

# Serpentine Wildflowers



Tidy Tips



Sanicle



Checkerbloom



Suncup



California Poppy



Muilla



California Plantain



Spring Gold



Goldfields



Owl's Clover



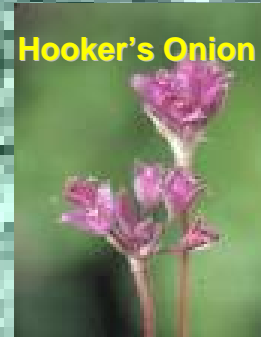
Popcorn Flower



Miniature Lupine



Creamcups



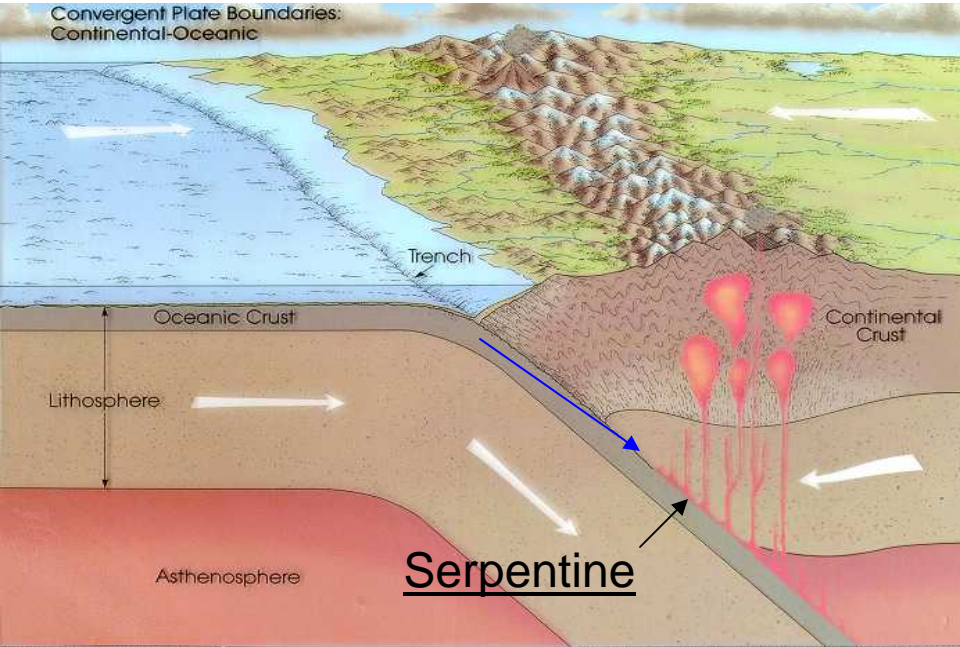
Hooker's Onion



Creamcups

150,000,000-65,000,000 years ago the plate (crust) under the Pacific Ocean was being forced (subducted) under the North American Plate. As the plate, made up of a lava rock called basalt, was forced under it began to melt. At the same time boiling water seeped into the "trench" and turned to salty steam. This transformed (metamorphosed) the basalt into a green and black, waxy-looking rock that looked like snake skin. It is called "serpentine." Over millions of years this rock decomposed in to soil rich in magnesium and iron, but poor in calcium sodium and potassium. The uniquely adapted plants seen in this booklet thrive in this rare soil-type. Serpentine in one of the rarest habitats in California. Enjoy the beauty of these flowers each Spring.

Convergent Plate Boundaries:  
Continental-Oceanic



The Tasa Collection: Plate Tectonics

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# WILDFLOWERS OF THE SERPENTINE REALM



SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY PARKS

**GO OUTSIDE & PLAY!**

