

# Spring Wildflowers

- Arizona jewelflower (*Streptanthus carinatus*)
- Bajada lupine (*Lupinus concinnus*)
- Barestem larkspur (*Delphinium scaposum*)
- Bladderpod (*Lesquerella gordonii*)
- Bluedicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*)
- Blue Phacelia (*Phacelia distans*)
- Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*)
- Canyon penstemon (*Penstemon psuedospectabilis*)
- Cardinal penstemon (*Penstemon eatoni*)
- Chia (*Salvia columbariae*)
- Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*)
- Desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*)
- Desert mariposa lily (*Calochortus kennedyi*)
- Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*)
- Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)
- Mexican golden poppy (*Eschscholtzia mexicana*)
- Mojave lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*)
- Owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta* [*Orthocarpus purpurascens*])
- Parry's penstemon (*Penstemon parryi*)
- Purple mat (*Nama demissum*)
- Tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)
- Western wall flower (*Erysimum capitatum*)

**And many more!**



Parry's penstemon (*Penstemon parryi*) is a gorgeous tall bloomer that will attract hummingbirds to your yard..



Desert senna (*Senna covesii*) is easy to get started from seed, and attracts cloudless sulfur butterflies!



Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) is usually orange, but look for other colors as well – blooms can be orange, white, pink, red, or lavender!

## Resources:

Arizona Native Plant Society  
<http://www.aznps.com>



Southern Arizona Wildflowers and  
Plants of the Sonoran Desert  
<http://www.fireflyforest.com/flowers/>

Arizona Desert Museum  
<http://www.desertmuseum.org/>

# A guide to collecting and growing Sonoran Desert Wildflowers



Brought to you by the  
**TUCSON CHAPTER**  
of the **ARIZONA**  
**NATIVE PLANT**  
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# Monsoon wildflowers

Arizona blue-eyes (*Evolvulus arizonicus*)  
Arizona foldwing (*Dicliptera resupinata*)  
Arizona poppy (*Kallstroemia grandiflora*)  
Brownfoot (*Acourtia wrightii*)  
Blackfoot daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*)  
Cinch weed (*Pectis papposa*)  
Cockroach plant (*Haplophyton crooksii*)  
Desert cotton (*Gossypium thurberi*)  
Desert senna (*Senna covesii*)  
Devil's claw (*Proboscidea parviflora*)  
Dogweed (*Dyssodia pentachaeta*)  
Hooker's evening primrose (*Oenothera elata*)  
Paper flower (*Psilostrophe cooperi*)  
Prickly poppy (*Argemone pleiacantha*)  
Pringle's clustervine (*Jacquemontia pringlei*)  
Purple aster (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*)  
Sacred datura (*Datura wrightii*)  
Spreading fanpetals (*Sida abutilifolia*)

**And many more!**



Arizona blue-eyes (*Evolvulus arizonicus*) is a wonderful addition to any garden!



Sacred datura (*Datura wrightii*) – use gloves and take care with where you plant it, this plant is poisonous; it attracts hawkmoths.

## Collecting Seed

Collecting and storing native wildflower seeds for your garden is fun, easy and free. There are a few things to keep in mind before you go out gathering wildflower seeds:

- Feel free to collect from your own yard.
- Ask your neighbors before you take seeds from their yard.
- Never gather seeds in State or National Parks. Collection on any public lands requires a permit.
- Very important - some people are allergic to certain plants and many will react when handling seeds.

Once you have identified the seeds you want to collect make sure the seeds are mature. It is usually easy to tell when seeds are mature. Pods or husks will be tan or brown and brittle. The seed inside will be hard, and vary in color from black to tan.

After you harvest the seed store them in paper bags or envelopes. Some plastic bags don't allow air circulation and might encourage mold. Label the bag or envelope with the plant name and the date collected. Store your seeds in a cool dark place until you are ready to plant.

## How to plant

Native wildflowers are adapted to the difficult growing conditions of the Sonoran desert. Once established, wildflowers need minimal care. However, you can't just sprinkle seeds on the ground and expect them to survive. In the Southwest wildflowers have two bloom seasons that coincide with the two rainy season, winter/spring and summer/fall (monsoon). Plant spring bloomers in the fall and summer bloomers in the spring.

Choose your location. Most wildflowers like a sunny locations. Avoid poorly drained or heavily compacted soils.

Birds and other small animals are attracted to wildflower seeds. Rock, gravel or decomposed granite mulch or ground cover make ideal medium for wildflowers. Sprinkle your seeds and hose them down into the rock to create a seed-to-soil contact and to protect them from hungry birds.

If you are sowing seed in soil without a rocky mulch or the soil has been compacted, loosen the top inch of soil with a hard rake or cultivator to create niches for the seed. No need to loosen deeper than one inch.

Do not bury your seeds any deeper than 1/8th of an inch. Some of the seeds will remain visible on the soil surface. Remember that seeds not only need moisture, but light as well for germination.

Depending on the amount of rain, you may need to water your seeds and seedlings to ensure a good wildflower display. Keep the soil moist for up to three weeks or until the seedlings emerge. When the seedlings reach one or two inches tall, water only when you see signs of stress such as wilt or yellowing.