

Plants are one of the most useful organisms. Across cultures, plants—as food, medicine, clothing, dyes, timber, cosmetics, and paper—have long played key utilitarian roles in history, gastronomy, agriculture, religion, and the arts. Yet today, urban life and consumerism have thrown a veil on our botanical dependence, hampering our ability to identify even native plants: we far more readily recognize blueberries and pecans in a grocery store than in a forest.

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Nature Quote:

The activities in this journal can be done on almost any quiet patch of earth in our area.



Land Trusts are member driven non-profits working for you in our communities. Please consider supporting these organizations.

POCKET
Nature Journal
Spring Ephemerals

Common Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale

Traits: Bright yellow flowers at tip of long stalks; long, lance-shaped leaves deeply divided into many sharp segments

Size: Flowerheads 1 - 2 inches wide; leaves 2 - 15 inches long

Habitat: Lawns, fields, roadside




FIELD NOTES:

False Hellebore
Veratrum virid
aka Indian Poke

Traits: Yellowish-green flowers; leaves long, oval or lance-shaped, strongly ribbed

Size: Flowers about 1/2 - 1 inch wide; leaves 6 - 14 inches long

Habitat: Wet woods



FIELD NOTES:

Arbutus aka Mayflower
Epigaea repens

Traits: Fragrant pink or white flowers grow in small clusters close to ground; leathery oval leaves, stems densely hairy

Size: Flowers about 1/2 inch; leaves 1 - 3 inches long

Habitat: Sandy or rocky soils, sunny trailsides.




FIELD NOTES:

Ephemeral:
Lasting only a very short time.

This week we are looking at 4 early wildflower species. The early nature of their bud and bloom period plays an important role in their community. They provide essential food for early pollinators.

Activity
Flower Power Walk

1. Choose a sunny day and look for blooming flowers in your yard or along a trail.
2. See how many flowers in this book you can find.
3. Do the sniff test and find out which ones are fragrant.
4. Count the number of petals each flower has.

* Record what you find in the field notes section of each page.

Coltsfoot
Tussilago farfara

Traits: Bright yellow dandelion-like flowerhead; Scaly stem

Size: Flowerhead about 1 inch wide; 3 - 12 inches tall

Habitat: Roadsides, stony rubble, disturbed areas




FIELD NOTES: