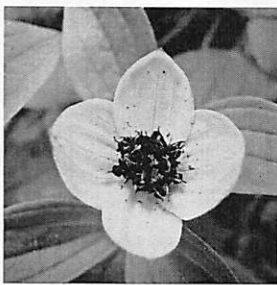




Common Wildflowers of Brooks Camp

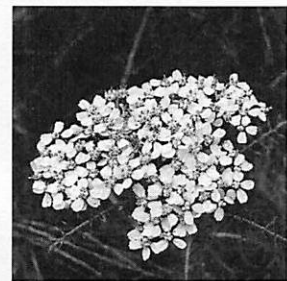


Springtime in Katmai is a time of dramatic transformation. Within a number of weeks the land greens as plants rush to take advantage of the brief growing season. Some of the most notable and striking of these plants are wildflowers. Aside from their beauty, these plants provide food for wildlife and are important to Native Alaskans, whose ancestors once lived here. Brooks Camp, a popular destination for park visitors, is great place to get acquainted with some of the common wildflowers of Katmai.



Lapland cornel

Lapland cornel (*Cornus suecica*) is a dwarf shrub, closely related to the American dogwood tree. Also known as bunchberry, these shrubs produce a “bunch” of red berries that are eaten by birds and small mammals. Lapland cornel grows along the trail to Brooks Falls. It blooms in July.



Yarrow

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is an important medicinal plant for Native Alaskans; it is placed on open wounds to induce clotting and is also rubbed on the skin as an insect repellent. Yarrow blooms in July and August.



Tall Jacob's ladder

Tall Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium acutiflorum*) is a wildflower of cooler temperate and arctic regions. It blooms in July and early August and grows abundantly in the forests along the Oxbow Overlook and Dumping Mountain trails.



Pretty Jacob's ladder

A second and less common species, pretty Jacob's ladder, (*P. pulcherrimum*) can be seen along the shores of Naknek Lake. It can be distinguished from tall Jacob's ladder by the yellow center of its flowers.



Common fireweed

Blooming in July and August the common fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) can be found throughout the forests and meadows around Brooks Camp. Look for the smaller dwarf fireweed (*Epilobium latifolium*) along lake shores and gravel bars.

Fireweed derives its common name from its ability to regenerate quickly after fires and in other disturbed areas, where the roots of the plant helps anchor soil and control erosion. Both plants are edible. The young spring shoots and the flowers are used to make jellies and syrups.



Dwarf fireweed



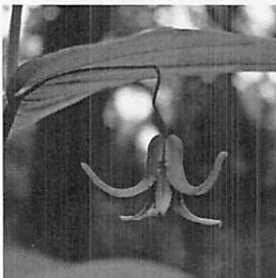
Lingonberry flowers

Lingonberry, also called mountain cranberry, (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) is a dwarf shrub whose small, bell-shaped flowers open in June. It is closely related to blueberries, but this plant produces bright red, edible berries that ripen in the fall. Although initially sour in taste, these fruits sweeten with the first frost.

Lingonberry is a member of the heath family, a group of plants that are common within Katmai's boreal forests and bogs. Look for lingonberry along the Brooks Falls trail.



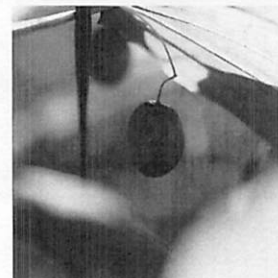
Lingonberry fruits



Twisted stalk flower

Named for its characteristic zigzag stem and twisting flower stalks, twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) grows abundantly in the forest along the Dumpling Mountain and Oxbow Overlook trail.

This lily blooms from mid June to late July, but the flowers often go unnoticed on the underside of the leaves. It is also known as watermelon berry because it produces red berries, which taste similar to watermelons. These berries appear in mid July and are used to make jellies and syrups.



Twisted stalk fruits



Wild geranium

The wild geranium (*Geranium erianthum*) blooms abundantly from late June to early August in the forest along the Dumpling Mountain trail and in the campground. The leaves of this plant are edible and were boiled by Native Alaskans to make a tea and were also used as a throat gargle.

Nagoonberry (*Rubus arcticus*) is related to raspberries. The flowers bloom in June and July and the raspberry-like, edible berries ripen in late summer. Nagoonberry is common along the Oxbow Overlook and Brooks Falls trails.



Nagoonberry



Monkshood

Monkshood (*Aconitum delphiniifolium*) is one of the most poisonous plants in the park, and was once smeared on the tips of arrows to aid in hunting game animals. Look for this flower growing along the Oxbow Overlook Trail.

Starflower (*Trientalis europaea*) is a small member of the primrose family. It can be identified by its seven pointed petals that radiate out like points on a star. Starflowers bloom from June to early July and can be seen along the Dumpling Mountain and Oxbow Overlook trails.



Starflower



Rattlebox

Rattlebox (*Rhinanthus minor*) is partially parasitic. This plant produces its own food, but joins its roots to neighboring plants to steal food and water. After the flower matures the sepals (modified leaves located below the petals) dry out and inflate to form a hollow container in which the seeds rattle around in when the wind blows.

Single delight (*Moneses uniflora*) is a member of the wintergreen family, a group of plants named for their evergreen leaves. Although abundant at Brooks Camp, this plant is easy to overlook for its flowers point downward. Rattlebox and single delight along the roads and trails leading to Brooks Falls.



Single delight