Guide to Common Vegetation of the UC Santa Cruz Farm

An identification aid
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Field marigold (*Calendula arvensis*)

Asteraceae family*

10-50 cm tall
Leaves lance-shaped to spatula-shaped, attached directly to stem (sessile)
Leaves and stems hairy and sweetly fragrant
Flower up to 4 cm wide, pale yellow to orange
Flowering time: March-May

*Asteraceae family characteristics:
- Flowers are often composite (many small flowers in one head)
- Leaves often produce a milky latex
Hairy cat’s ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)

Asteraceae family

10-80 cm tall

Leaves 6-25 cm long, basal rosette

Flowers yellow, compound (similar to dandelion, daisy)

Often mistaken for dandelion. Best distinguished by *H. radicata*’s hairy leaves and rounded leaf lobes (dandelion leaves are smooth and have jagged lobes with pointed tips)
Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)

Asteraceae family

- Stem height ranges from 8 inches to 6 feet
- Leaves a basal rosette, with a few small, alternate leaves on flowering stems
- Leaf lobes are tipped with spines
- Typically 2-5 flower heads per cluster
Wild radish (*Raphinus raphanistrum*)

**Brassicaceae family***

- Leaves a basal rosette, with a few small, alternate leaves on flowering stems
- Leaves are deeply lobed
- Flowering time: all year
- Flowers are small and have four petals. They can be yellow, white or pink.
- Seed pods are small and bean-like
- Morphologically indistinguishable from wild mustard

*Brassicaceae family characteristics:
- Cross-shaped flowers with 4 petals, generally white, pink or yellow
- Fruit a bean-like siliqua
- Lobed or lane-shaped leaves
Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Convolvulaceae family*

Leaves alternate, spade-shaped, 2-3 cm long

White (sometimes pink-tinged), funnel-shaped flower similar to morning glory

Stems grow laterally along the ground, twining around other plants

Flowering time: March-October

*Convolvulaceae family characteristics:
- Funnel-shaped flowers (five fused petals)
- Winding or twining stems
- Leaves simple and alternate
Cranesbill geranium (*Geranium dissectum*)

Geraniaceae family*

- Leaves deeply dissected with 5-7 segments
- Small, pinkish-purplish flowers
- Flowers March-July
- Fruit (seed pod) a fuzzy spike (see top right photo)

*Geraniaceae family characteristics:
- Pink flowers with 5 petals
- Long, beak-like fruit
- Lobed or dissected leaves
Broad-leaf filaree (*Erodium botrys*)

Geraniaceae family

10-90 cm tall

Hairy stems and leaves

Leaves a basal rosette, dark green, deeply lobed with red or green petioles

Flowers pink, petals 10-13 mm

Fruit a long (8-13 cm), slender spike with a pointed tip
Cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*)

Malvaceae family*

- 20-80 cm tall, widely branching
- Leaves round with 5-7 toothed lobes
- 2-4 flowers emerging from axil (intersection of stem and leaf stalk)
- Flowers pink to white
- Flowering time: March-May

*Malvaceae family characteristics:
- Leaves generally alternate, palmately lobed
- Flowers usually a 5-lobed cone
Wood sorrel (*Oxalis spp.*)

- Often mistaken for clover
- Small (<7cm) leaves made up of three heart-shaped leaflets
- Flowers white to pinkish or yellow, with 5 petals
- Flowering time: all year
- Leaves and flowers have sour flavor
- Small underground bulbs

*Oxalidaceae family characteristics:
- Divided leaves, which fold closed at night and reopen in the daytime
California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

Papaveraceae family*

- 5-60 cm tall
- Leaves alternate, blue-green, waxy, deeply divided into small rounded lobes
- Flowers orange or yellow, usually with orange base
- Flower petals close at night or in cloudy weather
- Fruit a slender, 3-9 cm capsule

*Papaveraceae family characteristics:
- Produce milky, clear or colored latex
- Most species have alternate leaves
- Leaves usually lobed or deeply divided
English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

*Plantaginaceae family*

Leaves lance-shaped, 5-25 cm long

Flowers a spike on the end of a long (25-80 cm) peduncle (stem)

Tiny, opaque, paper-like petals

Flowering time: April-August

*Plantaginaceae family characteristics:
  - Very morphologically diverse family
Ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*)

Plantaginaceae family

Squat, creeping ground-cover growth habit

Small, roundish leaves with scalloped margins

Flowers blue-purple, 4-9 mm wide, with 4 petals

Flowering time: May-June
Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*)

Polygonaceae family*

- 40-100 cm tall
- Leaf blade 15-30 cm long, 2-6 cm wide, lance-shaped
- Flowers produced in clusters on branched stems, largest cluster at apex
- Large, yellow, forking taproot

* Polygonaceae family characteristics:
  - Swollen nodes (joints where leaves are attached), covered by *ochrea* (papery sheaths)
  - Flowers often lack petals and are not very ornate
  - Leaves are simple, alternate
Scarlet pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*)

Primulaceae family*

Low, creeping growth habit
Leaves opposite, ovate to triangular, attached directly to stem
Flowers salmon-colored, 5-15 mm diameter, with 5 petals
Flowers only open when sun is shining

* Primulaceae family characteristics:
  - Thrive in moist soils
  - Flowers usually with 5 petals
  - Leaves usually entire (not lobed or toothed)