

Guide to Common Vegetation of the UC Santa Cruz Farm

An identification aid

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Field marigold (*Calendula arvensis*)

Asteraceae family*

10-50 cm tall

Leaves lance-shaped to spatula-shaped,
attached directly to stem (sessile)

Leaves and stems hairy and sweetly fragrant

Flower up to 4 cm wide, pale yellow to orange

Flowering time: March-May

*Asteraceae family characteristics:

- Flowers are often composite (many small flowers in one head)
- Leaves often produce a milky latex



Hairy cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)

Asteraceae family

10-80 cm tall

Leaves 6-25 cm long, basal rosette

Flowers yellow, compound (similar to dandelion, daisy)

Often mistaken for dandelion. Best distinguished by *H. radicata*'s hairy leaves and rounded leaf lobes (dandelion leaves are smooth and have jagged lobes with pointed tips)



Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)

Asteraceae family

- Stem height ranges from 8 inches to 6 feet
- Leaves a basal rosette, with a few small, alternate leaves on flowering stems
- Leaf lobes are tipped with spines
- Typically 2-5 flower heads per cluster



Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)

Brassicaceae family*

- Leaves a basal rosette, with a few small, alternate leaves on flowering stems
- Leaves are deeply lobed
- Flowering time: all year
- Flowers are small and have four petals. They can be yellow, white or pink.
- Seed pods are small and bean-like
- Morphologically indistinguishable from wild mustard

*Brassicaceae family characteristics:

- Cross-shaped flowers with 4 petals, generally white, pink or yellow
- Fruit a bean-like silique
- Lobed or lance-shaped leaves



Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Convolvulaceae family*

Leaves alternate, spade-shaped, 2-3 cm long

White (sometimes pink-tinged), funnel-shaped flower similar to morning glory

Stems grow laterally along the ground, twining around other plants

Flowering time: March-October

*Convolvulaceae family characteristics:

- Funnel-shaped flowers (five fused petals)
- Winding or twining stems
- Leaves simple and alternate



Cranesbill geranium (*Geranium dissectum*)

Geraniaceae family*

- Leaves deeply dissected with 5-7 segments
- Small, pinkish-purple flowers
- Flowers March-July
- Fruit (seed pod) a fuzzy spike (see top right photo)



*Geraniaceae family characteristics:

- Pink flowers with 5 petals
- Long, beak-like fruit
- Lobed or dissected leaves

Broad-leaf filaree (*Erodium botrys*)

Geraniaceae family

10-90 cm tall

Hairy stems and leaves

Leaves a basal rosette, dark green, deeply lobed with red or green petioles

Flowers pink, petals 10-13 mm

Fruit a long (8-13 cm), slender spike with a pointed tip



Cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*)

Malvaceae family*

20-80 cm tall, widely branching

Leaves round with 5-7 toothed lobes

2-4 flowers emerging from axil
(intersection of stem and leaf stalk)

Flowers pink to white

Flowering time: March-May

*Malvaceae family characteristics:

- Leaves generally alternate, palmately lobed
- Flowers usually a 5-lobed cone



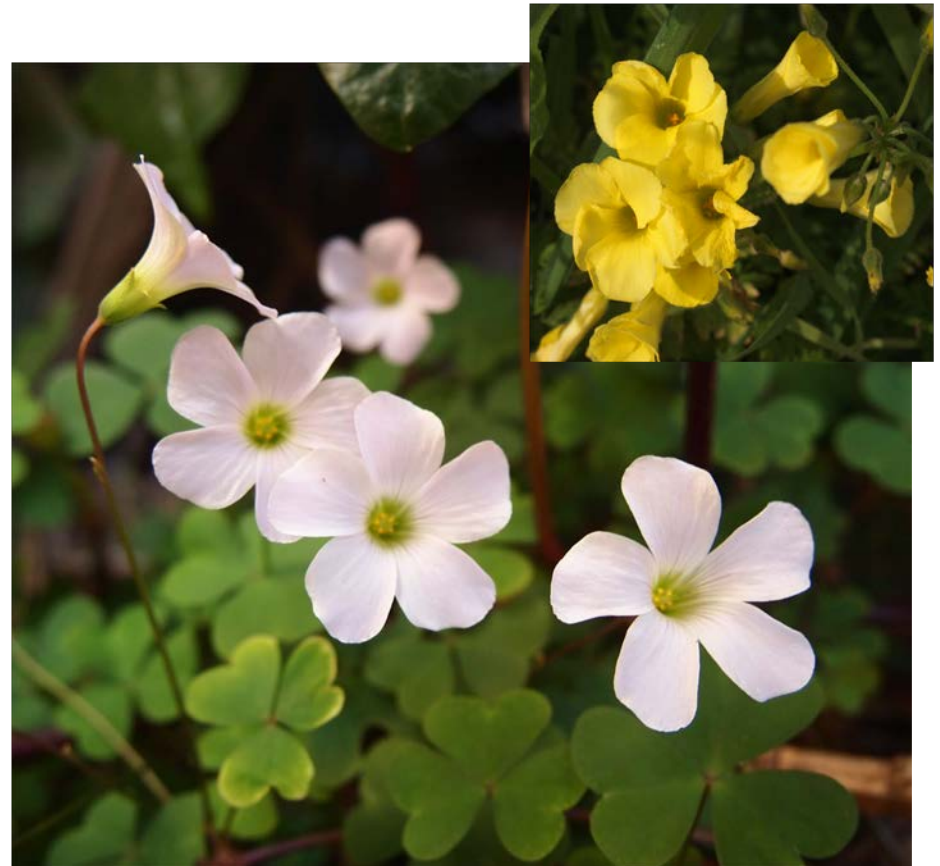
Wood sorrel (*Oxalis spp.*)

Oxalidaceae family*

- Often mistaken for clover
- Small (<7cm) leaves made up of three heart-shaped leaflets
- Flowers white to pinkish or yellow, with 5 petals
- Flowering time: all year
- Leaves and flowers have sour flavor
- Small underground bulbs

*Oxalidaceae family characteristics:

- Divided leaves, which fold closed at night and reopen in the daytime



California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

Papaveraceae family*

5-60 cm tall

Leaves alternate, blue-green, waxy,
deeply divided into small rounded
lobes

Flowers orange or yellow, usually with
orange base

Flower petals close at night or in cloudy
weather

Fruit a slender, 3-9 cm capsule

*Papaveraceae family characteristics:

- Produce milky, clear or colored latex
- Most species have alternate leaves
- Leaves usually lobed or deeply divided



English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

Plantaginaceae family*

Leaves lance-shaped , 5-25 cm long

Flowers a spike on the end of a long (25-80cm)
peduncle (stem)

Tiny, opaque, paper-like petals

Flowering time: April-August

*Plantaginaceae family characteristics:

- Very morphologically diverse family



Ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*)

Plantaginaceae family

Squat, creeping ground-cover growth habit

Small, roundish leaves with scalloped margins

Flowers blue-purple, 4-9 mm wide, with 4 petals

Flowering time: May-June



Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*)

Polygonaceae family*

40-100 cm tall

Leaf blade 15-30 cm long, 2-6 cm wide, lance-shaped

Flowers produced in clusters on branched stems, largest cluster at apex

Large, yellow, forking taproot

* Polygonaceae family characteristics:

- Swollen nodes (joints where leaves are attached), covered by *ochrea* (papery sheaths)
- Flowers often lack petals and are not very ornate
- Leaves are simple, alternate



Scarlet pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*)

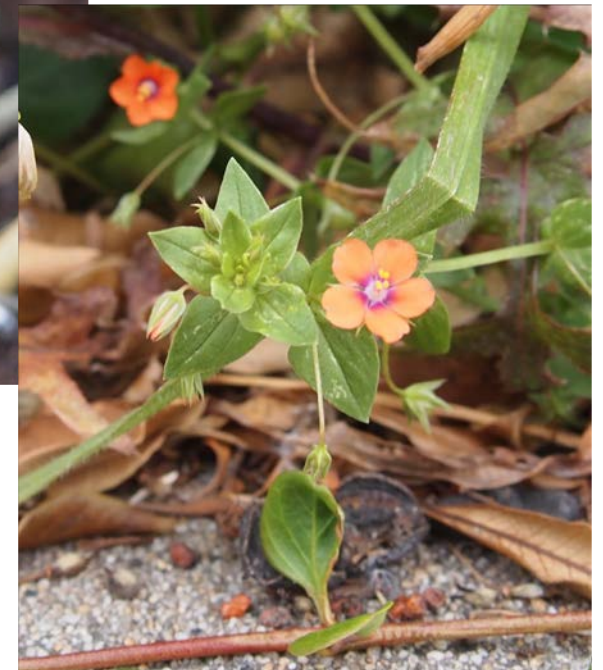
Primulaceae family*

Low, creeping growth habit

Leaves opposite, ovate to triangular,
attached directly to stem

Flowers salmon-colored, 5-15 mm
diameter, with 5 petals

Flowers only open when sun is shining



* Primulaceae family characteristics:

- Thrive in moist soils
- Flowers usually with 5 petals
- Leaves usually entire (not lobed or toothed)