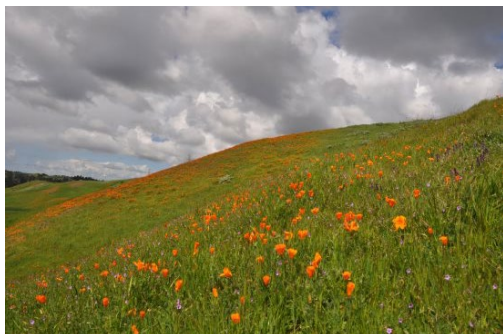


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Spring blooms offer respite during difficult time

By Jennifer Wake



A blanket of gold covers Lamorinda hillsides.
Photo A. Scheck

With Lamorinda residents under a shelter-in-place order, many are able to hit the trails for solitary walks while still keeping the required six-foot distance from others to avoid spread of the novel coronavirus, and are finding an abundance of color - especially the golden poppy - on hillsides and along walking trails.

According to our gardening guru, Cynthia Brian, the March rains and cooler temperatures have created a boom of wildflower growth, and we may soon start to see our local hillsides graced with a poppy superbloom. Turn off the TV, close the computer and put down the phone to take some time to drink in the colors of spring. Gather branches of blooms to make arrangements (see Cynthia's story on page D1), or simply pay attention to the colors around you while making the weekly trip to the grocery or the pharmacy.

Spring reminds us all of renewal and the hope of good things to come. In the words of author Ann Bradstreet, "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." As we slow our lives during this crisis, we can all be grateful that we live in Lamorinda - one of the most beautiful areas in California.

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