Anitra Kass [AKA NITRO] from the Pacific Crest Trail Association prepared this information sheet for trail crews, but the warning is just as important for PCT hikers. Poodle-dog bush sent a significant number of trail crew workers and hikers to hospitals in 2011. The Poodle-dog bush is especially bad in the 2009 Station Fire burn area (PCT miles 400 – 441) but also may be found in the 2009 Sheep Fire burn area (PCT miles 345 – 359) and other burn areas in southern California. Wear long sleeves and long pants in California Section D.

Turricula (plant) AKA: Poodle-dog bush

The Poodle-dog bush or Common turricula, *Turricula parryi*, is the only species currently classified in the genus *Turricula*, within the waterleaf subfamily, Hydrophyllioideae. It is endemic to California and Baja California, and can be found from the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley southwards to Baja California.

Habitat

It is found in chaparral, on slopes and ridges from 100 to 2300 meters [328 – 7,545 feet]. Its seeds can remain dormant in soil for long periods, with the plant springing up quickly when the soil is disturbed or after a wildfire. Although the bush is more prevalent at higher elevations, it can appear throughout the recently burned areas. Forest Service officials have stated that the current post-Station Fire bloom is the largest in recent history. Trail users and trail maintenance volunteers need to be especially cautious, as it has appeared along many trails including narrow single track trails where it is difficult to avoid.

Description

It grows into a moderate size, perennial woody shrub, branching from the base but with main stems extending for up to 3 meters. Its leaves are long and narrow, and may be toothed at the edge; they can be from 4 to 30 cm long. It flowers from June to August, having clusters (cymes) of attractive bell-shaped blue, lavender or purple flowers. However it has a rank smell. Its flower clusters and hairy stem are similar to those of many plants in the genus *Phacelia*, but it can be distinguished from them by its greater height.

Skin Irritant

Like many species in the forget-me-not family, Poodle-dog bush causes severe irritation if touched, akin to poison oak. Swelling, rash and itching appear twelve hours to two days after contact. It can raise blisters lasting as long as two weeks. This contact dermatitis is due to prenylated phenolics exuded by hairs (glandular trichomes) of the plant. The principal irritants are derivatives of farnesyl hydroquinone and 3-farnesyl-P-hydroxybenzoic acid.

I’ve Been Exposed

If hiking or working around Poodle-dog bush, it’s recommended that you wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and gloves. It’s recommended that tools get cleaned each day and that they get thoroughly cleaned at the end of the work project. If exposed to the bush, avoid scratching the affected area. Clothes, tools or other equipment that has come into contact should be handled with caution and washed separately from other clothes. Use caution and avoid this plant. Calamine or over-the-counter Hydrocortizone cream may provide some relief, but if blisters begin to form medical attention may be required. Poison Oak remedies such as Zanfel or Tecnu have little effect, but washing the area as soon as possible after exposure is advised.

Monotypic Genus

When first described by Asa Gray, the poodle-dog bush was placed within genus *Eriodictyon*. It was subsequently moved to a genus of its own, and molecular phylogenetic analysis carried out by Ferguson (1998) confirms that *Turricula* should be treated as a separate genus within a clade (Ferguson does not use the term "subfamily") that includes *Eriodictyon*, and also the genera *Nama* and *Wigandia*; *Eriodictyon* is the genus to which *Turricula* is closest in molecular terms, and is its sister taxon.

Conclusion

We need to be aware of Poodle Dog Bush. Its life-cycle can last up to ten years after a significant fire or other disturbance. Eventually it will die off and lay dormant once again, waiting for the next big fire to come back to life.

Resources

http://www.socaltrailriders.org/forum/general-discussion/59360-poodle-dog-bush-toxicity.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turricula_%28plant%29
California Section D - 112.5 miles
Start - Interstate 15, mile 342 [Cajon Pass]
End - Agua Dulce, mile 454.5
Elevation Gain +27,372'
Elevation Loss -27,845'
Elevation Change -473'

These maps are provided as a free service to PCT hikers. I believe the information is accurate but they may contain errors. The maps are distributed in the hope that they will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Halfmile

Check www.pctwater.com for the latest water information.

North Bound Water Alert!
Next water after Cajon Pass may be WR0364 [Guffy Spring] in 22.3 miles.

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Leave No Trace
Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace (LNT) is a set of principles designed to cultivate outdoor ethics and protect the natural integrity of our land. By following and promoting LNT, you blend your hike with the natural environment and lessen your impact on the trail and the world.

The basic principles of LNT
* Plan Ahead and Prepare
* Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
* Dispose of Trash and Waste Properly
* Leave What You Find
* Minimize Campfire Impact
* Respect Wildlife
* Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information on LNT visit the Leave No Trace Center For Outdoor Ethics at www.LNT.org
You can access to Wrightwood on the very steep Acorn Trail (3.6 miles, dropping 2,337 feet), but it is probably better to hike 6 miles farther on the PCT to Hwy 2 and hitch into Wrightwood (5.5 miles E on Hwy 2).
The Endangered Species Detour starting at Islip Saddle to S Fork Campground and the Punchbowl Trail is no longer recommended due to severe erosion. Hikers can bypass the Endangered Species Closure by continuing on the PCT to Eagles Roost [mile 390.2], then road walk 2.7 miles along Hwy 2 to Buckhorn Campground, then follow the campground road and Burkhart Trail 2.2 miles to rejoin the PCT.

-Halfmile
Endangered Species Detour

The once thriving Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog is now nearly extinct. To protect the frog, the PCT is closed for 2.7 miles from Eagles Roost to the Burkhart Trail junction. Hikers can bypass the closure by road walk 2.7 miles along Hwy 2 to Buckhorn Campground, then follow the campground road and Burkhart Trail 2.2 miles to rejoin the PCT.

Mile 0 - EaglesRoost - Begin the detour at the Eagles Roost Picnic Area by hiking W on Hwy 2 - 6682 ft
Mile 2.6 - Buckhorn1Mi - Pass the "Buckhorn Entrance 1 Mile" highway sign - 6561 ft
Mile 2.7 - BuckhornExit - Turn right and walk down the unmarked paved road to the Buckhorn Campground. This is the campground exit but saves about a mile of walking to the entrance - 6553 ft
Continue walking through the campground past campsite # 25 to the paved Burkhart trailhead parking area.
Mile 3.4 - BurkhartTH - Burkhart trailhead, paved parking area, outhouse. Hike N on the Burkhart Trail - 6404 ft
Mile 4.1 - WA394 - Pass a seasonal spring - 6195 ft
Mile 4.9 - TR0394 - Rejoin the PCT at the Burkhart trail 2nd junction [PCT mile 394] - 5745 ft

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North Bound
Water Alert!
Next water after WR0419 may be WR0436 [North Fork Ranger Station] in 17.5 miles.
Acton is 5.9 miles E of the PCT on Soledad Canyon Rd (RD0444)

The Shambala Preserve, created by actress Tippi Hedren [star of Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds and many other films] is an animal rescue preserve 6/10 mile E of the Acton KOA. The preserve is home to Michael Jackson's 2 Bengal Tigers and about 50 other rescued big cats. [www.shambala.org, 661-268-0380]

The Acton Metrolink Station [commuter train service to Los Angeles and Lancaster] is 9.7 miles NE on Soledad Canyon Rd, then 1.3 miles NE on Sierra Hwy. [www.metrolinktrains.com, 800-371-5465]

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Leave No Trace

contour interval 40 feet
1:31,680 1" = 1/2 mile
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Agua Dulce (mile 454.5) is a small town on the PCT with a good grocery store, Agua Dulce restaurants, pay phones, ATM and Hiker Heaven (AKA the Saufley's, hikerheaven.com, 661-268-1235, guest [hiker] phone 661-402-5000). Hiker Heaven is usually open March - June and in the fall for southbounders. The PCT follows the road through the center of Agua Dulce. To reach Hiker Heaven walk past the grocery store and pizza place and turn left on Darling Road for 1 mile.

Hiker Heaven accepts resupply packages sent by USPS, UPS, FedEx or DHL. Include ETA on your package.
PCT Hiker (your name)
C/o The Saufley's
11861 Darling Road
Agua Dulce, CA 91390

Agua Dulce [mile 454.5] is a small town on the PCT with a good grocery store, Agua Dulce restaurants, pay phones, ATM and Hiker Heaven (AKA the Saufley's, hikerheaven.com, 661-268-1235, guest [hiker] phone 661-402-5000). Hiker Heaven is usually open March - June and in the fall for southbounders. The PCT follows the road through the center of Agua Dulce. To reach Hiker Heaven walk past the grocery store and pizza place and turn left on Darling Road for 1 mile.

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