



Fairy Bells (Lily Family)

Disporum smithii, blooms March to May

Also known as Smith's Fairy Bells, this plant grows in deep shade in wooded canyons. You can see it in Steep Ravine on Mount Tamalpais.

Flowers hang down under the leaves, so you sometimes have to turn the leaf over to find them. These flowers turn to red berries in the fall.

A second species of Fairy Bells (Hooker's Fairy Bells) grows in dryer places in Marin, and has smaller greenish flowers.

Photo by Bruce Homer-Smith © Creative Commons BY-NC

Hounds Tongue (Borage Family)

Cynoglossum grande, blooms February to April

Hounds Tongue is widespread, and grows on moist wooded or brushy hillsides, usually in the shade. You can find it at Lake Lagunitas.

Concow and Maidu Indians grated the root to treat burns. The Maidu and Yuki Indians cooked the root for food. Pomo Indians used it for stomach aches.

Hounds Tongue is pollinated by Veined White Butterflies and Bee Flies.

Photo by Theresa Fisher © Creative Commons BY-NC

Larkspur (Buttercup Family)

Delphinium hesperium, blooms March to June

Larkspur is found in grassland. You can see it on Ring Mountain.

There are five different kinds of purplish larkspurs found in Marin. One, Baker's Larkspur, is an endangered plant, growing in a precarious roadside location.

Larkspur is pollinated by bumblebees. Some larkspurs are toxic to cattle if eaten.

Photo by William Follette © Creative Commons BY-NC

Morning Glory (Morning Glory Family)

Calystegia purpurata, blooms May to August

Morning Glory is found in open grassland and the edges of woodlands. You can see it at Chimney Rock, and Old St. Hillary's in Tiburon.

Morning Glory flowers range from pink to white.

We have several local species of Morning Glory, some of which close their flower in the afternoon. Some species are vines, and some are compact plants.

Photo by Doreen Smith © Creative Commons BY-NC-ND