

San Francisco Plant Communities

Dunes



Native Plants in Dunes

Forbs

Sand Verbena *Abronia latifolia*

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

Deerweed *Acmispon glaber*

Beach Bur *Ambrosia chamissonis* (spiny)

Coast Fiddleneck *Amsinckia spectabilis*

Pearly Everlasting *Anaphalis margaritacea*

Sea Thrift *Armeria maritima*

Mugwort *Artemisia douglasiana*

Dune Sagewort *Artemisia pycnocephala*

Milkvetch *Astragalus nuttallii* var. *nuttallii*,
var. *virgatus*

Beach Primrose *Camissoniopsis*
cheiranthifolia

Indian thistle *Cirsium brevistylum*

California thistle *Cirsium occidentale* var.
occidentale & var. *compactum*

Clarkias, *Clarkia davyi*, *C. purpurea*, *C.*
rubicunda

Common Sand Aster *Corethrogyne*
filaginifolia

Sand Pygmy-weed *Crassula connata*

Bluff Lettuce *Dudleya farinosa*

Mock Heather *Ericameria ericoides*

Seaside Daisy *Erigeron glaucus*

Coast Buckwheat *Eriogonum latifolium*

San Francisco Wallflower *Erysimum*
franciscanum

California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*

Western Goldenrod *Euthamia occidentalis*

Coast Strawberry *Fragaria chiloensis*

Dune Gilia *Gilia capitata* ssp. *chamissonis*

Coastal Gumplant *Grindelia camporum*,
hirsutula, *stricta* var. *angustifolia*, *stricta*
var. *platyphylla*

San Francisco Lessingia *Lessingia*
germanorum

Lupines *Lupinus albifrons* var. *collinus*,
bicolor, *chamissonis*, *nanus*, *pachylobus*,
variicolor

Wild Cucumber/Manroot *Marah fabacea*
Sticky Monkeyflower *Mimulus aurantiacus*
Hooker's Evening Primrose *Oenothera elata*
ssp. hookeri
Plantain *Plantago subnuda*

Beach Knotweed *Polygonum paronychia*
California Blackberry *Rubus ursinus*
Yellow Stonecrop *Sedum spathulifolium*

Grasses

Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
American Dune Grass *Elymus mollis ssp. mollis*
Pacific wild rye *Elymus pacificus*

Shrubs

California Sagebrush *Artemisia californica, pycnocephala*

Coyotebrush *Baccharis pilularis ssp pilularis*

Lizardtail *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*

Yellow bush lupine *Lupinus arboreus*
Dune lupine *Lupinus chamissonis*
Pink Flowering Currant *Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum*

Trees

Coast Silktassel *Garrya elliptica*
California Wax Myrtle, Pacific Bayberry *Myrica californica*

Butterflies

Anise Swallowtail
Pipevine Swallowtail
Western Tiger Swallowtail
Checkered White
Large Marble
Orange Sulphur
American Lady
Painted Lady
West Coast Lady

California Bee Plant *Scrophularia californica*
San Francisco Champion *Silene verecunda*
Dune Goldenrod *Solidago spathulata*
Wild Aster *Symphyotrichum chilense*
Douglas Aster *Symphyotrichum subspicatum*
Dune Tansy *Tanacetum bipinnatum*

Common Buckeye
California Sister
Common Ringlet
Gray Hairstreak
Acmon Blue
Common Checkered-Skipper
Umber Skipper
Woodland Skipper
Sachem

Field Crescent
Mylitta Crescent
Gulf Fritillary
Red Admiral

San Bruno Elfin
Variable Checkerspot

Additional Wildlife

Western Fence Lizard *Sceloporus occidentalis*
Northern Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*
California Towhee *Melospiza crissalis*
Melospiza melodia Song Sparrow
Silver digger bee *Habropoda miserabilis*
Western banded glowworm beetle *Zarhipis integripennis*

Resources:

<https://calscape.org/>

<http://sfplantfinder.org/index.html?community=dunes>

“San Francisco Plants as Resources for Lepidoptera,” compiled by Jeffrey Caldwell

Butterflies of the Presidio, by Liam O’Brien and Mathew Zlatunich

“Butterflies of San Francisco,” brochure published by Nature in the City, illustrations and inventory by Liam O’Brien

Calscape is CNPS’s plant selection tool with native plant pictures, sizes, soil types, sun/shade, water needs and butterfly caterpillar value.

<https://www.calscape.org/>

California Native Plant Society - Yerba Buena chapter

<http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/>