

# Magenta Paintbrush

*Castilleja parviflora*



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## Plant and Leaves:

- Small plant, ~6-12 inches (15-30 cm) tall
- Leaves 1-2 inches (2-4 cm) long with 1 or 2 slender, finger-like lobes

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## Budding:

- The red/magenta bracts are closed into a loose, dark-red ball; there are no yellow projections



## Flowering:

- The magenta, brush-like looking “flowers” are not petals, but are called bracts (modified leaves)
- The true flowers are yellow projections that extend beyond the red bracts
- Count the plant as flowering when you can see the yellow projections



## Ripening Fruit:

- Initially, fruits start out green at the base of the dying flowers
- Eventually fruits turn into brown, dead looking fruit capsules on the stalk



## Releasing Seed:

- The seeds release when the capsule cracks open and you can see small brown seeds that look like little pellets. They are no larger than the bullet point to the left
- The stalk sounds like a rattle when the seeds are releasing because the capsules, seeds, and stems are dry.