



# HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Eureka, California

## Spring and Summer 2024 in the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden

We encourage you to take a walk through the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden (NPG) this spring and early summer 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 almost 200 California native species from throughout the California Floristic Province (see the interpretive sign in the NPG near the Paver Patio) 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 usually occurs in April, but can be delayed by cool, wet conditions. Regardless, it is a time of gradually warmer weather and increasing day length. For many natives, growth and flowering coincides with the onset of these longer days, more sunshine and warmer soils. May and June are prime time for color in the NPG.

Except for new plantings, the NPG does not receive supplemental irrigation and must rely entirely on rainfall. Spring maintenance work primarily involves the removal of several species of aggressive weeds such as popweed, sorrel, euphorbia, dandelion, pimpernel, and annual bluegrass. Controlling weeds is a major task which requires hundreds of volunteer hours to accomplish and is critical to the health and appearance of the NPG.

Towards the end of spring and through much of summer bright yellow **Coastal Maritime Poppies** (*Eschscholzia californica* var. *maritima*), large white “fried egg” flowers of **Matilija Poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*), and purple flowers of **‘Mountain Pride Solanum’** (*Solanum xanti*) will appear. These will be followed by the pink blooming heads of **dune buckwheat** (*Eriogonum latifolium*), and **Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum arborescens*). If you like native lilies don’t miss our beautiful **Leopard Lilies** (*Lilium pardalinum*). They are found in several locations, with the largest plantings located in screened enclosures to protect them from rabbits and other hungry rodents. They will be in bloom in June.

On the west side of the garden look for the beautiful mounds of **Fort Bragg manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos nummularia*). Along the top entrance to the NPG, you may see the bright blues of a long row of blooming **‘Skylark’ Ceanothus** (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus* ‘Skylark’) that separate this garden from the Dedekam Ornamental Terrace Garden and Betty Kuhnel Heather Garden above.

We work hard to fill in openings in the NPG by adding new and interesting native plants, as well as more structure and texture. Indeed, plant replacement and upgrading in the NPG is really never done. We have also rehabilitated almost all of the garden beds by removing overgrown or dying shrubs and replanting with more color and diversity. In the last five years alone we have introduced over 900 new plants to the NPG, including over 40 different kinds of **manzanitas** (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) and many other natives of importance as sources of pollen and nectar.

Because the garden changes dramatically throughout the seasons, we invite you to return often to enjoy its color and texture. We hope to see you out there soon!

Mark Moore, Curator

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

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