California Phenology Project: species profile for California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

CPP site(s) where this species is monitored: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Photo credit: Vsion (Wikipedia)

What does this species look like?

This herbaceous plant is an annual (but occasionally perennial) in habit and grows up to 60 centimeters in height. The blue-green leaves are subdivided into long segments. The flowers have four petals and range in color from yellow to orange. They are bisexual, having both male and female parts within each flower. The petals close at night and in cold or windy weather.

*When monitoring this species, use the USA-NPN **forbs** datasheet.*

Species facts!

- The CPP four letter code for this species is **ESCA.**
- The official state flower of California; April 6th is California Poppy Day.
- Although considered toxic, Native Americans used the roots and leaves for pain relief and the leaves for food.
- California Poppy is primarily pollinated by honeybees, bumblebees, and solitary bees, although it is visited by a large variety of insects.

Photo credit: Brian (PYHOOYA, Flickr)

Photo credit: Brian Michelsen (Flickr)

Where is this species found?

- Found in grassy, open, and desert habitats.
- Grows well in disturbed areas.
- Found in sites with well drained soil.
- Occurs t elevations between 0-2000 meters.
- Ranges from Southern Washington to Baja California.

For more information about phenology and the California Phenology Project (CPP), please visit the CPP website (www.usanpn.org/cpp) and the USA-NPN website (www.usanpn.org)

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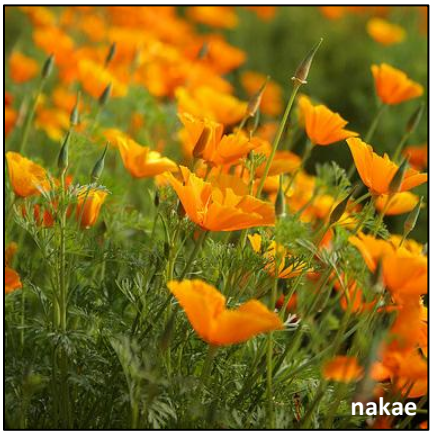
Initial growth

Look for cotyledons that appear with germination, before the first leaves unfold.

Leaves

Each leaf is divided into long thin sections.



Flowers or flower buds

Flowers of this species appear singly; count individual flowers when measuring abundance. Because the flowers close when the air is cool, it can be difficult to distinguish un-open from open flowers on cool days or evenings.

Open flowers

These flowers have both male and female parts. ***Note****: flower phenophases are nested; if you record* ***Y*** *for "open flowers" you should also record* ***Y*** *to "flowers or flower buds"*

Fruits

The fruit is a capsule; changes from green to tan or brown; and then splits open at its base.

Ripe fruits

The fruit is ripe when it splits open at its base. ***Note****: fruit phenophases are nested; if you record* ***Y*** *for "ripe fruits" you should also record* ***Y*** *to "fruits".*

Phenophases not pictured: ***Recent fruit or seed drop***

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