Why are California’s native wildflowers so special?

The diversity of California’s native plant life, about 6,000 species, is unequaled by any other state. This results from the state’s varied climate, soils, and geology. Nearly one-quarter of these plants live naturally only in California.

California’s wildflowers are an important and vibrant part of our natural heritage. While providing food and cover for animals, these plants also manufacture oxygen and filter water. Some are used to produce agricultural products and medicines. Unfortunately, wildflowers are disappearing.

Development has altered areas where wildflowers were once abundant. Even where wildlands are protected, wildflowers are threatened by plants not native to California and by the activities of people. To ensure that future visitors can also enjoy this stunning display of blossoms, please stay on trails and don’t pick the flowers.