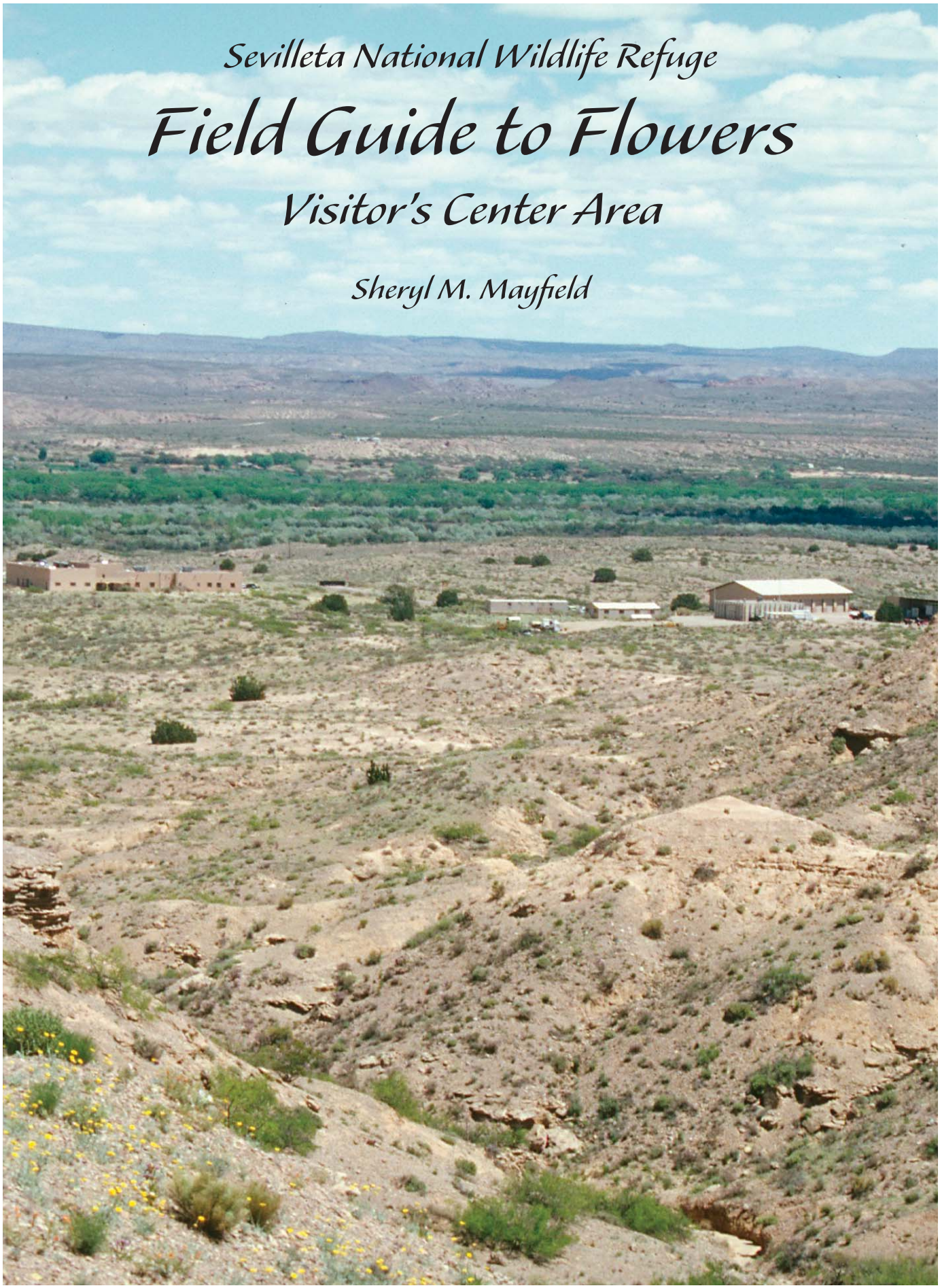
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Field Guide to Flowers

Visitor's Center Area

Sheryl M. Mayfield



Acknowledgments

A field trip had been canceled, unbeknown to me, five years ago on my birthday, I stumbled onto Sevilleta—and John DeWitt let me in. I never really left in spirit.

Terry Tadano, manager of the refuge, gave me unfailing support from the very beginning. This project was a labor of love growing like Topsy over the years from a simple checklist, of a single day's hike—to this. DeWitt Ivey gave me especially valuable botanical information throughout. Carolyn and Bill Dodson walked with me over the desert hills offering ideas and suggestions, some slides, and botanical knowledge. Jane Mygatt opened the UNM Herbarium to me, even on a Saturday. Troy Maddux, Gene Jersinovic, and Mike Friggens graciously offered additional experience and expertise.

Susan Mayfield saved the day (and the book) with her very professional graphic design skills, scanning the slides and photos and preparing the manuscript over long hours to its final form. She bestowed upon it a polish it would not have otherwise had. This was a volunteer work from beginning to finished product.

It was hard to end the lucky adventure. I know there are even more plants to find, and mysteries to solve, even in this modest square mile.

Mindy

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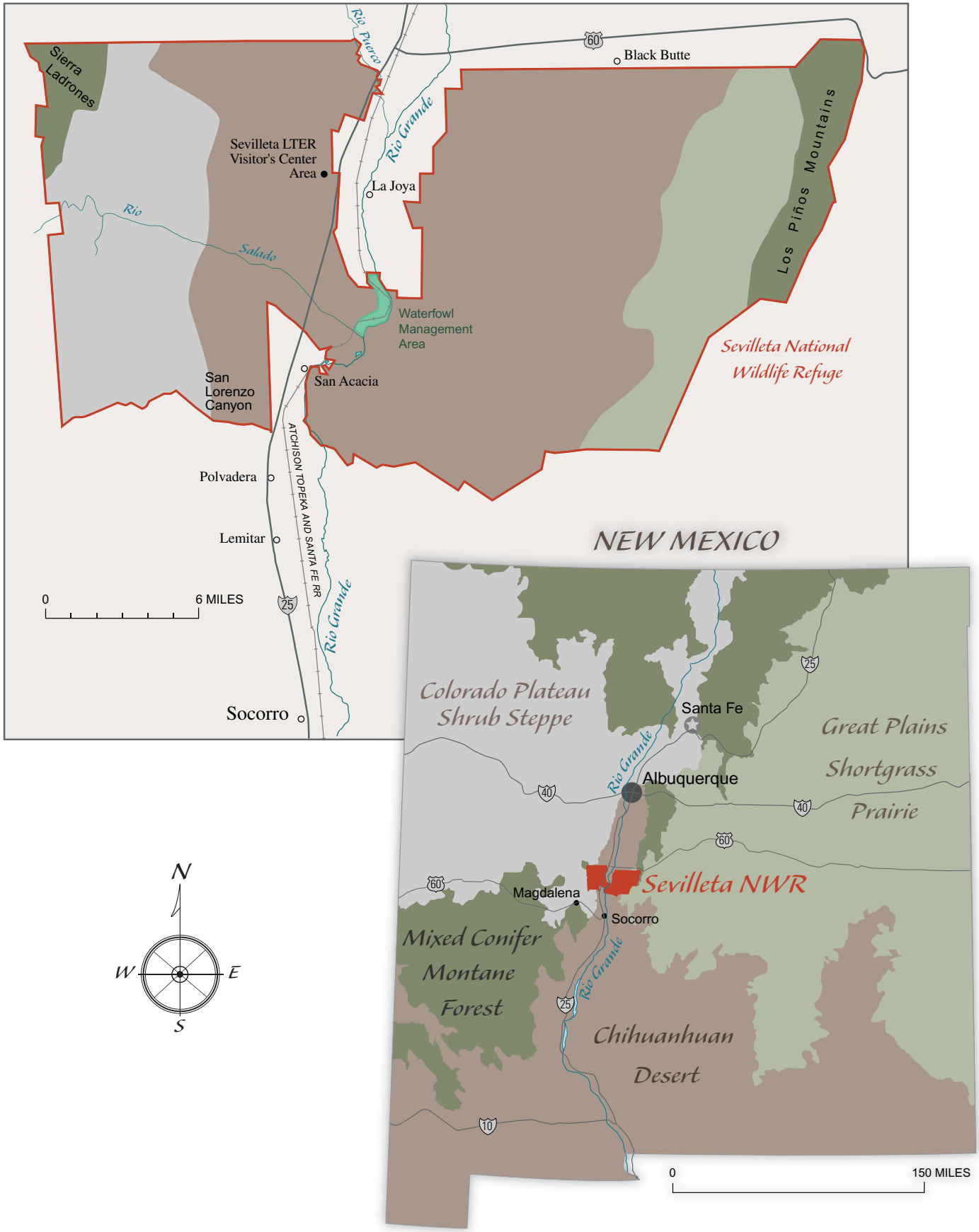
All drawings by Sheryl M. Mayfield.
All photographs by Sheryl M. Mayfield unless otherwise noted.

Cover image: Sevilleta Visitor's Center Area

Location map of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), New Mexico.



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The calendars near each plant description note blooming times and abundance of blooming plants for the small area (about one square mile) described in this document. It is based on 4 years of close observation in the field. It is expected that with each year's variations in climate and other conditions, these results will vary.

CALENDAR KEY

- Very common
- Common
- Uncommon
- Very uncommon

All drawings are life size except where noted.

White Flowers---large, 1 ½ inch wide and much longer

Soapweed yucca

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Yucca---to 5 feet. **Leaves:** very long, stiff, narrow, and spine-tipped, growing from base of the plant. **Flowers:** hang down like bells along thick tall stalks. **Fruits:** clusters of large oblong capsules. **Distribution:** scattered throughout, especially in upland areas. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the roots to make soap and shampoo. The leaf fibers were woven into baskets, floor mats, rope, sandals, belts, etc. Young flowers were commonly eaten as a vegetable.

AGAVACEAE Agave family (*Yucca glauca*) syn. *Y. angustissima*

Not to scale

White Flowers---small, but in larger clusters

Littleleaf sumac

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub—to 6 feet, with woody branches. Young stems can be reddish. The twigs are often sharply pointed. **Leaves:** small, soft, green, and compound. **Flowers:** appearing just as the leaves are growing in the early spring, found in crowded rounded clusters. **Fruits:** small, hairy, orange "berries". **Distribution:** planted near LTER buildings, and found occasionally elsewhere on slopes. **Remarks:** The fruit can be brewed into a tea (cold or hot), and is also eaten by many kinds of wildlife.

ANACARDIACEAE Sumac family (*Rhus microphylla*)

Photo shows plant with fruit clusters. Flower branchlet is one of hundreds (inset bottom right).

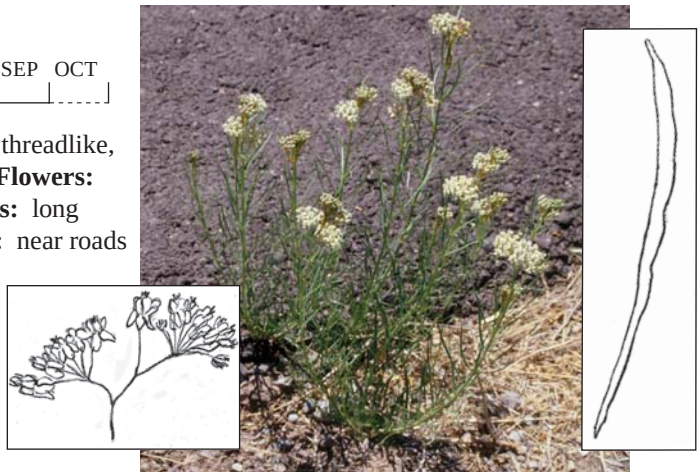
White Flowers---tiny, ⅛ inch, but in larger clusters

Poison or Horsetail milkweed

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 2 feet, with erect stems and a few branches. **Leaves:** threadlike, smooth, arranged opposite or in whorls of 3-5 around the stem. **Flowers:** white to cream, found in large clusters at top of the stems. **Fruits:** long pods containing many silky hairs attached to seeds. **Distribution:** near roads or in arroyos. **Remarks:** this plant is poisonous to livestock; however it is reported Native Americans ate most of the young plant, raw or boiled.

ASCLEPIADACEAE Milkweed family (*Asclepias subverticillata*)



White to Pink Flowers--- ¼ to ½ inch

Dwarf desert holly

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, usually single stemmed from the base. **Leaves:** triangle-shaped to roundish, toothed, sharp and pointed, persisting in white papery form through the winter. **Flowers:** white or pale pink, vase-shaped with petallike structures at the top. **Fruits:** pale yellow, dandelion-type seed balls. **Distribution:** slopes. **Remarks:** this plant is usually found in the shade of taller shrubs or trees. It is not a true holly but the leaves look similar.

ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Acourtia nana*)

Whitish Green Flowers---tiny, inconspicuous

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Sand or Threadleaf sagebrush

Shrub---to 3 ½ feet, woody at base, with gray-brown furrowed bark. There is a lacy bluish look.
Leaves: threadlike, soft to the touch, aromatic, remaining on plant year around.
Flowers: whitish-green, massed along upper stems on very short thin stalks.
Fruits: tiny and pale, sometimes pink.
Distribution: widely scattered.
Remarks: Native Americans brew a medicinal tea from the leaves. The spice, sage, used in cooking is made from *Salvia* in the Mint family, not from *Artemisia*.

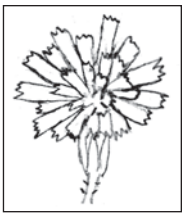
One branchlet of hundreds

ASTERACEAE
Composite family
(*Artemisia filifolia*)

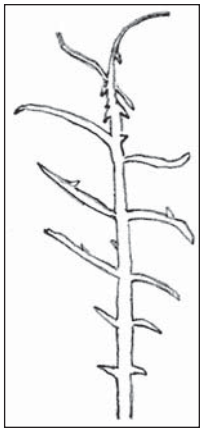
White Flowers---large, 1 inch+

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Wright's tackstem



Herb---to 8 inches high. **Leaves:** gray-green, very dissected, skeleton-like. Nearly all the leaves are at the base of the plant. **Flowers:** white rays with a yellow center. There are pink stripes on underside of the rays. **Fruits:** like a dandelion. **Distribution:** very uncommon at this site, sometimes on slopes.
Remarks: Notice the tack shaped glands on the stems.



ASTERACEAE Composite familly (*Calycoseris wrightii*)

White Flowers---½ inch

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Baby aster

Herb---to 6 inches, hairy, and often with numerous stems. Many plants are frequently grouped together. **Leaves:** small, hugging the stems. **Flowers:** white rays (about 14-20) with a small, projecting, gold center, found at the end of leafy stems. The rays are often folded under in drought. The buds and the underside of the rays can be pink. **Distribution:** sometimes along roads, but also scattered.

ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Chaetopappa ericoides*)
syn. *Leucelene ericoides*

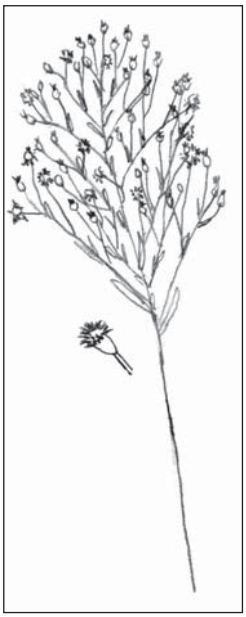
White Flowers---tiny

Canadian horseweed

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 3 feet, weedy. Usually there is one thick green stem from the base, branched. The top of the plant looks somewhat like a brush. **Leaves:** alternate, green with wavy margins. **Flowers:** numerous, tiny, narrow, white rays with a yellow center, protruding from a vaselike structure. **Fruits:** clustered in heads of white or tawny hairs. **Distribution:** disturbed ground. **Remarks:** the common name derives from the observation that horses sneeze when they push their noses into the foliage.

ASTERACEAE
Composite family
(*Conyza canadensis*)



White Flowers---to ½ inch

Fleabane

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

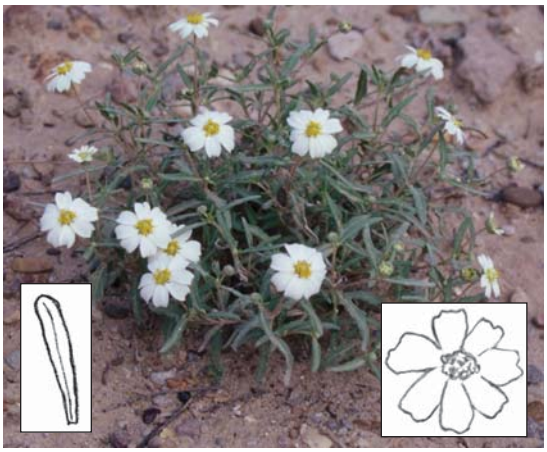
Herb---to 6 inches, one or many stems from base, sometimes branched. **Leaves:** most are narrow and hairy. **Flowers:** many (40-100+) extremely narrow white rays, each about as wide as a piece of construction paper is thick, (pink on the underside and in bud) with a yellow center. **Distribution:** scattered, especially near roads. **Remarks:** A few plants from the genus *Aphanostephus* can be seen at this site. They look very much like *Erigeron*, and bloom roughly at the same time, except they have lobed leaves and fewer (around 20+) rays, each ray wider--about a quarter's thickness.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Erigeron sp.*)

White Flowers---to 1 inch

Blackfoot daisy

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

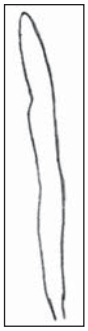
Herb---to 1 foot, with bunched pink stems. **Leaves:** ash-gray. **Flowers:** showy, numerous, with white notched rays, and a yellow center. The flowers are borne singly on stalks. The rays persist in papery form for many weeks past the bloom. **Distribution:** abundant. **Remarks:** a plant somewhat similar in appearance with smaller flowers *Townsendia annua* (Annual Easter daisy) blooms in the area in the spring. It is a small very sprawling plant, with semi prostrate stems. The flower has more rays, about 22, and they are pointed.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Melampodium leucanthum*)



White Flowers---small, ¼ inch, but in larger groups

Cat's eye

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

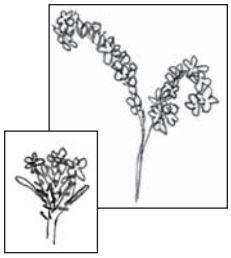


Herb---to 1 foot, with hairy stems. **Leaves:** narrow, hairy, gray-green, alternate, and numerous. **Flowers:** thick, vase-shaped, opening into 5 petals, white with a yellow center. They are borne along the tops of stems. **Fruits:** green capsules. **Distribution:** near roads and scattered throughout. **Remarks:** A smaller plant somewhat similar in appearance *Lappula occidentalis* (Desert stickseed) also blooms on the site. Stickseed is very weedy, with tiny inconspicuous white flowers and yellowgreen leaves. Distinctive tiny yellow sticky burs form along stems.
BORAGINACEAE Borage family (*Cryptantha cinerea*) syn. *C. jamesii*

White Flowers---tiny, in clusters

Hiddenflower

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

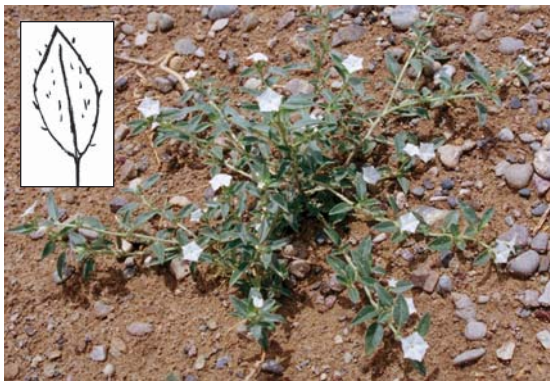


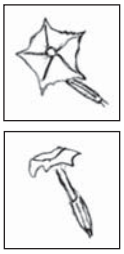
Herb---to 6 inches, weedy appearance, with woolly stems. **Leaves:** narrow, hairy, and alternate. **Flowers:** white curved clusters at the ends of stems. **Fruits:** tiny and fuzzy. **Distribution:** disturbed ground and scattered throughout, can be abundant after wet winters.
BORAGINACEAE
Borage family
(*Cryptantha crassisepala*)

White Flowers---small, to about ½ inch

Bindweed heliotrope

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



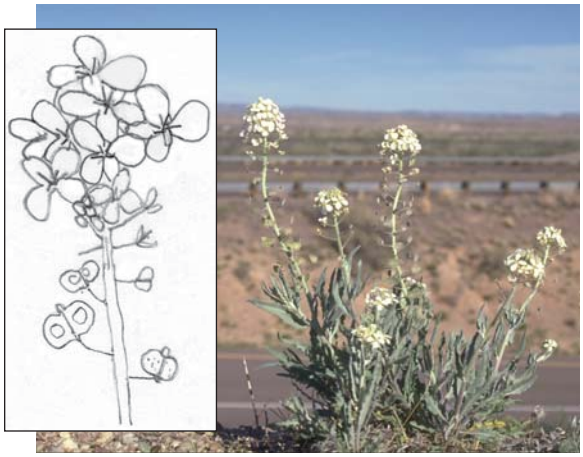


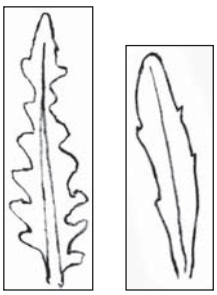
Herb---to 1 foot, stems spreading, hairy, and much branched. **Leaves:** alternate, narrow, oval, and hairy. **Flowers:** white, with petals fused at the end of a tiny narrow yellow vase, borne singly along stems. **Fruits:** chambered nutlets. **Distribution:** near roads and also scattered throughout.
BORAGINACEAE
Borage family
(*Heliotropium convolvulaceum*)

White Flowers---½ inch, in larger groups

Spectacle pod

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



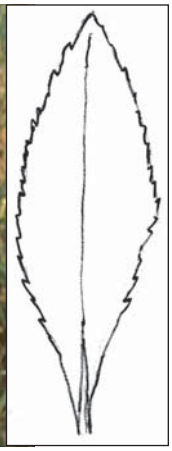


Herb---to 1½ feet, stems erect and hairy. **Leaves:** alternate, large, bluish, with wavy and toothed edges. **Flowers:** 4 petals, found on long stalks near the top of the plant. **Fruits:** paired capsules that look something like eyeglasses. **Distribution:** often near roads. Can be very common after a wet winter.
BRASSICACEAE
Mustard family
(*Dimorphocarpa wislizeni*) syn. *Dithyrea wislizeni*

White Flowers---tiny, in dense clusters

Broadleaf pepperweed

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

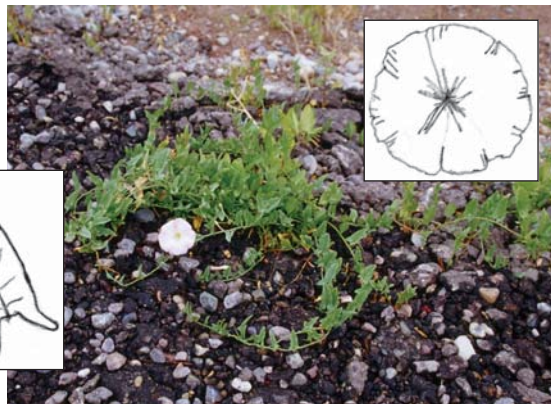


Herb---to 3 feet, with multiple, thick, pale green stems from base. **Leaves:** thick, leathery, alternate, and large. **Flowers:** numerous, near the top of the plant. **Fruits:** tiny rounded pods, greenish at first, turning to white. **Distribution:** septic system area near the LTER buildings. **Remarks:** this is an aggressive invasive plant crowding out many native species in lowlands, found often along ditches in New Mexico.
BRASSICACEAE Mustard family (*Lepidium latifolium*)
introduced from Eurasia

White (some partly Pink)---large, 1 inch

Field bindweed

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

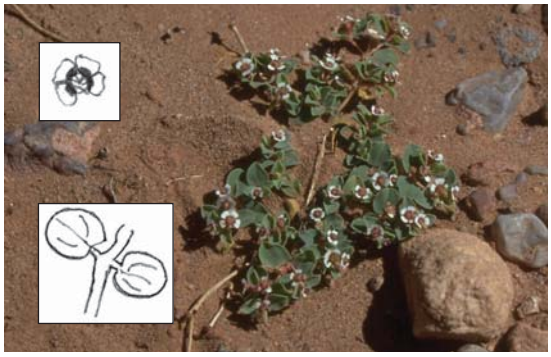


Vine---weedy appearance, with slender stems creeping along the ground. The stems can be several feet long. **Leaves:** numerous, alternate, and arrowhead-shaped. **Flowers:** trumpet-shaped with petals fused at the end, borne along the stems. **Distribution:** near roads. **Remarks:** very adaptable and very difficult to eradicate, because of a deep root system. Each rootlet can grow into a new plant. This is a common plant throughout the United States.
CONVOLVULACEAE Morning glory family (*Convolvulus arvensis*) introduced from Eurasia

White Flowers---tiny

Rattlesnakeweed, Spurge

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Creeping Herb---weedy stems flat on the ground, containing milky juice. **Leaves:** opposite and rounded. **Flowers:** each composed of 3-4 white petallike structures with a red center, found along stems. **Distribution:** near roads and arroyos. **Remarks:** there is also another closely related species of *Chamaesyce* (Spurge) found in this area. It has even smaller tiny white petallike structures with some red flower parts. One really needs a hand lens to see this flower.
EUPHORBIACEAE Euphorbia family (*Chamaesyce albomarginata*)

White Flowers---tiny, in large clusters

White sweetclover

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

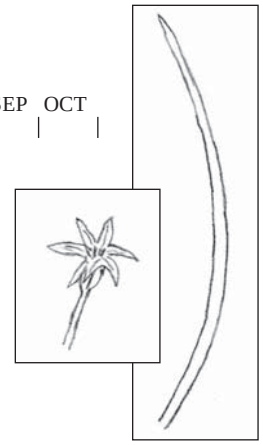
Herb---to 5 feet, branched erect stems, green striped with red. **Leaves:** divided into 3 leaflets, with edges very slightly toothed. **Flowers:** grouped along long flower stalks. **Distribution:** near road at entrance. **Remarks:** this is a common weed throughout the United States, much favored by honeybees. The plant looks superficially just like *Melilotus officinalis* (Yellow sweetclover) except for the color of the flower.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Melilotus albus)*
introduced from Europe

White Flowers---small, to ¼ inch, but clustered

Wild onion

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 7 inches, with green and pink, leafless flower stalks. **Leaves:** growing from base of the plant, long and nearly cylindrical. **Flowers:** there appears to be 6 petals (but actually 3 true petals and 3 sepals), each white with a purple center stripe. **Distribution:** only blooming after particularly rainy winters, found scattered. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the bulbs as well as the leaves.
LILIACEAE Lily family (*Allium macropetalum*)

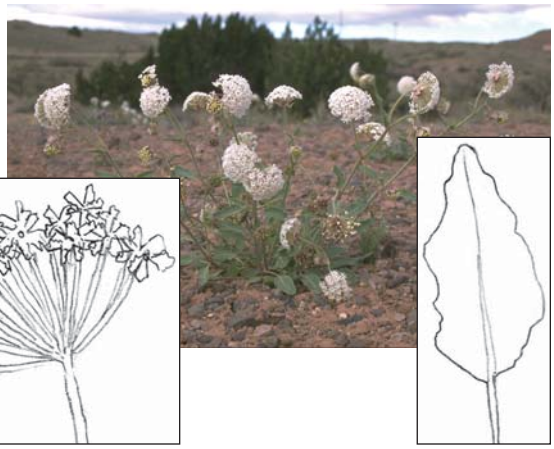


White Flowers---small, to ⅓ inch, in larger clusters

Snowball or Fragrant sandverbena

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot, with many hairy, pink stems from base, a little sticky. **Leaves:** large, thick, and green. **Flowers:** showy, clustered, and umbrella-shaped. Each flower consists of a slender tube that flares out into petallike extensions with ruffled edges. **Fruits:** pink and globular, very showy and papery-winged in maturity. **Distribution:** only blooming after an especially rainy period, uncommon at this site.
NYCTAGINACEAE Four o'clock family (*Abronia fragrans*)

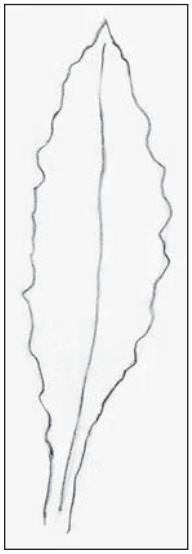


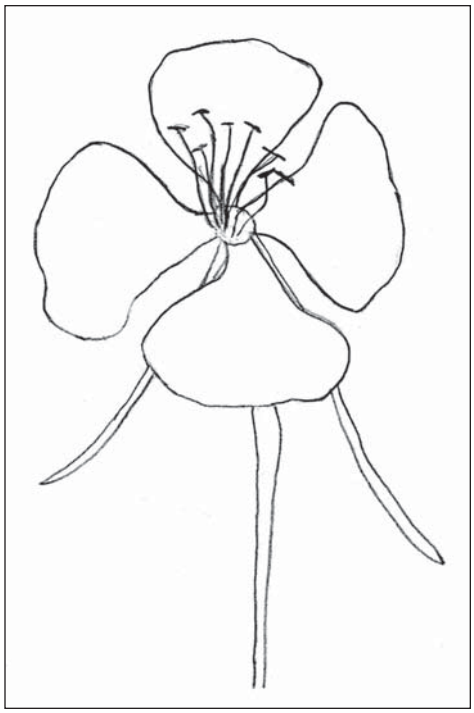
White Flowers---giant, to 3 inches

Stemless evening-primrose

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---3 to 9 inches, sometimes many flower stems from the base of the plant. **Leaves:** clustered only at the ground (no leaves on the flower stems), long, big toothed, wavy-edged, and hairy. **Flowers:** showy, large, white but aging to pink. **Distribution:** especially on slopes but also scattered elsewhere. **Remarks:** the beautiful flowers open in the evening and bloom through the next morning.
ONAGRACEAE Evening-primrose family (*Oenothera caespitosa*)

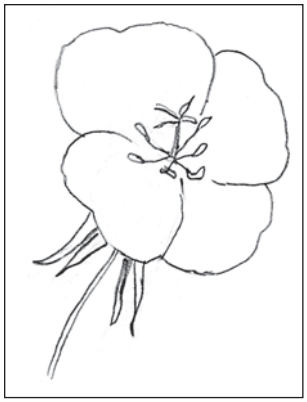


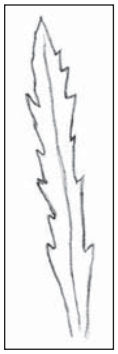


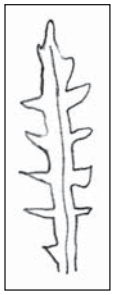
White to Pink Flowers---large, to 1 ½ inch

Pale evening-primrose APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot+, a perennial. There are several stems from the base, branched, with red and silver peeling bark. **Leaves:** many leaves on the stems, quite variable in shape, blue-green. **Flowers:** 4 petals. The newest flowers are white, turning to pink as they age. They are borne on pink stalks. **Distribution:** near roads and scattered elsewhere. **Remarks:** A very similar annual plant *Oenothera albicaulis* also blooms here.
ONAGRACEAE Evening-primrose family (*Oenothera pallida*)



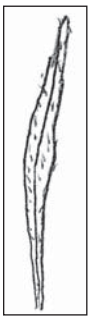




White Flowers---tiny, on spikes

Woolly plaintain APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

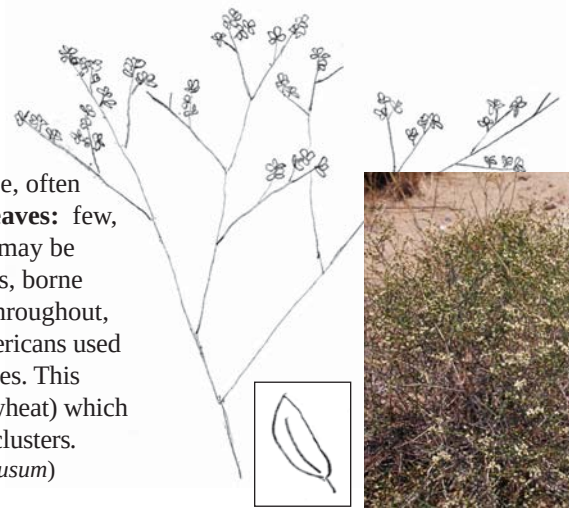
Herb---to 9 inches (but often 1 inch high), and woolly. This is a small plant. **Leaves:** very hairy, bluish green, clustered at the base of plant. **Flowers:** very small, four translucent petals with a yellow center, clustered around puffy spikes. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. This can be very common after a wet winter. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the seed medicinally as a laxative.
PLANTAGINACEAE Plantain family (*Plantago patagonica*)



White to Pink Flowers---tiny

Spreading buckwheat APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb some **Shrublike---**to 1 ½ feet, hairy, woody at base, often tangled with branches, green (orange late in season). **Leaves:** few, found near ground, blue-green. At blooming time there may be no leaves left at all. **Flowers:** white and pink, numerous, borne loosely grouped along stalks. **Distribution:** scattered throughout, very prominent at this site in fall. **Remarks:** Native Americans used parts of this and related species to treat a variety of illnesses. This plant looks much like *Eriogonum annuum* (Annual buckwheat) which tends to have only a few branches and flat topped flower clusters.
POLYGONACEAE Buckwheat family (*Eriogonum effusum*)

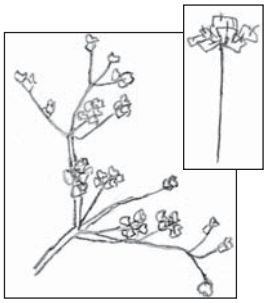


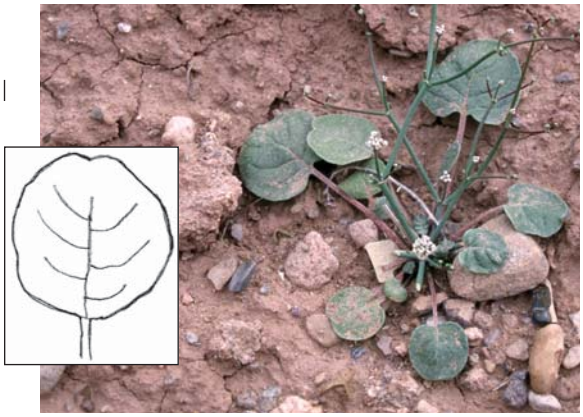
White Flowers---tiny, in clusters

Roundleaf buckwheat

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, with several branched (sometimes pink) stems from the base of the plant. **Leaves:** round, and found only at the base of plant. **Flowers:** along long leafless stems, on tiny stalks, with fan-shaped "petals". **Distribution:** often scattered on hillsides.
POLYGONACEAE Buckwheat family
(*Eriogonum rotundifolium*)



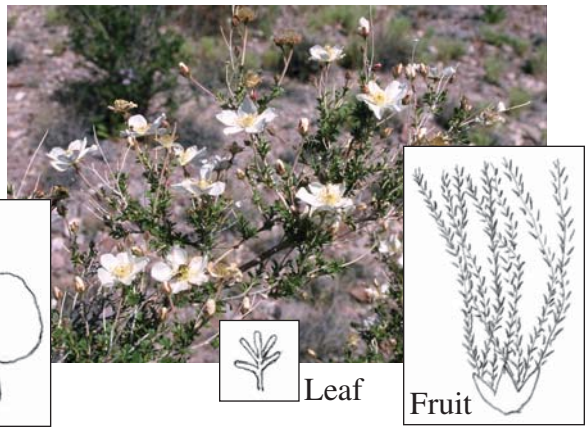


White Flowers---large, 1 inch

Apache plume

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 5 feet, much branched, gray bark (with brown stripes). **Leaves:** small and hairy, clustered, deeply cleft like fingers. **Flowers:** Looks like a rose or apple blossom. **Fruits:** showy, long, pink, feathery, plumelike, many clustered together in a spray. **Distribution:** arroyos. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the branches to make arrows, and house brooms.
ROSACEAE Rose family (*Fallugia paradoxa*)

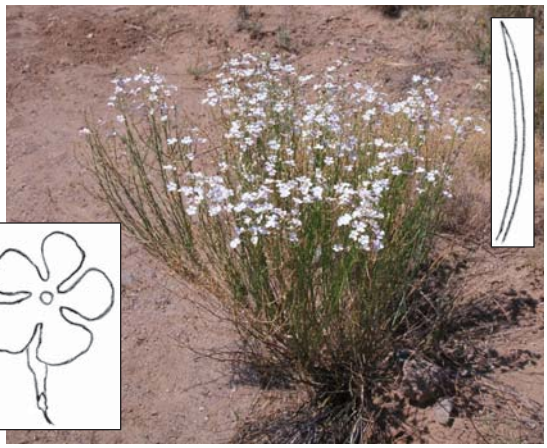


White to Pink Flowers---medium+

Sand or Plains penstemon

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb some **Shrublike**---to 3 feet, very attractive, with a rounded shape. It is woody near the base, usually with many branched stems. **Leaves:** very narrow, opposite, and yellow-green. **Flowers:** numerous, covering the top of the plant, each is white with a pink base. Each is shaped like a trumpet with 5 lobes at the end. **Fruits:** little green ovoid structures, which dry and open to orange-brown, tulip-shaped capsules. **Distribution:** common.
SCROPHULARIACEAE Snapdragon family (*Penstemon ambiguus*)



Whitish Green Flowers---to ½ inch

Greenleaf five eyes

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

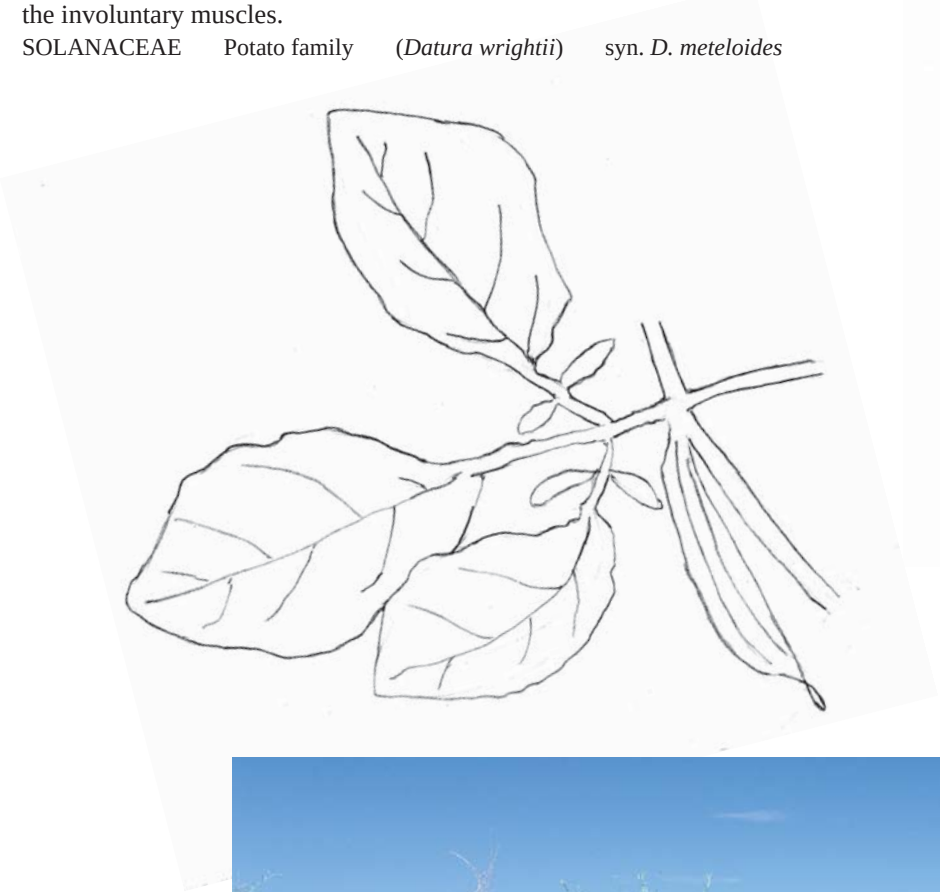
Herb---to 6 inches, low growing, branched from the base, hairy. The older stems are often purplish. **Leaves:** wavy-edged, larger ones can be deeply lobed. **Flowers:** flat, starlike in shape, with 5 joined petals. The flower is usually solitary on the stems. **Fruits:** whitish smooth berries. **Distribution:** along roads. **Remarks:** Native Americans collected the seeds and ground them into meal.
SOLANACEAE Potato family (*Chamaesaracha coronopus*)

White Flowers---giant, 4 inches in diameter and much longer

Moonflower, Jimsonweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

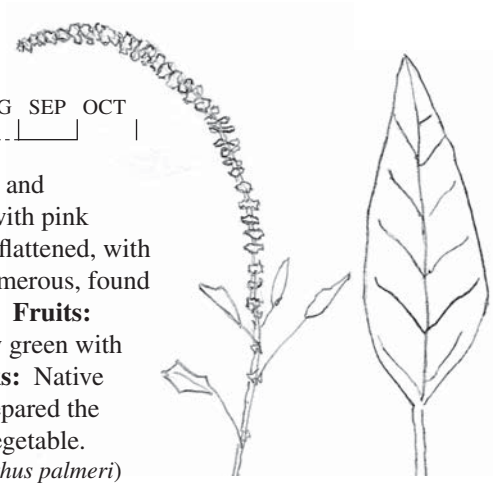
Herb---to 3 feet, bushy in appearance, with many stems from base, branched. It is soft to the touch, and sweetly scented. **Leaves:** opposite, usually very large, oval, green. **Flowers:** showy, giant, white, and funnel-shaped. They open at night through the next morning. The buds look like long, green (sometimes purplish) "candles". **Fruits:** large, round, spiny. **Distribution:** planted near buildings and widely scattered elsewhere. **Remarks:** very beautiful flowers. The plant is poisonous, and has caused deaths. However it has also been used as a narcotic in Native American ceremonies, and as a medicine. Don't experiment with this plant, it affects the involuntary muscles.

SOLANACEAE Potato family (*Datura wrightii*) syn. *D. meteloides*



Yellow-Green Flowers---tiny, but in large clusters

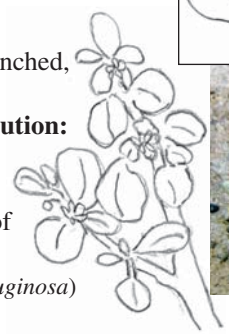
Carelessweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 3 feet, weedy, with one thick central stem, and many branches. The stem is pale green and striped with pink (sometimes mostly pink). **Leaves:** green, alternate, flattened, with prominent whitish veins on underside. **Flowers:** numerous, found in long drooping spikes at top of branches, no petals. **Fruits:** soft-bristled, clumped along the stems, at first mostly green with a touch of pink. **Distribution:** near roads. **Remarks:** Native Americans gathered and ate the seeds. They also prepared the vitamin rich greens for salads or cooked them as a vegetable.
AMARANTHACEAE Amaranth family (*Amaranthus palmeri*)

Yellow Flowers---tiny APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

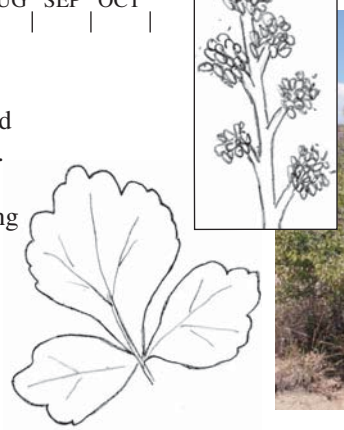
Woolly tidestromia



Creeping Herb---to 6 inches, sprawling, and much branched, somewhat fleshy with pink stems. **Leaves:** oval, white hairy. **Flowers:** borne singly along the stems. **Distribution:** scattered throughout area. **Remarks:** in Spanish it is called *espanta vaqueros* (scares ranchers) because it can produce a widespread ground cover in some parts of its range.
AMARANTHACEAE Amaranth family (*Tidestromia lanuginosa*)

Yellow-Pink Flowers---tiny, in clusters

Lemonadeberry, Threeleaf sumac, Fragrant sumac APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Shrub---to 5 feet, woody. The scented, bark is gray mottled with brown. **Leaves:** green, divided into 3 toothed leaflets. **Flowers:** in small clusters, blooming very early in the spring. **Fruits:** round, berrylike, first green and then turning to orange or red. **Distribution:** near arroyos or planted at buildings. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the fruit to make a kind of "lemonade". The branches were cut into arrows, the bark made into baskets, the leaves smoked like tobacco, or boiled into a black dye.
ANACARDIACEAE Sumac family (*Rhus trilobata*)

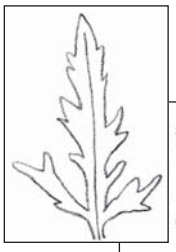
Yellow Flowers---tiny, but clustered

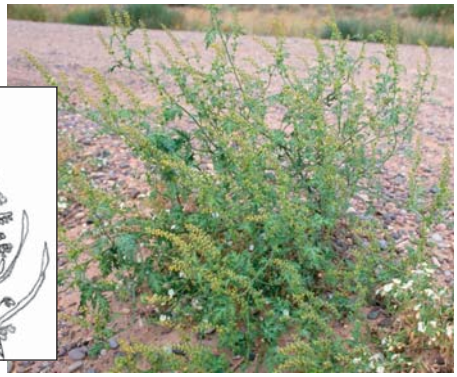
Spring parsley, Wild celery APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 3 inches, low plant with pink flower stalks. **Leaves:** deep green and very shiny. **Flowers:** clustered in umbrella-like structures at the ends of stems. **Fruits:** pinkish, winged, and papery. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the leaves as a vegetable or sprinkled them in other foods as a seasoning.
APIACEAE Parsley family (*Cymopterus acaulis*, var. *fendleri*)

Yellow---tiny, but in large clusters

Bur ragweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT





Herb---to 3 feet, very weedy appearance, much branched, with greenish yellow stems. **Leaves:** green, alternate. Lower leaves are deeply cleft and upper ones are long and narrow. **Flowers:** numerous, and found along long stems at the top of branches. **Fruits:** tiny, covered with spines, burlike, pinkish or black or pale brown. **Distribution:** near roads. **Remarks:** the pollen from this plant and related species provokes hay fever in many people.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*)

Yellow Flowers---tiny APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Bigelow sage

Shrub---to 2 ½ feet, with many branches. Smell the fragrant foliage. **Leaves:** blue-gray-green, many narrow, some deeply lobed. **Flowers:** blooming along ends of stems. **Distribution:** along arroyos. **Remarks:** Native Americans brewed a medicinal tea from the leaves. The sage brushes are very bitter tasting and browsing animals tend to avoid them.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Artemisia bigelovii*)

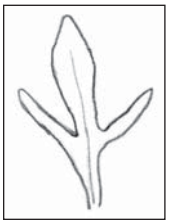
Yellowish (inconspicuous)---tiny

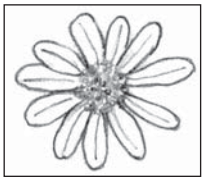
Tarragon APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 2 feet, many erect often reddish stems from base. Numerous, brown, dead stems can persist on plant through much of the next year. **Leaves:** some green and some blue, some long and narrow, and some deeply (fingerlike) lobed--especially near the base. **Flowers:** numerous, with yellow and white parts, borne all along upper stems, like little bells on drooping slender branches. **Fruits:** greenish yellow. **Distribution:** often found near arroyos. **Remarks:** the herb, tarragon, is derived from a separate variety of this species, originating in Russia.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Artemisia dracunculus*)

Yellow Flowers---1 inch

Sageleaf bahia APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT





Herb---to 1 foot, one or several stems from base. **Leaves:** 3-lobed and gray-blue. They look like sandpaper but feel soft. **Flowers**: can have 15 rays, borne at the tops of stems. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** can be confused with Desert marigold. Notice fewer rays on Sageleaf bahia, with rays all in one layer. This also can be confused with Ragleaf bahia. Notice the blue leaves and shorter plant size on Sageleaf bahia.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Bahia absinthifolia*)

Yellow Flowers---1 inch

Ragleaf bahia

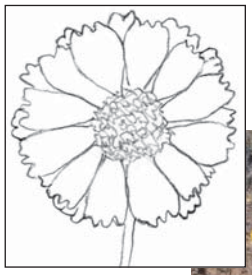
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

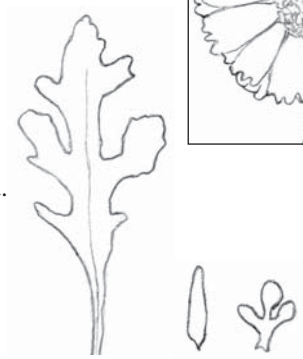
Herb---to 3 feet tall, usually one hairy stem from base, branched. **Leaves:** green, deeply lobed, and divided again into deeply lobed sections. Most leaves are found along the lower part of stem. The top leaves are much reduced and almost linear. **Flowers:** approx. 10 yellow rays with a gold center, borne near the top of the plant. **Distribution:** uncommon and scattered, often near roads or parking. **Remarks:** can be confused with Sageleaf bahia---Ragleaf bahia is a taller plant with greener leaves.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Bahia dissecta*)

Yellow Flowers---large, to 1 ¼ inch

Desert marigold

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

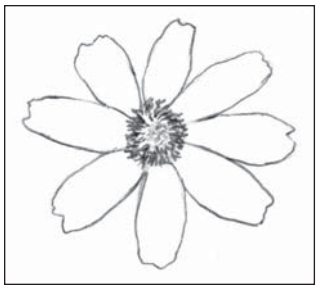




Herb---to 1 ½ feet, stems branching at the base, white woolly, very hairy. **Leaves:** bluish, lower ones large and deeply cleft. Upper leaves are narrow and almost linear. **Flowers:** showy, wide overlapping rays, each flower borne singly on a separate longish stem. **Distribution:** widespread. **Remarks:** can be confused with Sageleaf bahia. Notice the layers of rays on Desert marigold, the hairy stems, and the variable shaped leaf.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Baileya multiradiata*)

Yellow multicolored Flowers--- large, to 1 ½ inch

Chocolate flower, Greeneyes

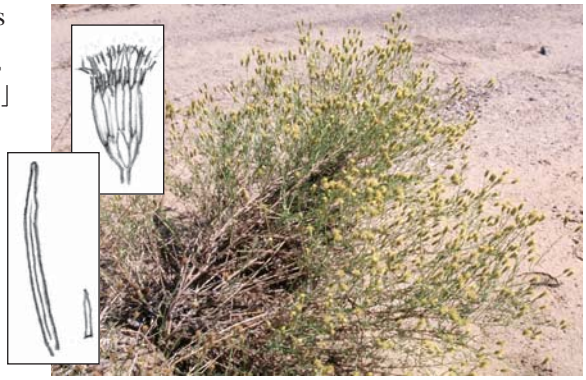


Herb---to 1½ feet, often many stems, branching at base. **Leaves:** large and deeply cleft, edges toothed. Most leaves are found near the ground. **Flowers:** showy, multicolored. The center is green first, and later maroon. The rays are yellow. After blooming green scalloped-edged buttons remain. **Distribution:** widespread. **Remarks:** this flower smells distinctly like chocolate
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Berlandiera lyrata*)

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Yellow-Cream Flowers---individually small, but found in clustered heads

False boneset APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Shrublike---to 3 feet, much branched. New stems are pale green. **Leaves:** green, narrow, alternate. Most are very short, but a few are much longer. **Flowers:** numerous. **Fruits:** white tufted balls of feathery hairs. **Distribution:** widely scattered, often found near arroyos. **Remarks:** True boneset is a medicinal herb derived from a plant in the genus *Eupatorium*. This plant only superficially resembles it.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Brickellia eupatorioides*)
syn. *Kuhnia chlorolepis* or *K. eupatorioides*

Yellow Flowers---individually small, but found in clusters

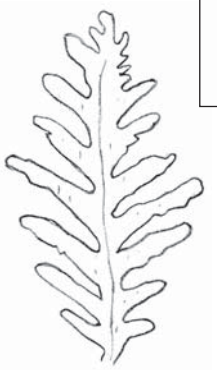
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

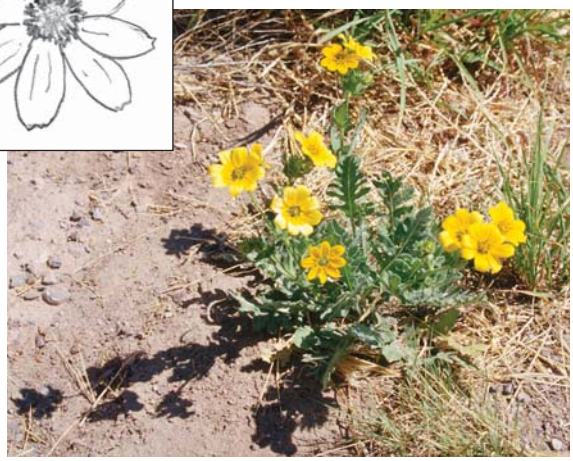
Rubber rabbitbrush, Chamisa

Shrub---to 5 feet, many branches from base, with peeling bark. Stems become green early in spring before leaves appear, later in year very bluish and striped with brown. Smaller twigs are often yellow-green. **Leaves:** gray-green-blue, and hairy. **Flowers:** showy gold, clustered. **Fruits:** cover plant with bunches of gold-white hairs. **Distribution:** arroyos and near buildings. **Remarks:** wildlife browse this plant. Native Americans boiled the flowers to produce a yellow dye. The rather "rubbery" flexible branches were made into baskets. The leaves were used in medicinal tea.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)

Yellow Flowers---1 to 1 ¼ inch

Engelmann's daisy APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



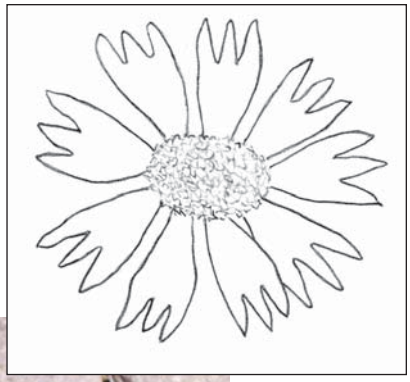


Herb---to 1 foot, one or several stems from base, branched. **Leaves:** large, 3 inches long, very deeply lobed and indented (like an oak leaf), very hairy. **Flowers:** with approximately 8 rays, found at ends of stems. **Fruits:** brown-orange seed heads. **Distribution:** rare, at entrance along road. **Remarks:** the genus is named after a German-American botanist of the 1800s. His efforts in St. Louis led to the establishment of the Missouri Botanical Garden, one of the best in the world.
ASTERACEAE Composite family
(*Engelmannia pinnatifida*)

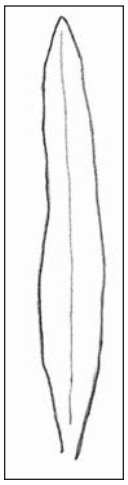
Yellow and Maroon Flowers---large, to 2 inches

Indian blanket, Firewheel

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 1 foot, one to many pinkish or pale stems from the base of plant. **Leaves:** alternate, oblong, hairy, with smaller leaves higher on stems. **Flowers:** showy, multicolored, yellow at the tips, with pink (purple or red) at the base. The rays are deeply cleft into three lobes. The center of the flower is yellow. **Fruits:** composed of large yellow-green balls with orange at ends of hollow tubes. **Distribution:** especially near roads or arroyos.
ASTERACEAE Composite family
(*Gaillardia puchella*)

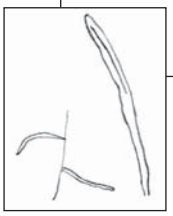


Yellow Flowers--- small, to ¼ inch in diameter, and clustered

Broom snakeweed

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrublet---to 1 ½ feet, rounded, with many green branches. It can dominate the landscape in fall. **Leaves:** narrow, small, alternate, and yellow-green. **Flowers:** numerous, yellow with a yellow center, 5 rays. The flowers can cover the top of the plant. **Fruits:** individually small, yellow-green-brown. **Distribution:** everywhere. **Remarks:** it is commonly found in overgrazed pasture, and is toxic to livestock.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*)



Yellow Flowers---large, to 2 ½ inches

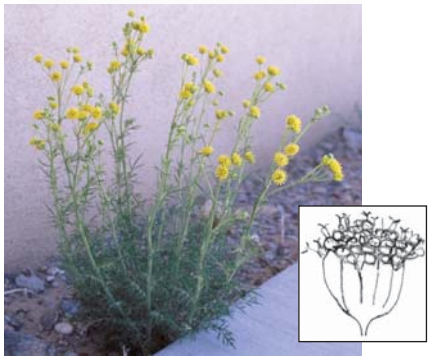
Prairie sunflower APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---tall, rough, with long hairy stalks, can be branched. **Leaves:** large, coarse, oblong or triangular. **Flowers:** yellow rays with purplish centers. **Fruits:** large, black, hard seeds. **Distribution:** disturbed ground. **Remarks:** the blooming flower turns with the sun. People and wildlife have long relished the very edible seeds of this and related species. Varieties are grown commercially today in the Western United States.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Helianthus petiolaris*)

Yellow Flowers---small to medium heads

White ragweed,
Fineleaf woolly white APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

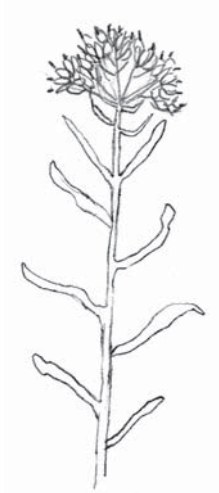
Herb---to 1 ½ feet, one to several erect, pale, hairy stems. This smells like honey. **Leaves:** very dissected, white hairy. **Flowers:** round heads (often several together) with no ray flowers, on stalks at the top of plant. When you look down upon the flower there is the appearance of many small tubes. **Fruits:** a round wheel of tiny, narrow, brownish tubes. **Distribution:** scattered.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Hymenopappus filifolius*)



Yellow Flowers--- small, ⅓ inch and found in large clusters

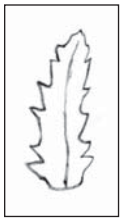
Jimmyweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 2 ½ feet, many tall pale stems from base. **Leaves:** narrow, very green, numerous, longish. **Flowers:** gold, showy, in clusters at the tops of stems. The plant parts right below the flower are shaped as a flaring tube of overlapping rows of scales. **Fruits:** masses of tawny and fluffy balls of hairs. **Distribution:** near buildings, and along roads and arroyos. **Remarks:** it is poisonous to livestock. This plant could be confused with a Rabbitbrush, see page 13.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Isocoma pluriflora*)
syn. *Haplopappus heterophyllus*



Yellow and White Flowers---tiny, inconspicuous

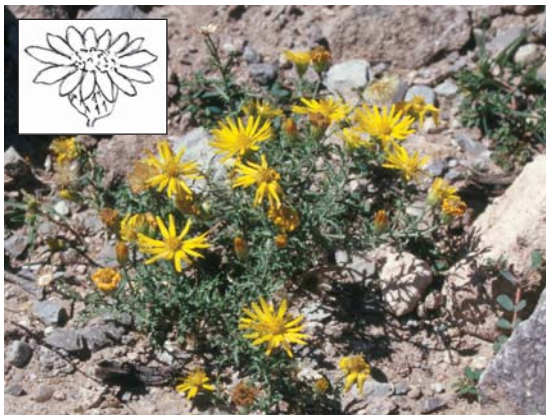
Coulter's horseweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 3 feet tall, usually one stem from base, moist to the touch, and sometimes branched. **Leaves:** green, serrated, hugging the stem. **Flowers:** tiny, with no rays, borne along the tops of stems. **Distribution:** very uncommon, found in low areas at this site.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Laennecia coulteri*)
syn. *Conyza coulteri*

Yellow Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Goldenweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 1 foot, multiple, pale, spreading stems from base, much branched. **Leaves:** alternate, lower leaves are deeply cleft or toothed, upper leaves are smaller and often narrower with soft tiny spines at edges. **Flowers:** many narrow, pointed, yellow rays with a yellow center. A single plant can bloom almost continuously from spring to frost, with many flowers and fruit present together. **Fruits:** tawny tufted balls of bristly hairs. **Distribution:** very common.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Machaeranthera pinnatifida*)
syn. *Happlopappus spinulosus*

Yellow Flowers---1 inch

Desert dandelion APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, several stems from base. **Leaves:** nearly all at base of plant, margins deeply notched and indented. **Flowers:** bright yellow, looks like the familiar garden weed. **Distribution:** in sand, widely scattered. **Remarks:** This native plant is not from the same genus as the introduced invasive weed, Dandelion, common to our gardens and lawns.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Malacothrix fendleri*)

Yellow Flowers---small, to ¼ inch + across

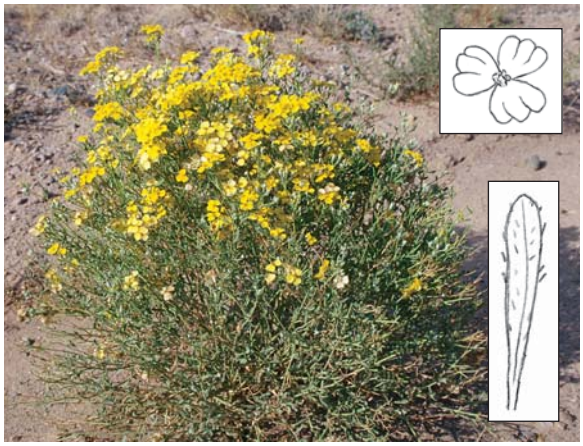
Lemonweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 3 inches, a very small plant at this site, with often only one stem from the base. **Leaves:** grasslike, narrow, and green, with a prominent vein down the center. **Flowers:** yellow, with approximately 8 rays. **Distribution:** near buildings. **Remarks:** the foliage is distinctively lemon-scented, and has been used to flavor tea.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Pectis angustifolia*)

Yellow Flowers---medium, to nearly ½ inch

Paper daisy APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

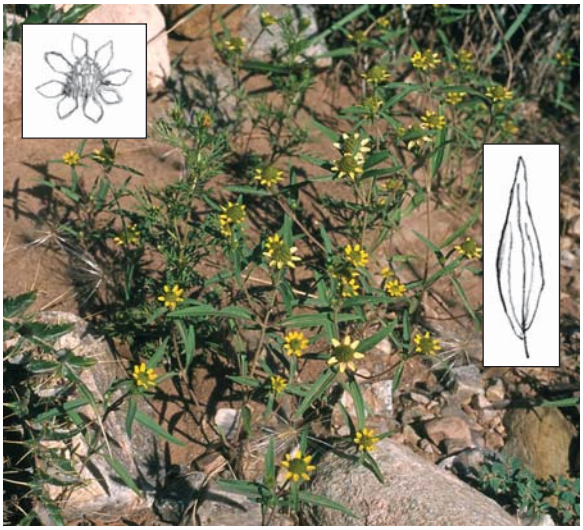
Herb---to 1 foot, with several to many stems from the base of the plant, branched. **Leaves:** alternate, oblong, and hairy. Leaves near the ground are larger and can have "thumbs". **Flowers:** yellow with yellow centers, dense and numerous over top of plant. Each flower has 3 (or 4) wide rays, each notched at the tip twice. The flowers fade with age and become papery, persisting on the plant for many weeks after bloom. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** this plant, like many in the desert, has a dense covering of hairs which helps it to reduce the loss of moisture.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Psilostrophe tagetina*)



Yellow Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Abert's dome,
Abert's creeping zinnia APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

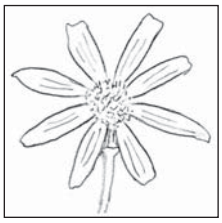
Herb---to 6 inches high. **Leaves:** green and opposite. **Flowers:** with short yellow "buttercup-shiny" petals and a protruding green cone-head center. **Distribution:** very uncommon, near buildings at this site. **Remarks:** James W. Abert was a mid 19th century explorer of the American southwest.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Sanvitalia abertii*)

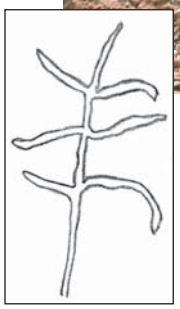


Yellow Flowers---large, to 1 inch

Threadleaf groundsel APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

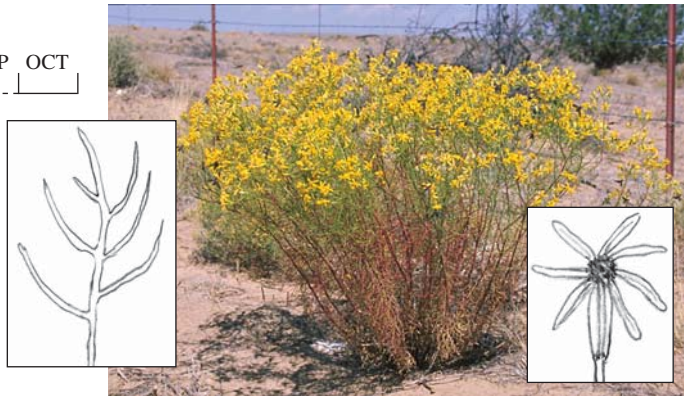
Herb---to 2 feet +, many leafy gray stems from base. **Leaves:** gray-green, deeply dissected into narrow segments, thick. **Flowers:** rarely more than 8 yellow rays with a gold center, borne on stalks at the ends of stems. **Fruits:** white fluff balls (like dandelion), each seed with a white parachute of long hairs. **Distribution:** scattered, especially along roads. **Remarks:** *Senecio* is one of the largest genera of plants in the world, with over 2000 species.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Senecio flaccidus*)
syn. *S. longilobus* or *S. douglasii*





Yellow Flowers---large, to 1 inch

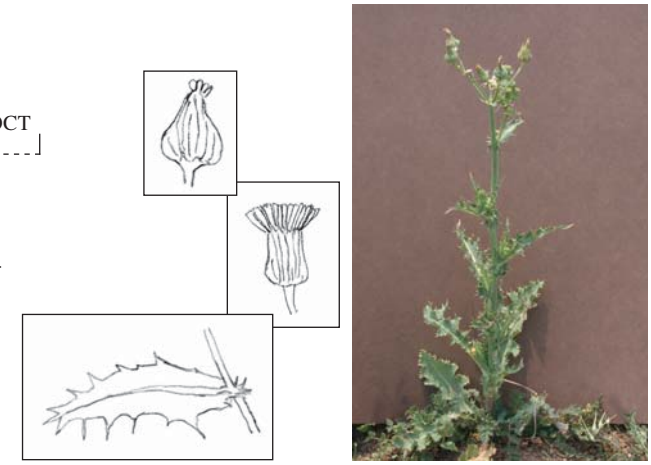
Many-headed groundsel APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 3 feet tall, many leafy green stems from base. **Leaves:** green and deeply dissected. **Flowers:** no more than 8 raggedy yellow rays with a yellow center. **Fruits:** very white, dandelion-like fluff on little parachutes. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** this plant can be confused with the previous groundsel. Notice the green leaves on *S. spartioides* and the gray leaves on *S. flaccidus*
ASTERACEAE Composite family
(*Senecio spartioides* var. *multicapitatus*) syn. *S. multicapitatus*

Yellow Flowers---to ½ inch heads, but much longer

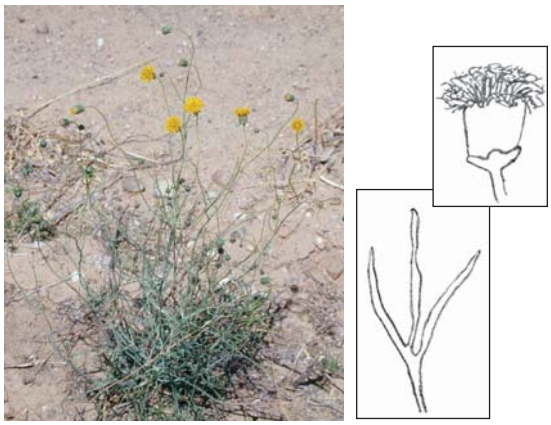
Sow thistle APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---4 inches to 2 feet, very weedy in appearance, one stem from base, branched, containing a milky juice. **Leaves:** large, indented, toothed, leathery, each leaf blade clasping the stem. **Flowers:** vase-shaped heads, found singly or in small groups near ends of stems. Often the flowers are not open broadly. **Fruits:** white fluffy tuft, poking out of a vaselike structure. The seed is attached to a silky parachute. **Distribution:** disturbed ground.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Sonchus asper*)
introduced from Europe

Yellow Flowers---medium heads, to ½ inch

Greenthread, Indian tea, Cota APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 feet, one or several erect slender stems, branched, bluish-green. **Leaves:** not numerous, very narrow, stiff, some divided fingerlike. **Flowers:** gold, no rays, vase-shaped with a spreading top, borne singly at the ends of long stems. **Fruits:** gold tuft protruding from a yellowish brown vase-shaped structure. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** the stems and leaves of this plant have been widely used to make what is reported to be an excellent tasting tea.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Thelesperma megapotamicum*)

Yellow Flowers---small, to ½ inch

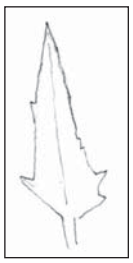
Spiny dogweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot, woody at base, with many branched gray stems, strongly scented. **Leaves:** needle-shaped and numerous. **Flowers:** yellow rays with golden centers, borne at the top of stems. **Fruits:** tiny tawny (or orange) brushes. **Distribution:** often found on hills.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Thymophylla acerosa*)
syn. *Dyssodia acerosa*

Yellow Flowers---variable, to 1 ½ inch

Cowpen daisy APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

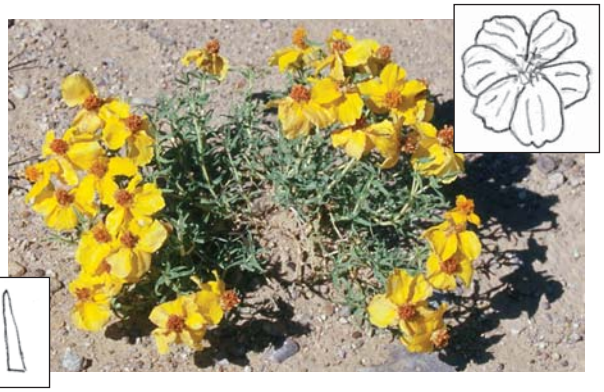
Herb---6 inches to 2 feet, usually one pale green or blue-green stem from base, sometimes branched. **Leaves:** blue-green, with toothed edges. The lower ones are somewhat triangular, upper leaves are reduced in size and simplified in shape. **Flowers:** showy, approx. 8-12 rays with a large gold center, borne at the ends of stems. **Distribution:** low ground.
ASTERACEAE Composite family
(*Verbesina encelioides*)



Yellow Flowers---medium, to ¾ inch

Rocky Mountain zinnia, APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

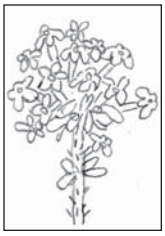
Herb---to 5 inches, many pale stems from base, branched. **Leaves:** very small, narrow, opposite. **Flowers:** showy, 5 petals, yellow with a gold center, borne at the top of stems. Papery dried flowers persist long after the bloom is finished. **Fruits:** orange-brown. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** this species does not closely resemble cultivated zinnias.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Zinnia grandiflora*)



Yellow Flowers---small, to ¼ inch, but in a rounded cluster

Puccoon APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

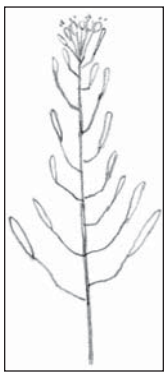
Herb---to 8 inches, many hairy stems from base. **Leaves:** silvery hairy blue. **Flowers:** 5 petals bent back towards the stalk, flowers clustered, borne at the top of stems. **Distribution:** present at this site only after a rainy winter, very uncommon and scattered. **Remarks:** Native Americans boiled the roots to make a purple dye. They used a poultice of leaves to treat skin rash, and drank a tea to treat sore throat. *Puccoon* is a Native American name for this genus.
BORAGINACEAE Borage family (*Lithospermum incisum*)



Yellow Flowers---tiny, in clusters

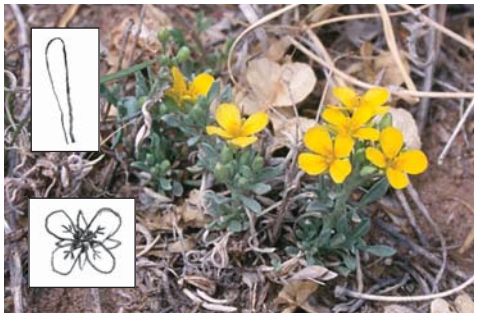
Tansy mustard APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 2 feet, weedy, usually one stem from base, branched. **Leaves:** deeply indented and lobed. **Flowers:** borne near tops of the stems, with seeds developing lower on plant. **Fruits:** short pods. **Distribution:** in disturbed soil, often near buildings or roads. **Remarks:** Native Americans ground the seeds into meal or added to soup, or even used them to create pottery paint. They cooked the youngest leaves as a potherb.
BRASSICACEAE Mustard family (*Descurainia pinnata*)



Yellow Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

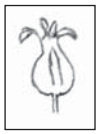
Fendler's bladderpod APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 9 inches. **Leaves:** alternate, bluish-green, narrow. Some leaves hug the stems. **Flowers:** 4 petals, yellow-gold, found on nearly leafless stalks near the top of stems. **Fruits:** smooth, small, pearly oval balls, greenish pink fading to pale yellow. **Distribution:** common throughout area. **Remarks:** cattle and deer browse this plant. Its name refers to Augustus Fendler who collected many plants in New Mexico in the 1840s.
BRASSICACEAE Mustard family (*Lesquerella fendleri)*

Yellow Flowers---small to medium

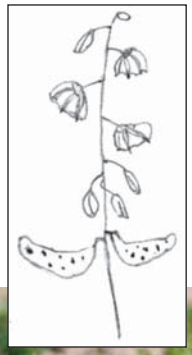
Yellow twistflower APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



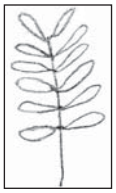
Herb---to 6 inches+ at this site, larger elsewhere, usually one pale stem from base. **Leaves:** blue-green (small arrowhead) clasping stem. **Flowers:** borne near the top of plant, very distinctively shaped with the petals curving sharply down towards the stem. **Fruits:** long pods. **Distribution:** very uncommon at this site.
BRASSICACEAE Mustard family
(*Streptanthus carinatus*)

Yellow-Orange Flowers---small, to ¼ inch

James' holdback APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 feet, several pale stems from base, branched (often with orange or green speckles). **Leaves:** each approx. 10-16 leaflets. Look at underside of leaves for black dots (glands). **Flowers:** yellow drooping bells blooming along stalks. **Fruits:** green pods, broadly crescent-shaped with tiny dark spots. **Distribution:** scattered.
CAESALPINIACEAE
Caesalpinia family
(*Caesalpinia jamesii*)
syns. *Pomaria jamesii, Hoffmanseggia jamesii*

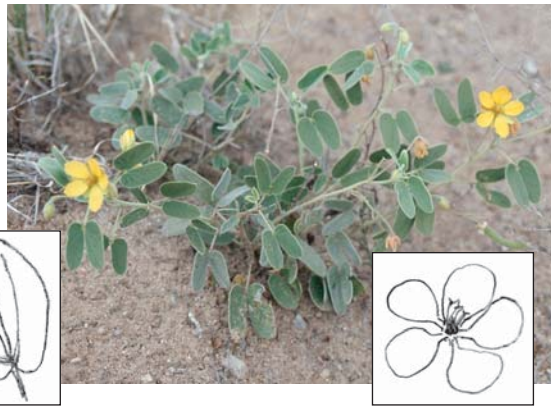


Yellow-Orange Flowers---to ½ inch

Twinleaf senna

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, spreading and hairy. **Leaves:** divided into "twin" opposite leaflets. **Flowers:** found in pairs at ends of small branches, 5 yellow-orange petals. The petals quickly close up when exposed to direct sun. **Fruits:** curved, yellow-brown, hairy pods which split open lengthwise into halves. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** Senna is a name used for a group of medicinal drugs produced from related species.
CAESALPINIACEAE Caesalpinia family
(*Senna bauhinioides*) syn. *Cassia bauhinioides*

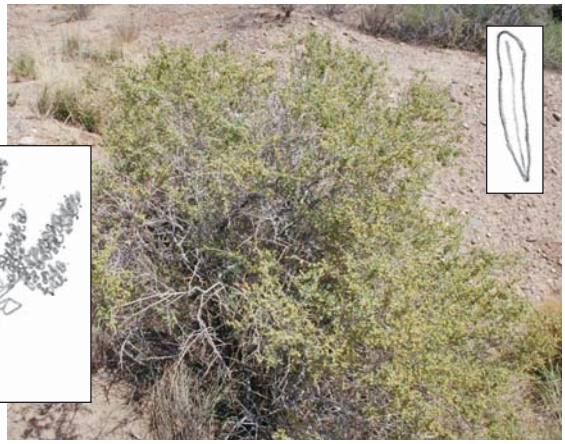


Yellow Flowers---tiny, but in large clusters

Fourwing saltbush

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 4 feet, scruffy, separate male and female plants, many gray branches. **Leaves:** greenish gray, narrow, persisting on the plant all winter. **Flowers:** yellow or green (or pink) blooming along branches in clusters. **Fruits:** very distinctive, papery and 4-winged, at first light-green, then drying to yellow. **Distribution:** very common. **Remarks:** this plant is nutritious. It is widely foraged by wildlife and cattle. Native Americans ground and ate the seeds as a cereal. They also ate the youngest leaves. Burned ashes were used as a leavening to cause bread to rise.
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot family (*Atriplex canescens*)

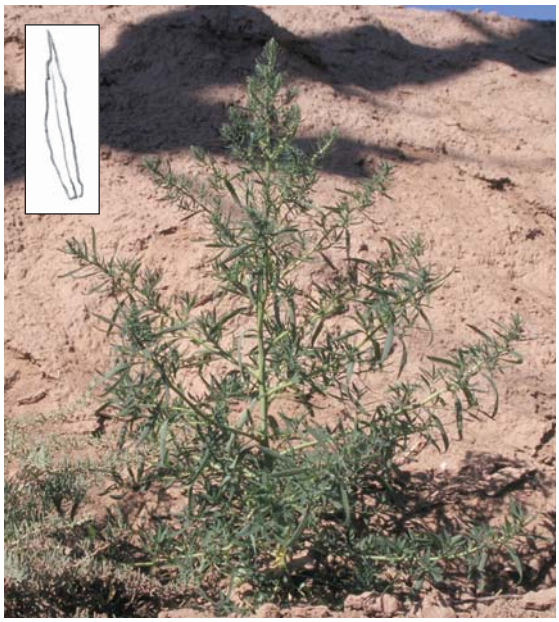


Yellow Flowers---tiny, inconspicuous

Kochia, Summer cypress

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

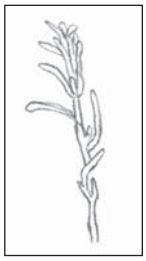
Herb---to 4 feet, very weedy appearance, with thick pale green and pink stems, much branched. **Leaves:** green, long and narrow, hairy, alternate. **Flowers:** yellow-green, hairy, borne along spikes at ends of branches, no petals. **Fruits:** tiny, yellowish, along stems and branches. **Distribution:** near roads and in disturbed ground.
CHENOPODIACEAE
Goosefoot family
(*Kochia scoparia*)
introduced from Eurasia

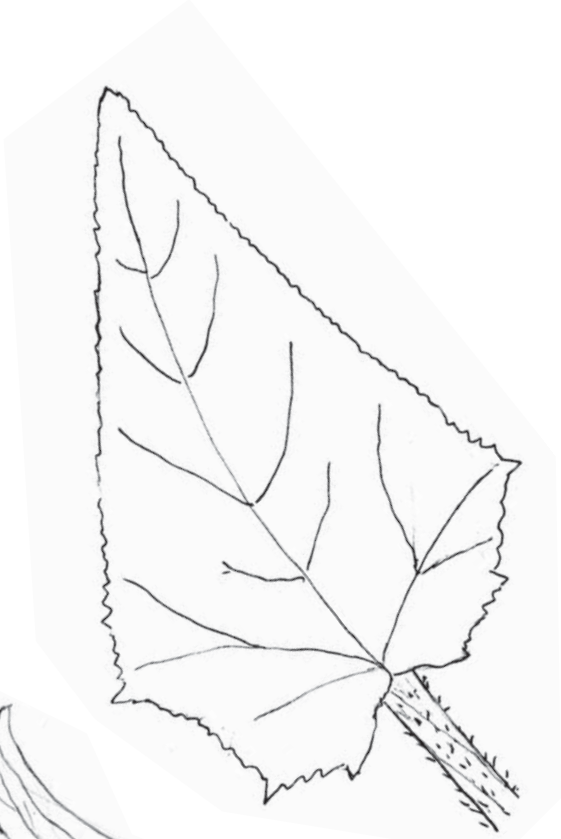


Inconspicuous Flowers---tiny, inconspicuous

Winterfat APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 3 feet, woody, dark at base, newest stems pale. **Leaves:** bluish gray, very fuzzy hairy, soft, bunched near the top of plant. Leaves become dry but persist most of the winter. **Flowers:** found in tiny clusters near ends of branches. **Fruits:** showy white clumps of hairs (like cotton) along tops of stems. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** name of the genus honors a Russian botanist of the 1700s. It is a good winter forage plant for livestock.
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot family
(*Krascheninnikovia lanata*)
syn. *Eurotia lanata* or *Ceratoides lanata*





Yellow Flowers---giant

Buffalo gourd APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Vine---large, coarse (like sandpaper), sprawling, strong odor, yellowish stems. **Leaves:** very large, bluish, arrowhead-shaped, and toothed. **Flowers:** showy, very large, trumpetlike, with 5 lobes. **Fruits:** large round gourds, green with white stripes. **Distribution:** near arroyos. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the seeds and flowers. The crushed fruit was used as an insect repellent in the home or garden, or even used as a kind of soap.
CUCURBITACEAE Gourd family (*Cucurbita foetidissima*)

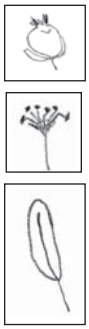
Yellow Flowerlike structures---tiny

Jointfir, Mormon tea APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrublet---to 2 feet, like a skeleton, much branched, slender jointed stems, separate male and female plants. **Leaves:** reduced to tiny scales. **Flowers:** this is a gymnosperm and there are no true flowers, but there are very small yellow flowerlike structures borne on yellow or greenish brown cones. **Fruits:** tiny cones. **Distribution:** widespread. **Remarks:** It is reported that one can chew on these stems and receive a pick-me-up with an effect rather like coffee. The medical drug ephedrine is derived from a related Old World species.
EPHEDRACEAE Ephedra family (*Ephedra torreyana*)

Yellow-Green Flowers---tiny

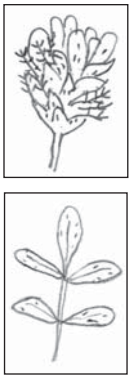
Doveweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 1 foot, usually one gray-green or sometimes peach colored stem from base, branched. Each plant is male or female. **Leaves:** gray-green, longish, alternate. **Flowers:** tiny, with no petals, borne in clusters at the ends of stems. **Distribution:** low ground. **Remarks:** doves, quail, and other wildlife feed on the seeds. Many peoples have made medicinal tea from the leaves to treat stomach and body aches. Dried bundles can be placed beneath bedding as an insecticide.
EUPHORBIACEAE Euphorbia family (*Croton texensis*)

Yellow Flowers---small, to ¼ inch, in a larger cluster

Dwarf golden dalea APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 8 inches, branched at the base, creeping stems. **Leaves:** each divided into 5 hairy leaflets. **Flowers:** dense heads, on short stalks. **Fruits:** short, featherlike, with white and red plumes. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** the genus is named for Samuel Dale an 18th century English botanist (apothecary and physician) who never visited the Americas but received specimens from naturalist collectors in the early 1700s.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Dalea nana*)

Yellow Flowers---tiny, in large clusters

Yellow sweetclover APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 5 feet, branched. The stems are green striped with red. **Leaves:** divided into 3 leaflets. The edges are very slightly toothed**. Flowers:** grouped on longish flower stalks. **Distribution:** near road at entrance. **Remarks:** bees are attracted to this plant. It looks superficially just like *Melilotus albus* (White sweetclover) except for the color of the flower.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Melilotus officinalis*)
introduced from Eurasia

Yellow Flowers---tiny, in long clusters

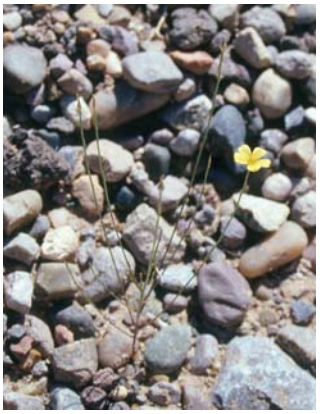
Dune broom APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

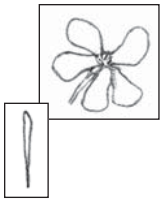
Shrub---to 2 ½ feet, but often much smaller, aromatic, woody, and gray at the base, many reddish branches, with the youngest twigs yellow-green. **Leaves:** long, compound, and lacy. **Flowers:** no petals. Yellow and green flowers are found along the stems near the top of plant. **Fruits:** small yellow-green pods. **Distribution:** arroyos. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the branches to make baskets and house brooms.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Parryella filifolia*)

Yellow Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Southern yellow flax APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---usually 6 inches (occasionally to 2 feet), usually one very slender stem from the base, branched. **Leaves:** narrow, very few. **Flowers:** often solitary at any one time, 5 petals, very fragile. The petals drop easily if handled and fall off the plant by the end of the day. **Distribution:** scattered throughout, especially near buildings. **Remarks:** related species, from Eurasia, are used to produce linseed oil and linen thread. A few plants of *Linum puberulum* (Plains flax) can be seen in the area. They have copper colored petals with a red center
LINACEAE Flax family (*Linum australe*)

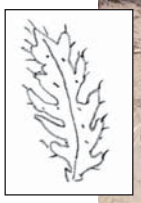


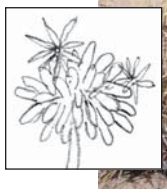


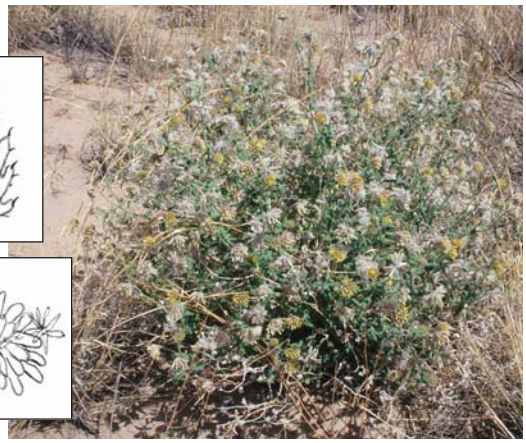
Yellow Flowers---½ inch, in large globular clusters

Stinging cevallia APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 ½ feet, usually many pale, branched stems. **Leaves:** green, armed with stinging hairs, alternate, dissected, and strongly toothed. **Flowers:** star-shaped, borne at the end of stalks in dense, round, tubular clusters of orange-yellow buds. **Fruits:** silvery-pink (or yellow) "feathers". **Distribution:** uncommon in this area along arroyos. **Remarks:** touch this plant and notice what happens. This character deters browsers.
LOASACEAE Blazingstar family (*Cevallia sinuata*)



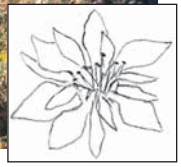




Yellow-White Flowers---medium, to ¾ inch +

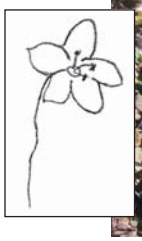
Stickleaf, Blazingstar APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot, whitish stems (sometimes peeling orange), much branched. **Leaves:** barbed hairs, clinging, rough like sandpaper, alternate, deeply indented. **Flowers:** closed and white in color during much of the day, opening yellow in late afternoon. Several flower parts look like many pointed petals. **Fruits:** long, sticky, light-green, tubular capsules. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** notice how sticky the mature leaves are. Native Americans used the seeds as a food seasoning.
LOASACEAE Blazingstar family (*Mentzelia multiflora*)



Yellow Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

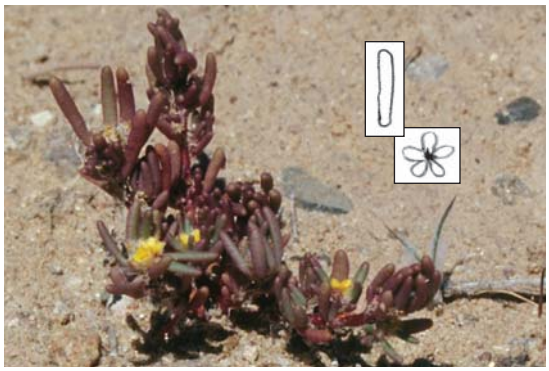
Rough menodora APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 1 foot, sometimes shrublike and woody at base, much branched, rough to the touch, hairy. The upper stems are green. **Leaves:** numerous, green, opposite. **Flowers:** with 5 petals, orange in bud. Lower parts of the flower are slightly funnel-shaped. The older flowers turn white. **Fruits:** small capsules. **Distribution:** not common, can be found near bottom of slopes. **Remarks:** much browsed by cattle and deer.
OLEACEAE Olive family (*Menodora scabra*)

Yellow Flowers---small, to a little less than ¼ inch across

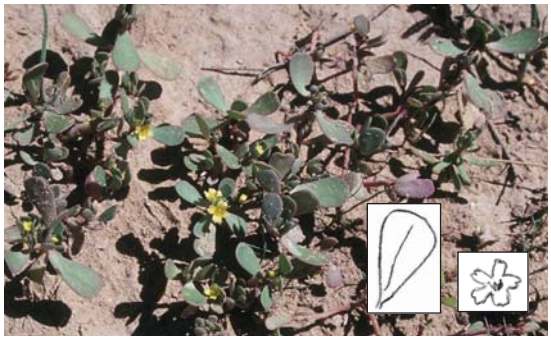
Silkcotton purslane APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 inches, generally an upright plant, with succulent, pink, fleshy stems. **Leaves:** green, cylindrical in shape. **Flowers:** 5 petals. **Distribution:** low areas. **Remarks:** Native Americans and others, widely used this plant for food. They ate the nutritious stems and leaves, as well as the seeds.
PORTULACACEAE Portulaca family (*Portulaca halimoides)*
syn. *P. parvula*

Yellow Flowers---small, to ¼ inch across

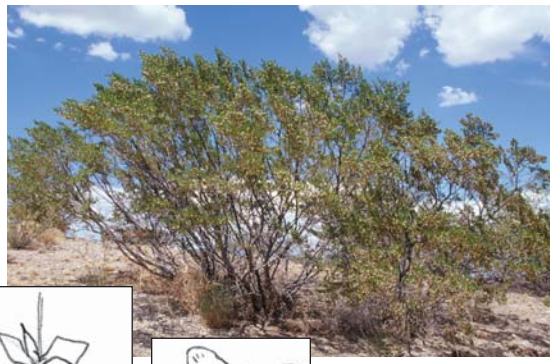
Garden or Common purslane APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

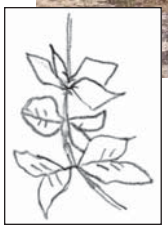


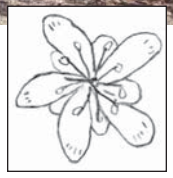
Herb---to 3 inches. This is a creeping plant with succulent, pink, fleshy stems. **Leaves:** oblong, opposite, green. **Flowers:** 5 petals. **Distribution:** low areas. **Remarks:** in many places this introduced species has nearly replaced the native one. Many peoples have used this plant for food.
PORTULACACEAE Portulaca family (*Portulaca oleracea)*
introduced from Eurasia

Yellow Flowers---medium, to nearly an inch

Creosotebush APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT







Shrub---to 6 feet, strong odor. By midsummer the plant has an orange cast because of many dried leaves. **Leaves:** shiny, yellow-green, divided into 2 leaflets (usually united at the base), evergreen. **Flowers:** 5 petals, borne along branches. **Fruits:** numerous, small, white, hairy balls. **Distribution:** scattered. **Remarks:** Creosotebush is a dominant plant in the southern desert from Texas to California. Its strong smell and taste protect it from browsing animals. Native Americans used the boiled leaves to treat sores, burns, and snake bite, or made a strong bitter tea as a general cure-all. A tiny scale insect living on the branches produces a glue, which was used to mend broken pottery, and to cement arrow points to wooden arrow shafts.
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE Caltrop family (*Larrea tridentata*)

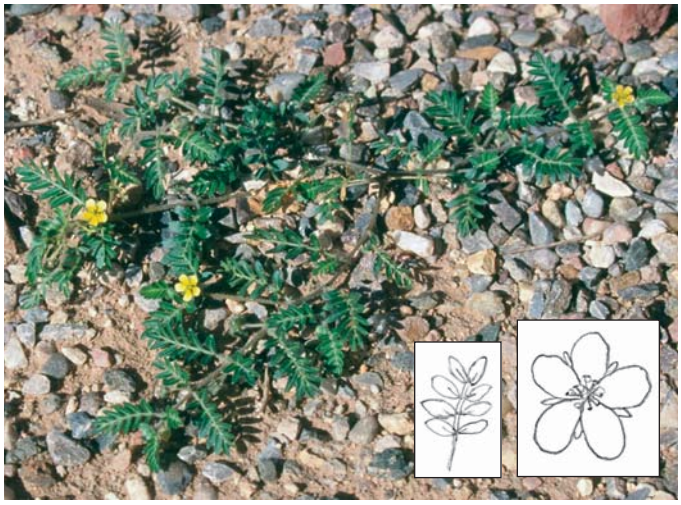
Yellow Flowers---small, to ⅓ inch

Goathead, Puncturevine

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Creeping Herb---sometimes forming a mat, with many peach-colored stems. Some can be several feet long. **Leaves:** opposite, hairy, divided into 8-14 leaflets. **Flowers:** 5 petals, yellow with a green center, borne individually along stems. **Fruits:** a sharp, spiny, hard nutlet. **Distribution:** disturbed ground and parking lots. **Remarks:** this plant looks a lot like Carpetweed (see Other-Colored Flower list). Goathead has a yellow flower, only slightly hairy stem, and Ouch! if you step on the fruit barefoot.

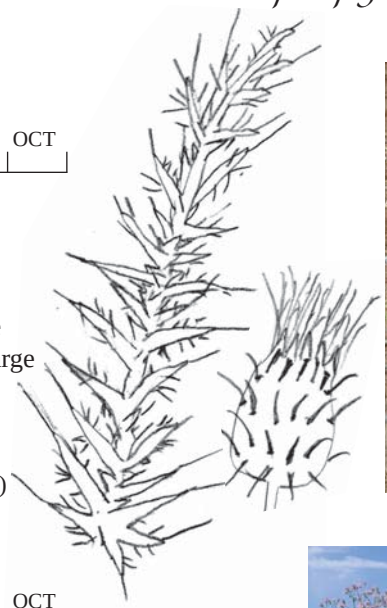
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE Caltrop family (*Tribulus terrestris*)
introduced from Eurasia



Purple Flowers---large, to 1 inch across, but even longer

Yellowspine or Santa Fe thistle

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 feet, with multiple, pale, spiny stems from base. **Leaves:** deeply indented to a center vein, very spiny. **Flowers:** pale purple, drying to light brown, looking like an old fashioned shaving brush, emerging from a puffy vase receptacle, covered with many yellowish spines. **Fruits:** large clusters of long pale hairs from the top of the spent flowers. **Distribution:** along roads or arroyos. **Remarks:** Native Americans cooked the leaves and stems as a vegetable.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Cirsium ochrocentrum*)

Purple Flowers---large, to 1 ½ inch

Purple or Hoary aster

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 5 feet (but usually much shorter), woody at base. There is usually only one basal stem, branched at the top. **Leaves:** green, numerous, long, and narrow. The larger leaves are toothed. **Flowers:** many (to 30 or more) purple rays with a gold to brownish orange center, borne near the ends of stems. **Fruits:** tawny and tufted heads of bristly hairs. **Distribution:** scattered throughout the area. **Remarks:** *Machaeranthera* is very closely related to *Aster.*
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Machaeranthera canescens*)

Purple Flowers---large, to 1 ½ inch

Purple or Tansy aster

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot, many pale stems from base, branched. **Leaves:** green, fernlike, small and very dissected, moist to the touch and a little sticky. **Flowers:** approx. 18 purple rays with a gold center, borne singly near ends of stems. **Distribution:** low areas and arroyos.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*)

Rose-Pink Flowers---large, to 1 ¼ inch

Othake

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 ½ feet, much branched stems with short hairs. **Leaves:** long alternate and blue-green. **Flowers:** showy pink with a pink center, 5 to 7 rays---each deeply lobed with three parts. Flowers are borne near the ends of branches. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** the petals are distinctive.
ASTERACEAE
Composite family
(*Palafoxia sphacelata*)

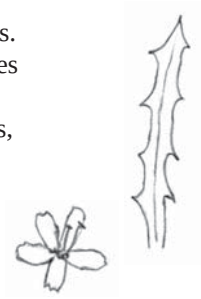
Maroon Red (and/or Yellow) Flowers---⅓ inch across, but much longer

Mexican hat, **Prairie coneflower** APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 10 inches, with many green stems from base. **Leaves:** blue-green and deeply cut into narrow segments. **Flowers:** the inflorescence has a prominent fingerlike gray or reddish brown projection in the center. This is ringed with maroon or yellow (or some combination of both) rays which are reflexed (bent back down along stems). **Distribution:** uncommon in area, seen at edge of the parking lot. **Remarks:** this species is widely cultivated as a garden flower.
ASTERACEAE Composite family (*Ratibida columnifera*)

Pink Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Skeletonweed, Wire lettuce APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 feet, with stiff, rigid, blue-green stems. **Leaves:** the lower ones are toothed and upper ones are very tiny and narrow. Some individuals have almost no leaves**. Flowers:** approx. 5-7 pink rays, many slightly notched at the tips. **Fruits:** tawny feathery hairs protrude from a vaselike structure**. Distribution:** scattered throughout.
ASTERACEAE Composite family
(*Stephanomeria pauciflora*)

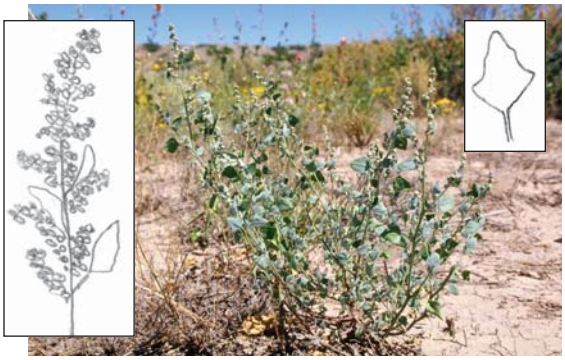
Pink to Yellow Flowers---tiny and inconspicuous

Shadscale APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 2 feet, many gray trunks from base, with the new twigs yellowish and sharply pointed. **Leaves:** rounded, scaly, gray (or bluish with a little pink). **Flowers:** tiny, yellow, turning to pink, found at the base of leaves, along stems. There are separate male and female plants. **Fruits:** papery and 2-winged. **Distribution:** scattered mainly in the western part of this area. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the leaves to flavor food. They also ground the seeds to eat as a cereal.
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot family
(*Atriplex confertifolia*)

Greenish (inconspicuous)---tiny, but in larger clumps

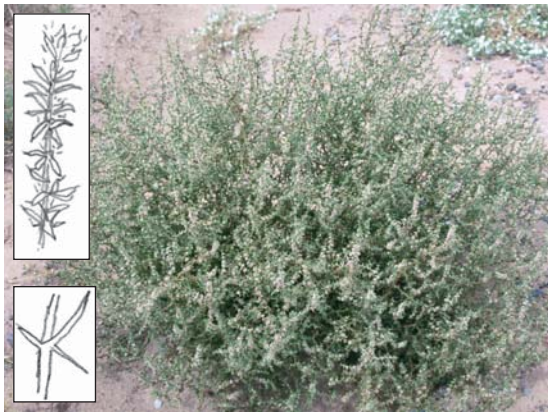
Goosefoot, Lambsquarters APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---6 inches to 2 feet, with many striped (green and pink) stems from base. **Leaves:** green, numerous, alternate. **Flowers:** green (with a little yellow and gray), mostly borne in clusters along tops of stems and branches. **Fruits:** mealy clumps of tiny green pods. **Distribution:** disturbed ground. **Remarks:** young leaves can be used in salad or cooked as a vegetable.
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot family (*Chenopodium album*)
introduced from Eurasia

Greenish-Pink Flowers---small and inconspicuous

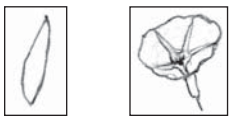
Tumbleweed, Russian thistle APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 2 ½ feet, very weedy, prickly, rounded, and bushy. It has a stout central stem, green in youth, then often reddish- or purple-striped as it matures. **Leaves:** in spring the first leaves are long, fleshy, and soft. Later they become very short, thick, and prickly. **Flowers:** greenish with pink. **Distribution:** along roads, in disturbed ground. **Remarks:** this symbol of the Old West is not native to the United States, but it has become common here. In winter the winds snap the stem and the plant skeleton tumbles across the land leaving some of its 200,000 seeds everywhere it passes.
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot family (*Salsola tragus*)
syn. *Salsola iberica* introduced from Russia

Pink to Lavender Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Hairy evolvulus APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 4 inches, with several hairy stems from base. **Leaves:** gray-green and hairy. **Flowers:** funnel-shaped, pink to lavender with a white "star" in the center, borne along the stems. **Distribution:** very uncommon, sometimes found on lower slopes.
CONVOLVULACEAE Morning glory family (*Evolvulus nuttallianus*)

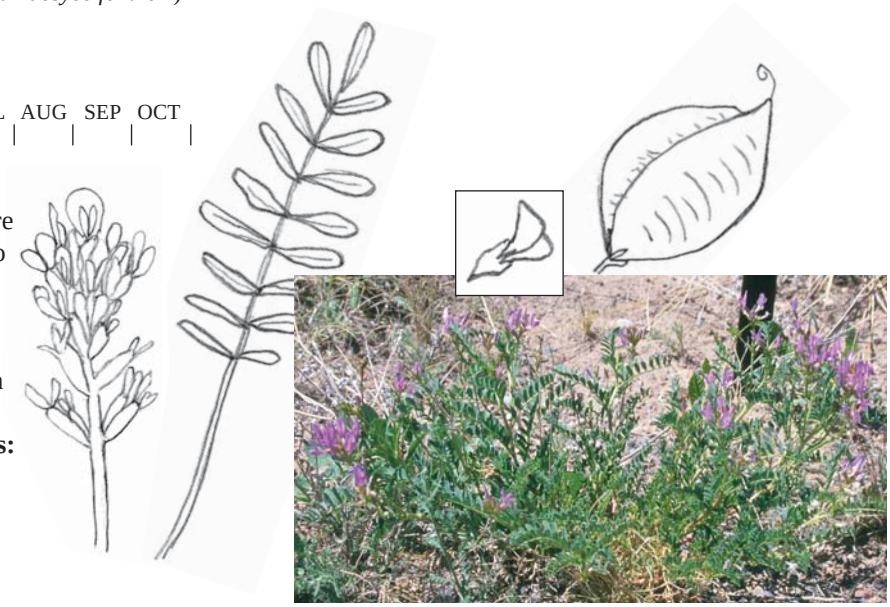
Pink Flowers---tiny

Fendler's spurge APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, but usually smaller with a weedy appearance. There are many pink or pale yellow stems from the base, branched, with milky juice. **Leaves:** green and often folded lengthwise. After flowering and fruiting, the leaves turn quite red. **Flowers:** very small, with several petallike structures, can be red or nearly white. **Distribution:** widely scattered throughout.
EUPHORBIACEAE Euphorbia family (*Chamaesyce fendleri*)

Pink Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Halfmoon milkvetch APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 9 inches, spreading, with many branches. The larger stems are pink, others are green. **Leaves:** compound, divided into 13 to 17 leaflets. **Flowers:** pink, fading to purple, irregularly shaped (pealike), and blooming along tops of stems. **Fruits:** large, longish, oval pods, beaked at the tip, at first green with reddish marks, becoming paler as they dry. **Distribution:** along entrance road. **Remarks:** many species of *Astragalus*, often called locoweed, are poisonous to livestock.
FABACEAE Legume family
(*Astragalus allochrous*)

Rose-colored and Yellow---small, to ¼ inch

Indigobush, Feather dalea,

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Small Shrub---to 2 feet, much branched. At the base the bark is dark gray, but many of the twigs are much lighter. **Leaves:** tiny and green. They are divided into 7-11 leaflets. **Flowers:** often numerous, formed pealike in shape, with feathery appendages. **Fruits:** very small, pale, feathery plumes. **Distribution:** scattered, especially on ridges. **Remarks:** this is a good browse shrub for livestock and wild animals. Native Americans used the bark to make dye for basketry.

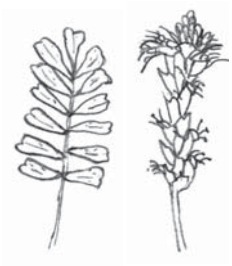
FABACEAE Legume family (*Dalea formosa*)

Purple Flowers---tiny, but in a larger spike

Woolly dalea

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 inches, creeping, sprawling. There are many stems and branches. **Leaves:** scented, often blue-green, divided into 7-13 leaflets. **Flowers:** formed pealike, in spikes, arising along the branches. **Fruits:** very small pods. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the roots raw. The twigs can be soaked in water to create a dye.



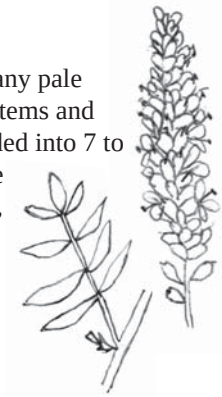
FABACEAE Legume family (*Dalea lanata*)

Pink Flowers--- ½ inch +, in a larger spike of clustered flowers

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

La Joya or
Albuquerque prairie clover

Creeping Herb---to 9 inches, sprawling. There are many pale yellow or reddish stems from the base. In the fall the stems and fruit often turn quite pink. **Leaves:** green, small, divided into 7 to 11 leaflets. **Flowers:** pink, occasionally white, pealike in shape, borne in spikes. **Fruits:** small rounded pods, at first green and later pink. **Distribution:** common. **Remarks:** this plant is found only in the Rio Grande Valley of Central New Mexico.



FABACEAE Legume family (*Dalea scariosa*)
syn. *Petalostemum scariosum*

Purple Flowers---small, ¼ inch

Shortstem lupine

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 4 inches, with many, white, hairy, leaf stems from the base. **Leaves:** one compound green leaf (with approx. 5 to 8 leaflets) at the end of each leaf stem. **Flowers:** pealike, purple with a white "eye", clustered at the ends of flower stems. **Distribution:** very uncommon, scattered.

FABACEAE Legume family (*Lupinus brevicaulis*)

Blue-Violet Flowers---small, but in larger clusters

Alfalfa

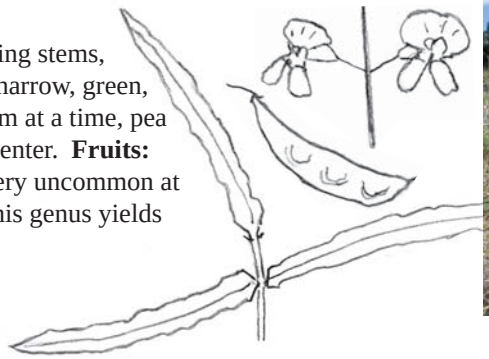
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 ½ feet, several stems from base, much branched. **Leaves:** small and rounded, divided into 3 leaflets. **Flowers:** formed pealike, in round clusters, along and also at ends of branches. **Fruits:** small curled spirals. **Distribution:** uncommon, along entrance road near Interstate. **Remarks:** these plants are escapes from cultivation.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Medicago sativa)*
introduced from Europe

Pink Flowers---small, to ⅓ inch

Slimleaf bean

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

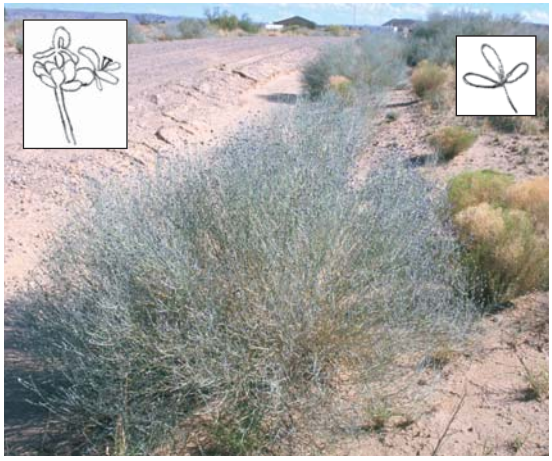


Vine---pale green, slender, long, twining stems, with tendrils at their ends. **Leaves:** narrow, green, and shiny. **Flowers:** only a few bloom at a time, pea shaped, pink with a white and green center. **Fruits:** lima beanlike pods. **Distribution:** very uncommon at this site, along arroyos. **Remarks:** this genus yields many of our edible beans.
FABACEAE Legume family
(*Phaseolus angustissimus*)

Purple Flowers--- ¼ inch, but in larger rounded clusters

Purple sage, Broom dalea

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

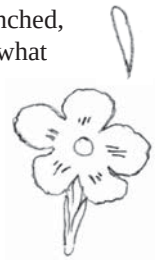


Shrub---to 4 feet, much branched. Parts of the year this plant looks like a mound of gray sticks. In spring the branches become green. In summer they are bluish. **Leaves:** very small, occasionally 3-fingered, and gray-green. Later in the summer there may be no leaves persisting. **Flowers:** numerous, small, found at the ends of branches, looking somewhat like tiny violets. **Fruits:** very small rounded pods. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** this is not the sage used in cooking. That comes from another plant family.
FABACEAE Legume family (*Psorothamnus scoparius*)
syn. *Dalea scoparia*

Purple Flowers---small, to ¼ inch

Purple mat, Bristly nama

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 6 inches, several to many brownish hairy stems, branched, aromatic. **Leaves:** long, narrow, hairy, and rather thick (somewhat succulent). **Flowers:** bell-shaped, opening to 5 lobes, violet with a yellow center, growing singly or clustered near ends of stems. **Distribution:** widely scattered. This can be quite common after a wet winter.
HYDROPHYLLACEAE Waterleaf family (*Nama hispidum*)

Purple Flowers---small, to ¼ inch in coiled clusters

Scorpionweed, Gypsum phacelia

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 ½ feet, with pinkish hairy stems. **Leaves:** large, greenish-blue, and deeply lobed. Most are found near base of plant. **Flowers:** borne in scorpoid (coiled) clusters at the ends of stems. **Distribution:** scattered, in spring. This can be common after a wet winter. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the powdered roots and leaves of plants in this genus to treat swellings and skin rashes.
HYDROPHYLLACEAE Waterleaf family (*Phacelia integrifolia*)

Pale Blue to White Flowers---tiny, ⅛ inch across, but longer

Rocky Mountain sage

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Photograph by Carolyn Dodson

Herb---to about a foot tall (but most are shorter), and square-stemmed. **Leaves:** green, fragrant, opposite, toothed, and longish. **Flowers:** borne a few at a time, pale blue or white at this site (elsewhere they are often dark blue), tubular, with an upper and lower lip. **Distribution:** uncommon, found in depressions. **Remarks:** this genus, but not this species, produces our sage seasoning for food.
LAMIACEAE Mint family (*Salvia reflexa*)

Orange Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Globemallow

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 3 feet, many yellow-green stems from base, and many branches. **Leaves:** alternate, coarse, deeply lobed into 3 (sometimes 5) "fingers". **Flowers:** 5 petals, cup-shaped, borne along the upper stems. The flowers look like miniature wild hollyhocks. **Fruits:** medium sized barrel-shaped structures, opening and divided at the top, into tiny chambers with black seeds. **Distribution:** along roads. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the seeds. The interior of the stems can be chewed like gum.
MALVACEAE Mallow family (*Sphaeralcea coccinea.*)

Orange (or Pink, White or Purple)---large, to 1 inch

Globemallow

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 feet, with stout erect stems, branched. **Leaves:** gray-green, coarse, lobed, and wavy-edged. **Flowers:** 5 petals, usually orange with a yellow center, but can be several other colors. The flowers are borne along the upper stems. They look much like the previous species. **Fruits:** medium-sized barrel-shaped structures, initially green, open at top, and divided into a number of tiny chambers with black seeds. **Distribution:** especially along roads. **Remarks:** see previous species.
MALVACEAE Mallow family (*Sphaeralcea* sp.)

Rose-Pink Flowers--- ¼ to ½ inch

Trailing windmills APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Creeping Herb---to 3 inches high, sprawling on ground, with many pink, slightly sticky, hairy stems. **Leaves:** wavy-edged, broadly rectangular with a narrower tip. Often larger and smaller leaves are found together. **Flowers:** bright, petallike rose-pink structures, notched at tips. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** this plant is known in Spanish as *hierba de la hormiga* (ant plant).
NYCTAGINACEAE Four o'clock family
(*Allionia incarnata*)

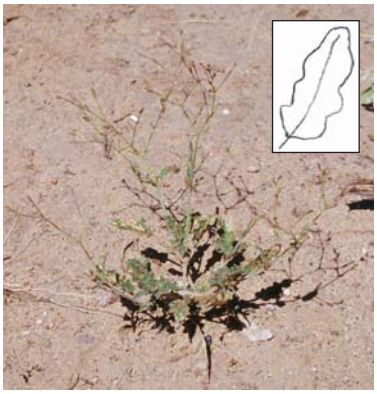
Pink to Purple Flowers---small, ¼ inch, in clusters

Goosefoot moonpod APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot or a little more, one to several stems from base, branched. The stems are yellow-green. **Leaves:** blue-green, wavy-edged, shiny, and roughly shaped like a triangle. **Flowers:** small and trumpet-shaped, with long protruding stamens. **Fruits:** 5-angled, pinkish green seeds with papery wings. **Distribution:** scattered.
NYCTAGINACEAE Four o'clock family (*Ammocodon chenopodioides*)

Pink Flowers---tiny

Spiderling APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Herb---to 8 inches, stems can be sprawling, but usually are ascending, pink to green. **Leaves:** opposite, green, wavy-edged. **Flowers:** found near ends of leafless, airy, flower stalks. **Distribution:** scattered, but often in low areas.
NYCTAGINACEAE Four o'clock family
(*Boerhavia sp.*)

Green Flowers---small

Desert four o'clock APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 3 feet, stems erect, pale green, and smooth. There is usually one stem from base, branched. **Leaves:** linear, bluish, opposite, and wavy-edged. **Flowers:** not easy to notice, small, green, closed inside a 5-sided papery "lantern" most of the day. **Fruits:** distinctive, pink-white-green paper parachutes with a small black seed attached. **Distribution:** scattered, near arroyos. **Remarks:** as the common name suggests these flowers open in the late afternoon and close in the morning.
NYCTAGINACEAE Four o'clock family (*Mirabilis glabra*)

Red to Pink Flowers---to ½ inch, in spikes

Scarlet gaura APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1½ feet, with many pale stems from the base, branched. **Leaves:** green, with lower ones longer and broader, and the upper leaves short and narrow. **Flowers:** pink, but turning red as they age. They are borne along the tops of stems. **Fruits:** elongated little green capsules (with a pink base). **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** one common name for this genus is Wild honeysuckle.
ONAGRACEAE Evening-primrose family (*Gaura coccinea*)

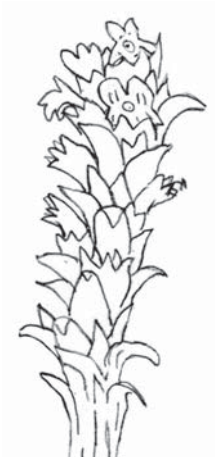
Pink Flowers---tiny, ⅛ inch, in spikes

Smallflower gaura, Velvetweed APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 6 feet tall, with stout, hairy, pink stems, branched. **Leaves:** wider and larger at the base of the plant, to narrow and small above. **Flowers:** grow at the tops of long stems on long stalks. The flower spike may curl a little like a lizard's tail. **Fruits:** tiny elongated green pods lining the stems below the flowers. **Distribution:** near Interstate at entrance road.
ONAGRACEAE Evening-primrose family (*Gaura parviflora*)

Purple and Yellow Flowers---small, in spikes

Broomrape APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Photograph by Carolyn Dodson

Herb---to 8 inches, with a very unusual appearance. This plant is succulent and parasitic. The stems are very thick, sticky, and yellowish-brown. **Leaves:** small, scalelike, overlapping, and not at all green. **Flowers:** purple and yellow, borne along the very thick stems. **Distribution:** very uncommon, scattered, found only during wetter seasons. **Remarks:** this plant doesn't make its own food, but takes it from the roots of other plants.
OROBANCHACEAE Broomrape family (*Orobanche cooperi*)
syn. *O. ludoviciana* var. *cooperi*

Pink Flowers---large, to more than ½ inch across, but much longer

Devil's claw APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 1 foot tall, spreading. Typically there is one thick, sticky, hairy stem from the base, branched, yellow or pale-pink. **Leaves:** large, green, and sticky, somewhat rounded or triangle-shaped, opposite, on long leaf stalks. **Flowers:** pink or nearly white, and tubular, with a yellow floor inside a flared opening. **Fruits:** distinctive, long curved pods. As they dry out, they split open into two claws, or pair of tongs. **Distribution:** uncommon, low ground. **Remarks:** you will never mistake the fruit for anything else. Native Americans use the fibers to make baskets.
PEDALIACEAE Unicorn plant family (*Proboscidea parviflora*)

Pink Flowers---small, about ⅓ inch

Dwarf skyrocket

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 5 inches, small low plant with white and hairy stems. **Leaves:** green, deeply divided into narrow segments. **Flowers:** pink to blue, tubular, with 5 petallike extensions, and long blue stamens. **Distribution:** very common in area, to the west only. **Remarks:** Native Americans have used a lather from the dried flowers and leaves. They applied it to the forehead to treat headaches.
POLEMONIACEAE Phlox family (*Ipomopsis pumila*)

Red-Orange Flowers---small, but clustered

Aberts buckwheat

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---small low plant. **Leaves:** tongue or spoon shaped, blue-green, with long petiole, mostly found at base of plant. **Flowers:** red-orange at margins, inside cream colored, borne in round flat-topped clusters. **Distribution:** foothills near western mesa.
POLYGONACEAE Buckwheat family (*Eriogonum abertianum*)

Pink Flowers---small, between ¼ and ½ inch

Sunbright

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 4 inches, often only one thin stem from base. **Leaves:** found only at the base of the plant, numerous, fleshy and cylindrical in shape. **Flowers:** pink, 5 petals with a green center, borne at top of stems on slender leafless stalks. **Distribution:** uncommon, low ground.
PORTULACACEAE Portulaca family (*Talinum parviflorum*)

Pink to White Flowers---medium, to ½ inch

Desert innocence

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

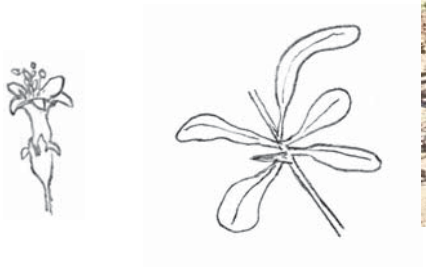
Herb---to 3 inches, forms a low growing mat with many stems. **Leaves:** small. **Flowers:** numerous, 4 petallike extensions to a slender tube. **Distribution:** scattered, sometimes on lower slopes. **Remarks:** coffee comes from a plant in this family, also *chinchona* which yields quinine, a malaria treatment.
RUBIACEAE Madder family (*Houstonia rubra*) syn. *Hedyotis rubiaceae*

Greenish-White Flowers---¼ inch across, but nearly an inch long

Pale Wolfberry

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub---to 3 feet, somewhat spiny, with dark gray bark. **Leaves:** clustered, yellow-green. Large and small leaves occur together. **Flowers:** greenish (with some yellow parts), tubular with 5 petallike extensions to the trumpet. **Fruit:** round berries, smooth, green turning to orange. **Distribution:** uncommon. **Remarks:** the fruit was widely consumed by people as well as wildlife. Native Americans applied the leaves as a treatment for cuts.
SOLANACEAE Potato family
(*Lycium pallidum*)

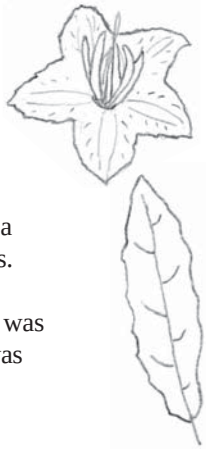


Purple Flowers---medium, to 1 inch

Nightshade, Horsenettle

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Herb---to 2 feet, many pale branched stems, often covered with orange prickles. **Leaves:** alternate, wavy-edged, rectangular, with a slightly pointed tip, pale on underside. **Flowers:** 5 petallike lobes at the end of a very short tube, lavender with a gold center, borne near ends of branches. **Fruits:** round berries, white or yellow (sometimes with darker green stripes), aging to black. **Distribution:** near roads. **Remarks:** the fruit was used to curdle milk to make cheese. A preparation of powdered berry was used like snuff, as a substitute for tobacco. The roots treated toothache.
SOLANACEAE Potato family (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)



Orange Flowers---small, to ½ inch

Carpetweed,
Warty Caltrop

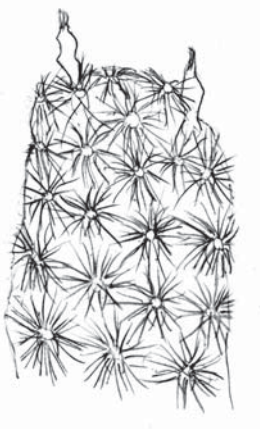
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Creeping Herb---to 3 inches, hairy, with multiple pink stems. **Leaves:** 5 to 18 green leaflets, which fold lengthwise in the hot sun. **Flowers:** 5 petals, pale orange to gold, borne at the ends of stems. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** this plant looks a lot like Goathead (see Yellow Flower list), but Carpetweed has a very hairy stem, a slightly larger flower, more orange in color, and does not produce a spiny fruit.
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE Caltrop family (*Kallstroemia parviflora*)

Pink Flowers---large

Spinystar cactus, Pincushion

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



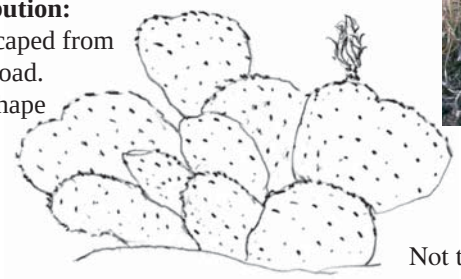
Cactus---small pincushion or sometimes beehive (cylinder)-shaped cactus, to 7 inches high, and very densely spiny. **Flowers:** large, pink with yellow center. **Fruits:** green, small, semidry. **Distribution:** uncommon, widely scattered, in low areas. **Remarks:** Native Americans burned off the spines and ate the stems.
CACTACEAE Cactus family (*Escobaria vivipara*)
syn. *Coryphantha vivipara*

Deep-Rose Flowers---large

Beavertail prickly pear

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Cactus---to 1 ½ feet, blue (or purple-pink) pads, spineless, velvety to the touch. **Flowers:** showy pink. **Fruits:** shriveled, dry, pink-yellow structures at the top of pads. **Distribution:** planted near buildings, one plant, escaped from cultivation ?, at entrance along the road. **Remarks:** Beavertail refers to the shape of the pads. Native Americans ate parts of all the prickly pears.
CACTACEAE Cactus family
(*Opuntia basilaris*)
introduced to New Mexico



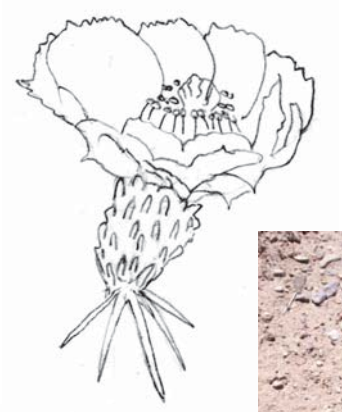
Not to scale

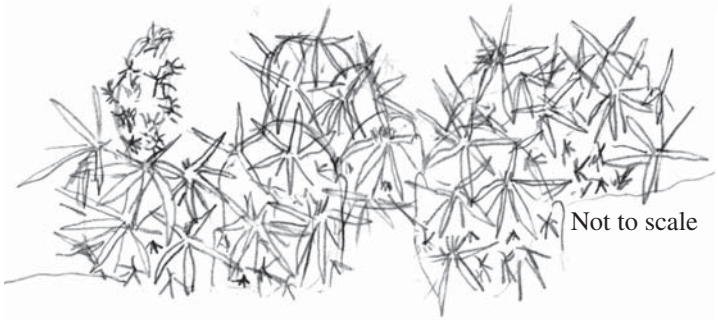
Yellow Flowers---large, to 2 ½ inches

Dagger or Club cholla

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Cactus---to 6 inches high**,** lies along the ground, mat forming, and spreading. The stems are shaped like "clubs", jointed, covered with stout, white, dagger-like spines. **Flowers:** showy yellow. **Fruits:** long, dry, spiny, green to yellow. **Distribution:** ridge tops and slopes, also planted around buildings. **Remarks:** quite possibly Native Americans ate the stems and flower buds as they did for other chollas.
CACTACEAE Cactus family (*Opuntia clavata*)
syn. *Grusonia clavata*





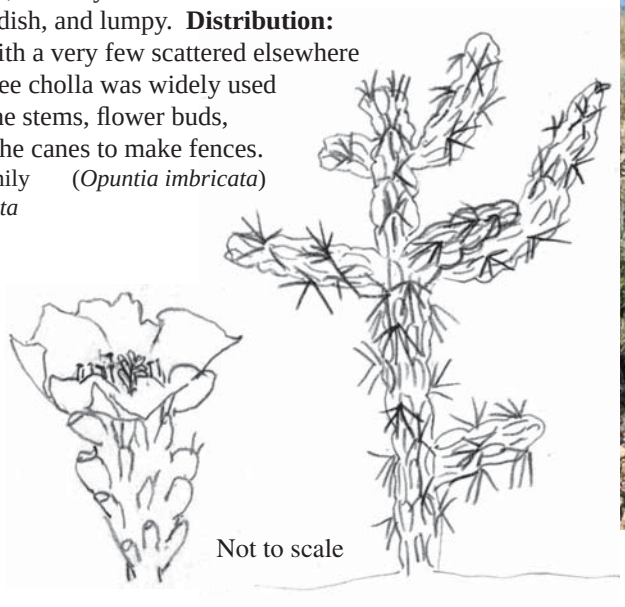
Not to scale

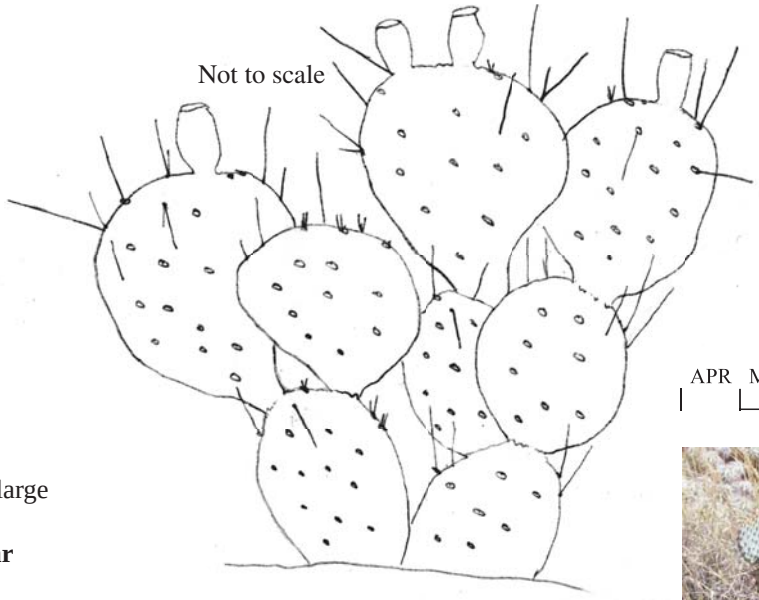
Purplish-red Flowers---large, to 2 inches

Tree cholla

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Cactus---to 5 feet, covered with long tawny spines. There can be several stems from the base, branched. The stem parts are shaped like jointed lumpy "clubs" or cylinders, linked together. **Flowers:** showy magenta, with a yellow center. **Fruits:** large, yellow, squat, roundish, and lumpy. **Distribution:** planted near buildings, with a very few scattered elsewhere on slopes. **Remarks:** Tree cholla was widely used historically. People ate the stems, flower buds, and fruit. They also use the canes to make fences.
CACTAEAE Cactus family (*Opuntia imbricata*)
syn. *Cylindropuntia imbricata*





APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Yellow Flowers---large

Purple prickly pear

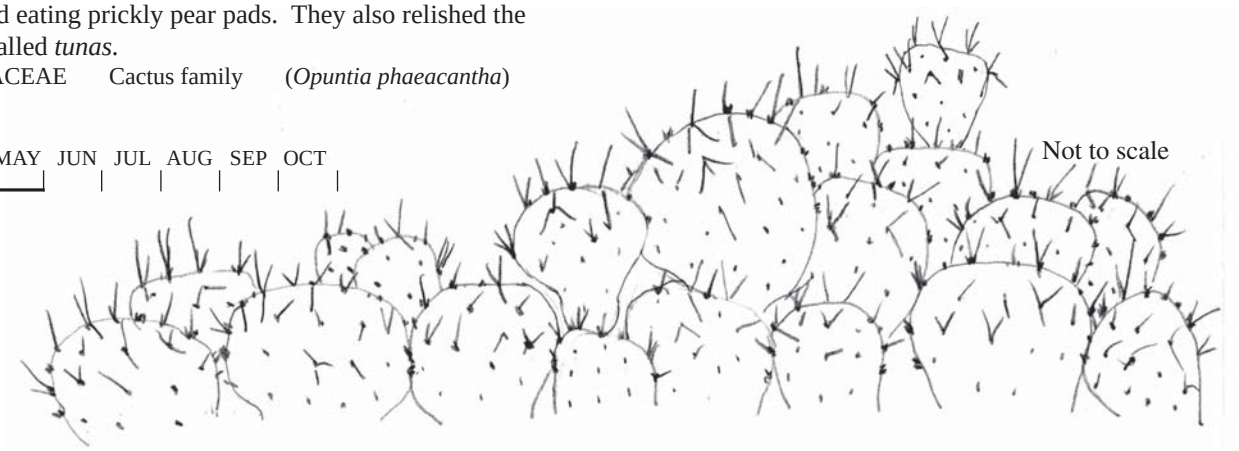
Cactus---to 2 feet tall at this site (taller elsewhere), a bluish upright plant, only a few pads touching the ground. It has large (7 inch) fleshy, oval pads. It is sparsely spiny, with 2 inch reddish spines. Spines are only found at the very top of the pads. **Flowers:** showy yellow with a red "eye". The flowers turn peach as they age. **Fruits:** fleshy, red or pink, without spines. **Distribution:** planted at buildings, and a few are scattered elsewhere mostly near arroyos. This cactus is uncommon at this site. **Remarks:** used historically for food. See other prickly pear species.
CACTACEAE Cactus family (*Opuntia macrocentra*)
syn. *O. violacea*

Yellow or Peach Flowers---large, 1 ½ inch

Brown spine or Tulip prickly pear

Cactus---to 1 foot at this site (can be taller elsewhere), with large fleshy pads, jointed, each 4 to 6+ inches across. They are yelllow-green, or bluish in color, with many long (to 2 inches) white to red to brown spines on the top half of the pads. The lower parts of each pad are almost spineless. **Flowers:** showy yellow (or peach as they age), can be streaked with red. The buds are pink. **Fruits:** fleshy, red or pink, with no spines. **Distribution:** very common throughout, also planted at buildings. This is by far the most common prickly pear at this site. **Remarks:** Many people enjoyed eating prickly pear pads. They also relished the fruit, called *tunas*.
CACTACEAE Cactus family (*Opuntia phaeacantha*)

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Yellow Flowers---large

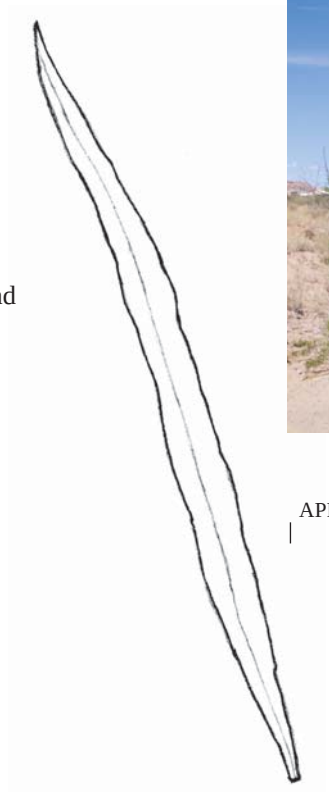
Many-spined or Plains prickly pear

Cactus---to 1 foot, very spiny, green or bluish. The pads are rather small compared to other prickly pear cactus in the area (to about 3 inches across). **Flowers:** showy, lemon-yellow, with pink buds. **Fruits:** very spiny, dry, and rather pale in color. **Distribution:** planted at buildings, but not common anywhere else at this site. **Remarks:** probably they were gathered for food historically. People ate parts of most prickly pear species of cactus.
CACTAEAE Cactus family (*Opuntia polyacantha*)

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

White or Pink or Purple Flowers---large, 1 inch and longer, in a cluster

Desert willow



Small tree---to 25 feet, with a spreading crown. The bark is gray, dotted with white. **Leaves:** green, narrow, and 3 to 6 inches long. **Flowers:** large and showy, tubular-shaped, fragrant, with several to a cluster. **Fruits:** 4 to 8 inches long and narrow. The pod remains attached in winter. It is initially green, but dries to brown, and splits open lengthwise. **Distribution:** near arroyos and planted at buildings. **Remarks:** Native Americans used the twigs to make bows. This plant is not related to the true willows, which are in the Salicaceae family.
BIGNONIACEAE Catalpa family
(*Chilopsis linearis*)

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

No Flowers

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

One-seed juniper

Small tree---to 20 feet, an evergreen**,** with shreddy bark and often several trunks. Pollination occurs in the winter. There are separate male and female plants. **Leaves:** scalelike, very stiff and yellow-green, aromatic. **Fruits:** blue or copper-colored berries, fleshy, moist, usually 1-seeded but can have 2. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** Native Americans collected the berries for food, for a medicinal tea, or for use as a seasoning. The branches were made into a variety of tools, including bows. The bark was woven into mats.
CUPRESSACEAE
Cypress family
(*Juniperus monosperma*)

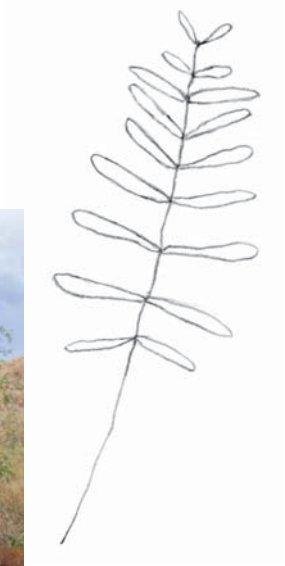
Yellow Flowers---tiny, but in a large long cluster

Honey mesquite

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub to small tree---to 15 feet, covered with stout gray or yellowish spines. The bark is rough, and very dark. The newest stems are orange. **Leaves:** green, each divided into many paired, narrow leaflets. **Flowers:** yellow with pink, forming dense, long, fragrant, caterpillar-shaped clusters along branches. **Fruits:** 3 to 8 inches long in flat green pods. **Distribution:** scattered throughout. **Remarks:** Native Americans ate the flowers and ground the pods into meal, or fermented them to produce a kind of beer. Bees are very attracted to the flower nectar.

MIMOSACEAE
Mimosa family
(*Prosopis glandulosa*)
syn. *Prosopis juliflora*



Pink Flowers---tiny, but clustered

Saltcedar, Tamarisk

APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Shrub to small tree---branched from base. The older bark is gray, with the younger bark reddish. **Leaves:** small, scalelike, lacy, soft appearance that resembles juniper. **Flowers:** found in sprays. **Distribution:** near Sevilleta entrance next to the Interstate or arroyos nearby. **Remarks:** this plant has become a noxious pest especially along desert washes and streams. It is almost impossible to eradicate. Because it has few natural local enemies, it out-competes and crowds native species.

TAMARICACEAE
Tamarisk family
(*Tamarix sp.*)
introduced from Eurasia

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF FLOWERING PLANTS IDENTIFIED

Agavaceae—Agave family
Yucca baccata, Banana yucca planted at LTER buildings[2]
Yucca glauca, Soapweed yucca

Amaranthaceae—Amaranth family
Amaranthus palmeri, Carelessweed
Tidestromia lanuginosa, Woolly tidestromia

Anacardiaceae—Sumac family
Rhus microphylla, Littleleaf sumac
Rhus trilobata, Lemonadeberry, Threeleaf sumac, Fragrant sumac

Apiaceae—Parsley family
Cymopterus acaulis, variety *fendleri*, Spring parsley

Asclepiadaceae—Milkweed family
Asclepias oenotherioides, Longhorn milkweed, Zizotes milkweed
Asclepias subverticillata, Poison milkweed, Horsetail milkweed

Asteraceae—Composite (Sunflower) family
Acourtia nana, Dwarf desert holly
Ambrosia acanthicarpa, Bur ragweed
Aphanostephus ramosissimus, Plains dozedaisy
Artemisia bigelovii, Bigelow sage
Artemisia dracunculus, Tarragon
Artemisia filifolia, Sand sagebrush, Threadleaf sage
Bahia absinthifolia, Sageleaf bahia
Bahia dissecta, Ragleaf bahia
Baileya multiradiata, Desert marigold
Berlandiera lyrata, Chocolate flower, Greeneyes
Brickellia eupatorioides, False boneset
Calycoseris wrightii, Wright's tackstem
Chaetopappa ericoides, Baby aster
Chrysothamnus nauseosus, Chamisa, Rubber rabbitbrush
Cirsium ochrocentrum, Yellowspine thistle, Sante Fe thistle
Conyza canadensis, Canadian horseweed
Engelmannia pinnatifida, Engelmann's daisy
Erigeron sp., Fleabane
Gaillardia pulchella, Firewheel, Indian blanket
Gutierrezia sarothrae, Broom snakeweed
Helianthus petiolaris, Prairie sunflower
Hymenopappus filifolius, Fineleaf woollywhite, White ragweed
Isocoma pluriflora, Jimmyweed
Laennecia coulteri, Coulter's horseweed
Machaeranthera canescens, Purple aster, Hoary aster
Machaeranthera pinnatifida, Goldenweed
Machaeranthera tanacetifolia, Tansy aster, Purple aster
Malacothrix fendleri, Desert dandelion
Melampodium leucanthum, Blackfoot daisy
Palafoxia sphacelata, Othake
Pectis angustifolia, Lemonweed
Psilostrophe tagetina, Paper daisy
Ratibida columnifera, Mexican hat, Prairie coneflower

Sanvitalia abertii, Abert's dome, Abert's creeping zinnia
Senecio flaccidus, Threadleaf groundsel
Senecio spartioides, variety *multicapitatus*, Many-headed groundsel
Sonchus asper, Sow thistle introduced[1]
Stephanomeria pauciflora, Skeletonweed, Wire lettuce
Thelesperma megapotamicum, Indian tea, Greenthread, Cota
Thymophylla acerosa, Spiny dogweed
Townsendia annua, Annual Easter daisy
Verbesina encelioides, Cowpen daisy
Zinnia grandiflora, Rocky Mountain zinnia

Bignoniaceae—Catalpa family
Chilopsis linearis, Desert willow

Boraginaceae—Borage family
Cryptantha cinerea, Cat's eye
Cryptantha crassisepala, Hiddenflower
Heliotropium convolvulaceum, Bindweed heliotrope
Lappula occidentalis, Desert stickseed
Lithospermum incisum, Puccoon

Brassicaceae—Mustard family
Descurainia pinnata, Tansy mustard
Dimorphocarpa wislizeni, Spectacle pod
Lepidium latifolium, Broadleaf pepperweed introduced[1]
Lesquerella fendleri, Fendler's bladderpod
Streptanthus carinatus, Yellow twistflower

Cactaceae—Cactus family
Echinocereus coccineus, Claret cup planted at LTER buildings[2]
Escobaria vivipara, Spinystar cactus, pincushion
Opuntia basilaris, Beavertail prickly pear introduced[1]
Opuntia clavata, Dagger cholla, Club cholla
Opuntia engelmannii, Engelmann's prickly pear planted at LTER buildings[2]
Opuntia imbricata, Tree cholla
Opuntia macrocentra, Purple prickly pear
Opuntia phaeacantha, Brown spine or Tulip prickly pear
Opuntia polyacantha , Many-spined or Plains prickly pear

Caesalpiniaceae—Caesalpinia family
Caesalpinia jamesii, James' holdback
Senna bauhinioides, Twinleaf senna

Chenopodiaceae—Goosefoot family
Atriplex canescens, Fourwing saltbush
Atriplex confertifolia, Shadscale
Chenopodium album, Goosefoot, Lambsquarters introduced[1]
Kochia scoparia, Summer cypress, Kochia introduced[1]
Krascheninnikovia lanata, Winterfat
Salsola tragus, Tumbleweed, Russian thistle introduced[1]

Convolvulaceae—Morning glory family
Convolvulus arvensis, Field bindweed introduced[1]
Evolvulus nuttallianus, Hairy evolvulus

Cucurbitaceae—Gourd family
Cucurbita foetidissima, Buffalo gourd

Cupressaceae—Cypress family
Juniperus monosperma, Oneseed juniper

Ephedraceae—Ephedra family
Ephedra torreyana, Jointfir, Mormon tea

Euphorbiaceae—Euphorbia family
Chamaesyce albomarginata, Rattlesnakeweed, Spurge
Chamaesyce fendleri, Fendler's spurge
Chamaesyce sp.
Croton texensis, Doveweed

Fabaceae—Legume family
Astragalus allochrous, Halfmoon milkvetch
Dalea formosa, Indigobush, Feather dalea
Dalea lanata, Woolly dalea
Dalea nana, Dwarf golden dalea
Dalea scariosa, La Joya or Albuquerque prairie clover
Lupinus brevicaulis, Shortstem lupine
Medicago sativa, Alfalfa — introduced[1]
Melilotus albus, White sweetclover — introduced[1]
Melilotus officinalis, Yellow sweetclover — introduced[1]
Parryella filifolia, Dune broom
Phaseolus angustissimus, Slimleaf bean
Psorothamnus scoparius, Purple sage, Broom dalea

Fagaceae—Oak family
Quercus gambelii, Gambel oak — planted at LTER buildings[2]

Fouquieriaceae—Ocotillo family
Fouquieria splendens, Ocotillo — planted at LTER buildings[2]

Hydrophyllaceae—Waterleaf family
Nama hispidum, Purple mat, Bristly nama
Phacelia integrifolia, Scorpionweed, Gypsum phacelia

Lamiaceae—Mint family
Salvia reflexa, Rocky Mountain sage

Liliaceae—Lily family
Allium macropetalum, Wild onion

Linaceae—Flax family
Linum australe, Southern flax
Linum puberulum, Plains flax

Loasaceae—Blazingstar family
Cevallia sinuata, Stinging cevallia
Mentzelia multiflora, Stickleaf, Blazingstar

Malvaceae–Mallow family
Sphaeralcea coccinea., Globemallow
Sphaeralcea sp., Globemallow

Mimosaceae—Mimosa family
Prosopis glandulosa, Honey mesquite
Prosopis pubescens, Screwbean mesquite — planted at LTER buildings[2]

Nyctaginaceae—Four o'clock family
Abronia fragrans, Snowball sandverbena, Fragrant sandverbena
Allionia incarnata, Trailing windmills
Ammocodon chenopodioides, Goosefoot moonpod
Boerhavia sp., Spiderling
Mirabilis glabra, Desert four o'clock
Mirabilis multiflora, Colorado four o'clock planted at LTER buildings[2]

Oleaceae—Olive family
Forestiera neomexicana, New Mexico olive planted at LTER buildings[2]
Menodora scabra, Rough menodora

Onagraceae—Evening-primrose family
Gaura coccinea, Scarlet gaura,
Gaura parviflora, Smallflower gaura, Velvetweed
Oenothera albicaulis, Prairie evening-primrose
Oenothera caespitosa, Stemless evening-primrose, Tufted evening-primrose
Oenothera pallida, Pale evening-primrose

Orobanchaceae—Broomrape family
Orobanche cooperi, Broomrape

Pedaliaceae—Unicorn plant family
Proboscidea parviflora, Devil's claw

Pinaceae—Pine family
Pinus edulis, Pinon pine planted at LTER buildings[2]

Plantaginaceae—Plantain family
Plantago patagonica, Woolly plantain

Polemoniaceae—Phlox family
Ipomopsis pumila, Dwarf skyrocket

Polygonaceae—Buckwheat family
Eriogonum abertianum, Abert's buckwheat
Eriogonum annuum, Annual white buckwheat
Eriogonum effusum, Spreading buckwheat
Eriogonum rotundifolium, Roundleaf buckwheat

Portulacaceae—Purslane family
Portulaca halimoides, Silkcotton purslane
Portulaca oleracea, Common or Garden purslane
Talinum parviflorum, Sunbright

Rosaceae—Rose family
Cowania mexicana, Cliffrose planted at LTER buildings[2]
Fallugia paradoxa, Apache plume

Rubiaceae—Madder family
Houstonia rubra, Desert innocence

Salicaceae—Willow family
Populus deltoides, Valley cottonwood planted at LTER buildings[2]

Scrophulariaceae—Snapdragon family
Penstemon ambiguus, Sand or Plains penstemon

Solanaceae—Potato family

Chamaesaracha coronopus, Greenleaf five eyes	
Datura wrightii, Moonflower, Jimsonweed	
Lycium pallidum, Pale wolfberry	
Lycium torreyi, Torrey's wolfberry	planted at LTER buildings[2]
Solanum elaeagnifolium, Silverleaf nightshade, Horse Nettle	

Tamaricaceae—Tamarisk family

Tamarix sp., Tamarisk, Saltcedar	introduced[1]

Zygophyllaceae—Caltrop family

Kallstroemia parviflora, Carpetweed, Warty caltrop	
Larrea tridentata, Creosotebush	
Tribulus terrestris, Goathead, Puncturevine	introduced[1]

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[1]Introduced to New Mexico, not a native plant to this state

[2]Planted at Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) buildings, and found in the refuge, but not found in the wild in the square mile covered by this list. The gardens around the Visitor Center were planted after this document was largely completed (June, 2004) and are not included.

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