

2012: Season of Discovery

Even without carpets of wildflowers along the road sides, blossoms can be found if you are willing to leave your car to walk, especially in western canyons and washes.

Scattered annuals may be found blooming along roadsides in the south.

Wildflower Update for March 11th

- Visitor Center area: brittlebush, chuparosa (most have red blossoms, but there is one in the Nierenberg Amphitheater that is covered with yellow flowers), and desert lavender are in bloom. A beautiful beavertail cactus has started blooming near the Nierenberg Plaza and Amphitheater, and has many more buds ready to go! Tiny cryptantha is just about the only annual so far, although one (1!) desert dandelion was spotted recently, and a few phacelia plants have started to grow, though they have yet to bloom. What can you find?
- Borrego Palm Canyon: chuparosa, brittlebush, viguiera, trixis, desert lavender, ocotillo, sweetbush, cheesebush, and creosote bush; scattered (and few) annuals such as monkeyflowers, pygmy poppies, whispering bells, rock daisy, cryptantha and phacelia. Look for the delicate white blossoms of fiesta flower in shady spots.
- June Wash: Located about an hour's drive from Borrego Springs (near mile marker 41 on County Highway S-2), the entrance to June Wash is one of the best places to look for annual wildflowers, with plenty of brown-eyed evening primrose, along with desert chicory, phacelia, cryptantha, and pincushion. Drivers of two-wheel-drive vehicles should be careful to stay in the roadbed, especially near the entrance where there is soft sand. After about ¼ mile, there is blooming ocotillo, and brittlebush in the south fork after the road splits.