

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911145838003321
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Titolo	California's fading wildflowers : lost legacy and biological invasions / / Richard A. Minnich
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2008
ISBN	9786612359378 9781282359376 1282359371 9780520934337 0520934334
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (361 p.)
Disciplina	582.1309794
Soggetti	Biological invasions - California Plant invasions - California Wild flowers - California
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 323-336) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The golden state -- Pre-Hispanic herbaceous vegetation -- Invasion of Franciscan annuals, grazing and California pasture in the nineteenth century -- A century for bromes and the fading of California wildflowers -- Lessons from the Rose Parade -- App.1. Location of Franciscan campsites, Franciscan place names, and modern place names -- App.2. Spanish plant names for California vegetation -- App. 3. Selected earliest botanical collections of exotic annual species in California -- App.4. References to wildflowers in the Los Angeles Times, The Desert magazine, and the Riverside Press Enterprise.
Sommario/riassunto	Early Spanish explorers in the late eighteenth century found springtime California covered with spectacular carpets of wildflowers from San Francisco to San Diego. Yet today, invading plant species have devastated this nearly forgotten botanical heritage. In this lively, vividly detailed work, Richard A. Minnich synthesizes a unique and wide-ranging array of sources-from the historic accounts of those early explorers to the writings of early American botanists in the nineteenth century, newspaper accounts in the twentieth century, and modern

ecological theory-to give the most comprehensive historical analysis available of the dramatic transformation of California's wildflower prairies. At the same time, his groundbreaking book challenges much current thinking on the subject, critically evaluating the hypothesis that perennial bunchgrasses were once a dominant feature of California's landscape and instead arguing that wildflowers filled this role. As he examines the changes in the state's landscape over the past three centuries, Minnich brings new perspectives to topics including restoration ecology, conservation, and fire management in a book that will change our view of native California.
