

Harvest Brodiaea

Brodiaea elegans
Lily Family, *Liliaceae*



Dressed in royal purple petals, this is truly a most elegant, though common, *Brodiaea*. Six shiny deep lavender petals form a funnel shaped flower. Each petal has a prominent mid rib and shades from pale green at the base to white to deep purple at the tip. The flowers are attached to a single, leafless stem in an umbel cluster of up to ten flowers at the top. Found on grassy slopes, hilltops and open woodlands, mounds of grass like basal leaves dry out before the flower appears in late spring.

California Indians baked the bulbs in fire pits and ate them as a vegetable.

Apr–Jul • Ma, So, Na, Me
20–45 cm, 8–18 in



Harvest brodiaea

Star Brodiaea

Brodiaea stellaris
Lily Family, *Liliaceae*



The common name of many plants tell a great deal about their dominant features. When viewed from above the striking flower of this perennial does indeed resemble a star. Six blue violet, egg shaped petals form a funnel shaped flower. Three glossy white, forked appendages surround a bundle of deep yellow colored filaments at the center of the flower. Numerous flowers grow

in an umbel cluster atop a leafless stem. Leaves are basal and sparse. Look for this attractive endemic plant in serpentine, openings in redwood and mixed evergreen forests. Similar to Harvest Brodiaea, but Star Brodiaea is often smaller.



Star Brodiaea

Apr–Jul • So, Me
15–25 cm, 6–10 in

Ithuriel's Spear

Triteleia laxa

Lily Family, *Liliaceae*



In mid to late spring as the grasses begin to golden, this bright blue purple flower provides the only contrast color over vast stretches of gold. Spear head like flower buds open to reveal six petals forming each vivid flower. Clusters of flowers sit atop leafless stems. Leaves are basal, linear, and often withered when flowers are present. Common to dry flats, slopes, open woodland, and grassland.

Similar to Harvest Brodiaea, but Ithuriel's Spear has non shiny petals and a longer stem.

Named after the spear of Ithuriel, an angel in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, it is also known as Wally Basket.

Bees and butterflies love this blossom.

Apr–Jun • Ma, So, Na, Me
30–120 cm, 1–4 ft



Ithuriel's Spear

Ground Brodiaea

Brodiaea terrestris

Lily Family, *Liliaceae*



This perennial grows close to the ground on grasslands near the coast forming small mats. They may be so prevalent it is almost impossible not to step on them. Six shiny, blue violet to pink egg shaped petals with a prominent midrib and tiny spikes at the tip form the typical tube like flower of *Brodiaeas*. Three glossy white, forked appendages surround the center filaments which appear fused together in three segments marked in yellow. The leaves are unremarkable, basal and grass like. The plant is often found among drying grasses.



Ground Brodiaea

Apr–Jul • Ma, So, Na, Me
to 10 cm, 4 in