

Baby Blue Eyes (Waterleaf Family)

Nemophila menziesii, blooms February to April

Baby Blue Eyes is found in open woodland and grassy meadows. You can see it at Elliott Nature Preserve between the first two stream crossings, below Rock Springs, and near the Point Reyes Lighthouse.

Baby Blue Eyes petals can be white or blue.

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Poison Hemlock (Parsley Family)

Conium maculatum, blooms April to September

This non-native weed is invasive and **poisonous** (Children should never eat any part of a plant in the wild without first checking with an adult!) Poison Hemlock is found in damp open areas. You can find it near the Muir Beach parking lot.

Like Cow Parsnip, Poison Hemlock is a tall bushy plant with flat white flower heads on top. However, Poison Hemlock's leaves are smaller, with many cuts along the edges.

Notice the red spots on the stem. Socrates was supposed to have died from a tea of Poison Hemlock, and so legend has it that the red on the stem is Socrates' blood.

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Hillside Pea (Pea Family)

Lathyrus vestitus, blooms March to May

Hillside Pea is common, found along woodland edges. You can find it on the Limantour Trail between the parking lot and Muddy Hollow Ranch pond.

Native Americans roasted the peas on warm ashes.

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Hairy Hog Fennel (Parsley Family)

Lomatium dasycarpum, blooms February to March

Also known as Biscuit Root, this plant is widespread in open grassland and rocky places. You can see it at Old Saint Hillary's.

Hairy Hog Fennel is named for its hairy petals and fruits.

Pomo Indians called this plant Coyote Carrot, and pounded the roots before eating them. They also used the sweet seeds to flavor tea, and ate the young leaves.

Anise Swallowtail caterpillars use this plant for food.

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