

Wildflower season is great but have you heard of orchard blossom season?

7x7.com/northern-california-superbloom-2671254531.html

Shoshi Parks - March 4, 2025



Northern California's wildflower season is nothing short of stunning. Diving into fields of orange poppies and lavender irises is something we look forward to all year.

But while wildflowers get all the attention as the harbingers of spring, another superbloom spreads its petals in our agricultural heartlands. Between late February and mid-May, almond, peach, and apple orchards blossom fairytale-like across the countryside—and they are more than worth a visit.

Escape into a world of exquisite blooms and blossoms this spring at these orchards from western Sonoma to Fresno County.

Almond Blossoms



(Courtesy of Visit Sacramento)

In Sacramento, there's an annual superbloom to rival the legendary springtime cherry blossoms in Japan and Washington, D.C. Beginning in late February, an ocean of white and pink flowers burst from the branches of more than a million acres of almond trees in what locals call "valley snow." The region is an abundant producer of almonds—California grows nearly 80 percent of the world's supply—and just driving through its agricultural lands is like going inside the pages of a storybook.

You'll find some of the densest concentrations of orchards in the towns of Woodland and Winters, around an hour to an hour-and-a-half northeast of San Francisco. It's a little late to attend this year's <u>Capay Valley Almond Festival</u>, a one-of-a-kind event that spans five towns and 21 miles in late February, but the 1,400 trees at <u>Capay Hills Orchard</u> in Esparto are still in bloom. Just remember to respect the privately owned farms where the trees are found, and look (and take photos) but don't touch; you'll still be able to see it all by pulling over on the shoulder of adjacent roads.

Peak Bloom: Late February to mid-March

Peach Blossoms



(Courtesy of @visitfresnocounty)

Around the same time almond buds are bursting in Sacramento, Fresno County's peach blossoms come into bloom. There are almost 70 miles of delicate pink and white flowers lining the Fresno County Blossom Trail, which lassoes the region from the city of Fresno to the towns of Orange Cove, Reedley, and Fowler.

The <u>Fresno County Blossom Trail Map</u> will guide your magical, flower-filled journey, which includes stops at farms, fruit stands, and wineries like <u>Kings River</u> and <u>Cedar View</u> in Sanger. Time your visit right and you'll be in town for the <u>36th annual Blossom Days Festival</u> on March 8th, a lively celebration with music, food, an art exhibit, a car show, and a Lego master competition.

Peak Bloom: Mid-February to mid-March

Apple Blossoms



(Courtesy of @goldridgeorganicfarms)

In late April, West Sonoma's apple orchards erupt in shades of pink, violet, and white. For the town of Sebastopol, the blooms' arrival is a chance for celebration. For 79 years they've hosted the <u>Apple</u> <u>Blossom Festival</u>, a family-friendly event with a parade, music, an art show, and carnival rides for the kiddos.

You don't have to show up to the party to immerse yourself in apple blossom beauty, though. At Sebastopol's <u>Gold Ridge Organic Farm</u>, visitors can walk through more than 12,000 trees hailing from 75 heirloom varieties, each one with its own distinctly colored flowers, on April 26th (the same weekend as the festival). A few weeks later, before the season ends, <u>Sonoma County Farm</u> <u>Trails</u> hosts their <u>Spring Farm Tour</u>, an agrarian adventure full of blossoms, bees, and barnyard babies held May 17th and 18th.

Peak Bloom: Late April to mid-May