

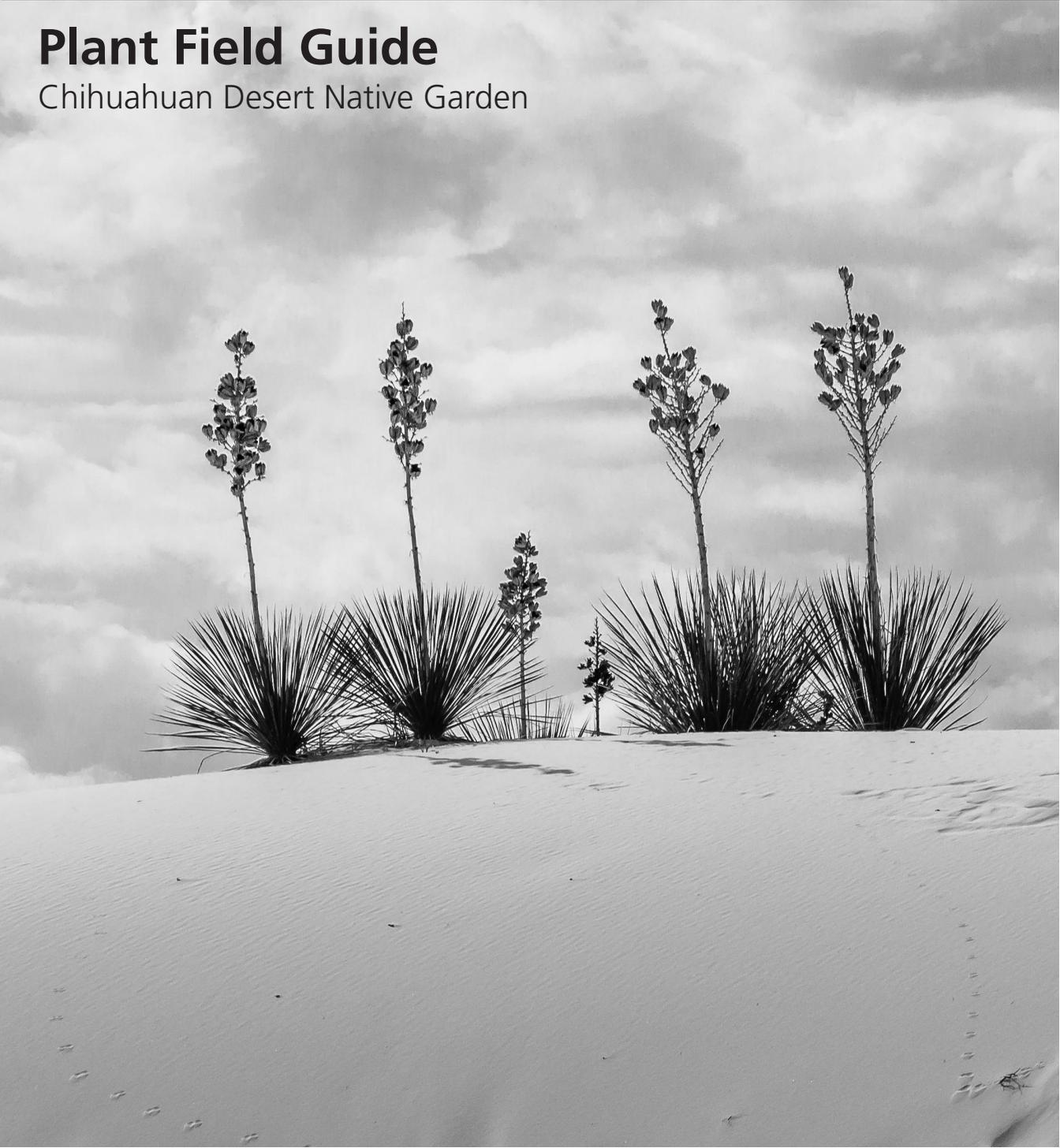
# White Sands

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
White Sands National Monument



## Plant Field Guide

Chihuahuan Desert Native Garden



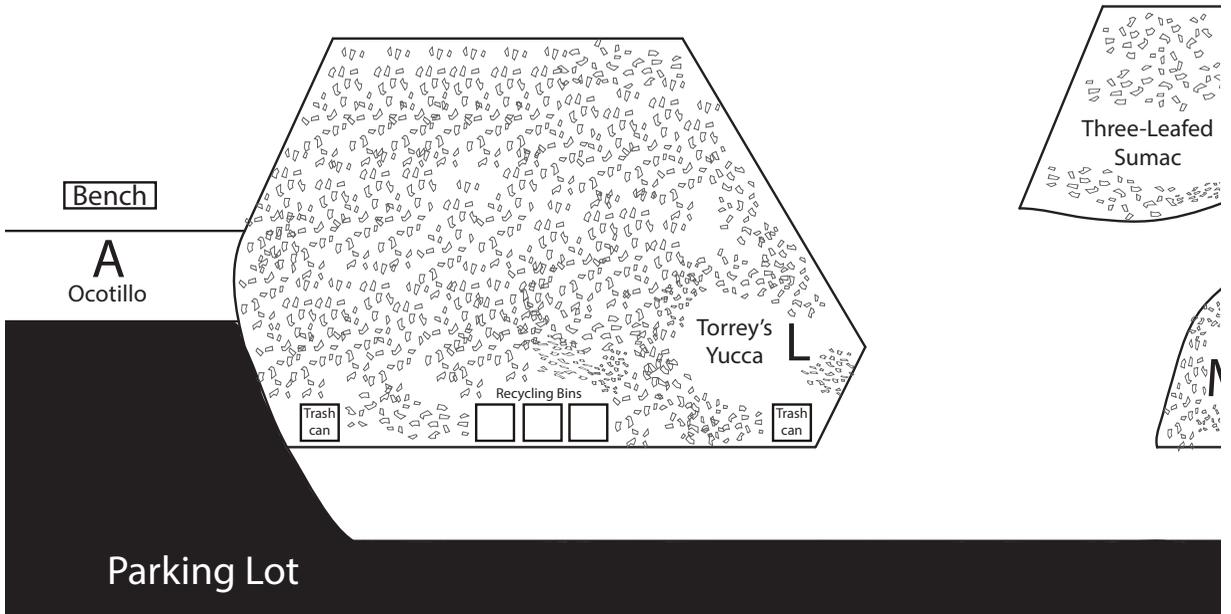
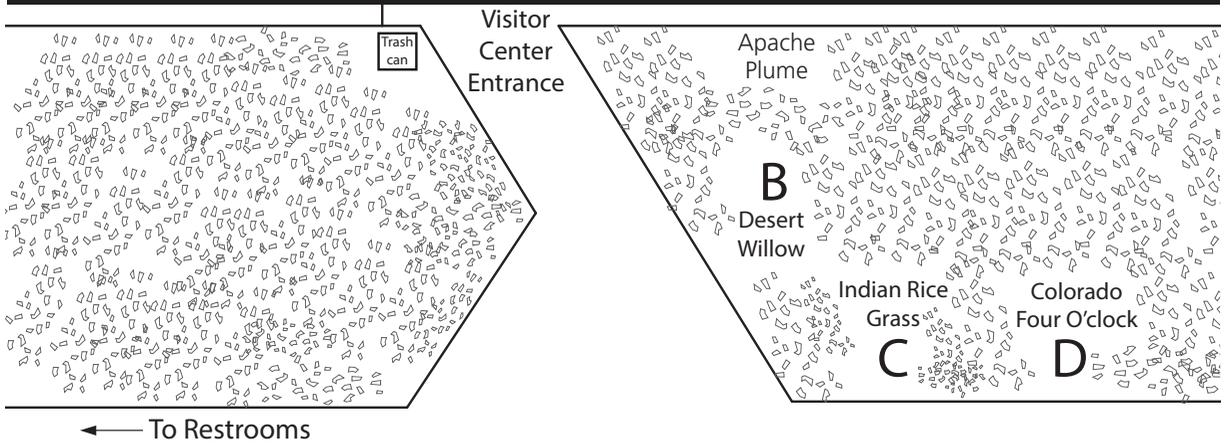


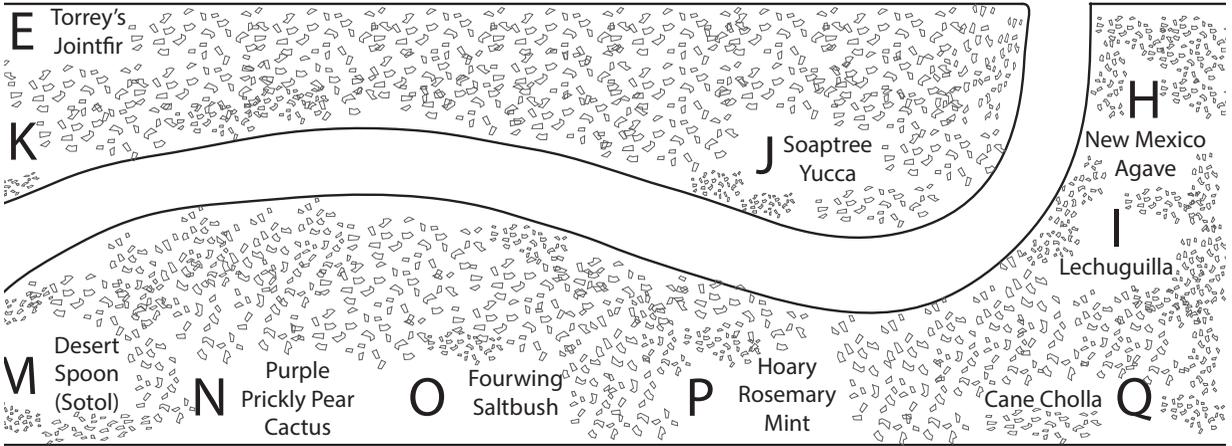
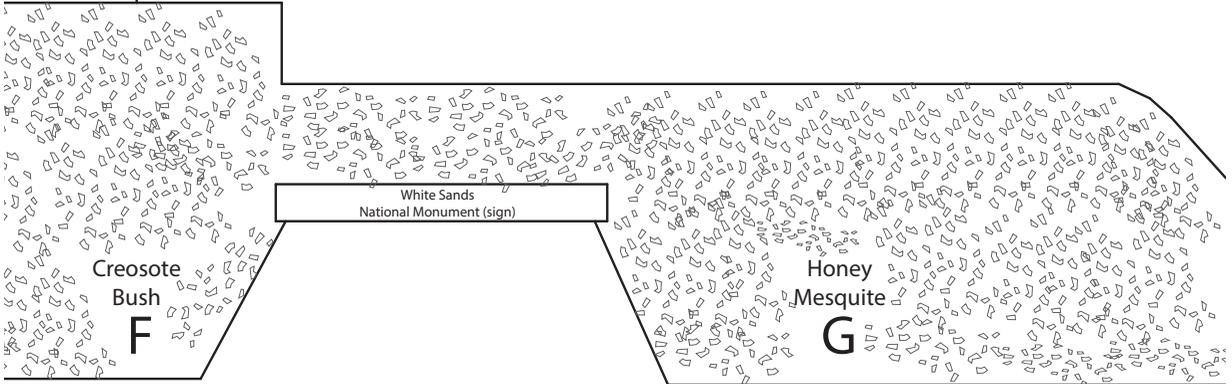
**M**ore than just colorful flowers or interesting shapes outlined by toasty sunsets, the wild plants of the Chihuahuan Desert have met the needs of the people who have crossed this harsh desert's path. For hundreds of years these plants have provided food, medicine, shelter, and have become an important part of many cultures' traditions. This guided tour will take you back to a time long before food markets and hardware stores when people had to learn, the hard way, which plants were useful and what purpose each one served.

The native plant garden in front of the White Sands National Monument Visitor Center provides a tiny sample of the many plants that form the unique Chihuahuan Desert landscape. Please keep in mind that these plants are here for the enjoyment of all visitors so that they may learn, examine, and appreciate them. No part of the plants may be removed or damaged in any way. Remember, you are a guest at these plants' home. Please be mindful and respectful of all parts of nature, both living and non-living.



# White Sands





Parking Lot

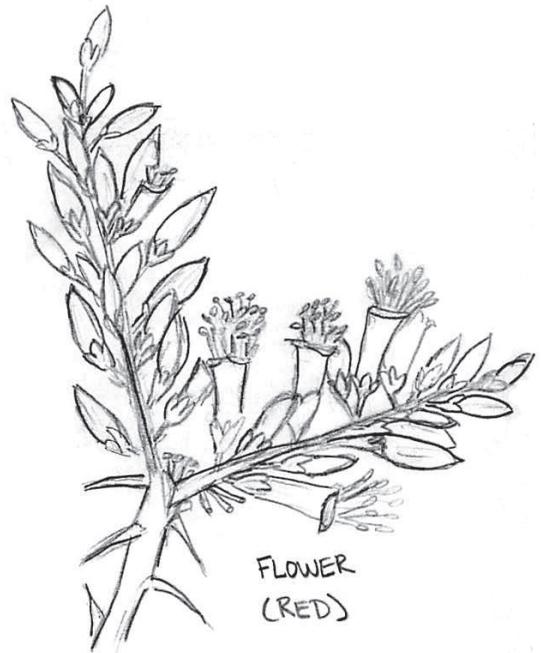
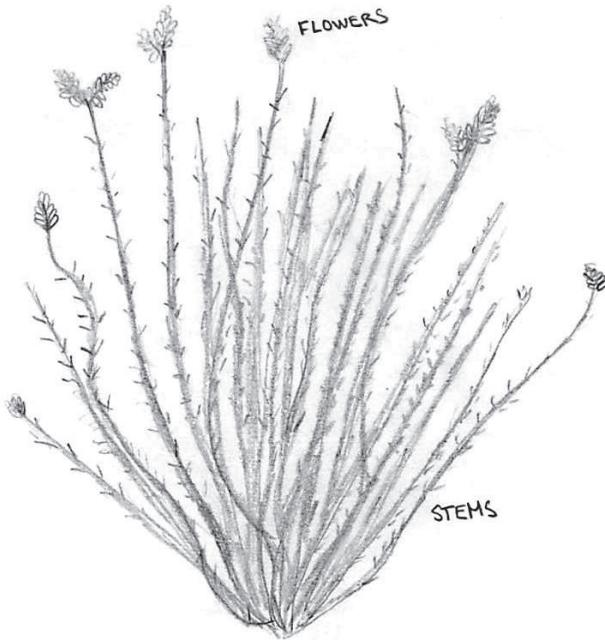
**Common Name:** Ocotillo

**Scientific Name:** *Fouquieria splendens*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**

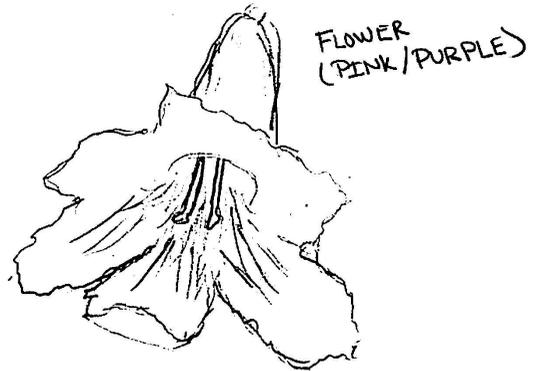


**Common Name:** Desert Willow  
**Scientific Name:** *Chilopsis linearis*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



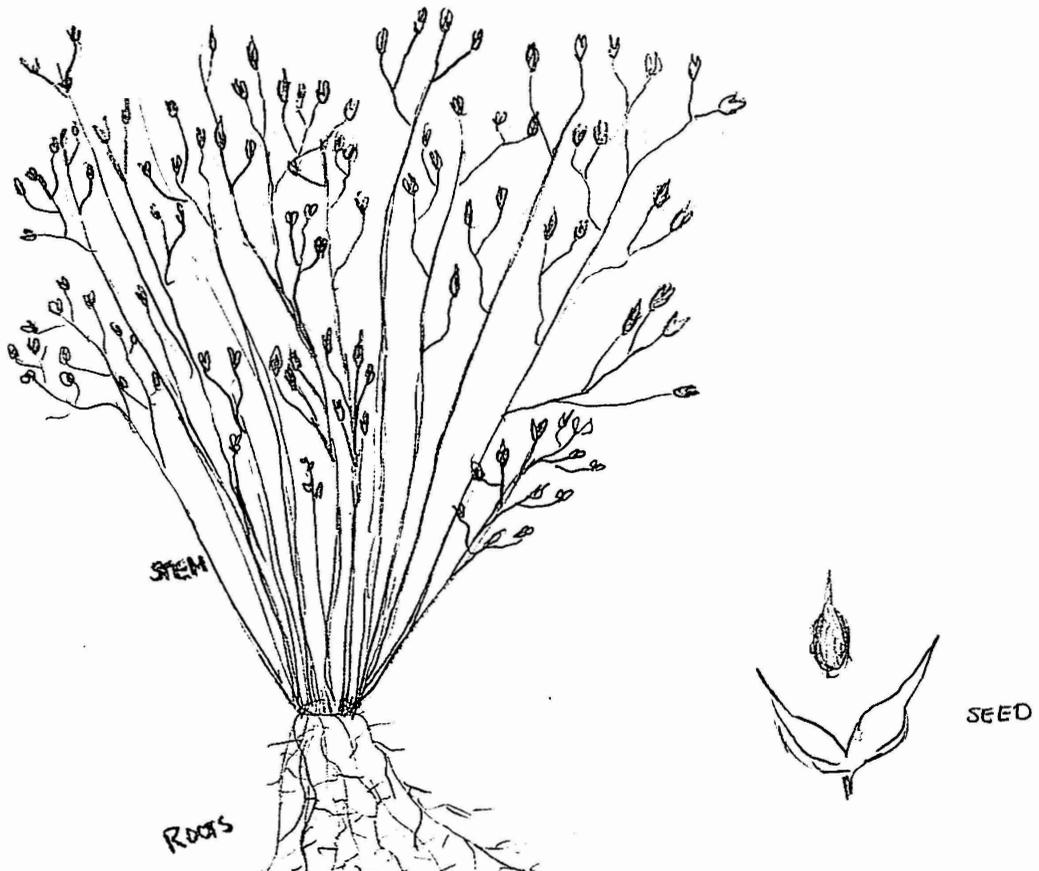
**Common Name:** Indian Ricegrass

**Scientific Name:** *Oryzopsis hymenoides*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



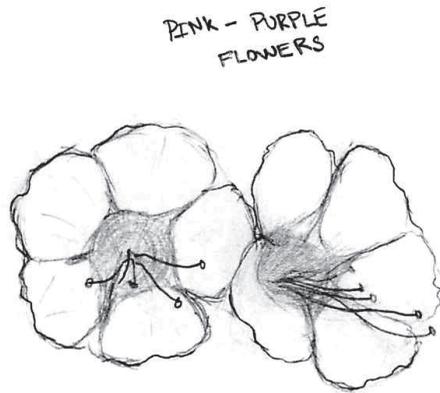
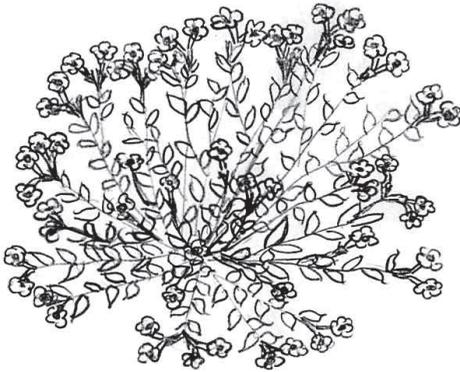
**Common Name:** Colorado Four O'Clock

**Scientific Name:** *Mirabilis multiflora*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**

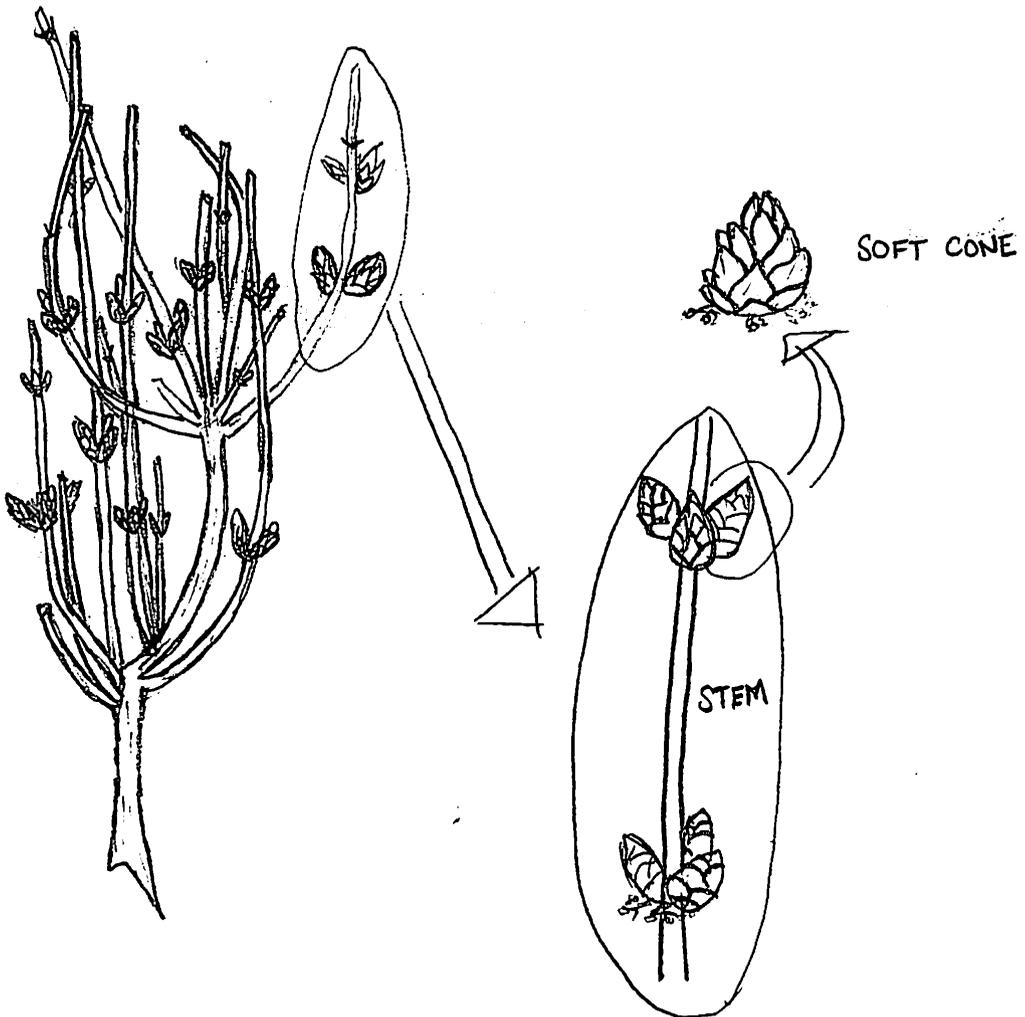


**Common Name:** Torrey's Jointfir  
**Scientific Name:** *Ephedra torreyana*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**

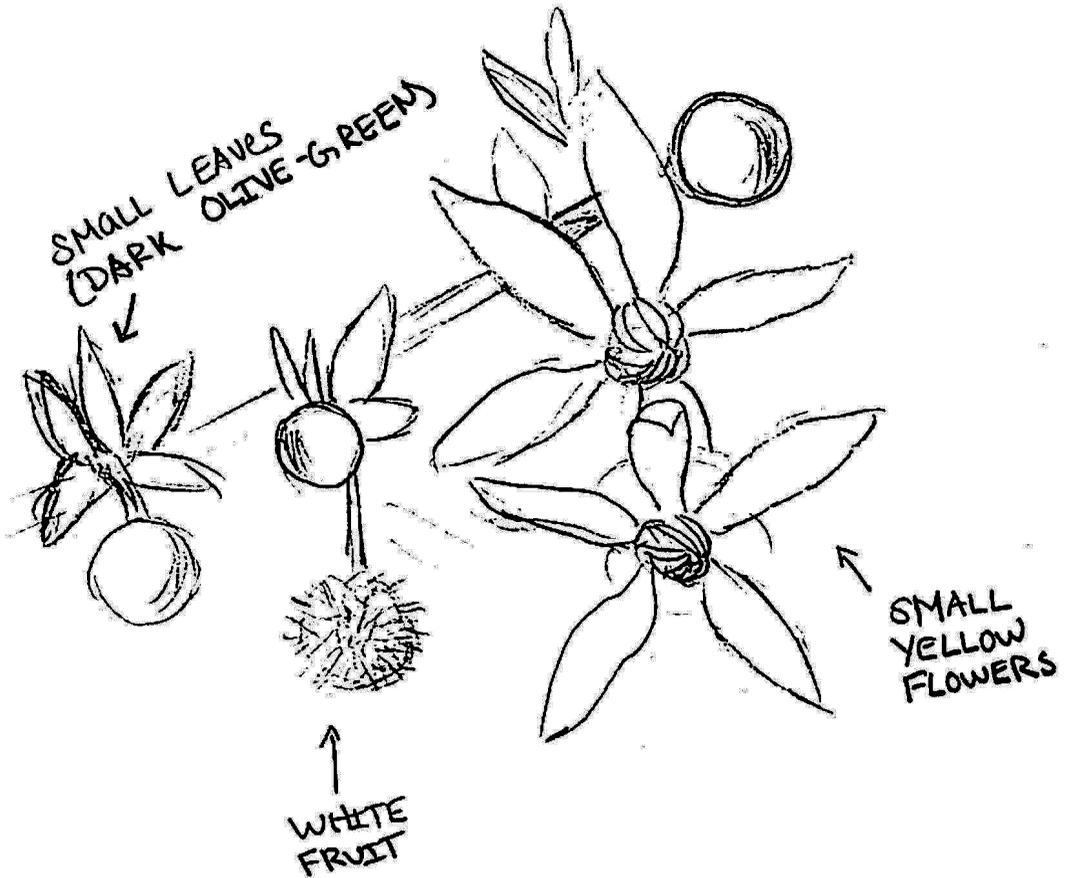


**Common Name:** Creosote Bush  
**Scientific Name:** *Larrea tridentata*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



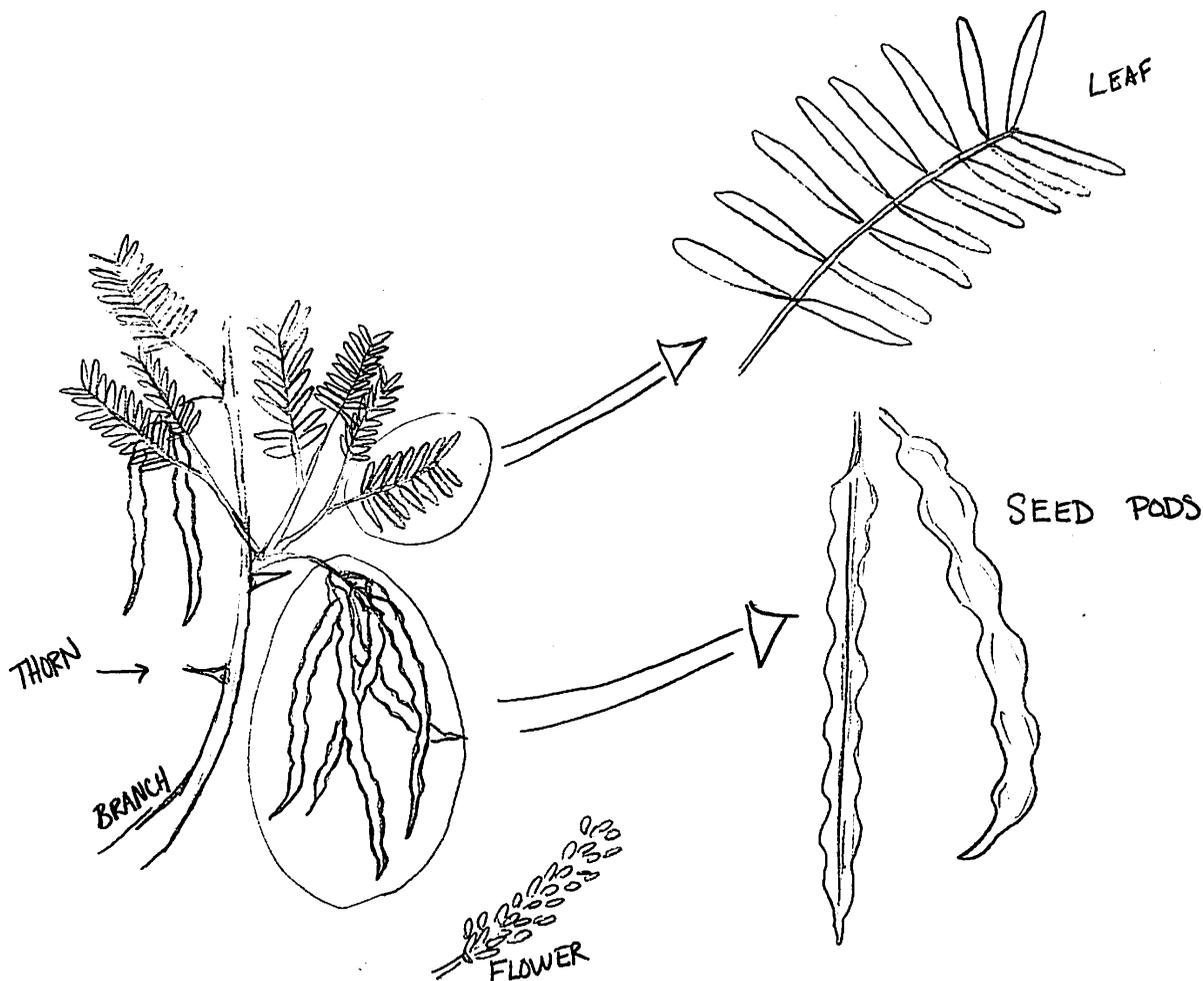
**Common Name:** Honey Mesquite

**Scientific Name:** *Prosopis juliflora*, *p. glandulosa*, *p. pubescens*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



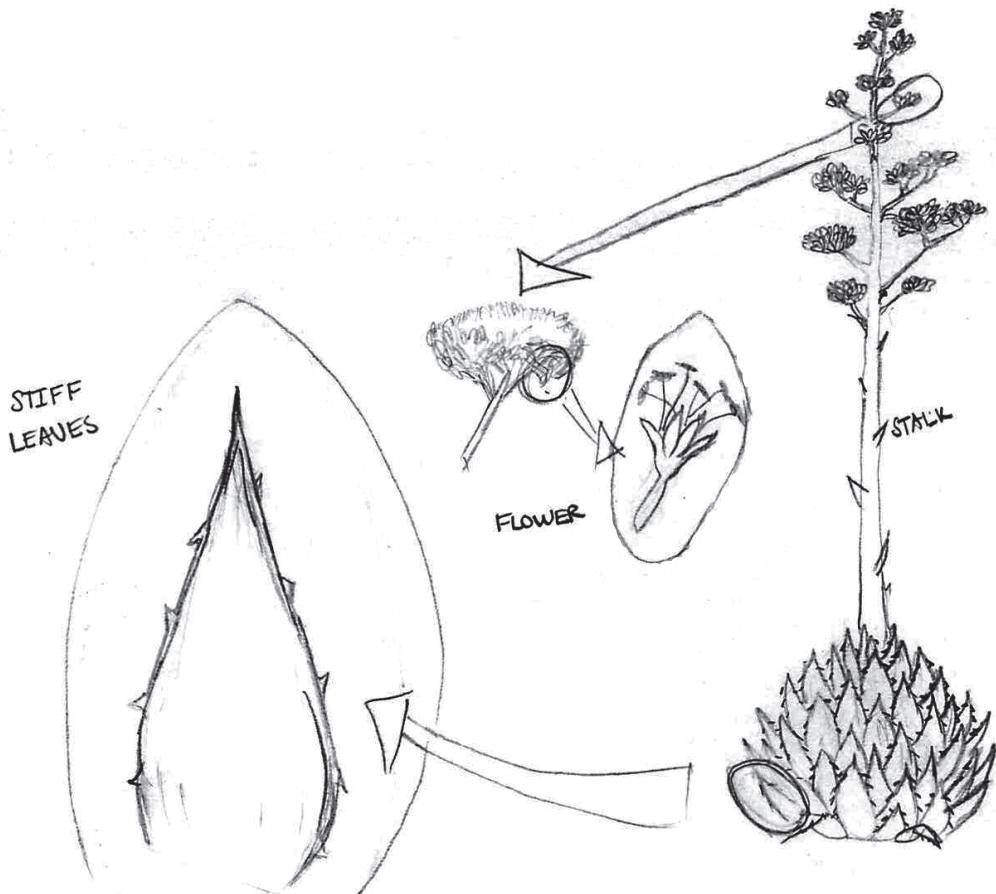
**Common Name:** New Mexico Agave

**Scientific Name:** *Agave parryi* var. *neomexicana*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**

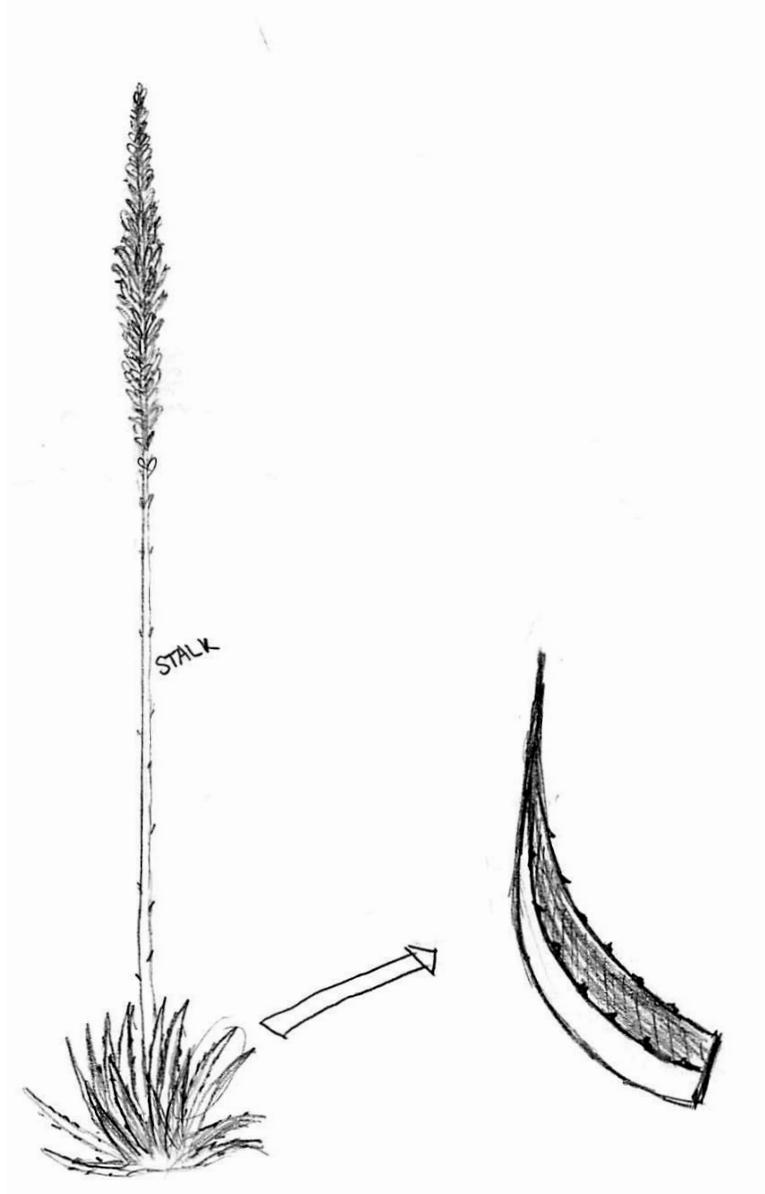


**Common Name:** Lechuguilla  
**Scientific Name:** *Agave lechuguilla*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



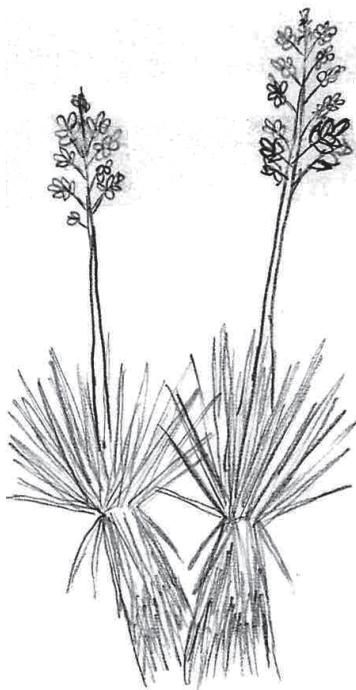
**Common Name:** Soaptree Yucca

**Scientific Name:** *Yucca elata*

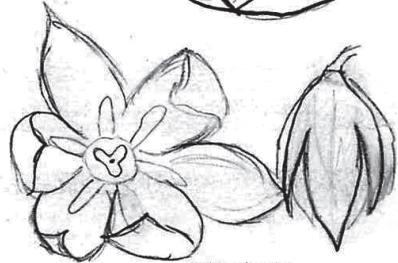
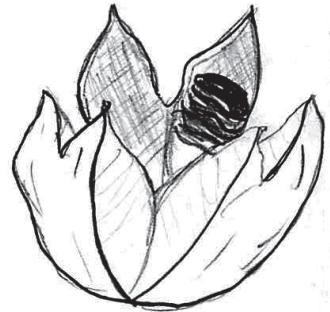
**Description:**

**Uses:**

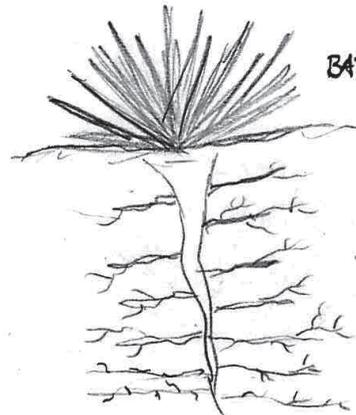
**Notes:**



HARD SEED POD



FLOWERS



BAYONET LEAVES

TAP ROOT

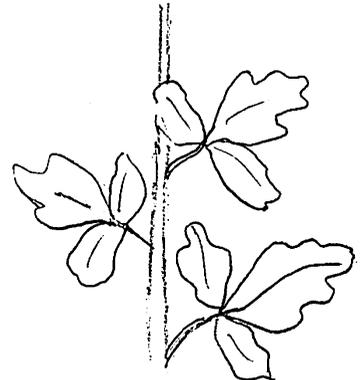
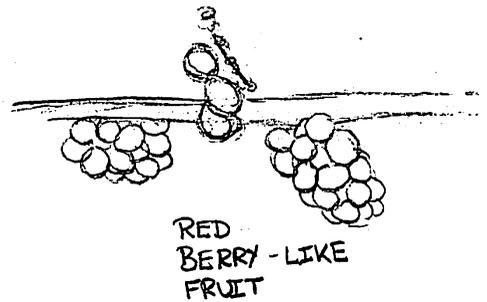
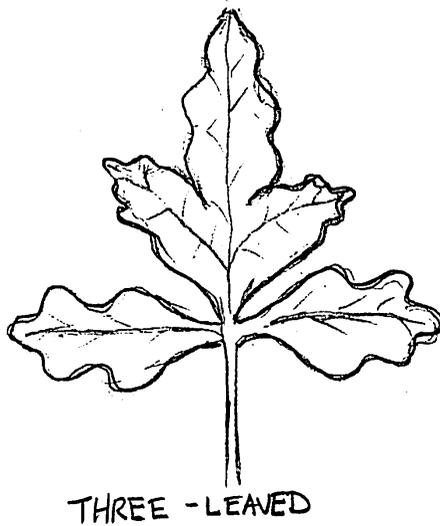
**Common Name:** Skunkbush Sumac

**Scientific Name:** *Rhus trilobata*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



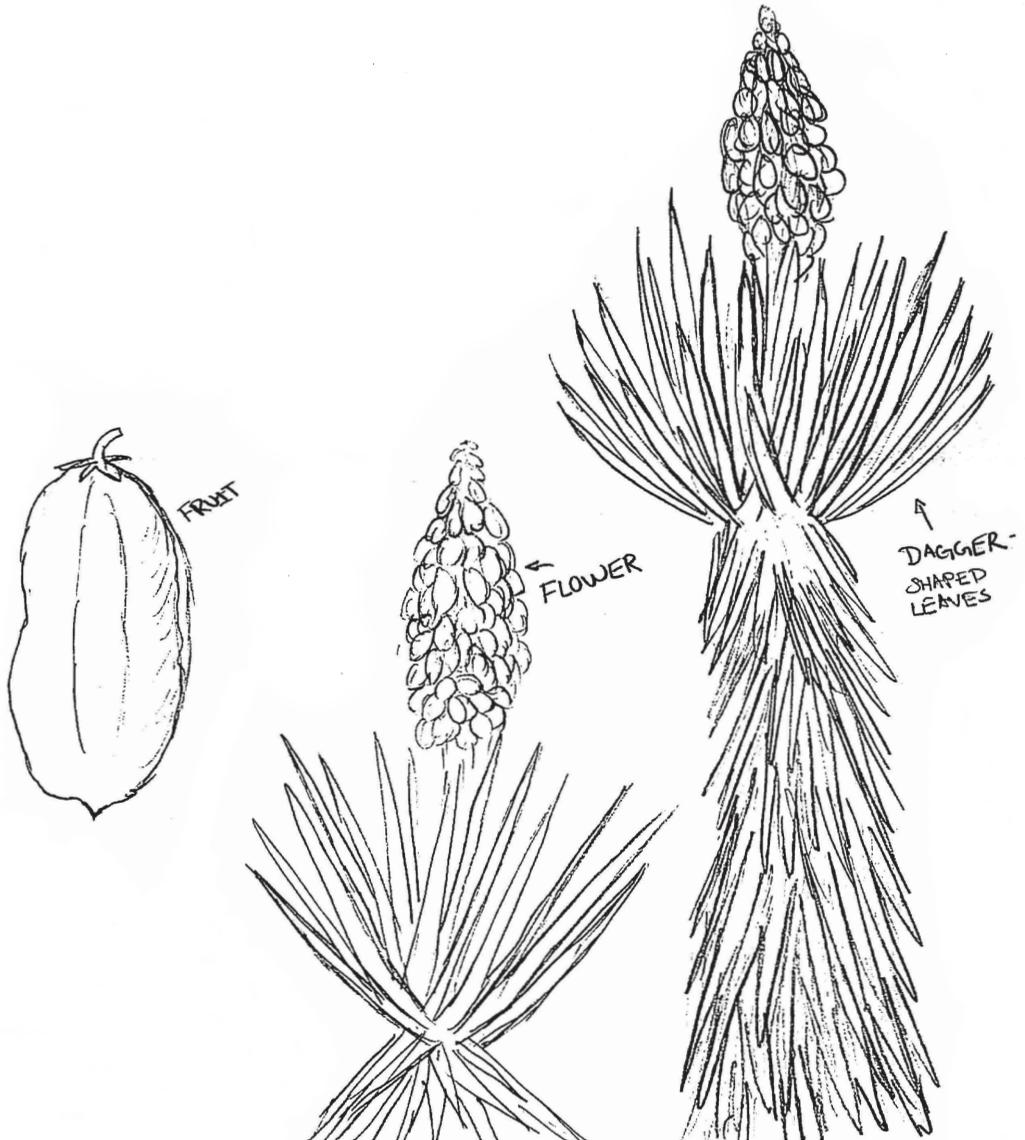
**Common Name:** Torrey's Yucca

**Scientific Name:** *Yucca torreyi*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



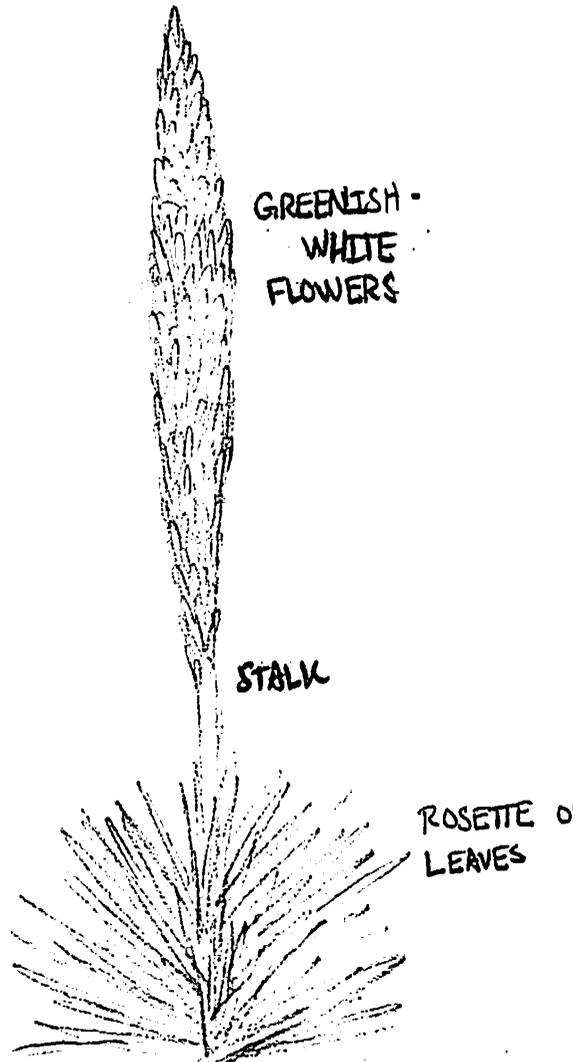
**Common Name:** Desert Spoon (Sotol)

**Scientific Name:** *Dasyllirion wheeleri*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



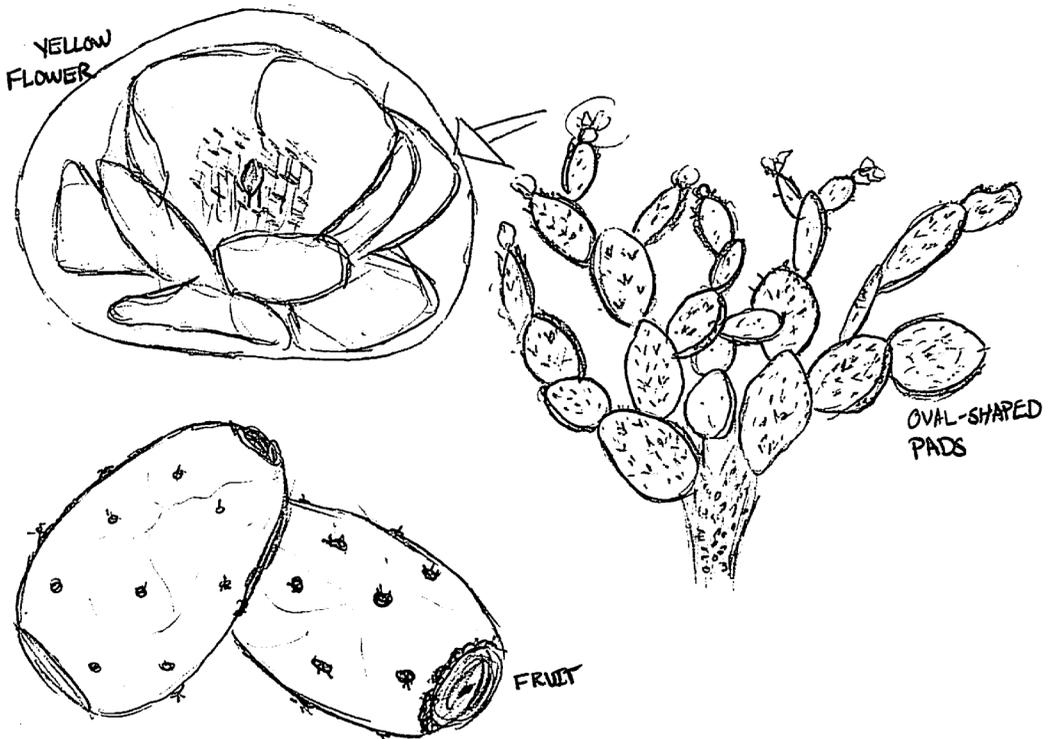
**Common Name:** Purple Prickly Pear Cactus

**Scientific Name:** *Opuntia engelmannii*, *o. phaeacantha*, *o. macrocentra*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



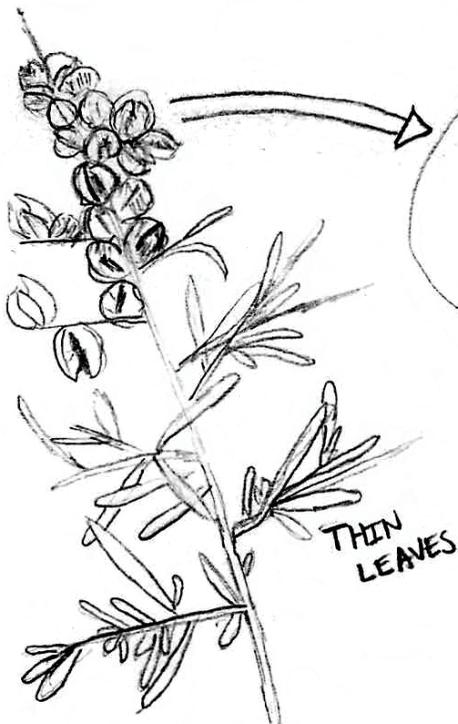
**Common Name:** Four-wing Saltbush

**Scientific Name:** *Atriplex canescens*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



FOUR-WINGED  
DRIED FRUIT



**Common Name:** Hoary Rosemary Mint

**Scientific Name:** *Poliomintha incana*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



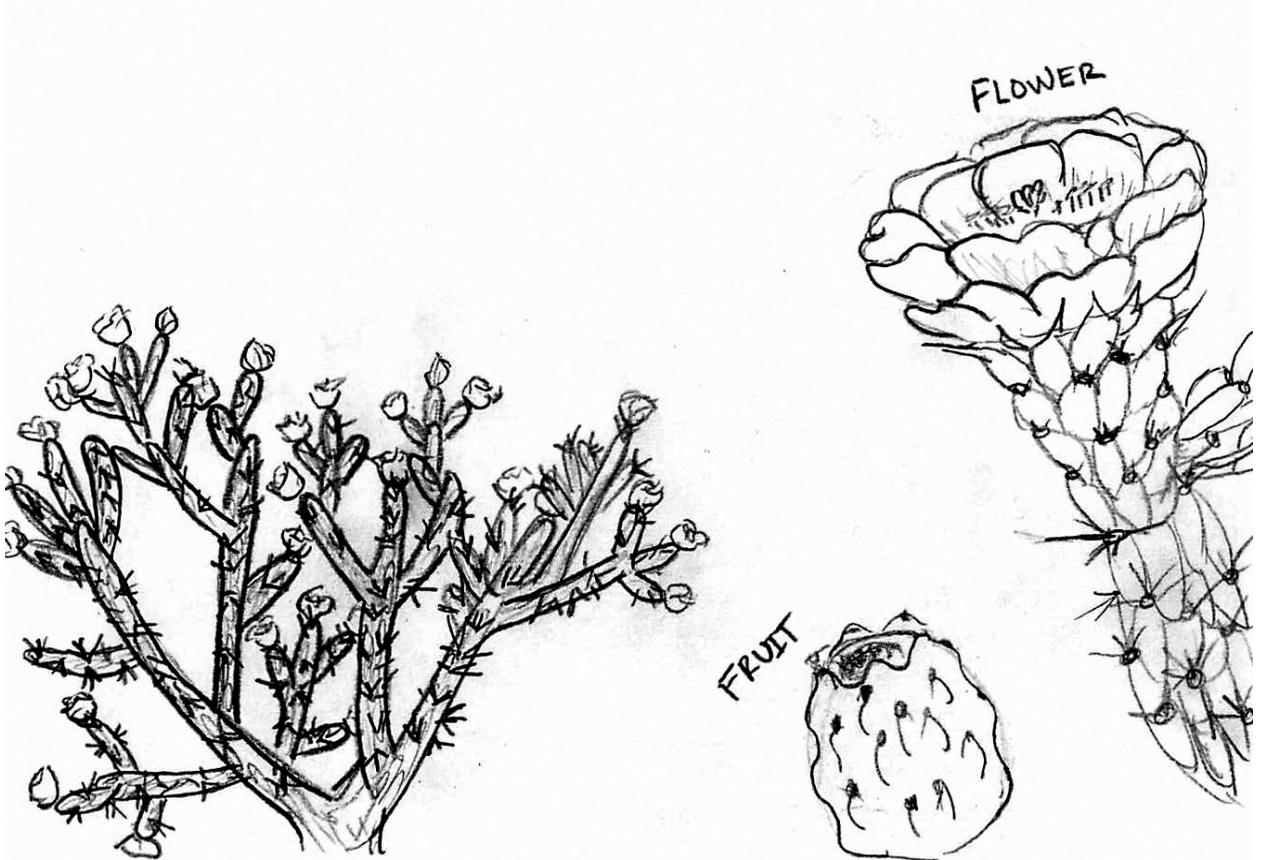
**Common Name:** Cane Cholla

**Scientific Name:** *Cylindropuntia imbricata*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



## Additional Plant in the Native Garden

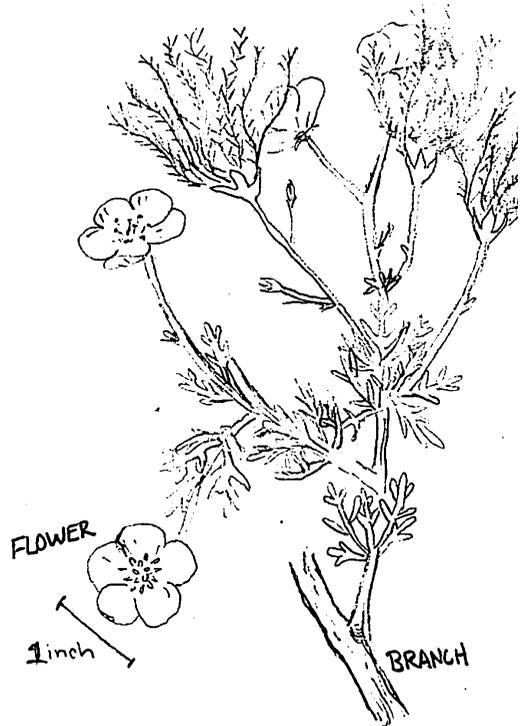
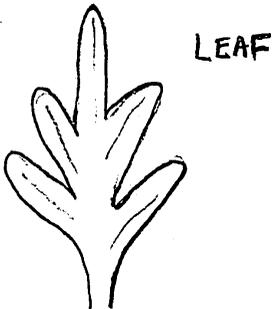
**Common Name:** Apache Plume

**Scientific Name:** *Fallugia paradoxa*

**Description:**

**Uses:**

**Notes:**



**2016**

**National Park Service™**  
**CENTENNIAL**

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*To learn more about White Sands, visit <http://www.nps.gov/whsa>*