

## Key to Major Flowering Plant Families of Southern California

1. Petals in 3s; principal leaf veins parallel (MONOCOTS)
  2. Stamens gen. 6; ovary superior; stems gen. round.....  
**LILIACEAE (Lily Family)**
  - 2' Stamens 3; ovary inferior; stems flattened..... **IRIDACEAE (Iris Family)**
- 1' Petals in 4s or 5s; principal leaf veins pinnate or palmate (not parallel) (DICOTS)
  3. Flowers radially symmetrical (regular)
    4. Petals 4
      5. Ovary superior; stamens 4+2 .....**BRASSICACEAE (Mustard Family) 227/800\***
      - 5' Ovary inferior; stamens gen. 8 ..... **ONAGRACEAE (Evening Primrose) 118/600**
    - 4' Petals 5 or more
      6. Petals free; falling separately
        7. Inflorescence composed of numerous florets forming a dense head on a common receptacle; leaves gen. not compound .....  
**ASTERACEAE (Sunflower Family) 822/20,000**
        - 7' Inflorescence dense but not sharing a common receptacle; leaves gen. compound  
**APIACEAE (Carrot Family) 114/2000**
      - 6' Petals fused; falling as a unit
        8. Style unbranched; ovary 4-lobed.....**BORAGINACEAE (Borage Family) 156/2000**
        - 8' Style branched; ovary not lobed
          9. Style with 3 branches; anthers and pollen gen. blue or orange; not yellow  
**POLEMONIACEAE (Phlox Family) 160/275**
          - 9' Style with 2 branches; anthers and pollen yellow.....  
**HYDROPHYLLACEAE (Waterleaf Family)**  
130/300
    - 3' Flowers not radially symmetrical (irregular)
      10. Petals free; falling separately..... **FABACEAE (Legume/Pea Family) 370/13,000**
      - 10' Petals fused; falling as a unit
        11. Leaves aromatic; ovary 4-lobed..... **LAMIACEAE (Mint Family) 114/3000**
        - 11' Leaves not aromatic; ovary not 4-lobed.....  
**SCHROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort Family)**  
300/3000

\*Number of Species: California/World Wide