



Some Foothills flowers also like to bloom in fall

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Perhaps you too have noticed how many of the flowers have bloomed this fall. Undoubtedly the 2 inches of rain that fell in October plus the warm days have made this rather unusual showing possible. Some flowers normally bloom during the autumn. Among these is the desert broom. Other *Baccharis* shrubs that grow mostly along streams or seeping water also bloom in the fall.

Many of the flowers that bloom in the spring also bloom after the summer rains and continue into the fall months. Among these are the beautiful large four-o'clock plants that are covered in the evening with purplish flowers. The inconspicuous trailing four-o'clock puts out its white to pale-pink blossoms near the ground. There is nothing retiring about the golden bush or rayless goldenrod, an *Aplopappus*, not a true goldenrod. The 12- to 18-inch bush is covered with small, bright yellow flowers. The wild aster has been most generous this fall with its violet-colored blooms. Range rattle is blooming out in undisturbed places in the Foothills. Its peculiar deep-red flowers are well worth examining. The white rays of *Melampodium* surround a yellow center. The flowers often nearly hide the 4- to 8-inch plants. The desert pink

and senna plants add their bits of color to the autumn show.

There are a number of plants that may bloom off and on throughout the year whenever moisture and temperature are right. *Lycium*, a shrub usually called squaw-berry or desert thorn, drops all its leaves during dry weather but puts out new leaves and blooms when conditions are right. Creosote bush and the chuparosa do not drop all their leaves as the *Lycium* but may bloom off and on throughout the year. The perennials, paperflower with white rays and *Senecio* with yellow rays, also take advantage of any good growing conditions. The desert marigold in one's yard will bloom most of the year. Globe mallow, although not a profuse fall bloomer, has been seen this autumn.

Brittle bush may start blooming in November and bloom on through May, but more often starts blooming after the winter rains.

A few of the flowers in bloom this fall I want to call "opportunists." They are normally spring bloomers only, but have been blooming this October and November. Among these is the fairy duster, which has tried to equal its tremendous show of last spring. Others are buckwheat, the rock-pea and the shrub red mahonia, often called algerita. Probably readers can add to this list of flowers seen these last few weeks.