



HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Eureka, California

Welcome to the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden at the Humboldt Botanical Garden!

We encourage you to take a walk through the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden (NPG) this April and May as it begins to put out new foliage and bloom. This garden was first planted in 2007-2008, and since then has been steadily growing in stature and diversity. We now have over 150 California native species from throughout the California Floristic Province represented in 24 separate garden beds covering approximately 1.5 acres.

During spring, most of the NPG plants begin to display a new flush of growth. This is a time of warmer weather and increasing day length. For many natives, growth and flowering coincides with the onset of longer days, more sunshine and warmer, drier soils. Except for new plantings, the NPG does not receive any supplemental irrigation and must rely entirely on rainfall. Spring maintenance work primarily involves the continual removal of several species of aggressive weeds, which have been abundant after our particularly wet March.

Although not yet in full bloom, many plants begin flowering in the NPG at this time of year. Look for the first **coastal California poppy** (*Eschscholzia californica* var. *maritima*), **Douglas' meadowfoam** (*Limnanthes douglasii*), **bush monkeyflower** (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), **California fremontia** (*Fremontodendron californicum*), **Siskiyou checkerbloom** (*Sidalcea malviflora* ssp. *patula*), and **'dark star' ceanothus** (*Ceanothus impressus* x *C. papillosus* var. *roweanus*). These and many others should start to bloom at this time. If you managed a visit in March, you may have seen the beautiful blossoms of **golden currant** (*Ribes aureum*), **pink flowering currant** (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*), and **Oregon grape** (*Berberis aquifolium*). A few of these may remain in bloom through April.

Later this spring and into summer the large white "fried egg" flowers of **Matilija poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*), and the bright blues of **Cleveland sage** (*Salvia clevelandii*) and its associated natural hybrids will appear, followed by the pink blooming heads of **dune buckwheat** (*Eriogonum latifolium*), and **Santa Cruz Island buckwheat** (*Eriogonum arborescens*).

On the west and south side of the native plant garden, look for early blooms of **California rose** (*Rosa californica*), and the beautiful mounds of **Fort Bragg manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos nummularia*). At the top entrance to the NPG, you may see the stunning effect of a long row of blooming **'Skylark' ceanothus** (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus* 'Skylark') that separate this garden from the Dedekam Ornamental Terrace Garden above.

We have worked hard to fill in the last openings in the NPG by adding new and interesting native plants, as well as more structure and texture. We have also rehabilitated some garden beds by removing overgrown or dying shrubs and replanting with more color and diversity. The year 2017 and winter 2018 saw the installation of numerous unusual and rare specimens. In the last four years alone we have introduced over 600 plants to the NPG, including 34 new kinds of **manzanitas** (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), 12 different **sages** (*Salvia* spp.), and many other plants of importance as sources of pollen and nectar. Large rock features were also integrated into the NPG this past year. Because the NPG changes dramatically throughout the seasons, we invite you to return often to enjoy the garden's beauty. We hope to see you again soon!

---Mark Moore, Volunteer Curator

For more information or to volunteer: Humboldt Botanical Garden, PO Box 6117, Eureka, CA 95502, (707) 442-5139, www.hbgf.org

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