



Sky Island

Pamphlet for EarthCachers

Compiled by Amanda Barnard
Student Conservation Association Intern 2007-08

Here at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument we have the common Sonoran desert species in the low lands: Creosote, Brittle Bush, Saguaro, Cholla, and Palo Verde. As you rise into the sky during your journey up the Bull Pasture Trail, you will become acquainted with a different type of Sonoran desert, you will enter the Sky Island...

Shin-Dagger

Agavaceae- Agave Family

Agave schottii

Plants grow on dry

exposed slopes in crowded

clusters at elevations of 4,000 to 7,000 feet.

Blooms May - October





Desert Agave, Century Plant

Agavaceae-
Agave Family

Agave deserti

Found on rocky slopes
and washes below 5,000
feet, flowers May – July.

Plant requires about 20 years to mature and flower, once the plant shoots up a flower stalk the rosette dies replaced by young rosettes around the old.



Ajo Oak

Fagaceae – Beech Family

Quercus ajoensis

Shrub or small tree 10 – 26
feet tall; thin gray scaly

bark; found on north-facing canyon slopes and along intermittent water courses.

One-Seed Juniper

Cupressaceae-
Cypress Family

Juniperus monosperma

Many limbs arising from
ground level, limbs usually

hidden by lower branches; Male and female flowers borne on
different trees: pollen on male trees and “berries” on female trees.

