

Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: February - March

Marah macrocarpa is a perennial herbaceous plant that is trailing or climbing. It is found throughout the peninsula. It returns each year from an enormous (several meters in length) underground tuber that can reach weights of 220 lbs or more! The stems are somewhat hairy with tendrils branched (2-3 branched). This plant is an impressive climber. The leaves are roundish to cordate, and are generally deeply 5 to 7 lobed (rarely 8). Leaf shape, however, can be highly variable among individuals. The plant is monoecious. The staminate flowers are clustered together in axillary panicles or racemoid panicles. They have a white corolla (occasionally creamy yellow) that is



Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: February - March

shallowly cup-shaped and adnate with a greenish calyx which forms a hypanthium. The filaments of the stamens are connately fused. The anthers are fused and twisted around a head like structure. The pistillate flowers are solitary and in the same axils as the staminate flowers. The corolla is white and the sepals of the calyx are deltate, greenish, and sometimes vestigial. The 1 stigma is discoid to subglobose. The 1 style is short to vestigial. The fruit is a capsule that is irregular-dehiscent from the tip, short -ellipsoid to broadly ovoid, rounded at both ends, and usually has a prominent beak (can be short to very long) at the tip. Seeds are usually oblong and can vary in color.



Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Groud Family)

Flowers: February - March

various seed colors
seen in fully developed seeds



beak very
prominent on fruit



good rain years female
plants can produce many fruits



Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: February - March

germination of seedling with differentiating parts

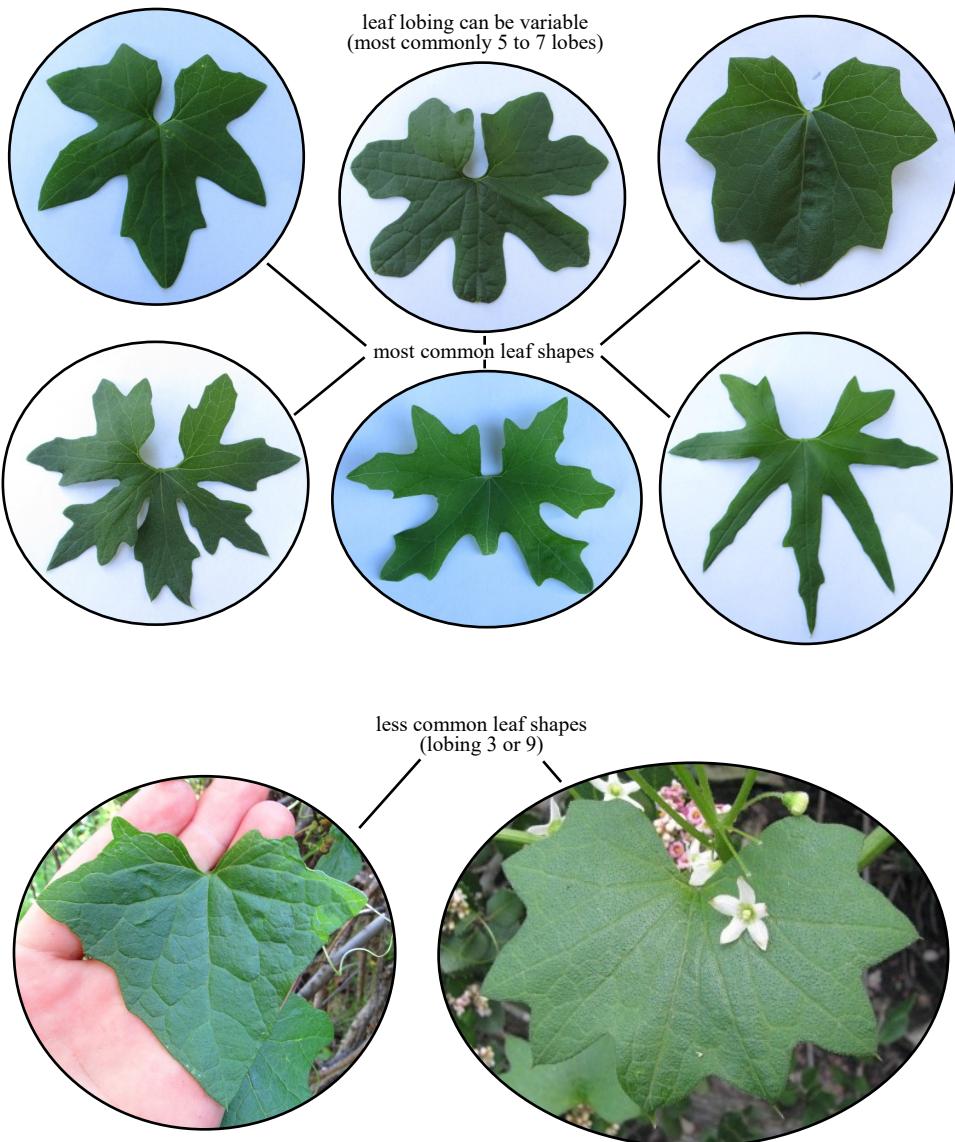


Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Groud Family)

Flowers: February - March

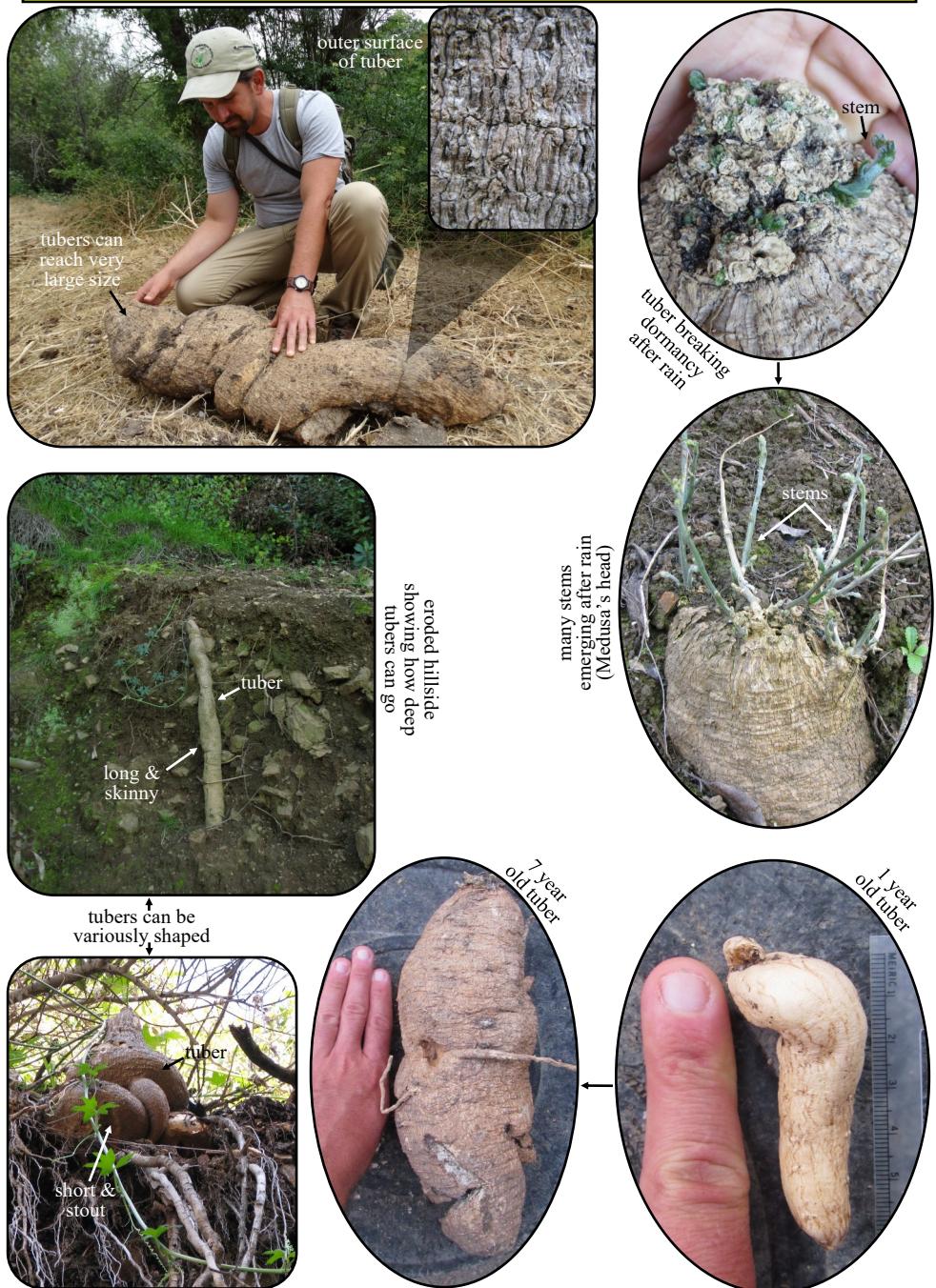


Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Groud Family)

Flowers: February - March



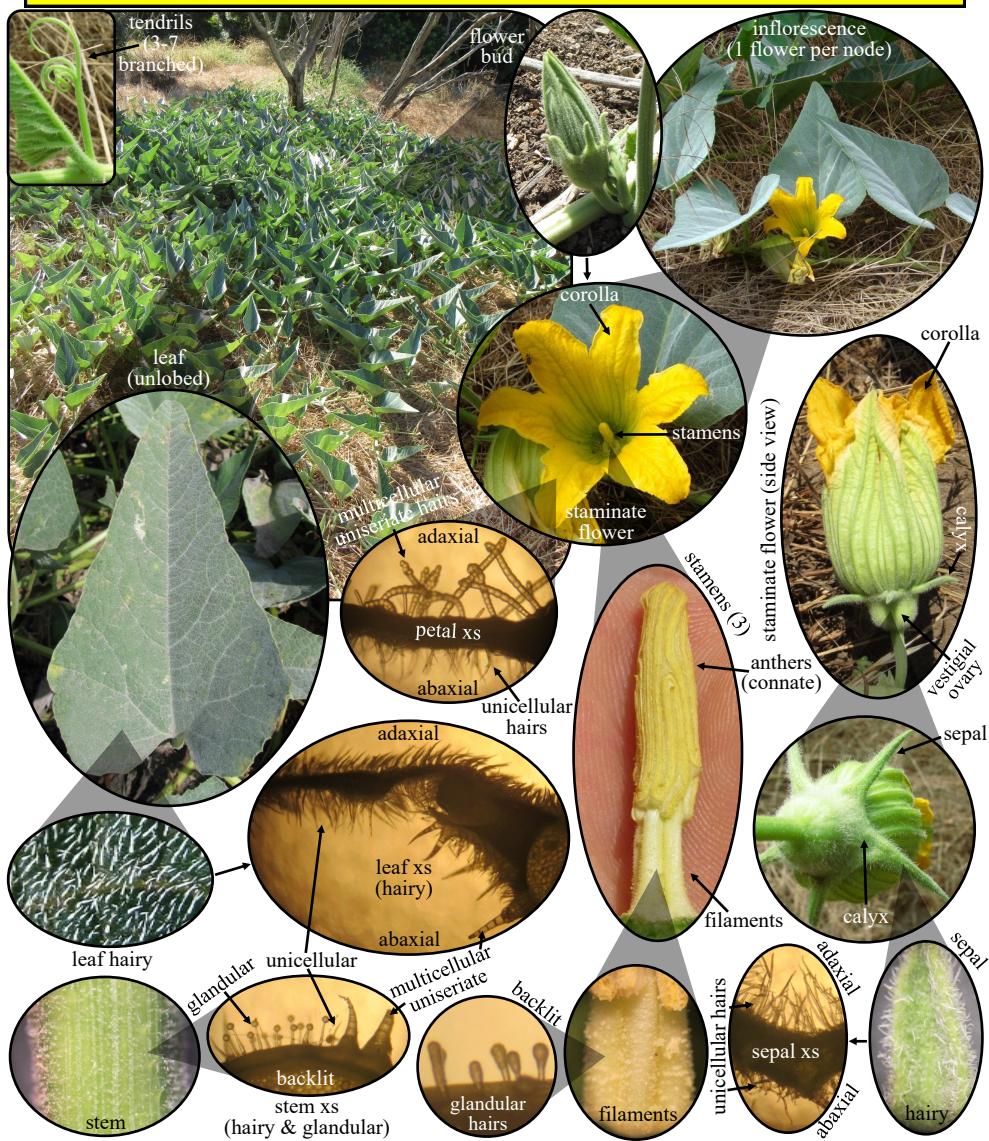
Calabazilla (*Cucurbita foetidissima*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: May - August

Cucurbita foetidissima is a perennial vining plant. It is found in a few spots on the peninsula and can be found growing in clay and sandy soils. It returns each year from a large fleshy tuberous root that can reach weights of 160 lbs or more! The overall plant is aromatic with an unusual smell that can be pleasant to some people and unpleasant to other people. The plant is monoecious. The stems are generally prostrate, hairy (thick based) and glandular. The leaves are generally triangular-ovate, longer than wide, gray-green, coarsely hairy, glandular, and can be unlobed or shallowly 2-



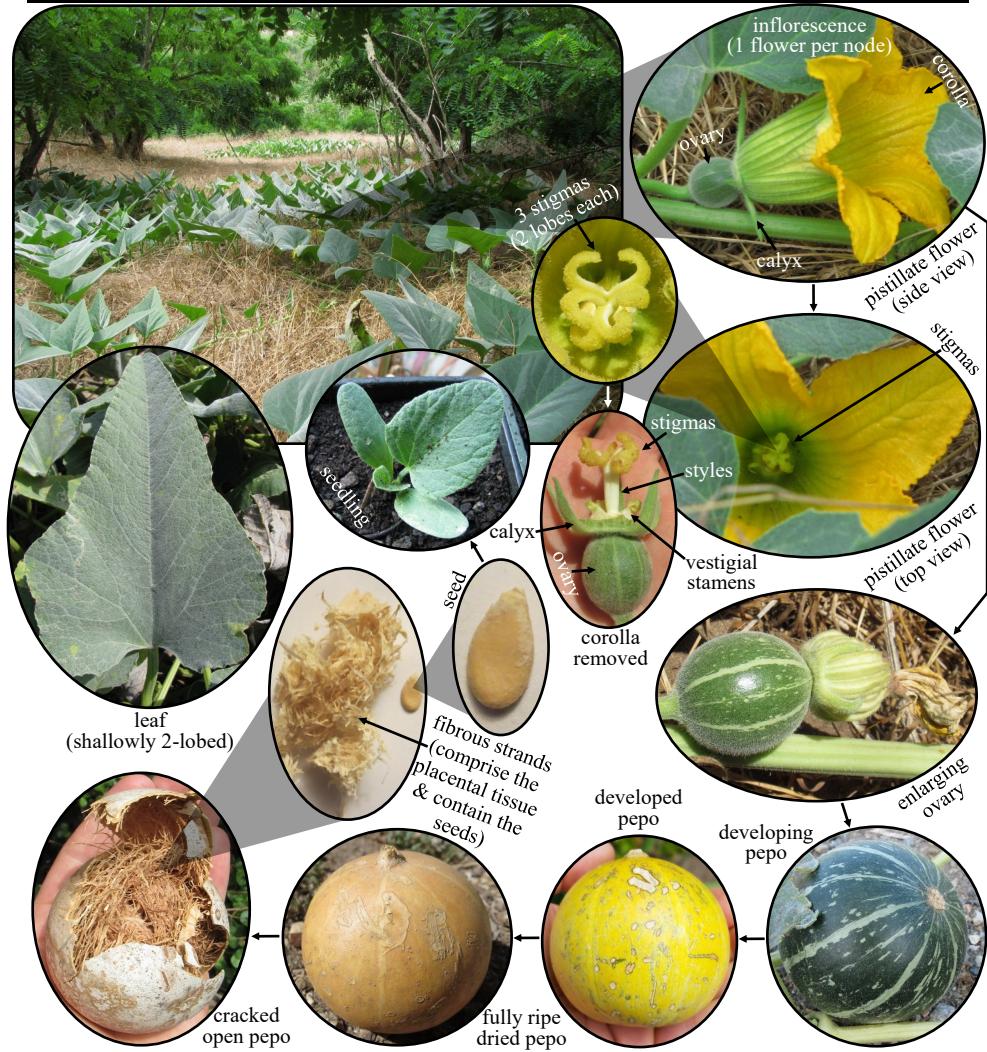
Calabazilla (*Cucurbita foetidissima*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: May - August

lobed. The tendrils are 3-7 branched. The staminate and pistillate flowers are solitary and found along the nodes of the stem. The corolla is yellow to orangish with multi-cellular uniseriate hairs lining the inside and unicellular hairs lining the outside. There are 5 green sepals. The calyx is fused to the corolla producing a hypanthium. Staminate flowers have 3 stamens with anthers fused and the filaments, which can be hairy, are free (sometimes slightly fused). The pistillate flowers have 3 stigmas that are 2-lobed. The fruit is a pepo that is generally spheric. Developing pepo's are green with white stripes and white-mottled. Developed pepo's are yellowish orange and firm. Dried ripe pepo's are a tannish color and hard. The seeds are oblong-ovate and white to tannish. Dried pepo's can make great Halloween decorations!



Calabazilla (*Cucurbita foetidissima*)

Order: Cucurbitales

Family: Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Flowers: May - August



dried pepo's make great
Halloween decorations