

April Plants of the Month

Here are some of the wildflowers you can see on scablands around Klamath Falls this month.

Spring gold is a tiny golden yellow annual in the sunflower family. It is uncommon around town, but can be found in patches. This photo was taken on the hill across the road from Steens Sports Park.



Don't be fooled by patches of tiny pale yellow flowers with light green foliage – these are the pesky weed **bur buttercup**. Many of these are already done flowering and starting to form their burs.

Pink **bulbous woodland stars** occur in scattered clumps across the scablands, where they are often seen with the ubiquitous tiny white **spring draba**.





Several species of *Lomatium* occur on the scablands. Right now **bigseed biscuitroot** is flowering. This species has pale yellow flowers, gray-green foliage and more of a skunky than carrot-like smell.

The purple to pinkish flowered mustard **daggerpod** is abundant this year. Flowers will later produce flat, sharp-pointed fruits, giving the plant its name. (note tiny white spring draba in the photo)



But what is this? Daggerpod with yellow flowers???

Some species in the mustard family can become infected with a parasitic rust that causes the plant to grow stalks with clusters of bright yellow leaves that bear fungal reproductive structures. These “pseudoflowers” have a scent and sticky nectar-like substance that attracts insects, which then transfer fungal spermatia from one host plant to another. Pseudoflowers first appear in february and are common in some areas.