



## Photo Contest FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

### **Q: How do I use photos from my phone for the contest?**

A: If you've taken photos using the Calflora phone app, then upload your observations, and publish them from [My Observations](#). If you are not using the Calflora app and the photos are in your gallery on your phone, [use this page](#) to upload them. You will need to be a registered data contributor with Calflora for either option.

### **Q: How do I register as a data contributor?**

A: From the [Calflora home page](#), click on LOGIN - REGISTER in the upper right. You may also retrieve your password from there.

### **Q: Can I use a camera, not a phone, to add photos to the contest?**

A: Yes. Some cameras collect location with each photo, and some do not. If your camera does, [upload your geo-tagged photos here](#). If your camera does not have locations associated with the photos, you can add your location subsequently on the map and pull in the photos to [create a Calflora observation here](#). Here's more [info on how to do that](#).

### **Q: How many votes do I get?**

A: You may vote once on each photo submitted, so that depends on how many are submitted. Last year we had over 1,000 photos submitted.

### **Q: How do I vote?**

A: Go to [this page](#) click on any photo for closer view, and if you like the closer view click "Like" below it. Voting ends midnight Tuesday June 5.

### **Q: I don't see the "like" button.**

A: If the page has fully loaded and you don't see the "like" on the detail page to the lower left of the photo, you're not logged in; you must be logged in to vote.



**Q: Can I vote throughout May?**

A: Yes. Votes will be tallied at the beginning of June.

**Q: Can I vote for my own photos?**

A: Yes. Each person may vote for any photo once.

**Q: What if I accidentally vote on a photo I don't like?**

A: Click the "like" button again and that will undo your initial "like."

**Q: Can I ask my friends to vote for my photos?**

A: Sure.

**Q: What if I don't know the name of the plant?**

A: You can still put it in Calflora as "unknown," or with the Genus, and then add it to [Plant ID Help group](#). Other members of that group identify plants from photos.

**Q: What if I see a photo of a plant someone mis-identified?**

A: Please click on the photo and go to "comments" at the top of the page, click on the blue arrow, and leave your comment. The person who entered the photo will receive your comment as an email, and may decide to change the species name or write another comment with their explanation about why they're not changing it.

 **COMMENTS**

**Q: Why do all the photos need to be of wild plants, not planted ones?**

A: Calflora's prime interest is in wild plants.



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**Q: What if I took the photo in April but add it to Calflora in May?**

A: The photos considered in the May photo contest are those that were observed in May.

**Q: What does the photo contest winner win?**

A: Fame and glory on the Calflora website and social media.

**Q: When I use Calflora's Observer Pro phone app, I don't know which project to use.**

A: Use **Simple** for one photo slot, **Advanced** for 3 photo slots, and **Rare** if you're observing a rare plant and would like to use CNDDDB's data collection form.

**Q: How do I sign in to Calflora's Observer Pro phone app?**

A: If you do not yet have a Calflora contributor account, go to the [Calflora home page](#) and make one. Then, open the app on your phone and use the same credentials (email and password) to sign in.

**Q: What if I took a photo in May but add it to Calflora in June?**

A: If you don't add it by May 31st, you might be too late to join the contest.

**Q: What if I have a terrible photo I took in May that I don't want to be part of the contest?**

A: A terrible photo won't win, so don't worry about it. You may make your observation private and then switch it back to public after the contest is over if you'd like to. To do this, switch "[access by others](#)" to private.



**Q: What if I have multiple photos associated with one observation?**

A: That's great, and we encourage that. All photos will be considered in the contest.

**Q: Is it OK to submit photos of non-natives, or even invasive, plants?**

A: Yes. The only constraints are that the species was photographed in May, and is wild.

**Q: What kinds of photos have won this contest in the past?**

A: Here are a few of our favorites:



2015 tie for 1st place  
*Phacelia gymnoclada*  
Naked stem phacelia  
by Tom Bentley



2016 1st place  
*Castilleja mendocinensis*  
Mendocino coast  
Indian paintbrush  
by Asa B. Spade



2017 3rd Place  
*Fouquieria splendens*  
Ocotillo  
by Dan Fillipi



2016 3rd place  
*Yucca brevifolia*  
Joshua tree  
by Alison Sheehey



2017 1st Place  
*Calochortus pulchellus*  
Mt. Diablo fairy lantern  
by Eddie Risse

**Q: How do I control who can use my photos?**

A: See [My Calflora Preferences](#) "Sharing your photos outside of Calflora."



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**Q: Do I get extra credit if I photograph a plant for which Calflora needs a reference photo?**

A: That's a good idea, but we haven't implemented it. Here are the species for which Calflora lacks reference photos: [Natives](#) [Non-natives](#)

**Q: Can I come to a Calflora presentation or training to learn more?**

A: Of course! Here's our [2018 schedule](#).

**Q: Why don't you have more photos of desert plants?**

A: Please add more so that we will!

**Q: What if I have a question that's not answered here?**

A: Email us at [spprt@calflora.org](mailto:spprt@calflora.org).