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SEQUOIA NATURE GUIDE SERVICE

A THIRD LIFE ZONE OPENS TO FLOWERS IN SEQUOIA

A third life zone, the Transition, comes into flower bearing during June in Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.

Roughly speaking, there are five zones for plant life in the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, with names and ranges as follows:

Below the elevation of 1,200 ft.	- the Lower Sonora
1,200 to 5,500 ft.	- " Upper Sonora
5,500 to 7,500 ft.	- " Transition
7,500 to 10,500 ft.	- " Boreal or Canadian
All above 10,500 ft.	- " Arctic or Alpine

In ordinary seasons the flowering plants begin to bloom in the various zones during the following months of the year:

Lower Sonora Zone	- March and April
Upper Sonora Zone	- May
Transition "	- June
Boreal "	- July
Arctic Zone	- August

Many of the floral growths occupy but one zone; other species inhabit two; and a few species have range into three different zones. Such is the case, for example, with the Yucca, White Alder and California Black Oak.

For the benefit of those visiting the Parks by the Giant Forest Road during the present season and wishing to locate the zonal dividing lines en route, the following named points are given:

Bear Canyon, or Flats,	dividing line between Lower and Upper Sonora;
Colony Mill,	" " " Upper Sonora and Transition;
Wolverton Camp,	" " " Transition and Boreal;
Twin Lakes,	" " " Boreal and Arctic.

June finds practically all flowering plants of the Lower Sonora passing to seed except five species:

Yellow Bush and Common Monkey Flower,
White Morning Glory,
White Thistle,
Yellow Indian Broom,
Yellow Senecio.

These species all may be seen at a point near Colony Mill.

Upon entering the Upper Sonora Zone, above Bear Canyon, the following additional species appear along the road and carry through to a point near Colony Mill:

Yucca - with its glorious white
waxen blooms.
Syringa - docketed with its garland
of snowy white flowers
resembling a bridal wreath.
Wine colored Godetia.
White Buckwheat.
Mariposa Lily.
Western Purple Larkspur.
California Poppy.
Common Yellow Monkey Flower.
Black-throated Yellow Daisies,
Yellow Raisin Weed.
White Buckthorn or Mountain Lilac.
White Chamise.
Yellow Bleeding Heart.
Purple Bleeding Heart.
Blue Forget-Me-Not.
Brown Wild Ginger.
Blue Pennyroyal.
Blue, variegated White and Yellow
Penstemon.
Yellow Blazing Star.
Wild Plum - with white blossoms.
Blood Drops.
Sierra Currant - with pink
blossoms.
White top Wild Onion.
Yellow Cancer Root.
Big Root - with its flowers of
greenish white.
Chamaebatia - with white flowers.
Loco Weed - with its flowers of
purplish white.

California Buckeye - with long
racemes of white blossoms.
Variegated Red and Yellow Monkey
Flower.
Lavender Bee Plant.
Blue, Pink, White & Yellow
Brodiaeas.
Chinese Houses.
Two Species of Dandelions.
Yellow Wall Flower.
Blue Lupine.
White and Pink Phlox.
Blue Yerba Santa.
Blue Iris.
Blue Wood Nightshade.
Yellow Bush Poppy.
Scarlet Indian Pink.
White Woodland Star.
Tree Fremontia Californica - with its
gorgeous yellow waxen flowers.
Yellow Sulphur Flower.

Thimble Berry - with white blossoms.
Oso Berry - with its flowers of
blue-black.
Yellow, Blue and Pink Gilias.
Spice Bush - with velvety red
blossoms.
Yellow Honeysuckle.
Squaw Carpet - with blue blossoms.
Soap Plant - with white blossoms.
Purple Milkweed.

Upon reaching Colony Mill, which marks the dividing line between the Upper Sonora and Transition Zones, all of the above species disappear except the Mountain Lilac, Thimble Berry, Sierra Currant, Chamaebatia and Mariposa Lily - all five of which extend on through the Giant Forest.

When leaving Colony Mill, through the Transition Zone, the following new species are seen along the road to Giant Forest:

Pacific Dogwood - with its creamy
white flowers.
Purple Lupine.
Purple Phlox.
Orange-throated Gilice.
Pink Cyclamen.
Pink Manzanita.

Western Choko Cherry - with its
clusters of white blossoms.
The blood-red Snow Plant.
Yellow Iris.
Blue Lilac.
Yellow Violets. White Violets.
White Service Berry.

A similar distribution of flowers by zones may be noted on the road to General Grant National Park.