

**2024 Spring Mini-Plant Sale**  
**Perennials, Subshrubs, and Riparian Species**  
**Regional Parks Botanic Garden**  
**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

*Friends* members-only sale from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM (*Friends* memberships can be purchased at the membership table starting at 8:30 AM the morning of the sale). Public sale from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Note that the hours of this sale are reduced due to the smaller number of plants in this sale.

As with all of our biannual plant sales, the full listing of plants, pot sizes, and prices that will be posted at least a week before the sale date on the website, and will be updated up to and including the Friday evening before the sale: <https://nativeplants.org/>

The parenthetical information after the plant name refers to the number of plants in the sale and the pot size: for example: (48 – 3”T) indicates that there are 48 plants expected to be available in the sale and they are in 3” tall pots.

*Agoseris retrorsa* (48 – 3”T) California Dandelion. This is a long-lived bold perennial for massing in your garden – one lone plant might be mistaken for an unintended weed. The flower stalks rise to heights of 12 to 18 inches and carry lemon-yellow dandelion-like flowers that won’t be showstoppers – but just wait a bit. The spherical seedheads are glorious – about two inches or more across and last for quite a while unless it’s particularly windy or they get bumped into. Plants form a basal rosette of narrow green leaves and have a taproot. After going to seed, the plants go dormant but will readily return with winter rains. Mass the plants in front of dark green foliage (*Frangula californica*, *Prunus ilicifolia*, or any of the mid to large sized greener manzanitas or ceanothus will do) to display the seedheads most effectively. They also combine well with bunch grasses.

*Clinopodium (Satureja) douglasii* (26 – 3”T) Yerba Buena. This is the widely known low-growing groundcover plant that not only provided shares its name with the original name for San Francisco, but also with its namesake island in the Bay. With its delightful minty fragrance and shiny light green leaves, this is a plant to combine with other low growing plants in partial shade (inland) to full sun (near the coast). In some areas it will produce dense low-growing mats on its own, but more often it needs some help to really cover the ground, and our native woodland strawberry is an excellent partner.

*Dudleya lanceolata* (36 – 2”) Lance-leaved Liveforever. Well, not literally forever, but with good placement and little to no summer water, this plant will live a long time in your garden. This is one of the most widespread of the species of *Dudleya*, ranging from the Bay Area south to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Place the plant on the north or east side of rocks and ignore it and it will be quite happy and will thrive – plants will shrivel and may look stressed in late summer and fall, but as soon as the rains come it will plump up. If planted in “good garden soil” and watered frequently, they can grow quite large (“like cabbages” as a friend once observed) but will then collapse and turn to mush over the course of a few days. The branched inflorescences carry many reddish to yellow flowers that are favored by hummingbirds. The foliage is narrow with a pointed tip and can be bronzy, green, or grey – and somewhat resemble a starfish clinging to the base of a rock. If possible, protect all *Dudleyas* from hail, snails, and slugs as all will pockmark the foliage and that can lead to fungal infection (not attractive!).

“*Erigeron californicus*” (20 – 1G) (aka: *Erigeron incomptus*) Fleabane. This perennial will have flowering stems from one to two feet tall. Best grown in sunny well-drained locations. Flowers are white to pink

with yellow centers. This is the perfect plant to add to a sunny meadow-like garden in a warmer inland garden. The daisy flowers attract numerous pollinators. Full sun and good drainage are preferred, but these plants are adaptable as long as they aren't too shaded or overly wet. This collection may represent a new species, so the name is tentatively applied.

*Erigeron compositus* (29 – 3”T) Cut-leaved Fleabane. This delightful, tufted perennial has grey foliage and showy white to pink flowers up to an inch across and are held about an inch or two above the foliage. The foliage mass can reach about three inches tall and up to about five inches across. Excellent rock garden, crevice garden, or container plant to be enjoyed closeup. Plants perform best in full sun near the coast and in light afternoon shade inland.

*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens* (seed from low compact form in Emeryville median) (32 – 2”) Rosy Buckwheat. I collected these seeds as this individual plant is quite distinctive: it has smaller than average grey-green foliage and very short (held about four inches above the foliage mat) inflorescences. The parent plant is about four feet across, and the foliage rises to about six inches high), and the flowers are a rich rosy pink. Since these are seed-grown plants, these seedlings may vary considerably, but I'm hoping for some very good garden forms from these. This plant is easy to grow in most gardens and is often one of the most frequently recommended California native plants for beginners.

*Festuca californica* (45 – 2”) California Fescue. Our local evergreen perennial grass is very easily grown from shade to semi-shaded locations. Plants grow best on slopes but can be grown on flat sites as long as they are not overwatered. This grass has attractive flowering stems that may reach two to three feet tall and dance in the breeze. The foliage mass is a loose arching fountain-like clump. Plants require minimal maintenance in mid-summer when the old flowering stems can be removed or lightly raked out – otherwise these are very low maintenance plants! Here at the Botanic Garden, they can be seen in a number of different places, but probably most notably massed along the stairs at the north side of the Franciscan section – where it merges into the Canyon section.

*Fritillaria affinis* (16 – 3”T) Checker Lily. One of our more subtle wildflowers, folks often do not even see these plants even when they are in full bloom as they are so well camouflaged. Best sited at the north or east edges of shady areas of dry gardens, though these plants can also be successfully grown in containers for many years (be sure that the containers are kept cool and dry during the summer – these bulbs do not like heat). These are seed grown plants from Bay Area plants. Early spring blooming geophyte with fragile bulbs and, eventually, numerous rice-grain bulblets. The bulbs and plants require protection from snails, slugs, gophers, and deer. Mature plants will typically produce either a resting leaf (a single broad succulent leaf) to build up reserves for future flowering or a flowering stem. If you see numerous short, tiny leaves where the bulb was planted, it's possible that it has produced rice grain bulblets that are separated from the main bulb, or that the main bulb has fallen apart and its scales are growing separately.

*Heuchera maxima* (30 – 3”T) Island Alumroot. Bold evergreen groundcover plant for best use under deciduous trees but tolerates shade of evergreen trees as long as it is not too dark (the deeper the shade, the fewer the flowers). This plant is native to the northern Channel Islands (especially Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa). This is one of the parents for many of the larger showy *Heuchera* hybrids like 'Santa Ana Cardinal,' 'Old La Rochette,' 'Wendy,' 'Rosada,' and others. Unfortunately, some deer populations will eat the lush foliage, while others have yet to discover its palatability. Established plants require very little to no summer water to thrive, though will look better with some water once or twice a month during dry months. With age, the plants can develop a tall central stem (up to a foot high) – rejuvenate the plant by cutting this back to one inch tall in late fall – just before the winter rains arrive.

*Heuchera micrantha* (24 – 2") Alumroot. This is our local species and is often seen on shaded roadcuts and in rocky areas. This species can vary tremendously in leaf size and color (some have reddish purple veining) and flower color (pink as in the cultivar 'Martha Roderick' though generally white), but it always prefers semi-shaded conditions (and just like *H. maxima*, the shadier the environment fewer flowers are produced). Individual flowers are very small, less than 1/8 inch, but are produced in airy clusters. As with most *Heucheras*, massed plantings make them much more visible and gives them more of a presence in your garden. Established plants in the shade can get by without summer water but will look more presentable with occasional water during the dry season.

*Lewisia cotyledon* (58 in different sizes) Cliff Maids. One of California's most famous succulent plants worldwide due to its spectacular flowers in a rainbow of colors. Flowers are produced in flat topped clusters with many individual quarter-sized flowers that can be candy-striped, pure white, every shade of pink (from pale to magenta), orange, and yellow (no pure reds, purples, or blues). Plants flower best as single rosettes, but may develop multiple heads as they age, and these multi-headed plants are more prone to rotting from excess moisture. Keep the crown of the plant drier by using a gravel mulch. To flower well, these plants do typically need to be fed – Wayne Roderick recommended placing a dried-up cow flop at the bottom of a pot and placing a well-drained soil mix on top of that and topping it with a gravel mulch for best results. Plants like bright light, but don't like heat, so place them accordingly in your garden. Too much direct sun will burn the foliage and shorten the life of the flowers.

*Phacelia californica* (21 – 3") California Phacelia. This showy perennial plant is especially well suited to sunny locations in your pollinator garden. Plants produce an abundance of purple to lavender flowers in dense scorpioid (caterpillar-like) inflorescences that are highly attractive to honeybees and other pollinating insects. Like nearly all *Phacelias*, this plant has stiff short hairs that cover all vegetative parts of the plant (stems, leaves, calyces, etc.). Some people may have a contact allergic reaction (skin dermatitis) with any *Phacelia*, including this one – especially after long-time interaction with these plants (usually it takes years of exposure to get a reaction, but there are, of course, exceptions). This is one of our local native plants.

*Sidalcea oregana* (32 – 3") Oregon Checkerbloom. Showy perennial with dense upright spikes of pink to rosy-pink showy flowers. This species is widespread in nature, from moist areas from Washington, Wyoming, Nevada, and northern California in moist habitats – making this plant easy to grow and accommodate in a garden that receives average amounts of water as this plant is NOT drought tolerant. As with many members of the *Malvaceae*, it is a popular food plant for caterpillars. Established plants are low growing and spreading up to nearly three feet across.

*Viola adunca* (15 – 3") Dog Violet. Easily grown and widely adaptable to most Bay Area gardens – though it can be more challenging in hotter drier locations. Plants have violet-colored fragrant flowers as expected and are best grown in partial shade. If they are well sited, they will freely seed about – and can become somewhat of a pest in certain locations, though they are easily weeded out especially when young. This species is an important food plant for a variety of caterpillars.

*Wyethia angustifolia* (36 – 3") Narrow-leaved Mule Ears. Showy, long-lived, easily grown perennial with abundant spring blooms. The long-lasting golden-yellow three-to-four-inch flowers are held slightly above the foliage on sturdy stems. Foliage is green and covered with stiff short hairs. Plants go completely dormant (deciduous) for summer and fall, reappearing with fall and winter rains. If snails and slugs plague your garden, you may need to provide protection to these plants as they emerge from their summer dormancy, as the small, tender, emergent buds can be completely eaten off overnight.