Vegetation

Zion National Park is home to over 1000 known species of plants, the highest species richness of any NPS unit in Utah's Colorado Plateau region. Much of this biodiversity can be attributed to the park's location at the confluence of three major floristic regions: the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and Mojave Desert.

Plants of Zion National Park (1937)

The first major effort to document the flora of Zion National Park occurred in the late 1920s and 30s. Angus Woodbury, the park's first ranger naturalist, studied vegetation and

collected more than 500 specimens for the park herbarium. The observations of Woodbury and others during this period contributed to the publication of *Plants of* Zion National Park in 1937. This booklet included hand-drawn illustrations and black and white photographs, along with brief descriptions of hundreds of species and plant families.



A Prickly Pear Cactu

Wildflowers of Zion-Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks (1958)





Wildflowers of Zion-Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks, published in 1958, took advantage of more affordable modern printing techniques and included beautiful full-color photographs of each species described. The book included 106 species of varied and colorful plants, covering a wide range of ecosystems and elevations, from 3,600' in Zion to 11,300' at Cedar Breaks.

Museum Catalog No. ZION 12296

Zion Park Wildflowers App (2018)

In addition to publishing an updated Wildflowers of Zion book in 2018, the vegetation program also produced a smartphone app, Zion Park Wildflowers, to help visitors



Search Classifications

identify flowers in the field. It includes multiple photos of over 250 species and allows users to browse all the flowers in the park, or filter by criteria such as color and shape, in order to identify a specific species.

Though the plants in Zion have existed here for millennia, park staff are still identifying and researching new species, and continue to find innovative ways to educate visitors and facilitate a deeper understanding and appreciation for Zion's natural resources.



Search Alphabetically



Common name: Angel's trumpet Latin name: Datura wrightii Family name: Solanaceae (potato) Number of Petals: 5 Size: 12-40 inches (30-100 cm) tall Leaf Arrangement: Alternate Blooming Months: Apr-Oct

Physical Description: Annual or perennial. Leaves and stems with short hairs and foul odor. Giant, sweet smelling trumpet shaped flowers typically white and shriveling to purple, though often with tints of violet/pink/purple. Fruit is spiked, green at first then brownish and dry when mature. Seeds large and dark colored

General Info: Datura is as poisonous as it is pretty. It was used in ceremonial activities by the Native Americans due to narcotic properties in all parts of the plant. It has been known to cause permanent brain damage and death even in small quantities. The flowers are the largest of any native plant in Utah and attract many pollinators, making this an important plant for a healthy ecosystem.

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Screen captures of the free smartphone app Zion Park Wildflowers. NPS Photo

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