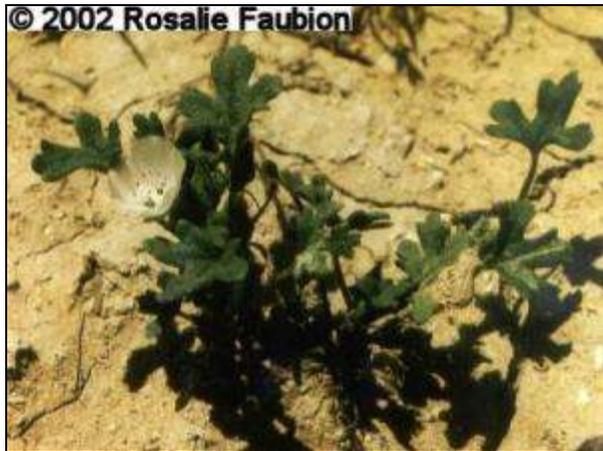
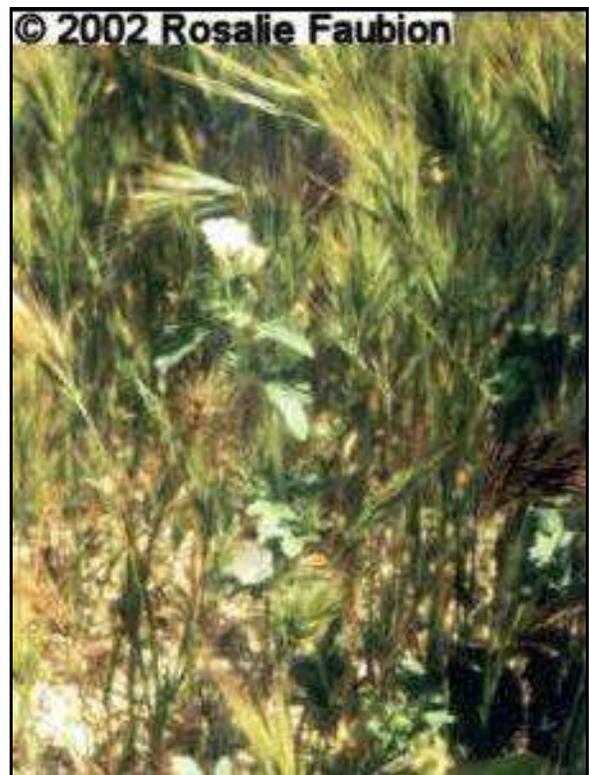


**KERN MALLOW  
(EREMALCHE KERNENSIS)**

Federal/California status: Endangered/--  
California Native Plant Society List 1B



*Photos*



*Description*

Kern mallow is an annual plant in the mallow family ( Malvaceae ). The stem height and habit vary depending on seasonal rainfall. Plants may be single-stemmed or multi-stemmed, with the central stem erect and the side stems trailing along the ground. Stems can be 1 to nearly 20 inches (2.5 to 50 cm) tall. Leaves are deeply lobed and flowers are single or in pairs in the base of the upper leaves. Flowers have 5 petals and are white in color. A few individuals may have pale lavender flowers. The plant blooms March and April but may continue flowering into May in wet years. The fruits are wheel-shaped.

*Habitat/Range*

Kern mallow has always had a highly-restricted distribution. It is found in Valley saltbush scrub habitat and is known only from the Lokern area of Kern County.

Photo: © Rosalie Faubion