plant species and abundant wildlife; deer, bobcats, coyotes, cougars and raptors roam wild.

A number of organizations are involved in on-site biological studies; the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society performs bird banding and owl surveys, the Southwestern Herpetologist Society studies reptiles and amphibians and the Pollinator Partnership researches pollinator populations.

As a result of high-technology testing and research, chemicals seeped into the soil and groundwater. Boeing is committed to a comprehensive and protective cleanup that protects the ecosystem and preserves the site as open space for future generations.

Prepared by The Boeing Company, with assistance from Chris Dunn and Matt Ingamells, Padre Associates, Inc. List of plants and flowers is not inclusive. Cover photo courtesy of Chris Dunn, Padre Associates, Inc.



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Measurements denote the height of plants unless otherwise indicated. Illustrations are not to scale. Species are defined by the following terms: **S** = shrub, **T** = tree, **AH** = annual herb, **BH** = biennial herb, **PH** = perennial herb, **PV** = perennial vine.

N.B. – Many edible wild plants have poisonous mimics. Never eat a wild plant or fruit unless you are absolutely sure it is safe to do so. The publisher makes no representation or warranties with respect to the accuracy, completeness, correctness or usefulness of this information and specifically disclaims any implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. The advice, strategies and/or techniques contained herein may not be suitable for all individuals. The publisher shall not be responsible for any physical harm (up to and including death), loss of profit or other commercial damage. The publisher assumes no liability brought or instituted by individuals or organizations arising out of or relating in any way to the application and/or use of the information, advice and strategies contained herein.

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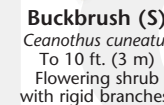
WHITE FLOWERS



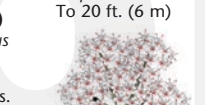
**Manzanita (S)**  
*Arctostaphylos glauca*  
To 15 ft. (4.5 m)



**Blue Elderberry (T)**  
*Sambucus nigra*  
ssp. *caerulea*  
To 20 ft. (6 m)



**Buckbrush (S)**  
*Ceanothus cuneatus*  
To 10 ft. (3 m)  
Flowering shrub with rigid branches.



**California Blackberry (PV)**  
*Rubus ursinus*  
To 6.5 ft. (2 m) long



**California Buckwheat (S)**  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum*  
var. *fasciculatum*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)  
Spreading shrub has rounded clusters of tiny, pinkish or white flowers.



**Chamise (S)**  
*Adenostoma fasciculatum*  
To 7 ft. (2.1 m)  
Wiry shrub has shredding bark and bundled, needle-like leaves. Small white flowers bloom at stem tips in spring.



**Catalina Mariposa Lily (PH)**  
*Calochortus catalinae*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)



**Chaparral Honeysuckle (S)**  
*Lonicera subspicata*  
var. *denudata*  
To 8 ft. (2.4 m)



**Chaparral Morning Glory (PV)**  
*Calystegia macrostegia*  
ssp. *cyclostegia*  
To 12 ft. (3.6 m) long



**Cliff Aster (PH)**  
*Malacothrix saxatilis tenuifolia*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)



**Coyote Brush (S)**  
*Baccharis pilularis*  
To 10 ft. (3 m)



**Eucrypta (AH)**  
*Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

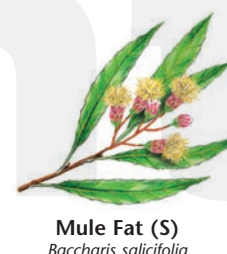
WHITE FLOWERS



**Hoary Leaf Ceanothus (S)**  
*Ceanothus ilicifolia*  
To 12 ft. (3.6 m)



**Jimsonweed (PH)**  
*Datura wrightii*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)  
Flowers bloom at night and are pollinated by moths.



**Mule Fat (S)**  
*Baccharis salicifolia*  
To 10 ft. (3 m)  
Shrub has yellow-green foliage and yellowish flowers.



**Soap Plant (PH)**  
*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)



**Large-flowered Cryptantha (AH)**  
*Cryptantha intermedia*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)



**Laurel Sumac (S)**  
*Malosma laurina*  
To 20 ft. (6 m)



**Wild Cucumber (PV)**  
*Marah macrocarpus*  
To 23 ft. (7 m) long



**Sugarbush (S)**  
*Rhus ovata*  
To 15 ft. (4.5 m)  
Same family as poison-oak.



**Holly-leaved Cherry (S/T)**  
*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*  
To 25 ft. (7.6 m)



**Indian Milkweed (PH)**  
*Asclepias eriocarpa*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Narrow-leaf Milkweed (AH)**  
*Asclepias fascicularis*  
To 40 in. (1 m)



**Poison Oak (S)**  
*Toxicodendron diversilobum*  
To 12 ft. (3.6 m)  
Leaves, often glossy, have 3 rounded or oak-like leaflets that turn red in autumn. Contact may cause red, itchy rash.

WHITE FLOWERS



**Toyon (T)**  
*Heteromeles arbutifolia*  
To 30 ft. (9 m)  
Thick oblong leaves are sharp-toothed. Apple-like fruits appear in autumn.



**White Sage (S)**  
*Salvia apiana*  
To 40 in. (1 m)



**Green Everlasting (S)**  
*Pseudognaphalium californicum*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Twiggly Wreath Plant**  
*Stephanomeria virgata*  
To 12 in. (30 cm)

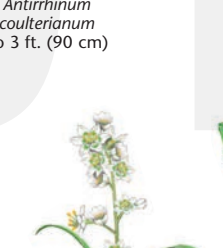
WHITE FLOWERS



**Wand Buckwheat (S)**  
*Eriogonum elongatum*  
var. *elongatum*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)



**Yarrow (PH)**  
*Achillea millefolium*  
To 40 in. (1 m)  
Leaves are fern-like. Each tiny flower has 4-6 rays.



**Star-lily**  
*Toxicoscordion fremontii*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)  
Has terminal cluster of star-shaped flowers.



**Woodland Star**  
*Lithophragma affine*  
To 20 in. (50 cm)

WHITE FLOWERS



**White Chaparral Currant (S)**  
*Ribes indecorum*  
To 6 ft. (1.8 m)



**Our Lord's Candle (S)**  
*Hesperoyucca whipplei*  
To 8 ft. (2.4 m)



**White Nightshade**  
*Solanum douglasii*  
To 40 in. (1 m)



**Fremont Cottonwood (T)**  
*Populus fremontii*  
To 80 ft. (24 m)  
Heart-shaped leaves have wavy edges and flattened stems. Flowers are succeeded by cottony seeds.

GREENISH FLOWERS



**Red Willow (T)**  
*Salix laevigata*  
To 45 ft. (14 m)



**Coast Live Oak (T)**  
*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*  
To 80 ft. (24 m)  
Leaves are oblong and curled upward.



**Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany (S)**  
*Cercocarpus betuloides* var. *betuloides*  
To 20 ft. (6 m)  
Yellowish flowers are succeeded by fruits with a feathery plume at the tip.



**Southern California Black Walnut (T)**  
*Juglans californica*  
To 40 ft. (12 m)  
Leaves have 11-15 leaflets.



**Scrub Oak (S)**  
*Quercus berberidifolia*  
To 15 ft. (4.5 m)



**Arroyo Willow (T)**  
*Salix lasiolepis*  
To 30 ft. (9 m)  
Lance-shaped leaves are strap-shaped and sometimes finely toothed. Flowers bloom in long catkins in spring.



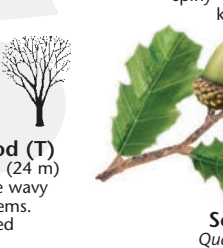
**Bird's Beak (AH)**  
*Cordylanthus rigidus*  
ssp. *setigerus*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**California Bay (T)**  
*Umbellularia californica*  
To 80 ft. (24 m)  
Narrow leaves exude spicy scent when crushed. Greenish berries ripen in autumn.



**Western Sycamore (T)**  
*Platanus racemosa*  
To 80 ft. (24 m)  
Star-shaped leaves and spiny 'buttonball' fruits are key field marks.



**Shining Lomatium (PH)**  
*Lomatium lucidum*  
To 18 in. (45 cm)



**Shining Lomatium (PH)**  
*Lomatium lucidum*  
To 18 in. (45 cm)



**Holly-leaved Redberry (S)**  
*Rhamnus ilicifolia*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)



**Western Sycamore (T)**  
*Platanus racemosa*  
To 80 ft. (24 m)  
Star-shaped leaves and spiny 'buttonball' fruits are key field marks.



**Scrub Oak (S)**  
*Quercus berberidifolia*  
To 15 ft. (4.5 m)

**YELLOW & ORANGE FLOWERS**



**Bush Monkeyflower (S)**  
*Mimulus aurantiacus*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**Buttercup (PH)**  
*Ranunculus californicus*  
To 28 in. (70 cm)



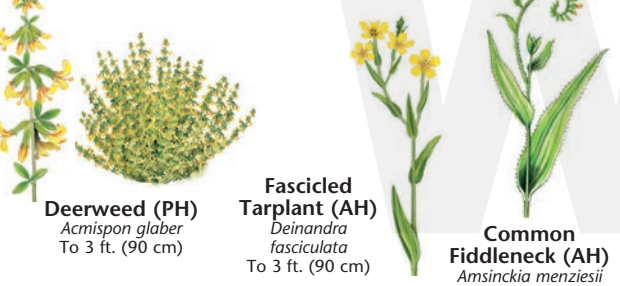
**California Bush Sunflower (S)**  
*Encelia californica*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**California Sagebrush (S)**  
*Artemisia californica*  
To 8 ft. (2.5 m)



**Canyon Sunflower (PH)**  
*Venegasia carpesioides*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)

**Common Goldenstar (AH)**  
*Bloomeria crocea*  
var. *crocea*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)



**Deerweed (PH)**  
*Acmispon glaber*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

**Fascicled Tarplant (AH)**  
*Deinandra fasciculata*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

**YELLOW & ORANGE FLOWERS**



**Goldfields (AH)**  
*Lasthenia californica*  
To 10 in. (25 cm)

**Humboldt Lily (PH)**  
*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *ocellatum*  
To 6 ft. (1.8 m)



**Johnny Jump-up (AH)**  
*Viola pedunculata*  
To 15.3 in. (39 cm)

**Yellow Mariposa Lily (AH)**  
*Calochortus clavatus*  
var. *pallidus*  
To 40 in. (1 m)



**Santa Susana Tarplant (S)**  
*Deinandra minthornii*  
To 40 in. (1 m)

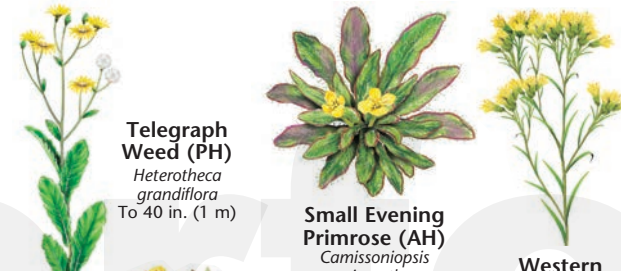
**Sawtooth Goldenbush (S)**  
*Hazardia squarrosa*  
var. *grindelioides*  
To 6.5 ft. (2 m)



**Silver Lotus (PH)**  
*Acmispon argophyllus* var. *argophyllus*  
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)

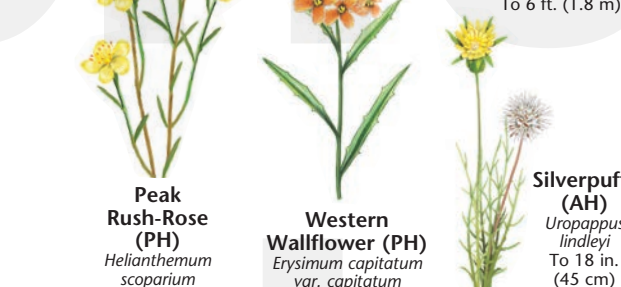
**Shrubby Ragwort (S)**  
*Senecio flaccidus*  
var. *intermedia*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**YELLOW & ORANGE FLOWERS**



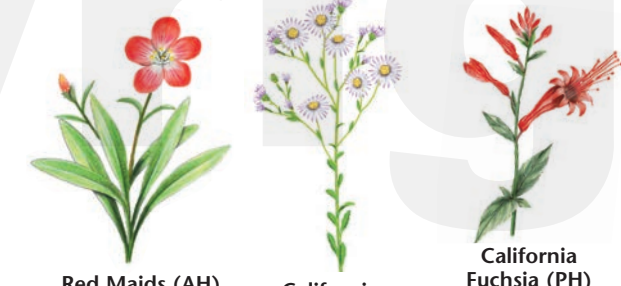
**Telegraph Weed (PH)**  
*Heterotheca grandiflora*  
To 40 in. (1 m)

**Small Evening Primrose (AH)**  
*Camissoniopsis micrantha*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)



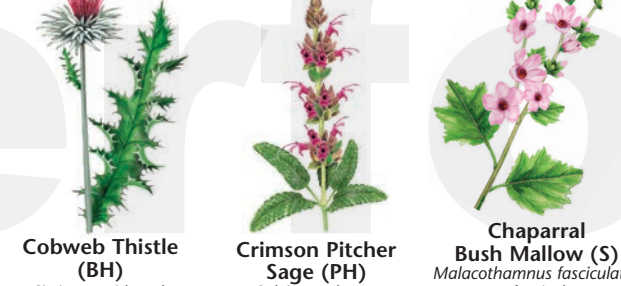
**Peak Rush-Rose (PH)**  
*Helianthemum scoparium*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Western Wallflower (PH)**  
*Erysimum capitatum*  
var. *capitatum*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Red Maids (AH)**  
*Calandrinia ciliata*  
To 16 in. (40 cm)

**California Aster (PH)**  
*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Cobweb Thistle (BH)**  
*Cirsium occidentale*  
To 6.5 ft. (2 m)

**Crimson Pitcher Sage (PH)**  
*Salvia spathacea*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**RED & PINK FLOWERS**



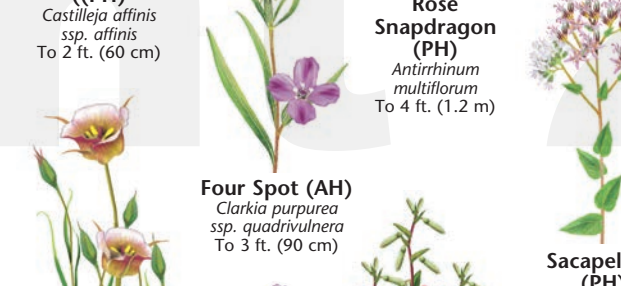
**Prickly Phlox (S)**  
*Linanthus californicus*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

**California Wildrose (S)**  
*Rosa californica*  
To in. (cm)



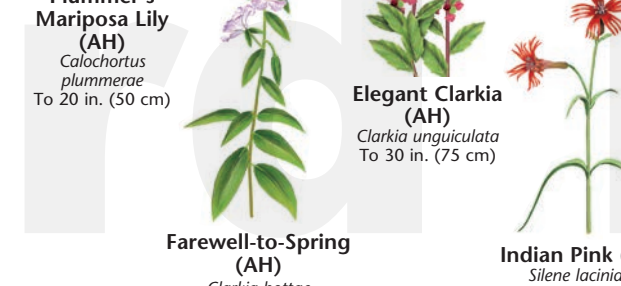
**Indian Paintbrush (PH)**  
*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *affinis*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Heart-leaved Penstemon (S)**  
*Keckiella cordifolia*  
To 13.1 ft. (4 m)



**Four Spot (AH)**  
*Clarkia purpurea* ssp. *quadrivulnera*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

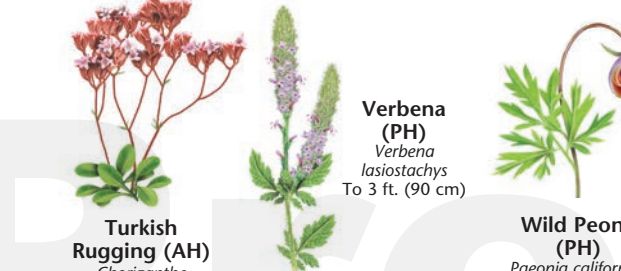
**Plummer's Mariposa Lily (AH)**  
*Calochortus plummerae*  
To 20 in. (50 cm)



**Farewell-to-Spring (AH)**  
*Clarkia bottae*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

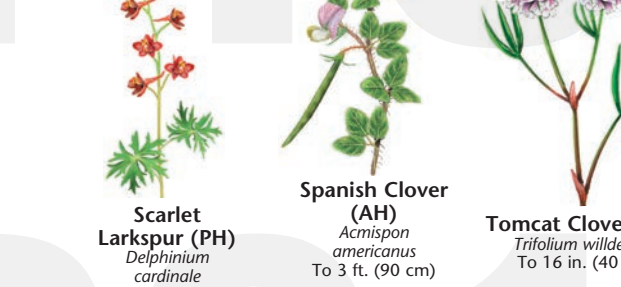
**Indian Pink (PH)**  
*Silene laciniata* ssp. *laciniata*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**RED & PINK FLOWERS**



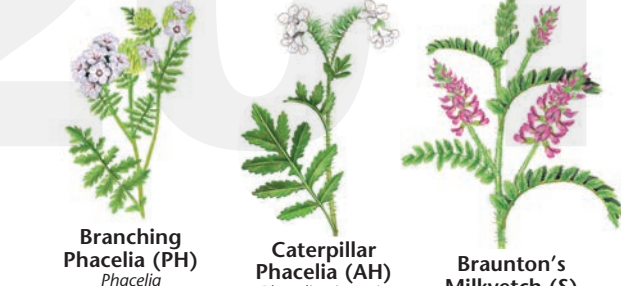
**Turkish Rugging (AH)**  
*Chorizanthe stactoides*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Wild Peony (PH)**  
*Paeonia californica*  
To 18 in. (45 cm)



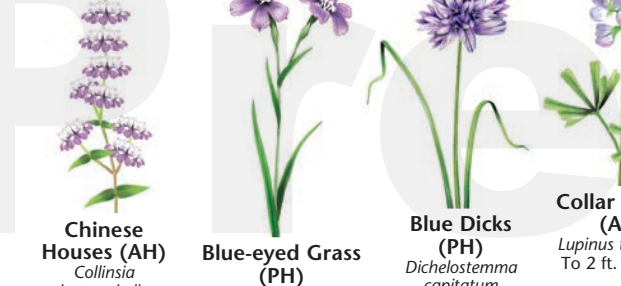
**Scarlet Larkspur (PH)**  
*Delphinium cardinale*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**Spanish Clover (AH)**  
*Acmispon americanus*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Branching Phacelia (PH)**  
*Phacelia ramosissima* var. *ramosissima*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**Caterpillar Phacelia (AH)**  
*Phacelia cicutaria* var. *hispidula*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)



**Chinese Houses (AH)**  
*Collinsia heterophylla*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Blue-eyed Grass (PH)**  
*Sisyrinchium bellum*  
To 25.2 in. (64 cm)

**RED & PINK FLOWERS**



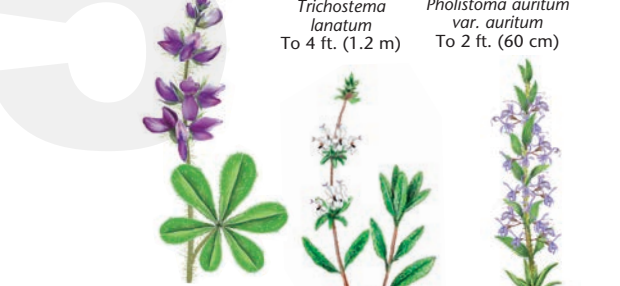
**Lanceleaf Dudleya (PH)**  
*Dudleya lanceolata*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Tomcat Clover (AH)**  
*Trifolium willdenovii*  
To 16 in. (40 cm)



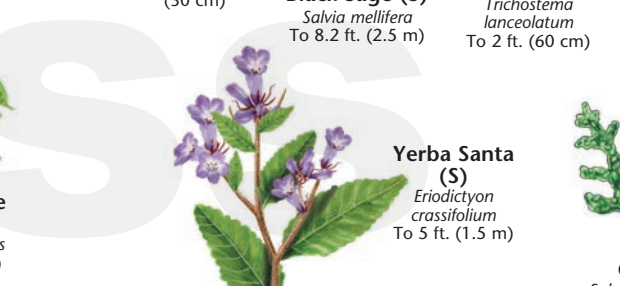
**Purple Nightshade (PH)**  
*Solanum xanti*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

**Woolly Blue Curlys (S)**  
*Trichostema lanatum*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)



**Stinging Lupine (AH)**  
*Lupinus hirsutissimus*  
To 12 in. (30 cm)

**Black Sage (S)**  
*Salvia mellifera*  
To 8.2 ft. (2.5 m)



**Verbena (PH)**  
*Verbena lasiostachys*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)

**Wild Peony (PH)**  
*Paeonia californica*  
To 18 in. (45 cm)

**BLUE & PURPLE FLOWERS**



**Large-flowered Phacelia (AH)**  
*Phacelia grandiflora*  
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

**Miniature Lupine (AH)**  
*Lupinus bicolor*  
To 16 in. (40 cm)  
Note star-shaped leaves.



**Purple Sage (S)**  
*Salvia leucophylla*  
To 10 ft. (3 m)

**Shooting Star (PH)**  
*Dodecatheon clevelandii* ssp. *clevelandii*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Fiesta Flower (AH)**  
*Pholistoma auritum* var. *auritum*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Wishbone Bush (PH)**  
*Mirabilis laevis* var. *crassifolia*  
To 3 ft. (90 cm)



**Vinegar Weed (AH)**  
*Trichostema lanceolatum*  
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

**Chia (S)**  
*Salvia columbariae*  
To 20 in. (50 cm)

**RED & PINK FLOWERS**

**BLUE & PURPLE FLOWERS**