The Flower Festival

The Lompoc Valley Flower Festival is held on the last full weekend in June. It begins on the Wednesday before that weekend and concludes on Sunday. A Lompoc tradition since 1952, the Flower Festival features a carnival, arts and crafts vendors, commercial vendors, live entertainment, food booths, a flower show and a parade on Saturday.

The event is presented by the Lompoc Valley Festival Association. This annual festival attracts thousands of visitors to the Lompoc Valley for a weekend of family-oriented activities. For more information regarding the Flower Festival, please contact:

Lompoc Valley Festival Association
(805) 735-8511 • www.lompocvalleyfestivals.com

In addition to the events surrounding the Flower Festival, there are other community activities to enjoy during the weekend, including:

- Discover California’s heritage at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, the most fully-restored mission in the state. On-site hiking trails, livestock, and gardens.
- Tour Lompoc’s famous outdoor murals - maps are available at the Chamber of Commerce office
- Enjoy award-winning wines at local tasting rooms - don’t miss the Lompoc Wine Ghetto and Wine Trail
- Visit the Lompoc Museum, 200 South H St.
- Tour the Fabing-McKay-Spanne House, home to the Lompoc Valley Historical Society, 207 North L St.
- Enjoy original artwork at the Cypress Art Gallery, 119 E. Cypress Ave.
- Golf at nearby La Purisima Golf Course, or the Mission Club
- Ride bicycles at the River Bend Bike Park
- Use the Santa Ynez River multipurpose trail
- Enjoy the state-of-the-art Lompoc Aquatic Center, 207 W. College Ave.
- Buy fresh produce at the Friday Night Farmers Market (corner of Ocean Ave and I Street)
- Walk the fitness trails at River and Beattie Parks

Visit www.lompoc.com for more visitor information.

Our Flower History

Climate is a critical factor in cultivating flower seeds and cut flowers. The Lompoc Valley is said to have the most consistent temperate climate in the world. The valley’s cool, moist summers have attracted growers of these colorful crops for almost 100 years.

The flower industry in the Lompoc Valley dates to the early 1900s when mustard was harvested for seed. Fragrant sweet peas, one of the valley’s first flower seed crops, were introduced for export to England.

The seeds grown in the Lompoc Valley were sold all over the world. However, due to changes in the consumer market, local seed production has all but vanished. Today, commercial growers plant and harvest cut flowers of many varieties. These cut flowers are used by nurseries and florists, and in dry arrangements in much of the Western United States.

The nearly seven acre floral flag of Lompoc was most recently planted in 2002 by Bodger Seed Company. The flag has not been replanted since this version, and Bodger has since been sold and ceased local operations, so it is unlikely that there will be another floral flag planted in the Lompoc Valley.

Flower Varieties

As you drive through the “Valley of Flowers,” you will see many patches of color which will include larkspur, stock, alyssum, delphinium, sweet peas, marigolds and others. Though it is true that fewer flowers have been planted in recent years, approximately 80% of US cut flower production comes from California, and over half of that comes from Santa Barbara County.
Where to See the Flowers

Please note that flower season runs from late May until mid-August, peaking in late June. There may be isolated fields as late as October, but because crops are annually rotated, no guarantees can be made as to the location of the flower fields. This map is a general guide only.

Driving Route

The Lompoc Valley has two main roads running parallel, east and west. On the north side of the city is Central Avenue; on the south is Ocean Avenue.

The best way to view the flowers is to proceed west on Ocean to Floradale, then right on Floradale to Central, and continue going back and forth between Central and Ocean Avenue. Union Sugar Road is the last road through the fields before returning to town.

As you travel between Ocean and Central Avenues, you will be on rough farm roads with potholes. Also, you will cross railroad tracks which are bumpy. Come to a stop and cross gently or you could damage your vehicle.

There are sometimes flowers on Highway 246 and Purisima Road adjacent to La Purisima Mission.

Fruits & Vegetables

While your eyes enjoy the beauty of the flowers, also allow them to appreciate the beauty of the many vegetable crops, walnut orchards and vineyards that abound in the valley and surrounding area.

Many acres are planted to beans annually, the seeds of which are harvested and sold locally as well as shipped around the world. The Lompoc Valley remains renowned for its food production with crops including asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, artichokes, carrots, cabbage, celery, spinach, kale, parsley, Brussels sprouts, snap peas, cilantro and walnuts.

Lompoc Valley’s grapes were harvested for wine back in the 18th Century when the Mission was newly born. Today, Lompoc is one of the most celebrated wine production and tasting hubs in Santa Barbara County, producing award-winning wines. The Sta. Rita Hills AVA is located just east of Lompoc, renowned for growing Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and other cool climate grapes.