

Petrified Forest

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Petrified Forest National Park
Arizona

Common Plants



The environment of Petrified Forest is amazingly diverse, from the open grassland to the intimacy of a small seep spring. Types of plants change with the various habitats, such as the open woodlands along the Painted Desert Rim and mesa tops with juniper, crisleaf buckwheat, and cliffroses while grasses like needle and thread and sideoats grama dominate the open prairie. Animals depend on plants for food and shelter. People enjoy the shade beneath rustling cottonwoods and the beauty of wildflowers. Unfortunately, some native plants are threatened by invasive non-native weeds, including tamarix and bindweed, an issue both within the park and beyond its boundaries. With thousands of species of plants in the park, only a sampling of species is featured here.

Within each category, species are listed alphabetically by scientific name. Non-native, often noxious and invasive, plants are marked with an *.

Trees



One seed juniper

*Elaeagnus angustifolia** Russian olive
Juniperus monosperma one seed juniper
Juniperus osteosperma Utah juniper
Pinus edulis twoneedle pinyon, pinyon pine
Populus angustifolia narrowleaf cottonwood
Populus deltoides ssp. *wislizeni* Fremont cottonwood
Populus fremontii Fremont cottonwood

Salix exigua narrow leaf willow, coyote willow
Salix gooddingii Goodding's willow
*Tamarix chinensis** fivestamen tamarix, saltcedar

Shrubs

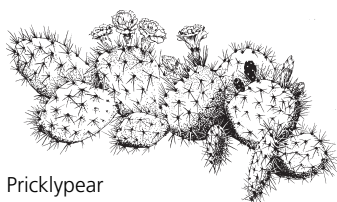


Fourwing saltbush

Artemisia bigelovii Bigelow's sage
Artemisia filifolia sand sagebrush
Atriplex canescens fourwing saltbush
Atriplex confertifolia shadscale saltbush
Chrysothamnus Greenei Greene's rabbitbrush
Ephedra viridis Mormon tea
Ericameria nauseosa ssp. *nauseosa* var. *nauseosa*
rubber rabbitbrush
Eriogonum corymbosum var. *aureum* crisleaf
buckwheat, corymb buckwheat
Forestiera pubescens var. *pubescens* desert olive, New
Mexico privet

Krascheninnikovia lanata winterfat
Lycium pallidum pale wolfberry
Purshia stansburiana Stansbury cliffrose
Poliomintha incana hoary rosemarymint
Rhus trilobata skunkbush sumac
*Salsola tragus** prickly Russian thistle, tumbleweed
Sarcobatus vermiculatus greasewood

Cactus

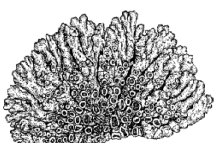


Pricklypear

Cylindropuntia whipplei Whipple cholla
Echinocereus coccineus var. *coccineus* scarlet
hedgehog cactus
Escobaria vivipara var. *arizonica* Arizona spinystar
Opuntia erinacea grizzlybear pricklypear
Opuntia fragilis brittle pricklypear
Opuntia macrorhiza var. *macrorhiza* twistspine

pricklypear, plains pricklypear
Sclerocactus papyracanthus paperspine
fishhook cactus

Often Overlooked



Lichen *Xanthoria elegans*

Orobanche ludoviciana ssp. *multiflora* manyflowered
broomrape
Phoradendron juniperinum juniper mistletoe

There are also many species of lichens and
mosses in the park.

Subshrubs and Perennials



Banana yucca



Snakeweed

- Abronia fragrans* snowball sand verbena, fragrant sandverbena
Achillea millefolium var. *occidentalis* Western yarrow, milfoil yarrow
*Alhagi maurorum** camelthorn
Argemone pleiacantha southwestern pricklypoppy
Asclepias subverticillata horsetail milkweed
Astragalus amphioxys var. *amphioxys* crescent milkvetch
Astragalus flavus yellow milkvetch
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *diphysus* specklepod milkvetch, freckled milkvetch
Astragalus mollissimus var. *thompsoniae* woolly locoweed
Calochortus aureus golden mariposa lily
Calylophus lavandulifolius lavenderleaf sundrops
Castilleja spp. paintbrush
Chaetopappa ericoides rose heath
Clematis ligusticifolia western white clematis, white-virgins-bower
Comandra umbellata ssp. *pallida* pale bastard toadflax
*Convolvulus arvensis** field bindweed
Cryptantha flava Brenda's yellow catseye, yellow cryptanth
Cymopterus acaulis var. *fendleri* Fendler's springparsley
Cymopterus bulbosus bulbous springparsley, corkwing, chimaya
Dalea candida var. *oligophylla* white prairieclover
Delphinium scaposum tall mountain larkspur
Descurainia pinnata western tansymustard
Erigeron compactus fernleaf fleabane, fern-leaf daisy
Erigeron concinnus mound daisy
Erysimum capitatum var. *purshii* Pursh's wallflower
Frasera speciosa showy frasera
Gaillardia pinnatifida red dome blanketflower, Hopi blanketflower
Gilia rigidula ssp. *acerosa* bluebowls
Grindelia nuda var. *aphanactis* curlytop gumweed
Grindelia squarrosa curlycup gumweed
Gutierrezia sarothrae broom snakeweed
Heliomeris multiflora var. *multiflora* showy goldeneye
Lepidium montanum var. *glabrum* mountain pepperweed
Lesquerella sp. bladderpod
Linum lewisii prairie flax
Lygodesmia arizonica Arizona skeleton plant
Machaeranthera canescens spp. hoary tansyaster
*Medicago sativa** alfalfa, lucern
Mentzelia multiflora mayflowered mentzelia, Adonis blazingstar
Mirabilis multiflora Colorado four o' clock, large four o' clock
Oenothera flava yellow eveningprimrose
Oenothera spp. white eveningprimrose
Psilostrophe tagetina woolly paperflower
Ratibida columnifera upright prairie coneflower
Senecio flaccidus var. *flaccidus* threadleaf groundsel
Solanum elaeagnifolium silverleaf nightshade
Sophora stenophylla fingerleaf necklace pod, silvery sophora
Sphaeralcea spp. globemallow
Stanleya pinnata desert princeplume
Thelesperma megapotamicum Hopi tea, greenthread
Townsendia incana hoary townsendia
Yucca angustissima var. *angustissima* fineleaf yucca, narrow-leaved yucca
Yucca baccata banana yucca
Zinnia grandiflora Rocky Mountain zinnia

Annuals and Biennials



Evening primrose

- Camissonia scapoidea* barestem eveningprimrose
Chaenactis stevioides Steve's dustymaiden
Cleome serrulata Rocky Mountain beeplant
Dimorphocarpa wislizeni touristplant, spectaclepod
Erigeron divergens spreading fleabane, spreading daisy
Erigeron flagellaris trailing fleabane
*Erodium cicutarium** redstem stork's bill
Gaura mollis velvetweed, willow gaura
Helianthus annuus common sunflower
Heliotropium convolvulaceum phlox heliotrope, showy heliotrope
Heterotheca subaxillaris camphorweed, sand goldenaster
Heterotheca villosa hairy false goldenaster
Ipomopsis longiflora flaxflowered ipomopsis
Lupinus pusillus var. *intermontanus* intermountain lupine, dwarf lupine
Malacothrix fendleri sowthistle desert dandelion
Oenothera spp. eveningprimrose
Pectis angustifolia lemon scent
Phacelia crenulata var. *corrugata* cleftleaf wildheiotrope
Phacelia integrifolia var. *integrifolia* gypsum scorpionweed
Phacelia ivesiana Ives' phacelia
*Portulaca oleracea** purslane
Townsendia annua annual townsend daisy
*Verbascum thapsus** common mullein, woolly mullein

Grasses, Reeds, and Sedges



Blue grama grass

- Achnatherum hymenoides* Indian ricegrass
Aristida purpurea var. *longiseta* Fendler threeawn, purple threeawn
Bouteloua curtipendula var. *curtipendula* sideoats grama
Bouteloua gracilis blue grama
*Bromus japonicus** Japanese brome
Chloris virgata feather fingergrass
Dasyochloa pulchella low woollygrass, fluffgrass
Eragrostis intermedia plains lovegrass
Hesperostipa comata var. *comata* needle and thread grass
Leptochloa fusca ssp. *fascicularis* bearded sprangletop
Muhlenbergia torreyi ring muhly
Panicum obtusum obtuse panicgrass, vine mesquite
Phragmites australis common reed
Pleuraphis jamesii James' galleta
Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. *neomexicanum* New Mexico little bluestem
Sporobolus airoides alkali sacaton
Sporobolus cryptandrus sand dropseed
Cyperus squarrosus bearded flatsedge
Eleocharis palustris common spiderush, creeping spikerush
Juncus bufonius toadrush
Schoenoplectus maritimus cosmopolitan bulrush
Typha domingensis southern cattail, common cattail

Taking Care of the Wild

National parks create oases of protection for many species of plants in a fragmented environment. Do not harm, disturb, or remove any plants in Petrified Forest or any other national park area. Leave them for other visitors to enjoy.