

# OAK FLAT LOOKOUT FIELD PLANT GUIDEBOOK

## Forest Sequoia National Greenhorn Ranger District



Discover the bright gold, purple and reds of a wildflower display. During your stay at historic Oak Flat Lookout, you have the opportunity to explore and learn the native plants of the area. Panoramic vistas and a wildflower bouquet to dazzle your senses can be found by those willing to explore.

You can find many wildflowers in Kern County; at last count there were over 175 different species of blooming plants found here. No matter what time of year you visit, there are areas to explore and plant communities to get to know.

In spring, the area around the lookout turns into a dazzling garden. Showtime starts in late February when the first wildflowers appear at lower elevations. Displays continue throughout the spring and early summer at higher elevations. Wildflowers grow in many types of habitats, which you can follow as you drive Rancheria Road.

The warm days of summer turn the hills around Oak Flat to a sunny hue. Waving fields of golden grasses can be found around the lookout. Use this time to explore the higher country of Greenhorn Mountain for later blooming plants of the meadows and springs. Many of the chaparral shrubs species will also be in bloom during summer.

Fall brings cool nights to the mountain and the fall color show begins with the turning of the oak leaves. Black Oak leaves turn a gold and red with the coming of the cold nights.

There's still color on the mountain for those visiting in winter. The contrast between white snow, evergreen oaks and the remaining green shrubs makes a great view from the warmth of the tower or for those exploring on cross country skis.

During your visit to Oak Flat, you can learn to identify plants by where they grow and how they look. The Ranger Station sells good wildflower guides to help discover wildflowers on your trip. This guidebook is a starting point to help identify common plants found in the vicinity of Oak Flat Lookout. Each one was photographed here.

Wildflowers and plants are the jewels of the Forest and like any treasure, they must be protected for all to enjoy. Enjoy, study and get to know them, but leave them to grow and delight the next person:

Take only photographs and memories when you leave.

Please don't pick the flowers.

Tread lightly and stay on trails.

Our thanks to Russ Lewis for the time and effort to photograph the plants of Oak Flat Lookout and the donation of cameras, film and development to make this guidebook possible.

### For More Information:

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