

Zion National Park - What's Up and Blooming - 2003

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1 Welcome

Zion National Park

What's up --and Blooming?

2003

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All these flowers can be seen from the roads and trails! We want you to enjoy the flowers; photograph them, tell them you love them, BUT please stay on the roads and trails so that you do not trample the plants and/or compact the soil, thus destroying what you seek to admire. Left unmolested, others may also enjoy them, and they can reproduce and still be there for future generations to enjoy and study; and the wildlife will still have the habitat and food upon which their lives depend.

by Margaret Malm

[Zion National Park](#)

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[Utah Native Plant Society, Inc.](#)

2 April 4, 2003

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NOTE: Pictures are available for most of the listed species. To see pictures, click on the Pictures by color section and click on the category of interest. (Photographs may not be used without permission!)

WHITE FLOWERS

[Erigeron pumilus](#)

EARLY WHITE DAISY

Sunflower Family

An early bloomer, somewhat spreading, with rather narrow leaves; both they and the stems rather hairy. Typical daisy flowers, with many rays in several layers; usually light pink or bluish, rather than white, despite the name. Look for it in the lower areas of Zion Canyon.

[Amelanchier utahensis](#)

UTAH SERVICEBERRY

Rose Family

A deciduous shrub, with white flowers that come out along with the leaves in early spring, quite showy in full bloom. Its small roundish leaves have serrated tips. The berries are rather small and dry, not much good for food (in contrast to the Saskatoon, found at higher elevations here), but Indians made arrow shafts from the branches. Mostly on the dry slopes in Zion Canyon.

[Montia perfoliata](#)

MINER'S LETTUCE

Purslane Family

The stems of the small white flowers of this plant go right up through the centers of the round leaves. A good source of Vitamin C, miners used the plants in salads to prevent Scurvy. It likes shady relatively moist areas.

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERS

[Arabis holboellii](#) & [Arabis perennans](#) **ROCKCRESS**

Mustard Family

One or a few long skinny stems arise from a rosette of basal leaves; the pink to red-violet flowers are rather widely spaced along the upper stem. Stem leaves long and narrow, with a short ear extending back around the stem on each side at the base. These two species very closely related and apparently hybridize, so impossible to tell apart without fruits (sometimes not even then).

[Astragalus zionis](#)

ZION MILKVETCH

Pea Family

A low spreading plant having compound leaves with many pairs of opposite rather silvery (and hairy) leaflets. Its flowers are typical pea ones, red violet with white markings in the throat. Very attractive! Look for it in sandy spots from Coalpits Wash up into the slickrock; one of our earliest bloomers.

[Astragalus argophyllus](#), **SILVER-LEAVED MILKVETCH**, is very similar & nearly impossible to distinguish until the seed pods appear, but prefers higher elevations with better soil. (picture not available)

[Erodium cicutarium](#)

RED-STEMMED FILAREE

Geranium Family

A ground-cover plant often found in disturbed areas. The flowers are small, red-violet, and are followed by typical long narrow "stork's bill" seed pods. A favorite food of the endangered Desert Tortoise. Found on the Canyon bottom for most of the year but most prolific in spring. Even they are scarce this year.

[Castilleja](#) species

PAINTBRUSH

Snapdragon Family

The traditional "Indian Paintbrush" of one or a few stems and bright red (on ours) "flowers", which are

actually bracts (specialized leaves). The flowers are the pointy green things sometimes seen protruding slightly from inside the bracts . Just starting to strut their stuff now.

Castilleja chromosa, **EARLY PAINTBRUSH**, has bright scarlet "flowers". It is usually the first of our paintbrushes to bloom, and really brightens the landscape. The foliage is also reddish, especially early in the season.

Castilleja scabrada, **SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH**, grows out of slickrock crevices; look for it on the east side of Zion.

Castilleja linearifolia, **WYOMING PAINTBRUSH**, has orange-red "flowers"; it starts blooming in the spring, continues through the summer and into the fall, by which time it has usually become quite tall and gangly. Found mostly in Zion Canyon.

Lathyrus brachycalyx var. zionis **ZION SWEETPEA** *Pea Family*
The attractive deep pink flowers look like those of the cultivated sweetpeas, and sometimes when young also have the same marvelous aroma. A low plant found clambering with its tendrils on sunny rocky hillsides or disturbed roadsides.

Penstemon utahensis **UTAH PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*
Beautiful long velvety-red trumpet-shaped ruby red (hummingbird-pollinated) flowers that sometimes almost seem to glow, are the trademark of our earliest-blooming penstemon. Its leaves are rather narrow.

Ranunculus andersonii juniperinus **SAND BUTTERCUP** *Buttercup Family*
Small, ground-hugging plant; its gray-green leaves divided into tongue-shaped divisions, are all at the base. The flowers are on short leafless stems, and have glossy reddish petals. It likes sandy areas and is a very early bloomer, generally on the east side (Slickrock) area.

Rumex crispus **WILD RHUBARB, CURLY DOCK** *Buckwheat Family*
The rusty-reddish flowers of this plant are small, many, and funny-looking. The leaves are typical rhubarb type with wavy crisped edges; their petioles (the edible "stems") are shorter than on the cultivated ones but can be used in the same way. Found in the flats in the lower Canyon.

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS

Chorispora tenella **MUSK MUSTARD** *Mustard Family*
A small plant with blue-purple four-petaled flowers. Tends to have a musky scent, although this is usually hard to pick up. Found in disturbed area along trails and floodplain meadows in the canyon bottom.

Salvia dorrii **PURPLE or DESERT SAGE** *Mint Family*
A relatively small shrub with small silvery leaves having a distinct and delicious minty sage smell, The unusual and particularly beautiful bright blue flowers nestle in purple bracts; quite spectacular in flower!. Found on dry canyon slopes and flats. Blooming in my yard, so probably will be out here soon.

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Baileya multiradiata **DESERT MARIGOLD** *Composite Family*
The very white foliage of this plant is due to its being covered by a mat of white hair. The 25-50 wide layered ray flowers and many disk flowers are bright yellow; usually a single flower head per stem. Found at the lower elevations such as the lower Watchman Trail; a showy 3-season bloomer.

Cryptantha confertiflora **YELLOW FORGET-ME-NOT** *Borage Family*
A quite hairy plant with narrow green leaves and small bright yellow flowers in a "scorpion's tail" head. Look for it especially along the Watchman Trail and in Coalpits Wash in early spring.

Draba asprella var. zionensis**EARLY DRABA***Mustard Family*

This dainty mustard has its leaves all in a little rosette at the base of the plant, and a small cluster of bright yellow 4-petaled flowers at the tip of a single flowering stalk. It likes shady relatively moist places such as along lower Emerald Pools trail.

Erysimum asperum**WESTERN WALLFLOWER***Mustard Family*

This plant may be a foot tall or occasionally more, generally unbranched; its large clusters of bright yellow four-petaled flowers have a delicate but pleasant lilac scent when newly opened. Larger than Draba, and has leaves on the stem.

Mahonia fremontii**FREMONT BARBERRY***Barberry Family*

A shrub with very stiff prickly hollylike leaves and bright yellow flowers -- quite spectacular in flower! It does not occur in the Park, and here is found mainly near the base of Hurricane Mesa about 20 miles west of Zion on Highway 9, where visitors coming in from that direction marvel over it.

Mahonia repens**OREGON GRAPE, CREEPING HOLLYGRAPE***Barberry Family*

A creeping woody plant with hollylike prickly leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers that later become clusters of edible dark blue berries sometimes used (along with apple) to make jelly. But it is neither grape nor holly! It likes shady relatively moist places in the Canyon.

Purshia mexicana**CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH***Rose Family*

This shrub is generally rather small in Zion; but occasionally quite large, and with shaggy bark rather like a juniper. The leaves are small and 5-lobed leaves with a bitter taste that gives it one of its common names. The flowers are light yellow, with 5 petals, 5 pistils which later elongate into very long plumose styles, and many stamens. Closely related and very similar is

Purshia tridentata,

ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH, which can be distinguished by its larger 3-lobed leaves and single pistil.

Shepherdia rotundifolia**ROUNDLEAF BUFFALOBERRY***Oleaster Family*

The very silvery, rounded, cupped leaves of this shrub (lessond in how to conserve water) are much more conspicuous than its small yellow flowers. The small white berries appear after blooming.

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia**GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW***Mallow Family*

A typical orange globemallow generally of one or a few stems and loose elongate many-flowered heads, found on rocky slopes. The leaves are deeply cleft, parted, and toothed, easily distinguishing it from

S. ambigua, **DESERT HOLLYHOCK**, whose leaves are much less cleft, resembling small cultivated hollyhock leaves. It is often quite bushy, and is found mainly in the lower elevations.

S. coccinea, **SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW**, has leaves somewhat more cleft than ambigua, but less than grossulariifolia.

OTHER COLORS, OR INCONSPICUOUSAcer grandidentatum**BIGTOOTH MAPLE***Maple Family*

A rather large shrub with typical maple leaves, and is responsible for much of our fantastic fall color in October. Likes relatively cool shady places such as the Emerald Pools trail, or Clear Creek on Zion's east side. Flowers are relatively few & very inconspicuous. It has typical 2-winged maple seed pods.

Juniperus spp.**JUNIPER***Cypress Family*

Pines and Junipers do not really flower; they produce their seeds in cones. The brownish tips on the branches of the junipers now are the male cones, filled with pollen. Soon the fleshy bluish-gray female cones, commonly called "Juniper berries", will begin to develop. (The female ones visible on some of the trees now are last year's crop.) We have two species:

Juniperus osteosperma **UTAH JUNIPER**: relatively small, but sturdy-looking. We have LOTS of these!

Juniperus scopulorum **ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER**: larger but much more delicate-looking, with smaller leaves. Found in relatively cool, shady places such as north-facing slopes in Emerald Pools Canyon.

TREES

Many of our trees are deciduous, and most of the deciduous ones are wind-pollinated. This means that the flowers are usually pretty "basic", often consisting only of a stamen and/or a pistil; these are generally not showy. They include:

Acer negundo var. interior **BOXELDER** *Maple Family* : with rather mapley leaves. The flowers are the odd-looking stringy reddish things you see hanging down. They are soon followed by the typical two-winged maple seed pods.

Fraxinus velutina **VELVET ASH** *Olive Family*: with compound leaves having usually 5 or 7 leaflets. Ashes have single winged seed pods (shaped rather like a long teardrop).

Populus fremontii **FREMONT COTTONWOOD** *Willow Family* : found mainly along the Virgin River; The leaves are shaped rather like those of the closely related **quaking aspen**, but are much wider. In a few weeks, the air will be filled with the fluffy tufts of "cotton" bearing the seeds; it can look almost like a spring snowstorm!

Betula occidentalis **WATER BIRCH** *Birch Family*: also found along watercourses; leaves doubly serrated, dark green; flowers brownish, in long drooping catkins

The fruit trees you see blooming this time of year (mainly in Watchman Campground, which was a pioneer orchard), include cherry, peach, apricot, apple, and pear. Also a few almonds across the highway from the Visitor Center.

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VARIABLE-COLORED FLOWERS

Erigeron pumilus

EARLY WHITE DAISY

Sunflower Family

An early bloomer, somewhat spreading, with rather narrow leaves; both they and the stems rather hairy. Typical daisy flowers, with many rays in several layers; usually light pink or bluish, rather than white, despite the name. Look for it in the lower areas of Zion Canyon.

WHITE FLOWERS

Astragalus praelongus

RATTLEWEED or STINKING MILKVETCH

Pea Family

The leaves are the usual compound pea leaves, with dark green leaflets; the flowers are typical long narrow Astragalus ones. The seeds in the short fat pods rattle when dried, giving it its common name. It usually grows on seleniferous soil and absorbs the selenium, giving it a strong rank odor and making it quite poisonous; a mouthful or two can kill a cow in a few hours. Found mostly on the slopes and flats of the lower Canyon. A plant with very similar flowers, but low, spreading, and smaller overall except for flower size, and with spines on the stem, is

Peteria thompsonae, **THOMPSON PETERIA**, found mainly along the Watchman Trail.

Amelanchier utahensis

UTAH SERVICEBERRY

Rose Family

A large deciduous shrub, with white flowers that come out along with the leaves in early spring, quite showy in full bloom, and it's really doing itself proud this year. Its small roundish leaves have serrated tips. The berries are rather small and dry, not much good for food (in contrast to the Saskatoon, found at higher elevations), but Indians made arrow shafts from the branches. Mostly on the dry slopes in Zion Canyon.

Lycium andersonii

ANDERSON WOLFBERRY, WATERJACKET

Potato Family

A stout spiny freely-branched whitish-barked shrub; the trumpet-shaped flowers are white, but often have bluish or lavender lobes. The leaves, especially during blooming time, are very fat -almost cylindrical.

Lycium pallidum

TOMATILLA or WOLFBERRY

Potato or Nightshade Family

A stout spiny crookedly-branched shrub; the trumpet-shaped flowers are in the leaf axils and often quite greenish, especially at first. The berries are relished by birds and small animals and were plainly eaten also by early Indians, as the plant is often found among Anasazi ruins. Found in Zion on the floodplains of the lower Canyon.

Montia perfoliata

MINER'S LETTUCE

Purslane Family

The stems of the small white flowers of this small ground-hugging plant go right up through the centers of the round leaves. A good source of Vitamin C, miners used the plants in salads to prevent Scurvy. It likes shady relatively moist areas.

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Mustard Family

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Echinocereus triglochidiatus**CLARET CUP***Cactus Family*

Cacti look fearsome (and really are, if you get tangled up with them in the wrong way!), but they do have particularly attractive flowers. A hedgehog cactus with large clusters of globular or cylindrical stems and showy very bright scarlet flowers. Found in sandy sometimes rocky areas.

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis**ZION SHOOTING STAR***Primrose Family*

The unusual down-pointing pink flowers resembling shooting stars give this plant its common name. The variety found in Zion is particularly large and attractive. Found in hanging gardens. Usually blooming best in mid-to-late May, but we have a few "early birds" at the lower Emerald Pool.

Lathyrus brachycalyx var. zionis**ZION SWEETPEA***Pea Family*

The attractive deep pink flowers look like those of the cultivated sweetpeas, and sometimes when young also have the same marvelous aroma. A low plant found clambering with its tendrils on sunny rocky hillsides or disturbed roadsides.

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Phacelia fremontii**FREMONT PHACELIA***Waterleaf Family*

A tiny plant with small deeply-lobed leaves and lovely purplish-blue flowers with a yellow center. Often only one flower per plant. Found in the lower elevations in Zion, crouching in the duff and shade of shrubs. Plentiful and forming purple & yellow mats if there has been plenty of rain, otherwise scarce; a real joy to the spirit.

Rumex crispus**WILD RHUBARB, CURLY DOCK***Buckwheat Family*

The rusty-reddish flowers of this plant are small, many, and funny-looking. The leaves are typical rhubarb type with wavy crisped edges; their petioles (the edible "stems") are shorter than on the cultivated ones but can be used in the same way. Found in the flats in the lower Canyon.

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Oleaster Family

The very silvery, rounded, cupped leaves of this shrub (less so in how to conserve water) are much more conspicuous than its small yellow flowers. The small white berries appear after blooming.

Stanleya pinnata

PRINCES' PLUME

Mustard Family

A large subshrub, woody at the base, this one is quite showy in bloom; with long plumes of narrow

yellow flowers quite different from typical mustard ones. It grows on shales and mudstones, only in soil that contains the element selenium, so is poisonous to wildlife and cattle as well as humans. No munching!

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia

GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW

Mallow Family

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Lycium pallidum

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Potato or Nightshade Family

A stout spiny crookedly-branched shrub; the trumpet-shaped flowers are in the leaf axils and often quite greenish, especially at first. The berries are relished by birds and small animals and were plainly eaten also by early Indians, as the plant is often found among Anasazi ruins. Found in Zion on the floodplains of the lower Canyon.

Oenothera species

EVENING PRIMROSE

Evening Primrose

Family

Flowers have four large petals, open in the evening, closing (permanently) the next morning soon after then sun hits them. The spent blossoms generally age pink. They prefer sandy areas in Zion.

O. caespitosa, **WHITE TUFTED EVENING PRIMROSE**: has short leafless stems arising from a basal tuft of leaves, each stem bearing a large very showy single white flower. Usually at the higher elevations such as the slickrock.

O. pallida, **PALE EVENING PRIMROSE**: a more spreading plant, with smaller white flowers and leafy

stems. Often found still blooming in the slickrock well into summer.

Montia perfoliata

MINER'S LETTUCE

Purslane Family

The stems of the small white flowers of this small ground-hugging plant go right up through the centers of the round leaves. A good source of Vitamin C, miners used the plants in salads to prevent Scurvy. It likes shady relatively moist areas; the slopes of the Emerald Pools trails are carpeted with it this year.

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERS

Arabis holboellii & Arabis perennans

ROCKCRESS

Mustard Family

One or a few long skinny stems arise from a rosette of basal leaves; the pink to red-violet flowers are rather widely spaced along the upper stem. Stem leaves long and narrow, with a short ear extending back around the stem on each side at the base. These two species are very closely related and apparently hybridize, so impossible to tell apart without fruits (sometimes not even then).

Astragalus zionis

ZION MILKVETCH

Pea Family

A low spreading plant having compound leaves with many pairs of opposite rather silvery (and hairy) leaflets. Its flowers are typical pea ones, red violet with white markings in the throat. Very attractive! Look for it in sandy spots from Coalpits Wash up into the slickrock; one of our earliest bloomers.

Astragalus argophyllus, **SILVER-LEAVED MILKVETCH**, is very similar & nearly impossible to distinguish until the seed pods appear, but prefers higher elevations with better soil.

Erodium cicutarium

RED-STEMMED FILAREE

Geranium Family

A ground-cover plant often found in disturbed areas. The flowers are small, red-violet, and are followed by typical long narrow "stork's bill" seed pods. A favorite food of the endangered Desert Tortoise. Common on the Canyon bottom for most of the year but most prolific in spring.

Castilleja species

PAINTBRUSH

Snapdragon Family

The traditional "Indian Paintbrush" of one or a few stems and bright red (on ours) "flowers", which are actually bracts (specialized leaves). The flowers are the pointy green things sometimes seen protruding slightly from inside the bracts. Just starting to strut their stuff now.

Castilleja chromosa, **EARLY PAINTBRUSH**, has bright scarlet "flowers". It is usually the first of our paintbrushes to bloom, and really brightens the landscape. The foliage is also reddish, especially early in the season.

Castilleja scabrada, **SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH**, grows out of slickrock crevices; look for it on the east side of Zion.

Castilleja linearifolia, **WYOMING PAINTBRUSH**, has orange-red "flowers"; it starts blooming in the spring, continues through the summer and into the fall, by which time it has usually become quite tall and gangly. Found mostly in Zion Canyon.

Echinocereus triglochidiatus

CLARET CUP

Cactus Family

Cacti look fearsome (and really are, if you get tangled up with them in the wrong way!), but they do have particularly attractive flowers. A hedgehog cactus with large clusters of globular or cylindrical stems and showy very bright scarlet flowers. Found in sandy sometimes rocky areas.

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis

ZION SHOOTING STAR

Primrose Family

The unusual down-pointing pink flowers resembling shooting stars give this plant its common name. The variety found in Zion is particularly large and attractive. Found in hanging gardens. Usually blooming best in mid-to-late May, but we have a few "early birds" at the lower Emerald Pool.

Lathyrus brachycalyx var. zionis

ZION SWEETPEA

Pea Family

The attractive deep pink flowers look like those of the cultivated sweetpeas, and sometimes when young also have the same marvelous aroma. A low plant found clambering with its tendrils on sunny

rocky hillsides or disturbed roadsides.

Phacelia fremontii

FREMONT PHACELIA

Waterleaf Family

A tiny plant with small deeply-lobed leaves and lovely purplish-blue flowers with a yellow center. Often only one flower per plant. Found in the lower elevations in Zion, crouching in the duff and shade of shrubs. Plentiful and forming purple & yellow mats if there has been plenty of rain, otherwise scarce; a real joy to the spirit.

Penstemon eatonii

EATON or FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON *Snapdragon Family*

This one's flowers are long, tubular scarlet ones with hardly any flare at the mouth, and relatively wide shiny green opposite leaves. It flowers a little later than P. utahensis, giving the hummingbird pollinators a longer season. One parent of the hybrid Jones Penstemon.

Penstemon utahensis

UTAH PENSTEMON

Snapdragon Family

Beautiful long velvety-red trumpet-shaped ruby red (hummingbird-pollinated) flowers that sometimes almost seem to glow, are the trademark of our earliest-blooming penstemon. Its leaves are rather narrow.

Phlox austromontana

DESERT PHLOX

Phlox Family

Usually a compact rounded mound (var. austromontana, **DESERT PHLOX**), or sometimes looser and cascading over cliffs and ledges (var. jonesii, **ZION CANYON PHLOX**); its leaves are very narrow but not particularly prickly. Flowers are white to deep pink, often several colors on the same plant at the same time, fading as the flowers age. Rocky areas, generally in sand.

Rumex crispus

WILD RHUBARB, CURLY DOCK

Buckwheat Family

The rusty-reddish flowers of this plant are small, many, and funny-looking. The leaves are typical rhubarb type with wavy crisped edges; their petioles (the edible "stems") are shorter than on the cultivated ones but can be used in the same way. Found in the flats in the lower Canyon.

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS

Chorispora tenella

MUSK MUSTARD

Mustard Family

A small plant with blue-purple four-petaled flowers. Tends to have a musky scent, although this is usually hard to pick up. Found in disturbed area along trails and floodplain meadows in the canyon bottom.

Dichelostemma pulchellum

BLUEDICKS

Lily Family

This one grows, in sandy soil, from a small bulb, and. A single long leafless stem arises from the long narrow grasslike leaves typical of the family, with a small cluster of pretty blue flowers at its tip, each flower with 3 petals, and 3 petaloid sepals (sepals that look like petals). Sandy soils, often found growing up through shrubs that shelter them.

Linum perenne ssp. lewisii

LEWIS FLAX

Flax Family

The 5-petaled light blue -- with darker blue stripes -- flowers of this plant have a rather delicate appearance and do not last long, but the stems are quite tough and fibrous, as flax stems are. The plant has been used medicinally, as well as for food, and the fibers from the stems for making such things as cord and fishing lines. Canyon to slickrock.

Penstemon laevis

ROYAL or SMOOTH PENSTEMON *Snapdragon Family*

The blue parent of our hybrid JONES PENSTEMON, it is considerably fatter than the other parent, EATON PENSTEMON; but not as fat as the PALMER PENSTEMON. It is found mainly in the slickrock, in sandy areas.

Salvia dorrii

PURPLE or DESERT SAGE

Mint Family

A relatively small shrub with small silvery leaves having a distinct and delicious minty sage smell, The unusual and particularly beautiful bright blue flowers nestle in purple bracts; quite spectacular in

flower!. Found on dry canyon slopes and flats.

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Baileya multiradiata

DESERT MARIGOLD

Composite Family

The very white foliage of this plant is due to its being covered by a mat of white hair. The 25-50 wide layered ray flowers and many disk flowers are bright yellow; usually a single flower head per stem. Found at the lower elevations such as the lower Watchman Trail; a showy 3-season bloomer.

Camissonia brevipes *Family*

DESERT DAY PRIMROSE, SUNDROPS *Evening Primrose*

This annual is usually only a foot or so high, but can get larger. The golden yellow flowers open during the day. Leaves are mainly basal, unusual in shape -- deeply lobed, clear in to the petiole at the stem end. Deserty areas; check out Watchman Trail.

Cryptantha confertiflora

YELLOW FORGET-ME-NOT

Borage Family

A quite hairy plant with narrow green leaves and small bright yellow flowers in a "scorpion's tail" head. Look for it especially along the Watchman Trail and in Coalpits Wash in early spring.

Draba asprella var. zionensis

EARLY DRABA

Mustard Family

This dainty mustard has its leaves all in a little rosette at the base of the plant, and a small cluster of bright yellow 4-petaled flowers at the tip of a single flowering stalk. It likes shady relatively moist places such as along lower Emerald Pools trail.

Erysimum asperum

WESTERN WALLFLOWER

Mustard Family

This plant may be a foot tall or occasionally more, generally unbranched; its large clusters of bright yellow four-petaled flowers have a delicate but pleasant lilac scent when newly opened. Larger than Draba, and has leaves on the stem and flowers in clusters.

Gaillardia spp.

BLANKETFLOWER

Composite Family

We have several species here, some rather difficult to tell apart, as they've hybridized. Up to about a foot tall, yellow rays and usually dark brown disk. Found mainly along the highway around the Visitor Center and east to the bridge over the Virgin River. Rather pretty and cheerful. The most common species is G. spathulata.

Mahonia repens

OREGON GRAPE, CREEPING HOLLYGRAPE

Barberry Family

A creeping woody plant with hollylike prickly leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers that later become clusters of edible dark blue berries sometimes used (along with apple) to make jelly. But it is neither grape nor holly! It likes shady relatively moist places in the Canyon.

Purshia mexicana

CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH

Rose Family

This shrub is generally rather small in Zion; but occasionally quite large, and with shaggy bark rather like a juniper. The leaves are small and 5-lobed leaves with a bitter taste that gives it one of its common names. The flowers are light yellow, with 5 petals, 5 pistils which later elongate into very long plumose styles, and many stamens. Closely related and very similar is

Purshia tridentata, **ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH**, which can be distinguished by its larger 3-lobed leaves, and smaller flowers with a single pistil.

Stanleya pinnata

PRINCES' PLUME

Mustard Family

A large subshrub, woody at the base, this one is quite showy in bloom; with long plumes of narrow yellow flowers quite different from typical mustard ones. It grows on shales and mudstones, only in soil that contains the element selenium, so is poisonous to wildlife and cattle as well as humans. No munching!

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia

GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW

Mallow Family

A typical orange globemallow generally of one or a few stems and loose elongate many-flowered heads, found on rocky slopes. The leaves are deeply cleft, parted, and toothed, easily distinguishing it

from

S. ambigua, **DESERT HOLLYHOCK**, whose leaves are much less cleft, resembling small cultivated hollyhock leaves. It is often quite bushy, and is found mainly in the lower elevations.

S. coccinea, **SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW**, has leaves somewhat more cleft than ambigua, but less than grossulariifolia.

5 May 3, 2003

Zion National Park

May 3, 2003

We started off with a really good early flower bloom this year, with a little moisture and warm weather. But alternating warm & cold weather have apparently confused the later-blooming species time.

All these flowers can be seen from the roads and trails! We want you to enjoy the flowers; photograph them, tell them you love them, BUT please stay on the roads and trails so that you do not trample the plants and/or compact the soil, thus destroying what you seek to admire. Left unmolested, others may also enjoy them, and they can reproduce and still be there for future generations to enjoy and study; and the wildlife will still have the habitat and food upon which their lives depend.

NOTE: Pictures are available for most of the listed species. To see pictures, click on the Pictures by color section and click on the category of interest. (Photographs may not be used without permission!)

VARIABLE-COLORED FLOWERS

Calochortus spp.

MARIPOSA LILY

Lily Family

The flowers of this plant have three large petals, each with a colorful circular generally hairy "gland" at its base. Leaves are few, long and narrow, and all at the base. Our three species generally found in dry places.

C. nuttallii **SEGO LILY:** The creamy white flowers of the sego lily crown straight erect leafless stems; the three large petals are a creamy white, with a colorful circular hairy "gland" at the base of each.

Utah's State Flower.

C. flexuosus **BENTSTEM MARIPOSA:** the pink flowers are on the tips of bent or kinked stems; these often very loooong and growing up through a shrub (such as blackbrush) to get the flowers up in the sun.

C. aureus **GOLDEN MARIPOSA:** has bright golden yellow flowers. It likes the Bentonite clay in the Chinle Formation, so is occasionally found on the Chinle trail, in years with the right growing conditions (but it's mighty particular!).

Erigeron pumilus

EARLY WHITE DAISY

Sunflower Family

An early bloomer, somewhat spreading, with rather narrow leaves; both they and the stems rather hairy. Typical daisy flowers, with many rays in several layers; usually light pink or bluish, rather than white, despite the name. Look for it mainly in the lower areas of Zion Canyon.

WHITE FLOWERS

Abronia fragrans
Family

FRAGRANT SAND VERBENA

Potato or Nightshade

The unusual hemispheric clusters of trumpet-shaped white flowers radiating from a central point, along with a very pleasant fragrance when young (designed to attract night-flying pollinators) are generally enough to make it easy to pick this one out. It is definitely worth stooping to smell! Found in sandy areas, especially in the slickrock.

Astragalus praelongus

RATTLEWEED or STINKING MILKVETCH

Pea Family

The leaves are the usual compound pea leaves, with dark green leaflets; the flowers are typical long narrow Astragalus ones. The seeds in the short fat pods rattle when dried, giving it its common name. It usually grows on seleniferous soil and absorbs the selenium, giving it a strong rank odor and making it quite poisonous; a mouthful or two can kill a cow in a few hours. Found mostly on the slopes and flats of the lower Canyon. A plant with very similar flowers, but low, spreading, and smaller overall except for flower size, and with spines on the stem, is

Peteria thompsonae, **THOMPSON PETERIA**, found mainly along the Watchman Trail.

Amelanchier utahensis

UTAH SERVICEBERRY

Rose Family

A large deciduous shrub, with white flowers that come out along with the leaves in early spring, quite showy in full bloom, and it's really doing itself proud this year. Its small roundish leaves have serrated tips. The berries are rather small and dry, not much good for food (in contrast to the Saskatoon, found at higher elevations), but Indians made arrow shafts from the branches. Now blooming best on the east side of Zion.

Oenothera species

EVENING PRIMROSE

Evening Primrose

Family

Flowers have four large petals, open in the evening, closing (permanently) the next morning soon after then sun hits them. The spent blossoms generally age pink. They prefer sandy areas in Zion.

O. caespitosa, **WHITE TUFTED EVENING PRIMROSE**: has short leafless stems arising from a basal tuft of leaves, each stem bearing a large very showy single white flower. Usually at the higher elevations such as the slickrock.

O. pallida, **PALE EVENING PRIMROSE**: a more spreading plant, with smaller white flowers and leafy stems. Often found still blooming in the slickrock well into summer.

Montia perfoliata

MINER'S LETTUCE

Purslane Family

The stems of the small white flowers of this small ground-hugging plant go right up through the centers of the round leaves. A good source of Vitamin C, miners used the plants in salads to prevent Scurvy. It likes shady relatively moist areas; the slopes of the Emerald Pools trails are carpeted with it this year.

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERS

Arabis holboellii & Arabis perennans

ROCKCRESS

Mustard Family

One or a few long skinny stems arise from a rosette of basal leaves; the pink to red-violet flowers are rather widely spaced along the upper stem. Stem leaves long and narrow, with a short ear extending back around the stem on each side at the base. These two species are very closely related and apparently hybridize, so impossible to tell apart without fruits (sometimes not even then).

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Pea Family

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Erodium cicutarium

RED-STEMMED FILAREE

Geranium Family

A ground-cover plant often found in disturbed areas. The flowers are small, red-violet, and are followed by typical long narrow "stork's bill" seed pods. A favorite food of the endangered Desert Tortoise. Common on the Canyon bottom for most of the year but most prolific in spring; a bumper

crop this year.

Castilleja species

PAINTBRUSH

Snapdragon Family

The traditional "Indian Paintbrush" of one or a few stems and bright red (on ours) "flowers", which are actually bracts (specialized leaves). The flowers are the pointy green things sometimes seen protruding slightly from inside the bracts

Castilleja chromosa, **EARLY PAINTBRUSH**, has bright scarlet "flowers". It is usually the first of our paintbrushes to bloom, and really brightens the landscape. The foliage is also reddish, especially early in the season.

Castilleja scabrada, **SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH**, grows out of slickrock crevices; look for it on the east side of Zion. This year they seem to be rather small, but intensely red.

Castilleja linearifolia, **WYOMING PAINTBRUSH**, has orange-red "flowers"; it starts blooming in the spring, continues through the summer and into the fall, by which time it has usually become quite tall and gangly. Found mostly in Zion Canyon.

Echinocereus triglochidiatus

CLARET CUP

Cactus Family

Cacti look fearsome (and really are, if you get tangled up with them in the wrong way!), but they do have particularly attractive flowers. A hedgehog cactus with large clusters of globular or cylindrical stems and showy very bright scarlet flowers. Found in sandy or, sometimes, rocky areas.

Phacelia fremontii

FREMONT PHACELIA

Waterleaf Family

A tiny plant with small deeply-lobed leaves and lovely purplish-blue flowers with a yellow center. Often only one flower per plant. Found in the lower elevations in Zion, crouching in the duff and shade of shrubs. Plentiful and forming purple & yellow mats if there has been plenty of rain, otherwise scarce; a real joy to the spirit.

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis

ZION SHOOTING STAR

Primrose Family

The unusual down-pointing pink flowers resembling shooting stars give this plant its common name. The variety found in Zion is particularly large and attractive. Found in hanging gardens. Usually blooming best in mid-to-late May, but we have some "early birds" at the lower Emerald Pool.

Lathyrus brachycalyx var. zionis

ZION SWEETPEA

Pea Family

The attractive deep pink flowers look like those of the cultivated sweetpeas, and sometimes when young also have the same marvelous aroma. A low plant found clambering with its tendrils on sunny rocky hillsides or disturbed roadsides.

Penstemon eatonii

EATON or FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON *Snapdragon Family*

This one's flowers are long, tubular scarlet ones with hardly any flare at the mouth, and relatively wide shiny green opposite leaves. It flowers a little later than P. utahensis, giving the hummingbird pollinators a longer season. One parent of the hybrid Jones Penstemon.

Penstemon utahensis

UTAH PENSTEMON

Snapdragon Family

Beautiful long velvety-red trumpet-shaped ruby red (hummingbird-pollinated) flowers that sometimes almost seem to glow, are the trademark of our earliest-blooming penstemon. Its leaves are rather narrow.

Phlox austromontana

DESERT PHLOX

Phlox Family

Usually a compact rounded mound (var. austromontana, **DESERT PHLOX**), or sometimes looser and cascading over cliffs and ledges (var. jonesii, **ZION CANYON PHLOX**); its leaves are very narrow but not particularly prickly. Flowers are white to deep pink, often several colors on the same plant at the same time, fading as the flowers age. Rocky areas, generally in sand.

Rumex crispus

WILD RHUBARB, CURLY DOCK

Buckwheat Family

The rusty-reddish flowers of this plant are small, many, and funny-looking. The leaves are typical rhubarb type with wavy crisped edges; their petioles (the edible "stems") are shorter than on the

cultivated ones but can be used in the same way. Found in the flats in the lower Canyon.

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS

Chorispora tenella

MUSK MUSTARD

Mustard Family

A small plant with blue-purple four-petaled flowers. Tends to have a musky scent, although this is usually hard to pick up. Found in disturbed area along trails and floodplain meadows in the canyon bottom.

Dichelostemma pulchellum

BLUEDICKS

Lily Family

This one grows, in sandy soil, from a small bulb. A single long leafless stem arises from the long narrow grasslike leaves typical of the family, with a small cluster of pretty blue flowers at its tip, each flower with 3 petals, and 3 petaloid sepals (sepals that look like petals). Sandy soils, often found growing up through and overtopping tall grasses, and shrubs that shelter them.

Linum perenne ssp. lewisii

LEWIS FLAX

Flax Family

The 5-petaled light blue -- with darker blue stripes -- flowers of this plant have a rather delicate appearance and do not last long, but the stems are quite tough and fibrous, as flax stems are. The plant has been used medicinally, as well as for food, and the fibers from the stems for making such things as cord and fishing lines. Canyon to slickrock.

Penstemon laevis

ROYAL or SMOOTH PENSTEMON

Snapdragon Family

The blue parent of our hybrid JONES PENSTEMON, it is considerably fatter than the other parent, EATON PENSTEMON; but not as fat as the PALMER PENSTEMON. It is found mainly in the slickrock, in sandy areas.

Salvia dorrii

PURPLE or DESERT SAGE

Mint Family

A relatively small shrub with small silvery leaves having a distinct and delicious minty sage smell, The unusual and particularly beautiful bright blue flowers nestle in purple bracts; quite spectacular in flower! Found on dry canyon slopes and flats. Just starting to bloom, in the lower elevations.

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Baileya multiradiata

DESERT MARIGOLD

Composite Family

The very white foliage of this plant is due to its being covered by a mat of white hair. The 25-50 wide layered ray flowers and many disk flowers are bright yellow; usually a single flower head per stem. Found at the lower elevations such as the lower Watchman Trail; a showy 3-season bloomer.

Camissonia brevipes

DESERT DAY PRIMROSE, SUNDROPS

Evening Primrose

Family

This annual is usually only a foot or so high, but can get larger. The golden yellow flowers open during the day. Leaves are mainly basal, unusual in shape -- deeply lobed, clear in to the petiole at the stem end. Desert areas; check out Watchman Trail.

Cryptantha confertiflora

YELLOW FORGET-ME-NOT

Borage Family

A quite hairy plant with narrow green leaves and small bright yellow flowers in a "scorpion's tail" head. Look for it especially along the Watchman Trail and in Coalpits Wash in early spring.

Erysimum asperum

WESTERN WALLFLOWER

Mustard Family

This plant may be a foot tall or occasionally more, generally unbranched; its large clusters of bright yellow four-petaled flowers have a delicate but pleasant lilac scent when newly opened. Larger than Draba, and has leaves on the stem and flowers in clusters.

Gaillardia spp.

BLANKETFLOWER

Composite Family

We have several species here, some rather difficult to tell apart, as they've hybridized. Up to about a

foot tall, yellow rays and usually dark brown disk. Found mainly along the highway around the Visitor Center and east to the bridge over the Virgin River. Rather pretty and cheerful. The most common species is G. spathulata.

Mahonia repens **OREGON GRAPE, CREEPING HOLLYGRAPE** *Barberry Family*
A creeping woody plant with hollylike prickly leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers that later become clusters of edible dark blue berries sometimes used (along with apple) to make jelly. But it is neither grape nor holly! It likes shady relatively moist places in the Canyon.

Purshia mexicana **CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH** *Rose Family*
This shrub is generally rather small in Zion; but occasionally quite large, and with shaggy bark rather like a juniper. The shiny leaves are small and 5-lobed, with a bitter taste that gives it one of its common names. The flowers are light yellow, with 5 petals, 5 pistils which later elongate into very long plumose styles, and many stamens. Closely related and very similar is Purshia tridentata, **ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH**, which can be distinguished by its larger 3-lobed dull green leaves, and smaller flowers with a single pistil.

Stanleya pinnata **PRINCES' PLUME** *Mustard Family*
A large subshrub, woody at the base, this one is quite showy in bloom; with long plumes of narrow yellow flowers quite different from typical mustard ones. It grows on shales and mudstones, only in soil that contains the element selenium, so is poisonous to wildlife and cattle as well as humans. No munching!

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia **GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW** *Mallow Family*
A typical orange globemallow generally of one or a few stems and loose elongate many-flowered heads, found on rocky slopes. The leaves are deeply cleft, parted, and toothed, easily distinguishing it from S. ambigua, **DESERT HOLLYHOCK**, whose leaves are much less cleft, resembling small cultivated hollyhock leaves. It is often quite bushy, and is found mainly in the lower elevations. S. coccinea, **SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW**, has leaves somewhat more cleft than ambigua, but less than grossulariifolia.

6 May 18, 2003

Zion National Park

May 18, 2003

We started off with a really good early flower bloom this year, with a little moisture and warm weather. But alternating warm & cold weather have apparently confused the later-blooming species time. All these flowers can be seen from the roads and trails! We want you to enjoy the flowers; photograph them, tell them you love them, BUT please stay on the roads and trails so that you do not trample the plants and/or compact the soil, thus destroying what you seek to admire. Left unmolested, other people may also enjoy them, and they can reproduce and still be there for future generations to enjoy and study; and the wildlife will still have the habitat and food upon which their lives depend.

NOTE: Pictures are available for most of the listed species. To see pictures, click on the Pictures by color section and click on the category of interest. (Photographs may not be used without

permission!)

VARIABLE-COLORED FLOWERS

Aquilegia species **COLUMBINE** *Buttercup Family*
Columbines, with their long spurs, have a rather unique shape. They are found in moist to wet generally shady places, so look for them around springs and hanging gardens. Our larger yellow-flowered species is A. chrysantha, **GOLDEN COLUMBINE**, and the similar but smaller red and yellow one is A. formosa, **WESTERN COLUMBINE**, which is found in dryer places up above the springs and hanging gardens, & showering its seed down to produce **hybrids** between the two (with the red looking faded) in wet places.

Calochortus spp. **MARIPOSA LILY** *Lily Family*
The flowers of this plant have three large petals, each with a colorful circular hairy "gland" at its base. Leaves are few, long and narrow, and all at the base. Our three species generally found in dry places.
C. nuttallii **SEGO LILY**: The creamy white flowers of the sego lily crown straight erect leafless stems; the three large petals are a creamy white, with a colorful circular hairy "gland" at the base of each. *Utah's State Flower*.
C. flexuosus **BENTSTEM MARIPOSA**: the pink flowers are on the tips of bent or kinked stems; these often very loooong and growing up through a shrub (such as blackbrush) to get the flowers up in the sun.

Cirsium species **THISTLE** *Composite Family*
The thistles in Zion all have the typical very prickly thistle foliage. Our two most common are: C. arizonicum, **ARIZONA THISTLE**, with long narrow bright red flowers clustered together into a cylindrical bundle.
C. neomexicanum var. utahense, **UTAH THISTLE**, is a rather gangly plant with dirty-white flowers clustered in a powder-puff shape.

Erigeron pumilus **EARLY WHITE DAISY** *Sunflower Family*
An early bloomer, somewhat spreading, with rather narrow leaves; both they and the stems rather hairy. Typical daisy flowers, with many rays in several layers; usually light pink or bluish, rather than white, despite the name. Look for it mainly in the lower areas of Zion Canyon.

Penstemon X jonesii **JONES (HYBRID) PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*
A natural hybrid between the slender scarlet flowered Penstemon eatonii and the fat-blue-flowered Penstemon laevis, this plant has colors ranging from very light pink to dark purple and shapes from narrow to fat. It is found in places where both parents occur, mainly in the slickrock.

Epipactis gigantea **GIANT HELLEBORINE** *Orchid Family*
This "giant" orchid is giant only in comparison to some of the other wild orchids in Zion. The flowers are pale greenish white, with brownish stripes and/or mottling, and are shaped like the large orchids used in corsages -- but much are smaller. It is found in moist seeps and hanging gardens, and in some places in the Zion Narrows and its side canyons.

WHITE FLOWERS

Smilacina stellata **STAR-FLOWERED SOLOMON PLUME** *Lily Family*
Broad leaves with longitudinal veins and a zigzag stem make this water-lover different. The flowers are small and starry.

Abronia fragrans **FRAGRANT SAND VERBENA** *Potato or Nightshade Family*
The unusual hemispheric clusters of trumpet-shaped white flowers radiating from a central point, along with a very pleasant fragrance when young (designed to attract night-flying pollinators) are generally enough to make it easy to pick this one out. It is definitely worth stooping to smell! Found in

sandy areas, especially in the slickrock.

Astragalus praelongus

RATTLEWEED or STINKING MILKVETCH

Pea Family

The leaves are the usual compound pea leaves, with dark green leaflets; the flowers are typical long narrow Astragalus ones. The seeds in the short fat pods rattle when dried, giving it its common name. It usually grows on seleniferous soil and absorbs the selenium, giving it a strong rank odor and making it quite poisonous; a mouthful or two can kill a cow in a few hours. Found mostly on the slopes and flats of the lower Canyon. A plant with very similar flowers, but low, spreading, and smaller overall except for flower size, and with spines on the stem, is

Peteria thompsonae, **THOMPSON PETERIA**, found mainly along the Watchman Trail.

Oenothera species
Family

EVENING PRIMROSE

Evening Primrose

Flowers have four large petals, open in the evening, closing (permanently) the next morning soon after then sun hits them. The spent blossoms generally age pink. They prefer sandy areas in Zion.

O. caespitosa, **WHITE TUFTED EVENING PRIMROSE**: has short leafless stems arising from a basal tuft of leaves, each stem bearing a large very showy single white flower. Usually at the higher elevations such as the slickrock.

O. pallida, **PALE EVENING PRIMROSE**: a more spreading plant, with smaller white flowers and leafy stems. Often found still blooming in the slickrock well into summer.

Montia perfoliata

MINER'S LETTUCE

Purslane Family

The stems of the small white flowers of this small ground-hugging plant go right up through the centers of the round leaves. A good source of Vitamin C, miners used the plants in salads to prevent Scurvy. It likes shady relatively moist areas; the slopes of the Emerald Pools trails are carpeted with it this year.

Yucca species

YUCCA

Agave Family

Most of us who live in the west are familiar with this plant, and its long, stiff, very sharp-pointed leaves, and large attractive ivory white flowers, which are pollinated by night-flying Pronuba Moths.

Y. utahensis, **UTAH YUCCA**, has narrow-leaves and very tall flower stalks.

Y. baccata, **DATIL or BANANA YUCCA**, our broad-leaved species, has short flower stalks with flowers that nestle down among the leaves, thus avoiding being lunched by the deer.

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERS

Astragalus zionis

ZION MILKVETCH

Pea Family

A low spreading plant having compound leaves with many pairs of opposite rather silvery (and hairy) leaflets. Its flowers are typical pea ones, red violet with white markings in the throat. Very attractive! Look for it in sandy spots from Coalpits Wash up into the slickrock; one of our earliest bloomers.

Astragalus argophyllus, **SILVER-LEAVED MILKVETCH**, is very similar & nearly impossible to distinguish until the seed pods appear, but prefers higher elevations with better soil.

Castilleja species

PAINTBRUSH

Snapdragon Family

The traditional "Indian Paintbrush" of one or a few stems and bright red (on ours) "flowers", which are actually bracts (specialized leaves). The flowers are the pointy green things sometimes seen protruding slightly from inside the bracts

Castilleja chromosa, **EARLY PAINTBRUSH**, has bright scarlet "flowers". It is usually the first of our paintbrushes to bloom, and really brightens the landscape. The foliage is also reddish, especially early in the season.

Castilleja scabrida, **SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH**, grows out of slickrock crevices; look for it on the east side of Zion. This year they seem to be rather small, but intensely red.

Castilleja linearifolia, **WYOMING PAINTBRUSH**, has orange-red "flowers"; it starts blooming in the spring, continues through the summer and into the fall, by which time it has usually become quite tall and gangly. Found mostly in Zion Canyon.

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis **ZION SHOOTING STAR** *Primrose Family*

The unusual down-pointing pink flowers resembling shooting stars give this plant its common name. The variety found in Zion is particularly large and attractive. Found in hanging gardens. Usually blooming best in mid-to-late May, but we have some "early birds" at the lower Emerald Pool.

Penstemon eatonii **EATON or FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*

This one's flowers are long, tubular scarlet ones with hardly any flare at the mouth, and relatively wide shiny green opposite leaves. It flowers a little later than P. utahensis, giving the hummingbird pollinators a longer season. One parent of the hybrid Jones Penstemon.

Penstemon palmeri **PALMER PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*

Its fat flowers range from nearly white to deep pink, with distinctive reddish "guidelines" on the lower lip to lead pollinators into the flowers. The upper leaves are joined around the stem into a boat-shaped arrangement which collects water; when the wind blows the plant gets watered! The only fragrant penstemon in Zion, it is often found in rather large masses, preferring rocky wash bottoms and dry canyonsides.

Phlox austromontana **DESERT PHLOX** *Phlox Family*

Usually a compact rounded mound (var. austromontana, **DESERT PHLOX**), or sometimes looser and cascading over cliffs and ledges (var. jonesii, **ZION CANYON PHLOX**); its leaves are very narrow but not particularly prickly. Flowers are white to deep pink, often several colors on the same plant at the same time, fading as the flowers age. Rocky areas, generally in sand.

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS

Linum perenne ssp. lewisii **LEWIS FLAX** *Flax Family*

The 5-petaled light blue -- with darker blue stripes -- flowers of this plant have a rather delicate appearance and do not last long, but the stems are quite tough and fibrous, as flax stems are. The plant has been used medicinally, as well as for food, and the fibers from the stems for making such things as cord and fishing lines. Canyon to slickrock.

Penstemon laevis **ROYAL or SMOOTH PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*

The blue parent of our hybrid JONES PENSTEMON, it is considerably fatter than the other parent, EATON PENSTEMON; but not as fat as the PALMER PENSTEMON. It is found mainly in the slickrock, in sandy areas.

Penstemon pachyphyllus **THICKLEAF PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*

This lovely penstemon has narrow blue flowers, arranged in whorls around the stems. Leaves silvery and rather thick. Blooms first in Coalpits Wash and later in the Slickrock on the east side; I've never seen it in Zion Canyon. Likes sand.

Salvia dorrii **PURPLE or DESERT SAGE** *Mint Family*

A relatively small shrub with small silvery leaves having a distinct and delicious minty sage smell, The unusual and particularly beautiful bright blue flowers nestle in purple bracts; quite spectacular in flower! Found on dry canyon slopes and flats. Just starting to bloom, in the lower elevations.

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Baileya multiradiata **DESERT MARIGOLD** *Composite Family*

The very white foliage of this plant is due to its being covered by a mat of white hair. The 25-50 wide layered ray flowers and many disk flowers are bright yellow; usually a single flower head per stem. Found at the lower elevations such as the lower Watchman Trail; a showy 3-season bloomer.

Camissonia brevipes **DESERT DAY PRIMROSE, SUNDROPS** *Evening Primrose Family*

This annual is usually only a foot or so high, but can get larger. The golden yellow flowers open during the day. Leaves are mainly basal, unusual in shape -- deeply lobed, clear in to the petiole at the stem end. Desert areas; check out Watchman Trail.

Cryptantha confertiflora

YELLOW FORGET-ME-NOT

Borage Family

A quite hairy plant with narrow green leaves and small bright yellow flowers in a "scorpion's tail" head. Look for it especially along the Watchman Trail and in Coalpits Wash in early spring.

Encelia frutescens var. virginensis

BUSH ENCELIA

Composite Family

A rather small rounded shrub with whitish stems and very rough leaves having short stiff hairs; both ray and disk flowers are yellow. Look for it on gravelly, rocky, desert slopes such as lower Watchman Trail.

Erysimum asperum

WESTERN WALLFLOWER

Mustard Family

This plant may be a foot tall or occasionally more, generally unbranched; its large clusters of bright yellow four-petaled flowers have a delicate but pleasant lilac scent when newly opened. Larger than Draba, and has leaves on the stem and flowers in clusters.

Gaillardia spp.

BLANKETFLOWER

Composite Family

We have several species here, some rather difficult to tell apart, as they've hybridized. Up to about a foot tall, yellow rays and usually dark brown disk. Found mainly along the highway around the Visitor Center and east to the bridge over the Virgin River. Pretty and cheerful. Most common species is G. spathulata.

Purshia mexicana

CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH

Rose Family

This shrub is generally rather small in Zion; but occasionally quite large, and with shaggy bark rather like a juniper. The shiny leaves are small and 5-lobed, with a bitter taste that gives it one of its common names. The flowers are light yellow, with 5 petals, 5 pistils which later elongate into very long plumose styles, and many stamens. Closely related and very similar is Purshia tridentata, **ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH**, which can be distinguished by its larger 3-lobed dull green leaves, and smaller flowers with a single pistil.

Stanleya pinnata

PRINCES' PLUME

Mustard Family

A large subshrub, woody at the base, this one is quite showy in bloom; with long plumes of narrow yellow flowers quite different from typical mustard ones. It grows on shales and mudstones, only in soil that contains the element selenium, so is poisonous to wildlife and cattle as well as humans. No munching!

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia

GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW

Mallow Family

A typical orange globemallow generally of one or a few stems and loose elongate many-flowered heads, found on rocky slopes. The leaves are deeply cleft, parted, and toothed, easily distinguishing it from

S. ambigua, **DESERT HOLLYHOCK**, whose leaves are much less cleft, resembling small cultivated hollyhock leaves. It is often quite bushy, and is found mainly in the lower elevations.

S. coccinea, **SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW**, has leaves somewhat more cleft than ambigua, but less than grossulariifolia.

7 **May 23, 2003**

Zion National Park

May 23, 2003

We started off with a really good early flower bloom this year, with a little moisture and warm weather. But alternating warm & cold weather have apparently confused the later-blooming species time. All these flowers can be seen from the roads and trails! We want you to enjoy the flowers; photograph them, tell them you love them, BUT please stay on the roads and trails so that you do not trample the plants and/or compact the soil, thus destroying what you seek to admire. Left unmolested, other people may also enjoy them, and they can reproduce and still be there for future generations to enjoy and study; and the wildlife will still have the habitat and food upon which their lives depend.

NOTE: Pictures are available for most of the listed species. To see pictures, click on the Pictures by color section and click on the category of interest. (Photographs may not be used without permission!)

VARIABLE-COLORED FLOWERS

Aquilegia species

COLUMBINE

Buttercup Family

Columbines, with their long spurs, have a rather unique shape. They are found in moist to wet generally shady places, so look for them around springs and hanging gardens. Our larger yellow-flowered species is

A. chrysantha, **GOLDEN COLUMBINE**, and the similar but smaller red and yellow one is

A. formosa, **WESTERN COLUMBINE**, which is found in dryer places up above the springs and hanging gardens, & showering its seed down into wet places to produce **hybrids** (with the red looking faded).

Calochortus spp.

MARIPOSA LILY

Lily Family

The flowers of this plant have three large petals, each with a colorful circular generally hairy "gland" at its base. Leaves are few, long and narrow, and all at the base. Our three species generally found in dry places.

C. nuttallii **SEGO LILY**: The creamy white flowers of the sego lily crown straight erect leafless stems; the three large petals are a creamy white, with a colorful circular hairy "gland" at the base of each.

C. flexuosus **BENTSTEM MARIPOSA**: the pink flowers are on the tips of bent or kinked stems; these often very loooooong and growing up through a shrub (such as blackbrush) to get the flowers up in the sun.

C. aureus **GOLDEN MARIPOSA**: has bright golden yellow flowers. It likes the Bentonite clay in the Chinle Formation, so is occasionally found on the Chinle trail.

Cirsium species

THISTLE

Composite Family

The thistles in Zion all have the typical very prickly thistle foliage. Our two most common are:

C. arizonicum, **ARIZONA THISTLE**, with long narrow bright red flowers clustered together into a cylindrical bundle.

C. neomexicanum var. utahense, **UTAH THISTLE**, is a rather gangly plant with dirty-white flowers clustered in a powder-puff shape.

Erigeron pumilus

EARLY WHITE DAISY

Sunflower Family

An early bloomer, somewhat spreading, with rather narrow leaves; both they and the stems rather hairy. Typical daisy flowers, with many rays in several layers; usually light pink or bluish, rather than white, despite the name. Look for it mainly in the lower areas of Zion Canyon.

Epipactis gigantea

GIANT HELLEBORINE

Orchid Family

This "giant" orchid is giant only in comparison to some of the other wild orchids in Zion. The flowers are pale greenish white, with brownish stripes and/or mottling, and are shaped like the large orchids used in corsages -- but much are smaller. It is found in moist seeps and hanging gardens, and in some places in the Zion Narrows and its side canyons.

Penstemon X jonesii

JONES (HYBRID) PENSTEMON

Snapdragon Family

A natural hybrid between the slender scarlet flowered Penstemon eatonii and the fat-blue-flowered Penstemon laevis, this plant has colors ranging from very light pink to dark purple and shapes from narrow to fat. It is found in places where both parents occur, mainly in the slickrock.

Opuntia species

PRICKLY PEAR

Cactus Family

The flat pads of the prickly pear cactus are familiar to most, as are its beautiful waxy-shiny brightly colored pink to red, yellow, or orange flowers. Four of our most common species are:

O. basilaris, **BEAVERTAIL**, is upright, often wrinkled; has no spines but lots of tiny wicked hooked glochids. Watch out !

O. macrorhiza, **PLAINS PRICKLY PEAR**, may or may not have spines (but does have glochids); its pads sprawl along the ground in a chain, rooting wherever they touch . Flowers are usually yellow, with a reddish tinge at the base.

O. erinacea var. utahensis, **CLIFF PRICKLY PEAR**, is low-growing, and found mainly in small clumps. Its spines are mainly along or near the tops of the pads. Flowers may be yellow, pink to red or red-violet.

O. phaeacantha var. major, **ENGELMANN PRICKLY PEAR**, or **ELEPHANT-EAR**, an upright cactus, has especially large pads with spines mostly along the tops; its flowers are mostly bright yellow with some red markings.

WHITE FLOWERS

Abronia fragrans

FRAGRANT SAND VERBENA

Potato or Nightshade Family

The unusual hemispheric clusters of trumpet-shaped white flowers radiating from a central point, along with a very pleasant fragrance when young (designed to attract night-flying pollinators) are generally enough to make it easy to pick this one out. It is definitely worth stooping to smell! Found in sandy areas, especially in the slickrock.

Astragalus praelongus

RATTLEWEED or STINKING MILKVETCH

Pea Family

The leaves are the usual compound pea leaves, with dark green leaflets; the flowers are typical long narrow Astragalus ones. The seeds in the short fat pods rattle when dried, giving it its common name. It usually grows on seleniferous soil and absorbs the selenium, giving it a strong rank odor and making it quite poisonous; a mouthful or two can kill a cow in a few hours. Found mostly on the slopes and flats of the lower Canyon. A plant with very similar flowers, but low, spreading, and smaller overall except for flower size, and with spines on the stem, is

Peteria thompsonae, **THOMPSON PETERIA**, found mainly along the Watchman Trail.

Claytonia lanceolata

LANCELEAF SPRING BEAUTY

Purslane Family

A delicate plant found growing out of rock crevices in shady moist areas. Flowers are dainty, pink or white, with darker pink veins. The leaves are all basal, and often all withered by flowering time.

Oenothera species

EVENING PRIMROSE

Evening Primrose

Family

Flowers have four large petals, open in the evening, closing (permanently) the next morning soon after then sun hits them. The spent blossoms generally age pink. They prefer sandy areas in Zion.

O. caespitosa, **WHITE TUFTED EVENING PRIMROSE**: has short leafless stems arising from a basal tuft of leaves, each stem bearing a large very showy single white flower. Usually at the higher elevations such as the slickrock.

O. pallida, **PALE EVENING PRIMROSE**: a more spreading plant, with smaller white flowers and leafy stems. Often found still blooming in the slickrock well into summer.

Yucca species

YUCCA

Agave Family

Most of us who live in the west are familiar with this plant, and its long, stiff, very sharp-pointed leaves, and large attractive ivory white flowers, which are pollinated by night-flying Pronuba Moths.

Y. utahensis, **UTAH YUCCA**, has narrow-leaves and very tall flower stalks.

Y. baccata, **DATIL or BANANA YUCCA**, our broad-leaved species, has short flower stalks with flowers that nestle down among the leaves, thus avoiding being lunched by the deer.

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERSAstragalus zionis**ZION MILKVETCH***Pea Family*

A low spreading plant having compound leaves with many pairs of opposite rather silvery (and hairy) leaflets. Its flowers are typical pea ones, red violet with white markings in the throat. Very attractive! Look for it in sandy spots from Coalpits Wash up into the slickrock; one of our earliest bloomers.

Astragalus argophyllus, **SILVER-LEAVED MILKVETCH**, is very similar & nearly impossible to distinguish until the seed pods appear, but prefers higher elevations with better soil.

Castilleja species**PAINTBRUSH***Snapdragon Family*

The traditional "Indian Paintbrush" of one or a few stems and bright red (on ours) "flowers", which are actually bracts (specialized leaves). The flowers are the pointy green things sometimes seen protruding slightly from inside the bracts

Castilleja chromosa, **EARLY PAINTBRUSH**, has bright scarlet "flowers". It is usually the first of our paintbrushes to bloom, and really brightens the landscape. The foliage is also reddish, especially early in the season.

Castilleja scabrida, **SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH**, grows out of slickrock crevices; look for it on the east side of Zion. This year they seem to be rather small, but intensely red.

Castilleja linearifolia, **WYOMING PAINTBRUSH**, has orange-red "flowers"; it starts blooming in the spring, continues through the summer and into the fall, by which time it has usually become quite tall and gangly. Found mostly in Zion Canyon.

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis**ZION SHOOTING STAR***Primrose Family*

The unusual down-pointing pink flowers resembling shooting stars give this plant its common name. The variety found in Zion is particularly large and attractive. Found in hanging gardens. Usually blooming best in mid-to-late May, but we have some "early birds" at the lower Emerald Pool.

Mimulus cardinalis**SCARLET MONKEYFLOWER***Figwort Family*

An attractive hanging garden plant found high on the wet walls of hanging gardens. Sometimes grown as an ornamental, this one has relatively large bright scarlet flowers with yellow markings, that some (with excellent imaginations) think resemble a monkey's face. Found in the hanging gardens.

Mirabilis multiflora**COLORADO FOUR O'CLOCK***Four O'clock Family*

A low spreading plant, very handsome in bloom, with brilliant magenta to purple funnel-shaped flowers that open only when the plant is in the shade. Found mostly on dry slopes and mesas, not too plentiful.

Penstemon eatonii**EATON or FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*

This one's flowers are long, tubular scarlet ones with hardly any flare at the mouth, and relatively wide shiny green opposite leaves. It flowers a little later than P. utahensis, giving the hummingbird pollinators a longer season. One parent of the hybrid Jones Penstemon.

Penstemon palmeri**PALMER PENSTEMON***Snapdragon Family*

Its fat flowers range from nearly white to deep pink, with distinctive reddish "guidelines" on the lower lip to lead pollinators into the flowers. The upper leaves are joined around the stem into a boat-shaped arrangement which collects water; when the wind blows the plant gets watered! The only fragrant penstemon in Zion, it is often found in rather large masses, preferring rocky wash bottoms and dry canyonsides.

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERSLinum perenne ssp. lewisii**LEWIS FLAX***Flax Family*

The 5-petaled light blue -- with darker blue stripes -- flowers of this plant have a rather delicate appearance and do not last long, but the stems are quite tough and fibrous, as flax stems are. The plant has been used medicinally, as well as for food, and the fibers from the stems for making such things as cord and fishing lines. Canyon to slickrock.

Penstemon laevis **ROYAL or SMOOTH PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*
The blue parent of our hybrid JONES PENSTEMON, it is considerably fatter than the other parent, EATON PENSTEMON; but not as fat as the PALMER PENSTEMON. It is found mainly in the slickrock, in sandy areas.

Penstemon pachyphyllus **THICKLEAF PENSTEMON** *Snapdragon Family*
This lovely penstemon has narrow blue flowers, arranged in whorls around the stems. Leaves silvery and rather thick. Blooms first in Coalpits Wash and later in the Slickrock on the east side; I've never seen it in Zion Canyon. Likes sand.

Salvia dorrii **PURPLE or DESERT SAGE** *Mint Family*
A relatively small shrub with small silvery leaves having a distinct and delicious minty sage smell, The unusual and particularly beautiful bright blue flowers nestle in purple bracts; quite spectacular in flower! Found on dry canyon slopes and flats. Just starting to bloom, in the lower elevations.

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Baileya multiradiata **DESERT MARIGOLD** *Composite Family*
The very white foliage of this plant is due to its being covered by a mat of white hair. The 25-50 wide layered ray flowers and many disk flowers are bright yellow; usually a single flower head per stem. Found at the lower elevations such as the lower Watchman Trail; a showy 3-season bloomer.

Camissonia brevipes **DESERT DAY PRIMROSE, SUNDROPS** *Evening Primrose Family*
This annual is usually only a foot or so high, but can get larger. The golden yellow flowers open during the day. Leaves are mainly basal, unusual in shape -- deeply lobed, clear in to the petiole at the stem end. Deserty areas; check out Watchman Trail.

Encelia frutescens var. virginensis **BUSH ENCELIA** *Composite Family*
A rather small rounded shrub with whitish stems and very rough leaves having short stiff hairs; both ray and disk flowers are yellow. Look for it on gravelly, rocky, deserty slopes such as lower Watchman Trail.

Erysimum asperum **WESTERN WALLFLOWER** *Mustard Family*
This plant may be a foot tall or occasionally more, generally unbranched; its large clusters of bright yellow four-petaled flowers have a delicate but pleasant lilac scent when newly opened. Larger than Draba, and has leaves on the stem and flowers in clusters.

Gaillardia spp. **BLANKETFLOWER** *Composite Family*
We have several species here, some rather difficult to tell apart, as they've hybridized. Up to about a foot tall, yellow rays and usually dark brown disk. Found mainly along the highway around the Visitor Center and east to the bridge over the Virgin River. Pretty and cheerful. Most common species is G. spathulata.

Purshia mexicana **CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH** *Rose Family*
This shrub is generally rather small in Zion; but occasionally quite large, and with shaggy bark rather like a juniper. The shiny leaves are small and 5-lobed, with a bitter taste that gives it one of its common names. The flowers are light yellow, with 5 petals, 5 pistils which later elongate into very long plumose styles, and many stamens. Closely related and very similar is Purshia tridentata, **ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH**, which can be distinguished by its larger 3-lobed dull green leaves, and smaller flowers with a single pistil.

Stanleya pinnata **PRINCES' PLUME** *Mustard Family*
A large subshrub, woody at the base, this one is quite showy in bloom; with long plumes of narrow yellow flowers quite different from typical mustard ones. It grows on shales and mudstones, only in soil that contains the element selenium, so is poisonous to wildlife and cattle as well as humans. No

munching!

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia

GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW

Mallow Family

A typical orange globemallow generally of one or a few stems and loose elongate many-flowered heads, found on rocky slopes. The leaves are deeply cleft, parted, and toothed, easily distinguishing it from

S. ambigua, **DESERT HOLLYHOCK**, whose leaves are much less cleft, resembling small cultivated hollyhock leaves. It is often quite bushy, and is found mainly in the lower elevations.

S. coccinea, **SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW**, has leaves somewhat more cleft than ambigua, but less than grossulariifolia.

8 Pictures by color

8.1 White flowers

WHITE FLOWERS

Composite or Sunflower Family

[Erigeron pumilus](#)

EARLY WHITE DAISY

[Erigeron utahensis](#)

UTAH DAISY

(may also be pink/bluish)

Evening Primrose Family

[Oenothera caespitosa](#)

WHITE TUFTED EVENING PRIMROSE

[Oenothera pallida](#)

PALE EVENING PRIMROSE

Lily Family

[Calochortus nuttallii](#)

SEGO LILY (see also under variable)

[Smilacina stellata](#)

STAR-FLOWERED SOLOMON PLUME

Pea Family

[Astragalus praelongus](#)

RATTLEWEED or STINKING MILKVETCH

[Peteria thompsonae](#) (picture not available) THOMPSON PETERIA

Phlox Family

[Linanthastrum nuttallii](#)

NUTTALL GILIA

Potato or Nightshade family

[Lycium andersonii](#)

ANDERSON WOLFBERRY, WATERJACKET

[Lycium pallidum](#)

TOMATILLA or WOLFBERRY

Purslane Family

[Montia perfoliata](#)

MINER'S LETTUCE

Rose Family

[Amelanchier utahensis](#)

UTAH SERVICEBERRY

Waterleaf Family

[Phacelia heterophylla](#) (picture not available) SCORPIONWEED, VARILEAF PHACELIA

8.2 Pink to red/red-violet

PINK TO RED OR RED-VIOLET FLOWERS

Buckwheat Family

[Rumex crispus](#)

WILD RHUBARB, CURLY DOCK

Cactus Family

[Echinocereus engelmannii](#)

PURPLE TORCH

[Echinocereus triglochidiatus](#)

CLARET CUP

Figwort Family

[Mimulus cardinalis](#)

SCARLET MONKEYFLOWER

Four O'clock Family

[Mirabilis multiflora](#)

COLORADO FOUR O'CLOCK

Geranium Family

[Erodium cicutarium](#)

RED-STEMMED FILAREE

(invasive, non-native species)

Heath Family

[Arctostaphylos pungens](#)

MANZANITA

Lily Family

[Calochortus flexuosus](#)

BENTSTEM MARIPOSA (see also variable)

Mustard Family

[Arabis holboellii](#) & [Arabis perennans](#) ROCKCRESS

Pea Family

[Astragalus zionis](#)

ZION MILKVETCH

[Astragalus argophyllus](#), SILVER-LEAVED MILKVETCH

[Lathyrus brachycalyx var. zionis](#)

ZION SWEETPEA

Phlox Family

[Phlox austromontana](#)

DESERT PHLOX

compact mounded mound (var. [austromontana](#), DESERT PHLOX)
looser and cascading over cliffs and ledges (var. [jonesii](#), ZION CANYON PHLOX)

Primrose Family

[Dodecatheon pulchellum var. zionensis](#) ZION SHOOTING STAR

Snapdragon Family

[Castilleja chromosa](#) EARLY PAINTBRUSH

[Castilleja scabrifida](#) SLICKROCK PAINTBRUSH

[Castilleja linearifolia](#) (picture not available) WYOMING PAINTBRUSH

[Penstemon eatonii](#) EATON or FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON

[Penstemon utahensis](#) UTAH PENSTEMON

[Penstemon palmeri](#) PALMER PENSTEMON

Waterleaf Family

[Phacelia fremontii](#) FREMONT PHACELIA

8.3 Blue or purple

BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS

Lily Family

[Dichelostemma pulchellum](#) **BLUEDICKS**

Flax Family

[Linum perenne ssp. lewisii](#) **LEWIS FLAX**

Mint Family

[Salvia dorrii](#) **PURPLE or DESERT SAGE**

Mustard Family

[Chorispora tenella](#) **MUSK MUSTARD**

Snapdragon Family

[Penstemon laevis](#) **ROYAL or SMOOTH PENSTEMON**

8.4 Yellow or orange

YELLOW OR ORANGE FLOWERS

Barberry Family

[Mahonia repens](#)

OREGON GRAPE

Borage Family

[Cryptantha confertiflora](#)

YELLOW FORGET-ME-NOT

Composite/Sunflower Family

[Baileya multiradiata](#)

DESERT MARIGOLD

[Encelia frutescens var. virginensis](#)

BUSH ENCELIA

[Gaillardia](#) spp.

BLANKETFLOWER

[Heterotheca villosa](#)

HAIRY GOLDENASTER

Evening Primrose Family

[Camissonia brevipes](#)

DESERT DAY PRIMROSE, SUNDROPS

Lily Family

[Calochortus aureus](#)

GOLDEN MARIPOSA (see also variable)

Mallow Family

[Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia](#)

GOOSEBERRYLEAF GLOBEMALLOW

[S. ambigua](#), DESERT HOLLYHOCK

[S. coccinea](#), (picture not available) SCARLET GLOBEMALLOW

Mustard Family

[Draba asprella var. zionensis](#)

EARLY DRABA

[Erysimum asperum](#)

WESTERN WALLFLOWER

[Stanleya pinnata](#)

PRINCES' PLUME

Oleaster Family

[Shepherdia rotundifolia](#)

ROUNDLEAF BUFFALOBERRY

Pea Family

[Lotus plebeius](#)

DEERCLOVER, DEERWEED

Rose Family

[Purshia mexicana](#)

CLIFFROSE or QUININE BUSH

[Purshia tridentata](#)

ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH

8.5 Variable colors

Buttercup Family

[Aquilegia spp](#)

COLUMBINE

[A. chrysantha](#), GOLDEN COLUMBINE[A. formosa](#) WESTERN COLUMBINE

Cactus Family

[O. basilaris](#)

BEAVERTAIL

[O. macrorhiza](#), PLAINS PRICKLY PEAR[O. erinacea](#) var. [utahensis](#), CLIFF PRICKLY PEAR[O. phaeacantha](#) var. [major](#), ENGELMANN PRICKLY PEAR, or ELEPHANT-EAR

Composite/Sunflower Family

[Erigeron pumilus](#)

EARLY WHITE DAISY

(listed under white also)

Lily Family

[Calochortus nuttallii](#)

SEGO LILY (see also under white)

[Calochortus flexuosus](#)

BENTSTEM MARIPOSA

[Calochortus aureus](#)

GOLDEN MARIPOSA

Orchid Family

[Epipactis gigantea](#)

GIANT HELLEBORINE

Snapdragon Family

[Penstemon X jonesii](#)

JONES (HYBRID) PENSTEMON

8.6 Trees/inconspicuous

Trees/inconspicuous

Birch Family

Betula occidentalis **WATER BIRCH**

Bittersweet Family

Pachystima myrsinites **MOUNTAIN-LOVER, OREGON BOXWOOD**

Cypress Family

Juniperus spp. **JUNIPER**

Juniperus osteosperma **UTAH JUNIPER**

Juniperus scopulorum **ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER**

Maple Family

Acer grandidentatum **BIGTOOTH MAPLE**

Acer negundo var. interior **BOXELDER**

Olive Family

Fraxinus velutina **VELVET ASH**

Willow Family

Populus fremonti **FREMONT COTTONWOOD**