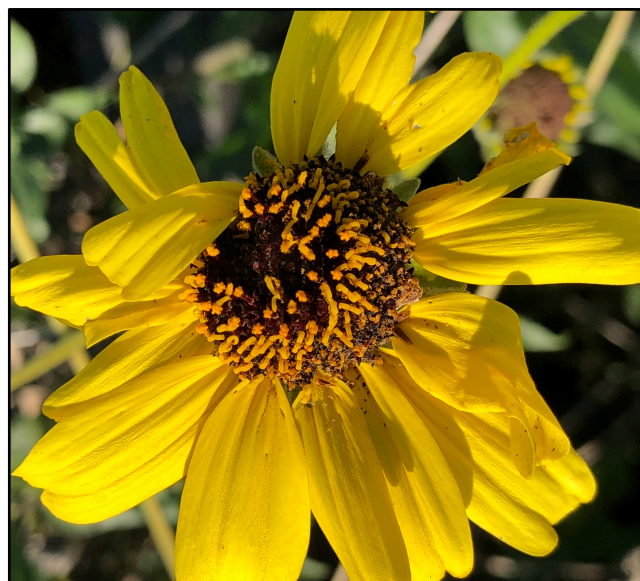


*Encelia californica*  
California brittlebush

**Why Observe?**

*Encelia californica* or California brittlebush is native to California and Baja California and is a colorful part of the coastal sage scrub community. Not only do these shrubs do well in coastal ecosystems but adapt to drought conditions. They are important plants for butterflies, bees, other insects and seed eating birds.



LACHilton. [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

**Tips for Identification**

California brittlebush is also commonly called California bush sunflower. It is a bushy sprawling shrub that will drop leaves when it becomes drier. It is thinly branched with wide spaced elongated diamond shaped leaves. The flower heads are daisy-like.



© sierrapixie via iNaturalist. [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a “?” for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.

## Image Needed

email  
photos@usanpn.org

### Young leaves

One or more young, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "young" and "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf stalk (petiole) or leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the stem, but before the leaf has reached full size or turned the darker green color or tougher texture of mature leaves on the plant. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.



LACHilton.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

### Leaves

One or more live, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf stalk (petiole) or leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the stem. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

## Image Needed

email  
photos@usanpn.org

### Colored leaves

One or more leaves show some of their typical late-season color, or yellow or brown due to drought or other stresses. Do not include small spots of color due to minor leaf damage, or dieback on branches that have broken. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves that remain on the plant.

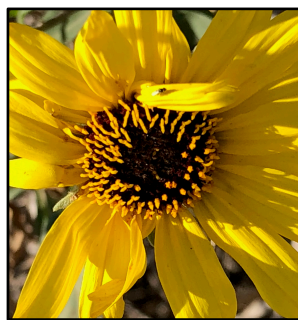


LACHilton.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

### Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.

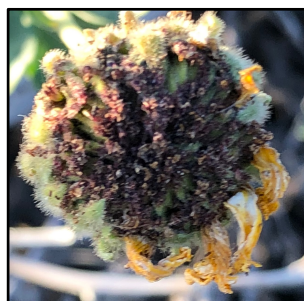


LACHilton.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

### Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

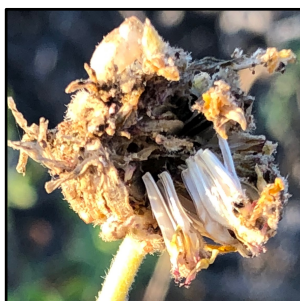


LACHilton.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

### Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Encelia californica*, the fruit is very tiny and seed-like and is crowded into a spent flower head. The seed-like fruit changes from yellow to tan or brown and drops from the plant. Do not include empty flower heads that have already dropped all of their fruits.



LACHilton.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

### Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Encelia californica*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned tan or brown, or when it readily drops from the spent flower head when touched. Do not include empty flower heads that have already dropped all of their fruits.

**Phenophases not pictured:** Falling leaves, Recent fruit or seed drop