

Checker Mallow

Sidalcea malvaeflora ssp. *malvaeflora*
Mallow Family, Malvaceae



Commonly found on open grassy slopes, this sprawling perennial with hairy stems and distinctive flowers makes this plant easy to identify during its long blooming season. Dense clusters of dark green, bristly, rounded basal leaves with 7-9 shallow lobes surround a tall flower stalk. Pale to deep pink delicate hollyhock like flowers line the stalk. Prominent white veins on the five petals of each flower give it a lace like, showy appeal. The flowers open in the morning and close at night.

This is an excellent part deciduous ground cover that likes sun to part shade and minimal to moderate water.

Mar–Aug • Ma, So, Na, Me
30–60 cm, 1–2 ft



Checker Mallow

Oregon Checkerbloom

Sidalcea oregana
Mallow Family, Malvaceae



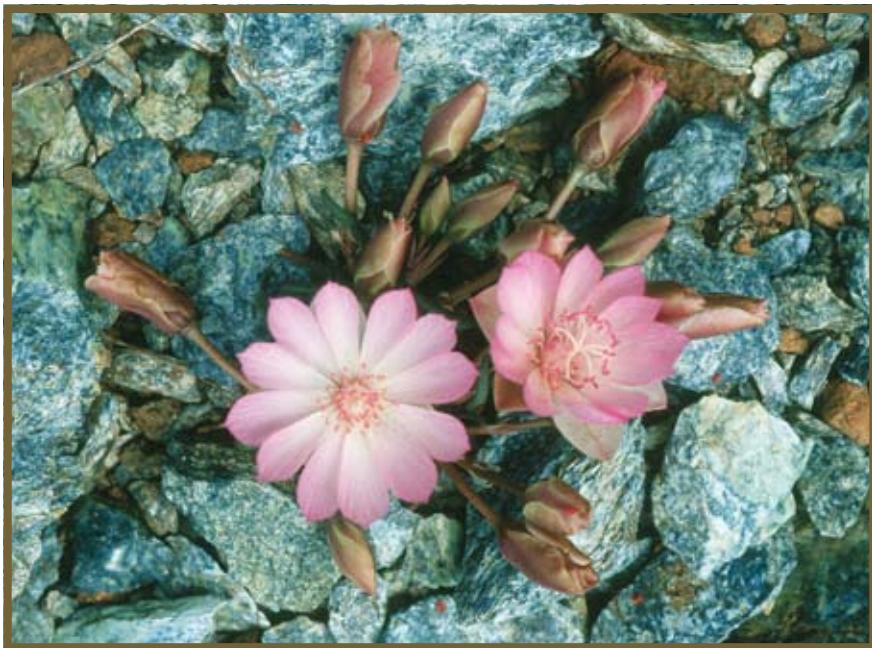
You'll find this perennial with its rose pink flowers and deep green foliage in wetland habitats, along the edges of moist meadows and seasonal seeps. Deeply lobed basal leaves produce a tall spike of densely clustered pink to rose colored flowers. Each flower is formed by five oblong petals lightly streaked with pale pink veins. Typical of the Mallow Family, the filaments of the many stamens are fused into a tube.



Oregon Checkerbloom

Sonoma County's Kenwood Marsh Checkerbloom, *S. oregana* ssp. *valida* is on the California endangered species list. This is a protected species throughout the state.

Jun–Jul • So, Na, Me
20–90 cm, 8–36 in



Bitter Root

Lewisia rediviva

Purslane Family, Portulacaceae



Consider yourself lucky when you come across this very low growing perennial. It grows in rocky areas, on loose gravelly slopes, and sometimes serpentine. The flowers are large, 5-8 cm, 1-3 in, across, with 10-19 pink or white petals. The reddish green leaves are linear, low to the ground and nearly hidden when the flower is in bloom. The leaves die back soon after the plant flowers.



In August, 1805, Captain Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, first tasted Bitter Root, which he found "naucious to my pallate." On the return trip through Bitter-root Valley, Montana, in July, 1806, he collected a sample. Frederick Pursh (1774-1820) classified the plant and named it for Captain Lewis.

Native Americans used this extremely nutritious root as a diet staple.

Mar-Jun • Ma, So, Na,
3-10 cm, 1-4 in