

Sierra Larkspur

Delphinium glaucum Ranunculaceae (Buttercup) family

July-September

A distinctive characteristic of larkspurs is the tail, or spur, at the back of the blossom. Most larkspurs are fairly intense blue-to-purple in color. Sierra larkspur, also called mountain larkspur

or tower larkspur, has an especially tall inflorescence (the part of the plant where the flowers are located), with many blossoms.



Sierra Morning Glory Calystegia malacophylla

Convolvulaceae (Morning Glory) family July-August

There are over 1,000 species of morning glory world-wide. Many bloom in the early morning hours, giving the family its name. Tahoe Donner is near the upper elevation of the range for Sierra morning glory.



Snow Plant

Sarcodes sanguinea Ericaceae (Heath) family

May-June

Appears almost as soon as snow melts. Saprophytic plant: obtains nutrients from decaying organic matter in the soil (no photosynthesis).



Varileaf Phacelia

Phacelia heterophylla Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf) family April-July

Many phacelias grow in the characteristic shape shown here, with the flowers on a coiled cyme and with double, symmetrical cymes. Flowers can be white/cream to light purple for different species.



Western Buttercup

Ranunculus occidentalis Ranunculaceae (Buttercup) family April-June

This early bloomer announces the arrival of spring. It prefers to grow in wet meadows and along streams.



Willow Salix spp.

Salicaceae (Willow) family

March-June

There are several types of willow in the Tahoe Donner area, with blooming seasons that extend from March at least through June. The picture shows typical early-spring catkins (buds) that

are getting ready to bloom, and gives the smaller types of willow the familiar name pussy willow.



Wvethia mollis

Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family

June-July

The most common species of mule ears around Tahoe Donner, woolly mule ears are easily identified by touching the leaves: they do feel woolly!



Woolly Mullein

Verbascum thapsus Scrophulariaceae (Figwort) family June-September

Also called common mullein, this distinctive plant is a non-native considered by some to be invasive. With its tall flower stalk it can grow up to 6-feet tall.



Photos and plant descriptions courtesy of Susan Kelso. More descriptions and photos can be found online at www.tahoedonner.com/trails/wildflower-guide

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Anderson's Thistle

Cirsium andersonii Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family

July-August

Although there are several species of thistles in the Tahoe Donner area, Anderson's thistles are noted for attracting hummingbirds.



Aster

Symphyotrichum sp. Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family July-August

In some cases several wildflowers look very similar and are difficult to distinguish. This is actually one example, since some asters and daisies look similar from the top/front side, with

differences on the bottom/back side. Fairly common in Tahoe Donner. this is most likely Eaton's aster (S. bracteolatum).



California Rayless Daisy

Eriaeron inornatus Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family

July-September

Flowers in the aster family are composites, consisting of ray flowers and disc flowers. The California rayless daisy has only disc flowers, hence the name ravless.



Checkerbloom

Sidalcea alaucescens Malvaceae (Mallow) family

June-August

Several species of checkerbloom, or checkermallow, are found in the area around Tahoe Donner.



Common Yarrow

Achillea millefolium Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family June-August

The name *millefolium* means "thousand leaves," a great description of the finely divided, feathery leaves. Yarrow is found widely across the Americas, Eurasia, and Australia. A yellow form is found in Tahoe Donner landscaping.

Coulter's Daisv

Eriaeron coulteri Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family

July-September

Coulter's daisy is a native daisy, with numerous white ray flowers. A similar flower with fewer ray flowers is oxeye daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare), a non-native common in Tahoe Donner

landscaping. The name vulgare means common.



Lupine

Lupinus sp. Fabaceae (Pea) family

June-August

Lupines are recognizable by their leaves. which have so-called palmate shapes, resembling an open hand with 5 or more fingers spread out. The flowers are on stalks and bloom from the base

toward the tip of the stalk. Most lupines are blue-purple, but some are white and some are yellow.

Mahala Mat Ceanothus prostratus



Common in Tahoe Donner, growing in large patches or masses. Leaves stay green all summer after the (relatively

brief) blooming season. Also called squaw carpet. Whenever prostratus is

the species name, look for a low-growing plant!





Ranunculaceae (Buttercup) family June-August

The distinctive upper part of the monkshood flower looks like a monk's cowl. The reproductive parts are greenish-yellowish. Flowers are pollinated by

correct size, weight, and anatomy. All parts of the plant are toxic.

Paintbrush

Castilleia sp.

Scrophulariaceae (Figwort) family

June-August

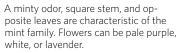
Of the several species of paintbrush found in the Tahoe Donner area, the most common is Applegate's paintbrush. Paintbrush come in a variety of colors and have differing shapes

(number of lobes) of the bracts, the colorful part of the plant people usually notice.

Pennyroyal

Monardella odoratissima Lamiaceae (Mint) family

June-August



Penstemon

Penstemon sp. Scrophulariaceae (Figwort) family

June-August

This is one of the several species of blue-to-purple penstemons found in the area around Tahoe Donner.

Rabbitbrush Ericameria sp. Asteraceae (Sunflower or Aster) family August-October

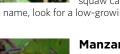


This shrub is common throughout the Tahoe Donner area. The tips of the branches look yellow throughout the blooming season.

Ranger's Buttons

Sphenosciadium capitellatum Apiaceae (Carrot) family July-August

Often found in wet or swampy places. Though there are many other members of the carrot family, ranger's button is the only species in the Sphenosciadium genus.



Manzanita

Arctostaphylos sp. Ericaceae (Heath) family

May-June

The most common shrub-like manzanita in the Tahoe region is Greenleaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos patula). There is also a lower, mat-like manzanita called pine-mat manzanita (Arctostaphylos nevadensis).

Monkshood

Aconitum columbianum

a specific bumblebee species with the