

Plant Species Information Sheet

Presidio Clarkia

Clarkia franciscana

Plant Family: Evening Primrose (Onagraceae)

Distinguishing Features

Native to California

Federally and State Listed Endangered Species

Habitat: Serpentine bluffs and grasslands in open sunlit areas. Presidio clarkia is restricted to grassland communities on serpentine soils in San Francisco and Alameda counties, only 5 known populations.

Size: Slender stems and grows up to 16 inches tall.

Leaves: Few, small, slender lance-shaped leaves.

Flowers: The sparse flowers have four wedge-shaped petals that are lavender to pink. The middle of the flower is lighter in color with a reddish-purple basal spot. Blooming time is from May to July.

Interesting Facts

- Serpentine soils are formed from weathered volcanic rocks. These soils provide a harsh environment for plant growth, however, species such as Presidio clarkia have adapted to serpentine soils and require them to survive.
- The Presidio populations are threatened by habitat degradation, through activities such as pedestrian and mountain bicycle traffic on and near trails and road maintenance. Populations are also threatened by the encroachment of nonnative plant species, including cape ivy, ice plant, blackberries, and by natives planted outside their natural range, such as the Monterey pine.



