

## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Arenaria fendleri*

**Size:**

10 - 30 cm

**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Eremogone fendleri*

Erect to ascending perennial herb, stems clumped, with gland-tipped hairs above. Basal leaves 4 - 10 cm long, grass-like, pointed, pungent. Stem leaves opposite, 3 - 5 pairs, grass-like, reduced above. Flowers on stalks 10 - 15 mm long in open clusters of 2 to several at stem ends. Sepals 5, mostly distinct, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 4 - 6 mm long, with papery margins. Petals 5, oblong, 5 - 8 mm long, sometimes notched at the tip. Stamens 10. Pistil 1, styles 3. Fruit a capsule, 6-toothed, ellipsoid.

**Common Name:**

Fendler's sandwort

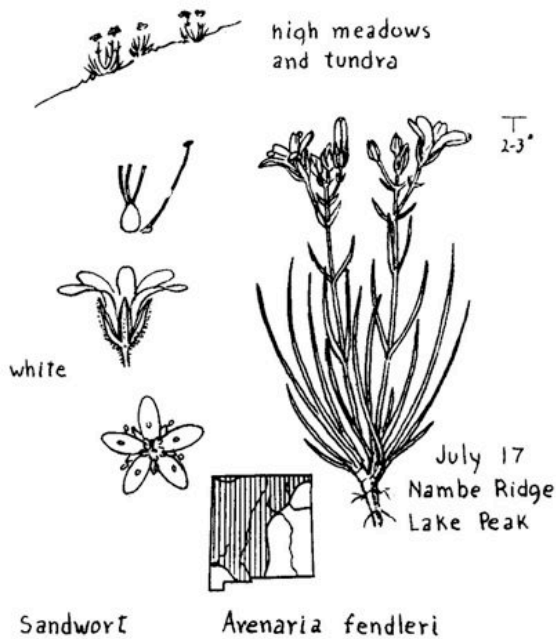
**Color:**

White

**Notes:**

Fendler's sandwort is distinctive with its sharp-pointed grass-like leaves and its white flowers with 5 petals and 10 stamens. This species is actually a group of at least 7 varieties. New Mexico has 3 of them. The suffix "wort" often engenders feelings that the plant is somehow ugly or unpleasant, but it is only an ancient word meaning "plant". Fendler's sandwort blooms from July into September between 7000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**  
*Arenaria macrophylla*

**Size:**  
5 - 20 cm

**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Moehringia macrophylla*.  
Ascending to erect (sometimes reclining) perennial herb, stems with downward pointing hairs. Leaves opposite, the pairs few, lanceolate to linear or elliptic, 2 - 7 cm long, 2 - 15 mm wide, mostly glabrous, sessile, without stipules. Flowers perfect, on stalks, 8 - 30 mm long, solitary or several at stem ends. Sepals 5, distinct, 3 - 6 mm long, tapered to a point, green-ribbed, with papery margins. Petals 5, distinct, equal to or longer than sepals. Stamens 10, somewhat protruding. Pistil 1, styles 3. Fruit a capsule shorter than the calyx.

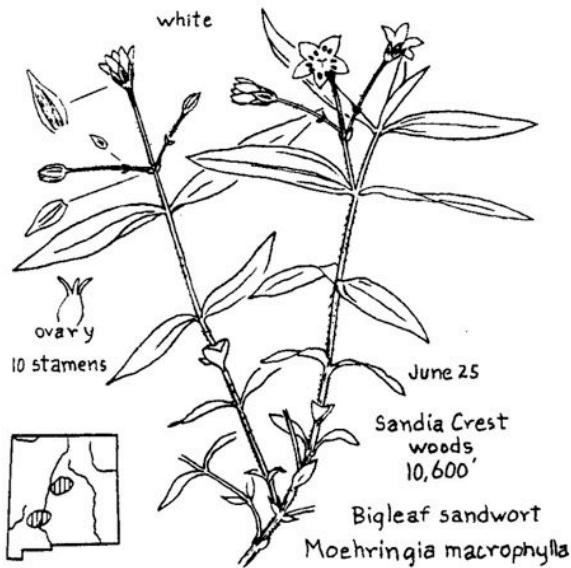
**Common Name:**  
Largeleaf sandwort

**Color:**  
White

**Notes:**

The genus name *Arenaria* comes from the Latin *arena*, "sand", the preferred soil for several species. The species name *macrophylla* comes from the Greek *macro*, "large" and *phylla*, "leaves". Sandworts commonly have very narrow, even needle-like leaves. The broad lance-shaped leaves of *A. macrophylla* are unusual in the genus. Largeleaf sandwort blooms from late May into August between 7000 and 9000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Cerastium nutans* var. *nutans*

**Size:**

10 - 40 cm

**Description:**

Reclining to erect annual herb, often branched from the base. Herbage with gland-tipped hairs. Leaves 1 – 5 cm long, 3 – 15 mm wide, oblanceolate to spatulate below, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate above. Flowers perfect, often upside down, on stalks 3 – 20 mm long, in open clusters near stem ends. Sepals 5, distinct, 3 – 6 mm long, lanceolate with papery margins. Sepals with gland-tipped hairs. Petals 5, exceeding the sepals, 2-cleft at the apex, sometimes absent. Stamens 10. Styles mostly 5. Fruit a cylindrical capsule 8 – 13 mm long, much exceeding sepals.

**Common Name:**

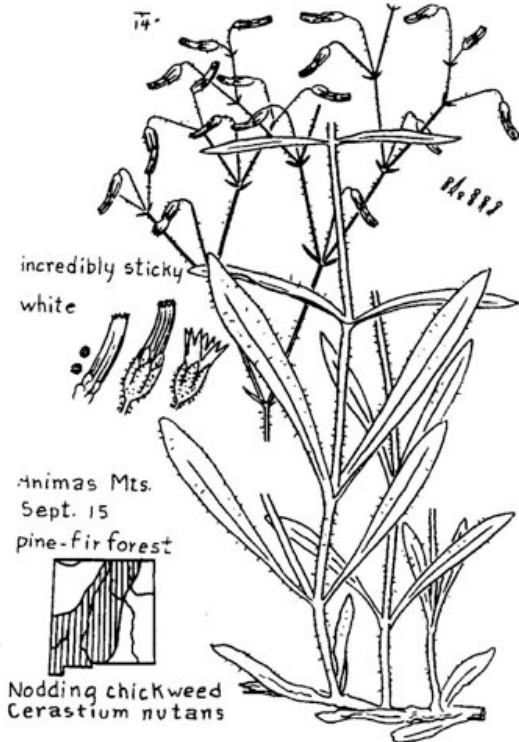
Nodding chickweed

**Color:**

White

**Notes:**

The genus name *Cerastium* comes from the Greek *ceras*, “horn” and the ending *-ium*, “little”. The fruits of some species are cylindrical, tapered, and curved resembling a little horn. The name *nutans* means “nodding”, the botanical word for upside down. The term chickweed apparently relates to the fact that chickens and other birds browse not only the seeds but the foliage of the plants. Nodding chickweed blooms from June into September between 7000 and 10000 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Pseudostellaria jamesiana*

**Common Name:**

Tuber starwort

**Size:**

20 - 50 cm

**Color:**

White

**Description:**

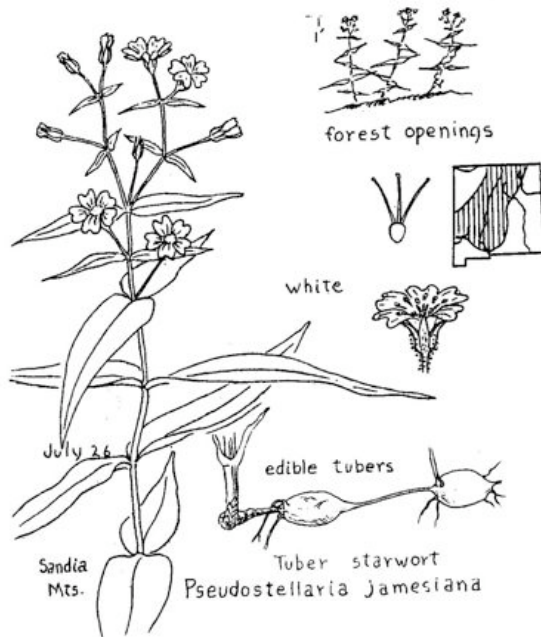
**Synonym:** *Stellaria jamesiana*.

Erect to ascending perennial herb, stems angled, much branched, with gland-tipped hairs above. Leaves opposite, sessile, lanceolate, 3 - 10 cm long. Flowers perfect, on stalks, solitary or few in open clusters from upper leaf axils. Sepals 5, distinct, oblong-lanceolate, 4 - 6 mm long, with papery margins. Petals 5, distinct, deeply 2-lobed, longer than sepals. Stamens 10. Pistil 1, styles 3. Fruit an ovoid capsule shorter than the calyx.

**Notes:**

Tuber starwort is a common part of the early summer flora in moist canyon bottoms all over the Manzanos. The plants have a strong root system forming thickets. The roots have tuberous thickenings which are actually edible. The name starwort uses the Old English combining form “-wort” meaning plant, thus “star plant” in reference to the deeply cleft star-shaped flowers. Tuber starwort blooms from May into July between 7000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Silene scouleri*

**Size:**

20 - 50 cm

**Description:**

Erect perennial herb, stems usually unbranched, with short hairs, becoming glandular upward. Leaves opposite, 2 - 5 pairs, 3 - 15 cm long, 4 - 15 mm wide, oblanceolate below, reduced and becoming linear to lanceolate above, with short soft hairs. Flowers in clusters of 2 - 8 from upper leaf axils, on stalks 5 - 30 mm long. Calyx cylindrical to bell-shaped, 10 - 18 mm long, 10-nerved, with 5 triangular lobes 2 - 4 mm long, glandular hairy. Petals 5, 10 - 20 mm long, deeply 2-lobed. Stamens 10. Pistil 1, styles 3. Fruit an ovoid capsule included in the calyx.

**Common Name:**

Scouler's catchfly

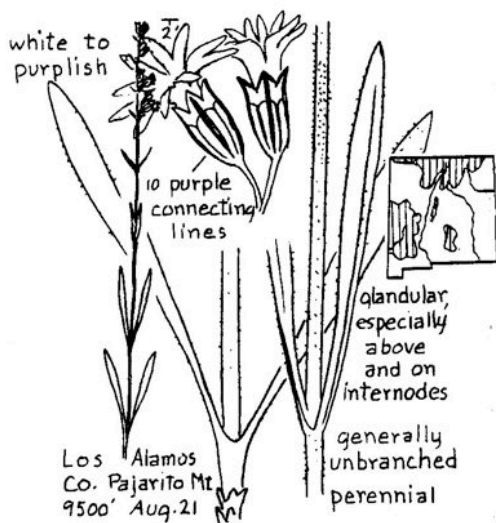
**Color:**

White to purplish

**Notes:**

Catchflies tend to be glandular, especially the flowers, often sticky-hairy, sticky enough to trap small insects, hence the term catchfly. The species name *scouleri* is for Dr. John Scouler (1804-1871), Scottish naturalist and physician, who accompanied David Douglas (see *Polygonum douglasii*) on a British expedition to the Columbia river in 1824-25. Scouler's catchfly blooms from July into October between 7000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



Scouler catchfly - *Silene scouleri*



## CARYOPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Stellaria longipes*

**Size:**

10 - 25 cm

**Description:**

Erect to reclining herb, stems many, 4-angled, mostly glabrous. Leaves opposite, lanceolate to linear, 5 - 25 mm long, 1 - 4 mm wide, pointed, smooth-edged, shiny, somewhat stiff, mostly glabrous. Flowers perfect, on stalks 1 - 3 cm long, solitary or in few-flowered clusters from upper leaf axils or at stem ends. Sepals 5, distinct, lanceolate, 3 - 5 mm long, with papery margins. Petals 5, 4 - 8 mm long, strongly 2-lobed. Stamens 10. Pistil 1, styles 3. Fruit a purplish capsule 4 - 6 mm long.

**Common Name:**

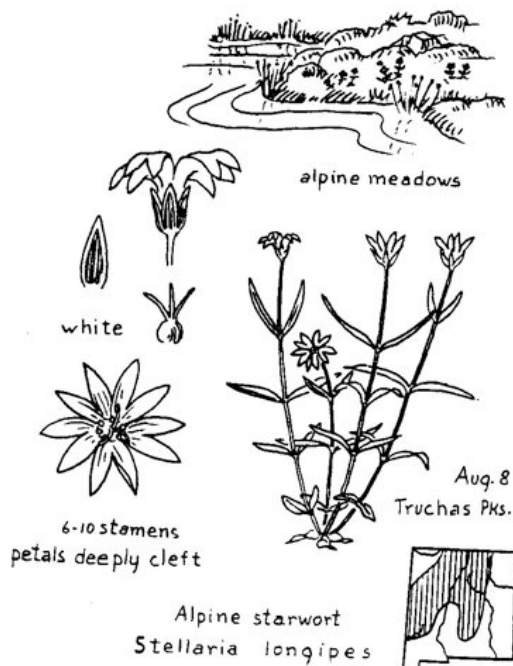
Alpine starwort, longstalk starwort

**Color:**

White

**Notes:**

Alpine starwort is occasional in the Manzanos, and is found mostly in the higher elevations. The plants have strong root systems which commonly send up many stems forming sometimes large clumps. Alpine starwort blooms from mid-May into July between 8000 and 10000 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CELASTRACEAE -- Staff Tree Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Paxistima myrsinites*

**Common Name:**

Mountain lover

**Size:**

30 - 80 cm

**Color:**

Maroon

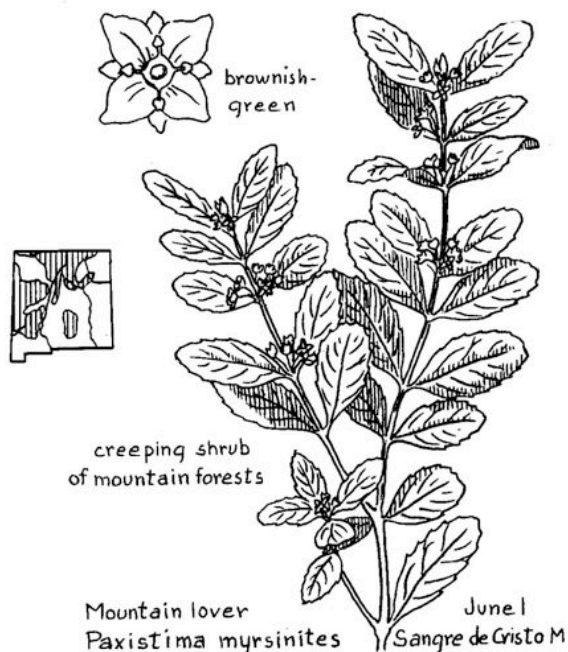
**Description:**

Low evergreen shrub. Leaves opposite, on petioles 1 - 2 mm long, glabrous, glossy, elliptic, oblong, ovate or obovate, 1 - 3 cm long, 5 - 15 mm wide, lightly toothed mostly above the middle. Flowers small, perfect, on short stalks, solitary or few from leaf axils. Sepals 4, ovate, green, persistent. Petals 4, distinct, ovate, 1 - 2 mm long, much longer than sepals. Stamens 4, between petals, filaments less than 1 mm long, anthers yellow. Pistil 1, style 1. Fruit a capsule 4 - 5 mm long.

**Notes:**

The genus *Paxistima* is found only in North America and contains only 2 species. *P. myrsinites* occurs in the mountains of the West. *P. canbyi* is restricted to the southern Appalachians. The species name *myrsinites* comes from the Greek, *myrsine*, "myrtle" and the suffix *-ites*, indicating a close connection. Mountain lover is an evergreen shrub with opposite leaves resembling the Mediterranean myrtle. Mountain lover blooms from late May into August between 7000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Ceratoides lanata*

**Common Name:**

Winterfat

**Size:**

20 - 50 cm

**Color:**

White

**Description:**

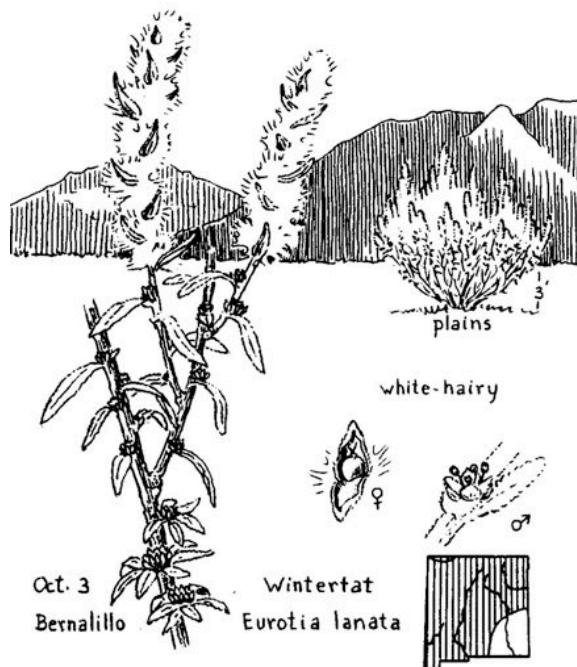
**Synonym:** *Eurotia lanata*

*Krascheninnikovia lanata*.

Low shrubby perennial, branches erect, densely covered with star-shaped hairs, mixed with long, soft unbranched hairs. Leaves alternate, with short petioles or sessile, smooth-edged, linear to linear-lanceolate, 15 - 50 mm long, densely covered with star-shaped hairs.. Flowers in dense clusters in upper leaf axils, unisexual or perfect. Unisexual flowers can occur with male flowers on different plants from females, or can occur on plants with bisexual flowers. Male flowers with 4-parted calyx, no petals, 4 stamens, without bracts. Female flowers without calyx or petals, subtended by 2 silky-hairy bracts, 5 - 8 mm long, united into a 2-lobed tube; styles 2, stigmas 2.

**Notes:**

The bright white, cottony branches of winterfat make it a very noticeable and distinctive fall plant in the plains approaching the Manzanos. It is even noticeable by moonlight. The name winterfat comes from its high forage value for grazing and browsing animals. It has a high protein content (up to 30 percent) and high palatability. On overgrazed range winterfat disappears, so its presence in any quantity is an indicator of better range condition. It blooms from July into October between 5000 and 7000 ft.



**New Mexico Native**





## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**  
*Chenopodium album*

**Size:**  
50 - 100 cm

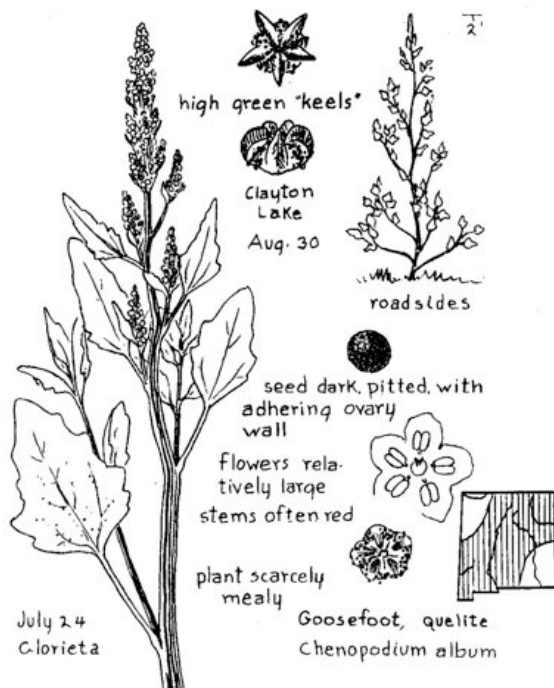
**Description:**  
Erect annual herb, stems branched, with a mealy, powdery coating, with reddish veins. Leaves alternate, rhombic-ovate to lanceolate, 10 - 50 mm long, less than half as wide, with wavy-toothed edges, upper surface waxy, lower surface mealy, powdery; petioles about half the blade length. Flowers inconspicuous, perfect, sessile, in dense clusters, these clusters in dense groups on stalks from upper leaf axils. Calyx segments 2 - 5, with strong longitudinal ridges, mealy, powdery, enclosing the fruit. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5. Styles usually absent. Seeds attached to surrounding shell.

**Common Name:**  
Goosefoot, Quelite

**Color:**  
Greenish-white

**Notes:**  
Natives of the High Andes have for generations cultivated a goosefoot relative, *Chenopodium quinoa*, for its white seeds from which a cereal is made. The seeds contain 15% protein and over 50% carbohydrate, making them more nutritious than corn. Several other members of this family are even more famous: beets (*Beta vulgaris*), spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), and Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris* ssp. *cicla*). Both the seeds and leaves of goosefoot are edible. It blooms from July through September between 4000 and 7500 ft.

### Introduced\*



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Chenopodium capitatum*

**Common Name:**

Strawberry blite

**Size:**

30 - 50 cm

**Color:**

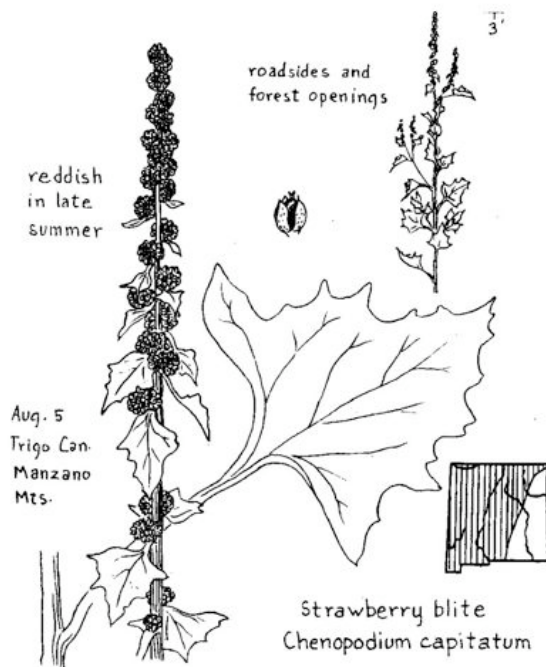
Yellow-green

**Description:**

Erect annual herb. Herbage glabrous. Stems simple or branched. Leaves alternate, triangular, 4 - 10 cm long, with wavy-toothed edges, bright green, often with longer, outward pointing lobes at the base; upper leaves shorter and narrower. Petioles about equal in length to leaf. Flowers perfect, inconspicuous, in dense clusters in upper leaf axils, the clusters sessile or on short stalks. Sepals 3 - 5, united at the base, fleshy, oblong. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5. Styles usually absent. Stigmas 2.

**Notes:**

The bright green, wavy-toothed, triangular leaves of strawberry blite are quite distinctive. Its dense yellow-green flower heads turn red towards the end of summer, very much resembling strawberries, and, though somewhat flavorless, are edible. The leaves are also edible. Strawberry blite blooms from mid-June through August between 7000 and 8500 ft.



**Introduced\***



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Chenopodium incanum*

**Common Name:**

Mealy goosefoot

**Size:**

15 -35 cm

**Color:**

Greenish-white

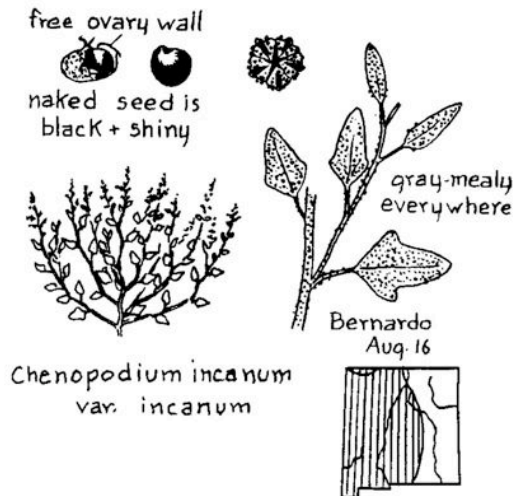
**Description:**

Erect annual herb, stems densely branched, with a dry, powdery surface. Leaves alternate, 8 - 20 mm long, rhombic to rhombic-circular, lobes protruding outward towards the base, the base rounded to wedge shaped, powdery-mealy on both surfaces; petioles about half as long as the blade. Flowers inconspicuous, perfect, sessile, in dense clusters, these clusters in groups at stem ends. Calyx 2 to 5 lobed, the segments keeled, powdery-mealy on the surface. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5. Styles usually absent. Seeds free from surrounding shell.

**Notes:**

This *Chenopodium* is well adapted to arid conditions. It is small in stature. Its leaves are thick and have a whitened, mealy surface to reflect sun and conserve moisture. Its species name *incanum* means "hoary". It occurs in the dry plains approaching the Manzanos, blooming from June through August between 3500 and 6500ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Chenopodium leptophyllum*

**Size:**

30 - 80 cm

**Description:**

Erect annual herb, stems branched or unbranched, almost glabrous to mealy, powdery. Leaves alternate, linear to oblong or linear-lanceolate, with short petioles; upper and lower leaf surfaces mealy, powdery, upper leaves sometimes almost glabrous; leaf edges smooth. Flowers inconspicuous, perfect, sessile, in dense clusters, these clusters in loose groups at stem ends. Calyx segments 2 - 5, united to the middle, mealy, powdery, with a longitudinal ridge. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5, styles usually absent. Seed horizontal, smooth, shiny.

**Common Name:**

Narrowleaf goosefoot

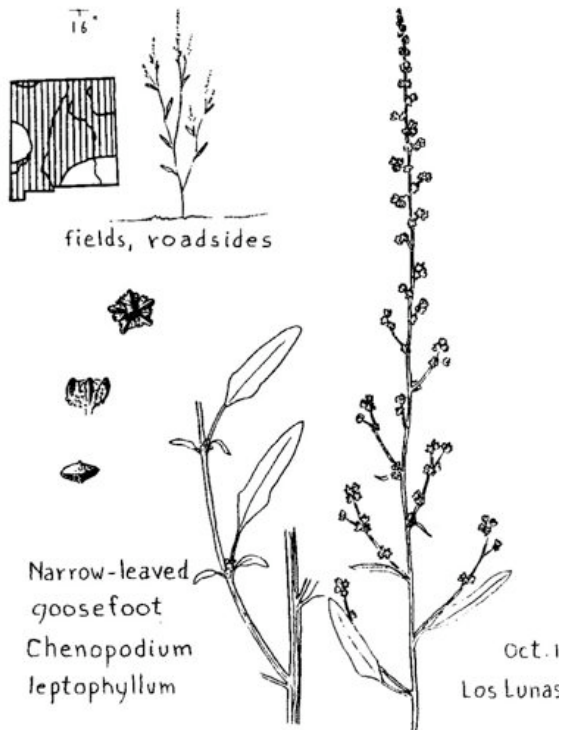
**Color:**

Greenish-white

**Notes:**

These slender, wispy plants have a very pale green color due to a powdery coating on most surfaces. Like most members of the genus *Chenopodium*, the flowers are minute, barely noticeable in tiny clumps at the ends of branches. Narrowleaf goosefoot blooms from July through September between 3500 and 7500 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Chenopodium simplex*

**Size:**

50 - 100 cm

**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Chenopodium gigantospermum*

Erect annual herb, stems bright green, much branched. Herbage glabrous. Leaves alternate, thin, bright green, triangular-ovate, pointed, 3 - 15 cm long, with a few pointed lobes; leaf blades about twice as long as petioles. Flowers inconspicuous, perfect, sessile, in dense clusters, these clusters in loose groups at ends of branches or in upper leaf axils. Calyx segments 2 - 5, rounded on the back, without a keel, powdery, mealy. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5. Styles usually absent. Seeds horizontal, shiny, black, with ridges.

**Common Name:**

Maple-leaf goosefoot

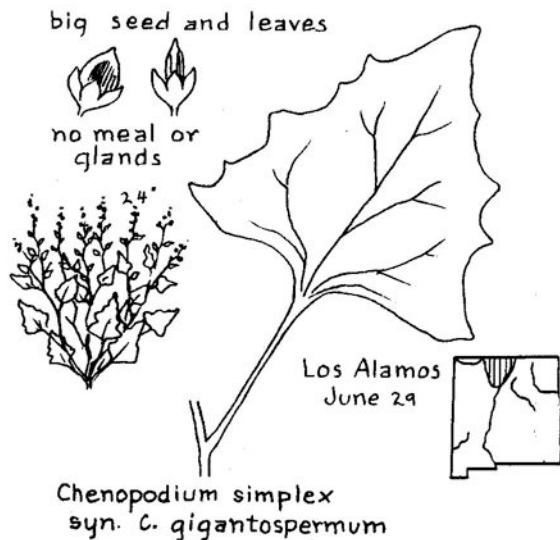
**Color:**

Greenish white

**Notes:**

The leaves of this goosefoot definitely resemble maple leaves. They are thin, bright green, lobed, and are noticeably veined. The flowers are the typical tiny, greenish white, *Chenopodium* clusters at the ends of branches. It is uncommon in the Manzanos. It blooms from July through September between 5000 and 8000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Kochia scoparia*

**Common Name:**

Summer cypress

**Size:**

50 - 100 cm

**Color:**

Yellowish

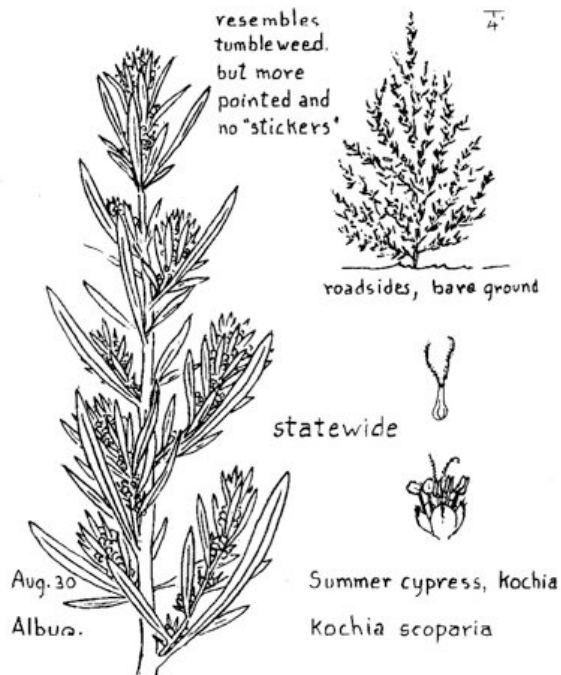
**Description:**

Erect annual herb, stems with ascending branches, with long, soft hairs. Leaves mostly alternate, linear to lanceolate, 1 - 4 cm long, 1 - 4 mm wide, margins hairy, lower surface glabrous or with long, soft hairs, upper surface often glabrous. Flowers in small clusters in axils of leaves, sessile, perfect. Calyx lobes 5, glabrous on the back, hairy on margins, with a horizontal ridge often tapering to a thin, flat margin. Petals absent. Stamens 5, opposite calyx lobes. Pistil 1, stigmas 2 or 3.

**Notes:**

The leaves of summer cypress turn red in the fall, making this weedy plant rather attractive. The plant was introduced from Eurasia for ornamental purposes. As is so often the case, it has escaped to become something of a pesky weed all over North America. Its pollen is a contributor to late summer hay fever. It blooms from late July through September between 4500 and 7500 ft.

**Introduced\***



## CHENOPODIACEAE -- Goosefoot Family



**Scientific Name:**  
*Teloxys graveolens*

**Common Name:**  
Fetid goosefoot

**Size:**  
10 - 30 cm

**Color:**  
Yellowish-green

**Description:**

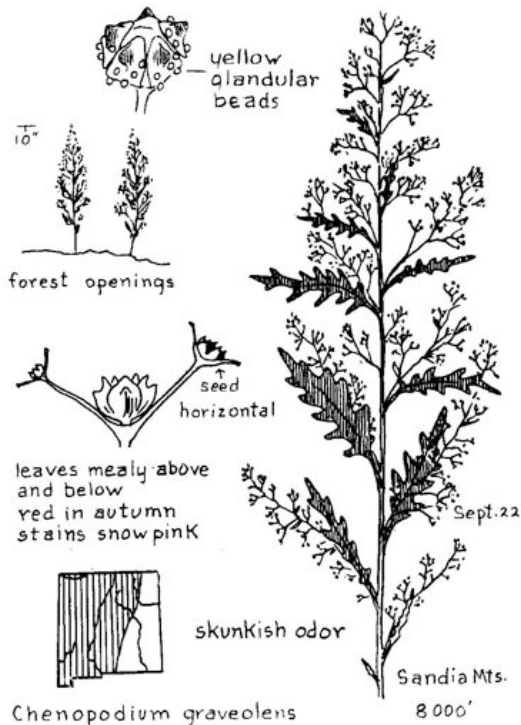
**Synonyms:** *Dysphania graveolens*  
*Chenopodium graveolens*

Erect annual herb, with a strong aroma, stems branched, almost glabrous or with a few short hairs. Leaves alternate, 20 - 60 mm long, deltoid-ovate to oblong, petioles shorter than blade, glabrous to lightly hairy on upper surface, yellow glandular below, the margins deeply, somewhat irregularly lobed. Flowers in loose clusters from leaf axils. Flowers small, inconspicuous, of two types, sessile perfect flowers or imperfect flowers on spiny stalks. Calyx segments 2 - 5, united at base, with yellow glands, with a horn-like appendage on the back. Petals absent. Stamens 2 - 5, styles usually absent. Seeds attached to surrounding shell.

**Notes:**

The species name *graveolens* from Latin means strong or foul-smelling. This goosefoot has a strong odor. The leaves resemble small oak leaves. The whole plant turns quite red in the fall and can even stain snow pink. It blooms from the end of July into September between 7000 and 9000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## CLUSIACEAE -- St. John's Wort Family

### Scientific Name:

*Hypericum formosum*

### Size:

20 - 70 cm

### Description:

**Synonym:** *Hypericum scouleri*.

Erect glabrous perennial herb, stems sometimes branched above. Herbage gland-dotted. Leaves opposite, sessile, without lobes or teeth, ovate to elliptic, 1 - 4 cm long, with black, glandular dots along the margins. Flowers perfect, on stalks, few to several in loose clusters near branch ends or from leaf axils. Sepals usually 5, ovate, 2 - 5 mm long, gland-dotted. Petals usually 5, distinct, 6 - 15 mm long, with black glandular dots. Stamens numerous often clustered with the filaments united below. Pistil 1, styles 3 - 5. Fruit a many-seeded capsule.

### Common Name:

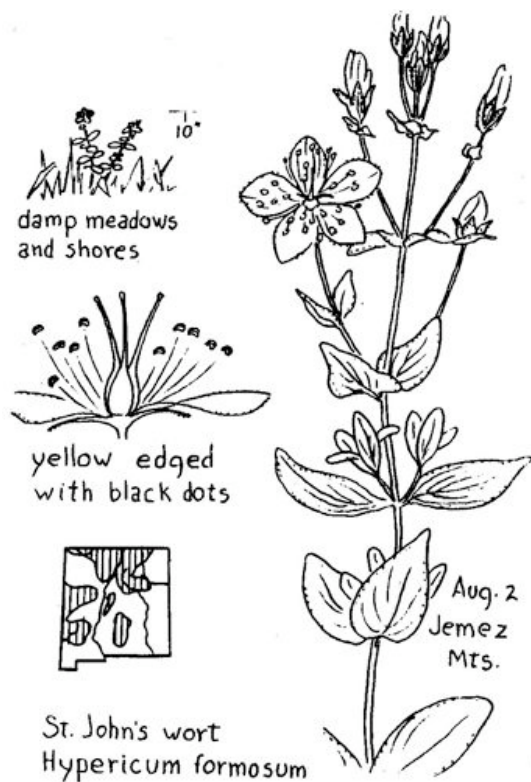
St. John's wort

### Color:

Yellow

### Notes:

St. John's wort starts blooming in late June, by legend on June 24, St. John the Baptist's day. The species name *formosum* is Latin, meaning "handsome" or "beautiful". This is a very apt designation. The flowers are very striking. The plants have long been associated with herbal medicine and are marketed today as an over-the-counter herbal supplement. St. John's wort blooms from late June through August between 7000 and 9000 ft.



### New Mexico Native





## COMMELINACEAE -- Spiderwort Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Commelina dianthifolia*

**Size:**

15 - 40 cm

**Description:**

Erect to reclining perennial herb, stems jointed, leafy. Leaves parallel veined, alternate, linear, smooth-edged, contracted at the base into a petiole wrapping the stem. Flowers on stalks in small clusters enclosed in a very large folded bract at the top of a stalk up to 5 cm long, the bract crescent-shaped, 3 - 6 cm long, with a long tapered point. Sepals 3, unequal, the 2 laterals partly united. Petals 3, unequal, 10 - 15 mm long, all blue, the 2 lateral larger than the third. Stamens 5, unequal, 2 or 3 fertile, the others small, sterile; all filaments naked.

**Common Name:**

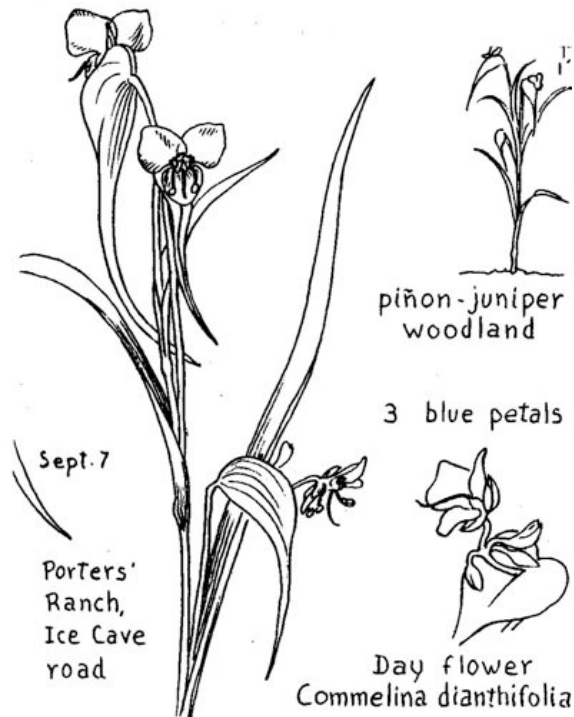
Dayflower

**Color:**

Blue

**Notes:**

In the genus *Commelina* the flowers have 3 petals, 2 equal and the third smaller. Carl Linnaeus named the genus for a Dutch family active in botany. Johan Commelin (1629 -1692) and his nephew Caspar Commelin (1667-1731) were represented by the 2 large petals. Caspar's son, who died young before entering botany, was represented by the smaller 3rd petal. The flower clusters are enclosed in a large, folded, modified leaf (spathe). Only one or two flowers come out at a time and last only a few hours before withering. Day flowers bloom in August and September between 6500 and 9000 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Convolvulus arvensis*

**Common Name:**

Field bindweed

**Size:**

Vine to 100 cm

**Color:**

Pink to white

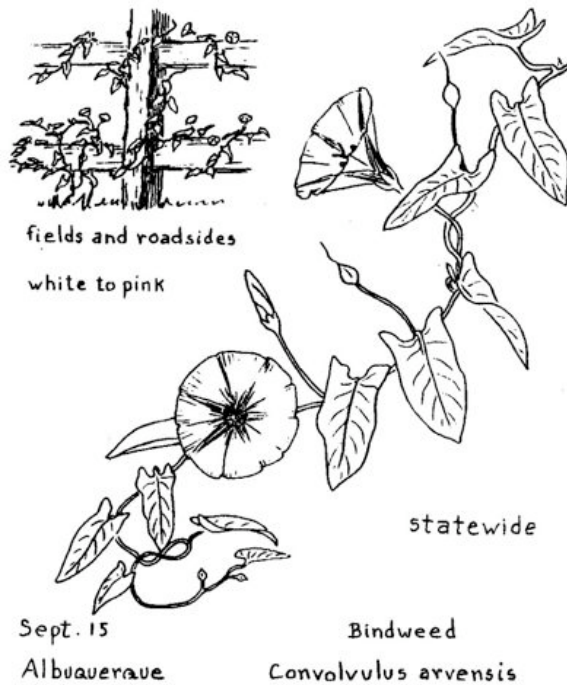
**Description:**

Perennial vine, stems trailing or climbing, branched. Herbage glabrous or with short, soft hairs. Leaves alternate, with slender petioles, elliptic to lanceolate or ovate, 15 - 40 mm long, 10 - 30 mm wide, with 2 pointed lobes at the base pointing outward or downward. Flowers perfect, on stalks about as long as leaves, solitary in leaf axils, with a pair of narrow bracts somewhat below calyx. Calyx 4 - 5 mm long, sepals 5, elliptic to obovate, with papery margins. Corolla funnel-shaped, 5-angled, pleated, 1 - 3 cm long, twisted in buds. Stamens 5, not protruding. Style 1, stigmas 2, linear, spreading.

**Notes:**

Field bindweed has very deep roots. Pulling the plants merely breaks the stems which quickly regenerate, making the plants very difficult to control. Bindweed is native to Europe and introduced to the United States, where it has become one of the nation's most ubiquitous weeds. It blooms from May through July between 4000 and 8000 ft.

**Introduced\***



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Convolvulus equitans*

**Common Name:**

Dagger bindweed

**Size:**

Vine

**Color:**

Pink or white

**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Convolvulus incanus*.

Perennial vine, stems trailing or clambering, with dense, short, soft hairs. Leaves alternate, with petioles 3 - 50 mm long, variable, ovate-elliptic, triangular-lanceolate, or narrowly oblong, 1 - 7 cm long, 2 - 40 mm wide, with outward pointing lobes at the base, these often lobed or toothed, densely hairy. Flowers perfect, on long stalks from leaf axils, mostly solitary. Calyx 6 - 12 mm long, with 2 small bracts somewhat below, sepals 5, oblong to ovate, with papery margins, densely hairy. Corolla funnel-shaped, 5-angled, pleated, 15 - 30 mm long, twisted in bud. Stamens 5, not protruding. Style 1, stigmas 2, linear.

**Notes:**

Almost everyone is familiar with bindweed, especially field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis* (see previous page), with its habit of tightly twining itself around virtually anything. Dagger bindweed is closely related, but it merely trails along the ground or grows up and over things and does not generally twine around things. It blooms from June into September between 3500 and 8000 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Evolvulus nuttallianus*

**Common Name:**

Hairy evolvulus

**Size:**

10 – 20 cm

**Color:**

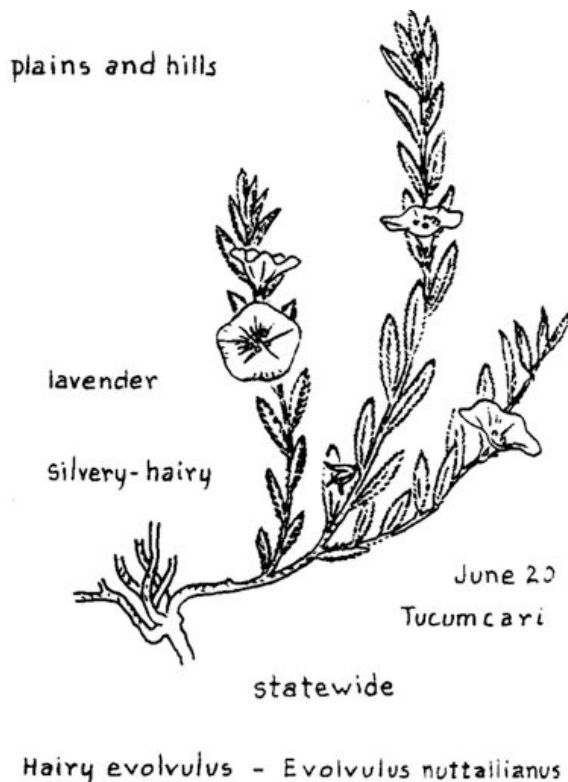
Lavender

**Description:**

Ascending to erect perennial herb, stems usually several, woody at the base. Herbage densely covered with long, soft hairs. Leaves alternate, linear-oblong to narrowly lanceolate or oblanceolate, 8 – 20 mm long, 1 – 8 mm wide, sessile or nearly so, with smooth edges. Flowers perfect, solitary, on stalks 3 – 4 mm long, from leaf axils. Sepals 5, lanceolate, pointed, 4 – 5 mm long. Corolla disk-shaped to shallowly funnel-shaped, 8 – 12 mm in diameter, 5-angled. Stamens 5, anthers 1 – 2 mm long. Pistil 1, styles 2, each 2 branched, stigmas linear.

**Notes:**

The genus name *Evolvulus* comes from the Latin verb *evolvere*, “to unroll”. Most members of the Morning Glory Family are climbing or clambering, vine-like plants. (See, for example, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Ipomoea purpurea*). Hairy evolvulus represents the “unrolled” side of the family with ascending to erect stems that do not twine. The flowers, although small and somewhat flattened, retain the “morning glory” character. Hairy evolvulus blooms from May through June between 4500 and 6500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Ipomoea costellata*

**Common Name:**

Crest-ribbed morning glory

**Size:**

Vine

**Color:**

Pink to purplish

**Description:**

Annual herb, stems erect to trailing. Herbage with some coarse, stiff hairs or glabrous. Leaves alternate, with petioles shorter than leaf blade, deeply palmately 5-to 9-cleft into linear lobes, the side lobes again deeply cleft, the midlobe less than 4 mm wide. Flowers perfect, on slender stalks exceeding the leaves, mostly solitary, in leaf axils. Calyx of 5 sepals, 3 - 7 mm long, oblong to lanceolate, mostly glabrous, margins papery, midribs often crested or warty. Corolla funnel-shaped, 5-angled, about 10 mm long and 10 mm in diameter. Stamens 5, not protruding. Style 1, stigma 1, headlike.

**Notes:**

This small-flowered morning glory is occasional in the Manzanos. It is very easy to overlook, its dissected leaves with very narrow segments, its flowers tiny, its stems trailing. The genus name *Ipomoea* comes from the Greek *ips*, meaning "worm", and *homoios*, "resembling", which certainly relate to the growth habit of the plant. It blooms from July into September between 3500 and 7500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Ipomoea cristulata*

**Common Name:**

Scarlet morning glory

**Size:**

Vine 1 – 2 m

**Color:**

Red

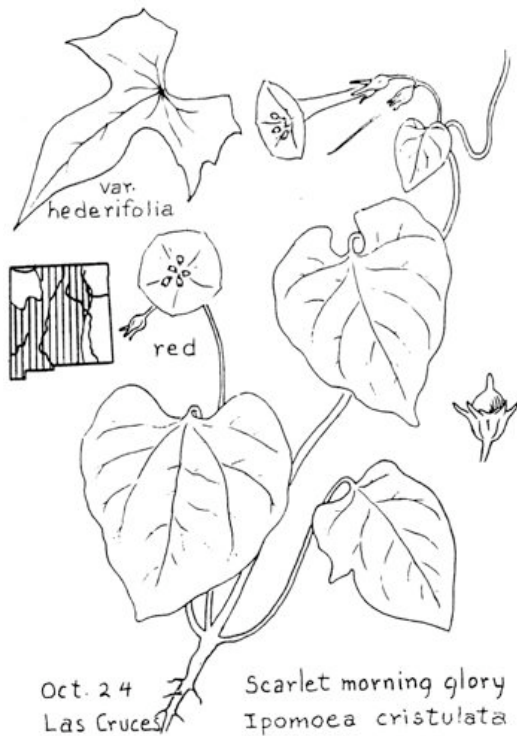
**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Ipomoea coccinea*

Twining annual herb, stems simple or branched. Herbage mostly glabrous. Leaves alternate, on stalks 1 – 20 cm long, ovate in outline, 2 – 10 cm long, 1 – 7 cm wide, smooth-edged or dissected into 3 – 5 lobes especially above. Flowers 1- few on stalks 5 – 15 mm long, in loose clusters from leaf axils. Sepals 5, unequal, the outer oblong, about 3 mm long and 2 mm wide, glabrous, tipped with a narrow awn 3 – 5 mm long, the inner oblong, 4 – 5 mm long, about 3 mm wide, tipped with an awn 2.5 – 3.5 mm long. Corolla trumpet-shaped, 2 – 3.5 cm long. Stamens 5, protruding. Fruit an almost round capsule with a point on top.

**Notes:**

The species name *cristulata* comes from the Latin *crista*, “crest” and the diminutive ending *-ula*, so *cristulata* means having a small crest. This is in reference to the small projections at the tips of the sepals and on the top of the fruit. Scarlet morning glory blooms from late July through September between 4000 and 6500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CONVOLVULACEAE -- Morning Glory Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Ipomoea purpurea*

**Size:**

Vine

**Description:**

Annual herb, stems twining. Herbage with short hairs lying flat and long, spreading hairs. Leaves alternate, with petioles, heart-shaped to 3-lobed or 5-lobed, 5 - 11 cm long, tapering to a point at the apex. Flowers perfect, on long stalks from leaf axils bearing 1 - 5 flowers. Calyx of 5 lanceolate to oblong sepals, 12 - 16 mm long, hairy, pointed, overlapping. Corolla funnel-shaped, somewhat 5-angled, 2 - 5 cm long, showy. Stamens 5, not protruding, of several different lengths. Style 1, stigmas 3, headlike.

**Common Name:**

Wild morning glory

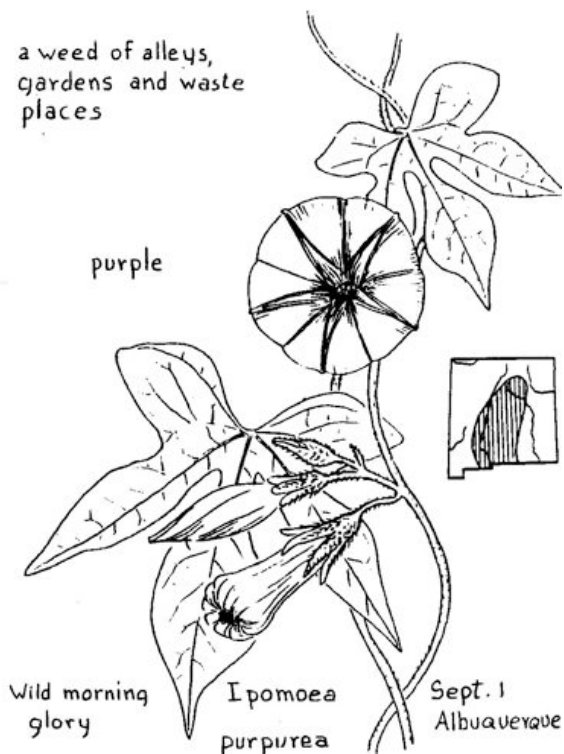
**Color:**

Purple with white center

**Notes:**

This morning glory is very common. It can be seen growing on fences and in meadows in the foothills. It is not native to New Mexico, probably arriving from Mexico. There are several similar member of the genus which are popular in metropolitan gardens. Perhaps the most significant morning glory is the sweet potato, *Ipomoea batatas*. Wild morning glory blooms from July through September between 4000 and 7500 ft.

**Introduced\***



## CRASSULACEAE -- Stonecrop Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Sedum cockerellii*

**Size:**

10 - 20 cm

**Description:**

Glabrous, succulent, perennial herb, stems erect, leafy. Leaves alternate, sessile, linear to narrowly oblanceolate or obovate, 5 - 20 mm long, flattened, with smooth edges, rounded at the tip. Flowers in dense, branched clusters at stem ends. Sepals usually 5, lanceolate, 4 - 5 mm long, united at the base. Petals 5, distinct, lanceolate, longer than sepals. Stamens 10, filaments white, anther red turning black. Pistils usually 5, pink; styles 5, distinct.

**Common Name:**

Cockerell's stonecrop

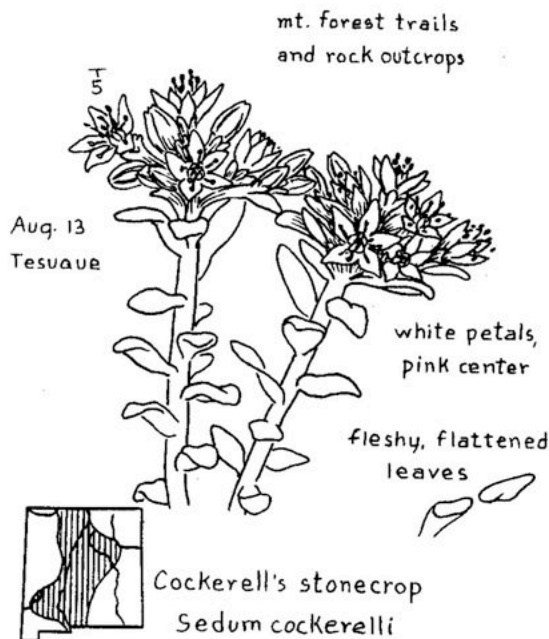
**Color:**

White with pink center

**Notes:**

Stonecrops are succulents with thick, fleshy leaves, adapted for water conservation. They can close breathing pores during the day to prevent water loss. Their habit of growing on cliff faces and narrow rock cracks gives rise to their common name. This species is named for T.D.A. Cockerell, a British-born naturalist who worked at New Mexico Agricultural College (NMSU) from 1893-1900, New Mexico Normal University (New Mexico Highlands University) from 1900 - 1903, then moving to the University of Colorado. Cockerell's stonecrop blooms from July into September between 7000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**





## CUCURBITACEAE -- Gourd Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Cucurbita foetidissima*

**Common Name:**

Buffalo gourd

**Size:**

Vine

**Color:**

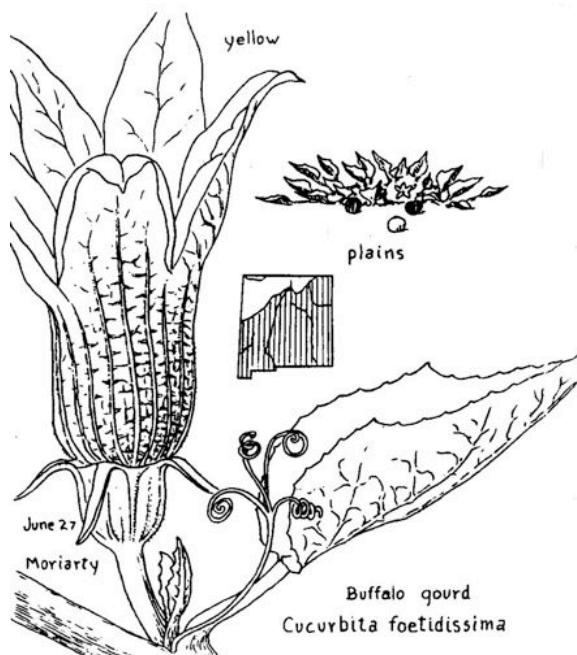
Yellow

**Description:**

Perennial herb, stems trailing on the ground, with tendrils. Herbage with harsh hairs lying flat. Plants odoriferous. Leaves alternate, triangular-ovate, 8 - 25 cm long, longer than wide, pointed, smooth-edged or with angled lobes. Flowers solitary, few, large in leaf axils, unisexual, corolla ribbed, hairy, 6 - 15 cm long. Male and female flowers completely separate but on same plant. Cup holding male flower bell-shaped or tubular, stamens 3 with distinct filaments. Cup holding female flower almost spherical, with 3 sterile stamens. Fruit spherical 5 - 10 cm in diameter, striped or mottled.

**Notes:**

The large vines and giant yellow flowers of the buffalo gourd are a common sight in most of New Mexico. It is often wondered how such a large broad-leaved plant can thrive in the desert. These gourds are perennials whose massive roots can, in some specimens, weigh a few hundred pounds. Their sweetish unpleasant odor is very noticeable when just walking by a clump of them. Buffalo gourds are inedible, even poisonous, unlike the fruits of related melons, pumpkins, squashes and cucumbers. They bloom from June into September between 4000 and 7500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## CUCURBITACEAE -- Gourd Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Sicyos ampelophyllus*

**Size:**

Vine up to 3 m

**Description:**

Annual herb. Stems slender, climbing by means of branched tendrils. Leaves alternate, on petioles, in outline nearly round to somewhat kidney shaped, 10 – 14 cm in diameter, shallowly lobed and somewhat toothed, the basal cleft round and nearly closed. Male and female flowers housed separately on same plant, generally both in the same axils. Pistillate (female) flowers about 2 mm wide, calyx tube fused to the top of the bristly ovary, 5-lobed, corolla tubular, 5-lobed, fused to the calyx, stigmas 3. Staminate (male) flowers about 4 mm wide, calyx 5-lobed, corolla tubular, 5-lobed, stamens 2 – 5, filaments fused. Fruit often 5 – 10 in a group, ovoid to ellipsoid, 5 – 7 mm long, with straight bristles.

**Common Name:**

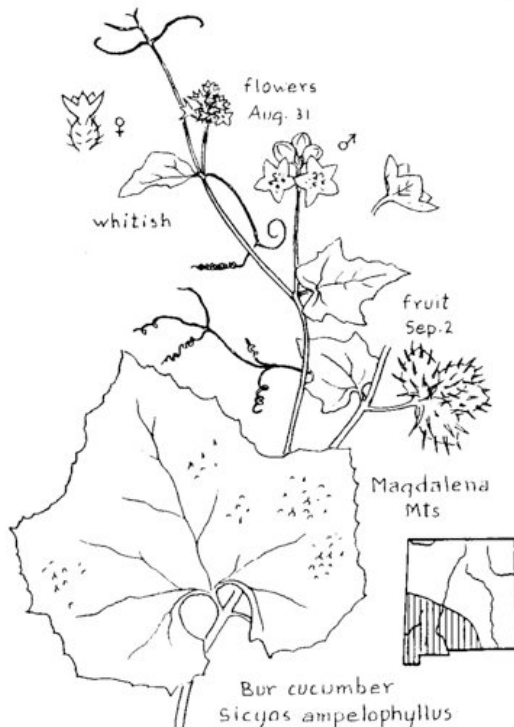
Bur cucumber

**Color:**

Cream

**Notes:**

The genus name *Sicyos* comes from the Greek, meaning “gourd”. The species name *ampelophyllus* comes from the Greek *ampelos*, “climbing plant” and *phyllon*, “leaf”. New Mexico has 3 species of bur cucumber. Their range is usually restricted to the southwest quadrant of the state, but occasionally a stray infiltrates the southern end of the Manzanos. Bur cucumber will usually be found vining in cholla cactus, barberry bushes, and similar desert shrubs. It blooms from the end of July through September between 4000 and 6500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## ERICACEAE -- Heath Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Monotropa hypopithys*

**Common Name:**

Pinesap

**Size:**

10 - 20 cm

**Color:**

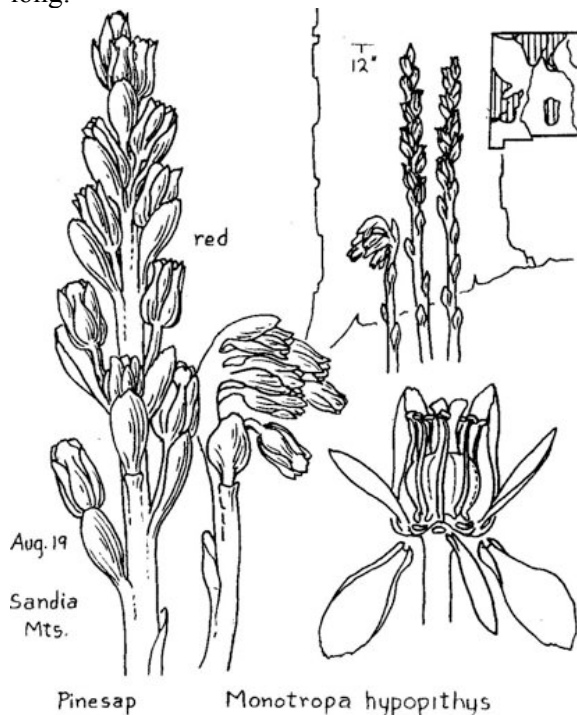
Reddish to yellow-brown

**Description:**

Saprophytic or parasitic perennial non-green herb, stems red, one to several, somewhat fleshy, unbranched, glabrous or with short, soft hairs. Leaves alternate, scalelike, partially wrapped around stems, about 1 cm long, upper leaves larger, subtending flowers. Flowers perfect, solitary or in a loose cluster on upper stem, on short stalks, lower flowers drooping, upper flowers more erect. Calyx of distinct strap-shaped sepals, 6 - 12 mm long, 4 in lower flowers, 5 in terminal flower. Petals distinct, 6 - 15 mm long, equal in number to sepals. Stamens 8 or 10, with slender filaments, these softly hairy. Style 1 - 5 mm long. Stigma head-like. Fruit a membranous capsule, erect, 5 - 8 mm long.

**Notes:**

It is difficult to view these rather delicate, bright red plants as parasites or saprophytes, but they lack chlorophyll and derive food from fungi or decaying leaf litter. The plants turn black upon drying. The species name *hypopithys* translates from Greek to mean "under pines", descriptive of the forest floor habitat of pinesap. It blooms from late June through August between 7000 and 9500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## ERICACEAE -- Heath Family



**Scientific Name:**  
*Pterospora andromedea*

**Common Name:**  
Pinedrops

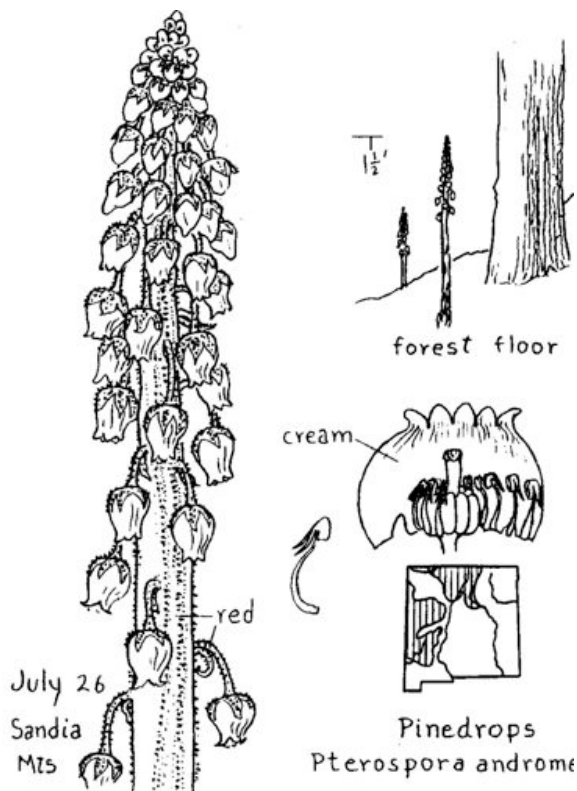
**Size:**  
20 - 50 cm

**Color:**  
Whitish to reddish-pink

**Description:**  
Saprophytic perennial non-green herb, stems erect, unbranched, reddish to purplish-brown. Leaves only on lower stem, alternate, scalelike, colored like stem. Flowers numerous, upside down, 5 - 8 mm long on backward curving stalks 5 - 15 mm long, in a loose, linear cluster along upper stem. Calyx deeply 5-lobed, glandular. Corolla tubular, urn shaped, with 5 short lobes. Flowers perfect. Stamens 10, filaments flattened, tapered, glabrous. Style short, thick. Stigma head-like. Fruit a somewhat flattened round capsule 8 - 12 mm across, with 5 lobes.

**Notes:**  
Pinedrops are quite common in the Manzanos. The plants are without chlorophyll, deriving their nutrients from decaying material on the forest floor. Their stems are fleshy, but become fibrous late in the season, drying and persisting for months. Pinedrops flower from late June into August between 7000 and 9000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## EUPHORBIACEAE -- Euphorbia Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Chamaesyce serpyllifolia*

**Common Name:**

Thyme-leaved spurge

**Size:**

10 - 20 cm

**Color:**

Whitish

**Description:**

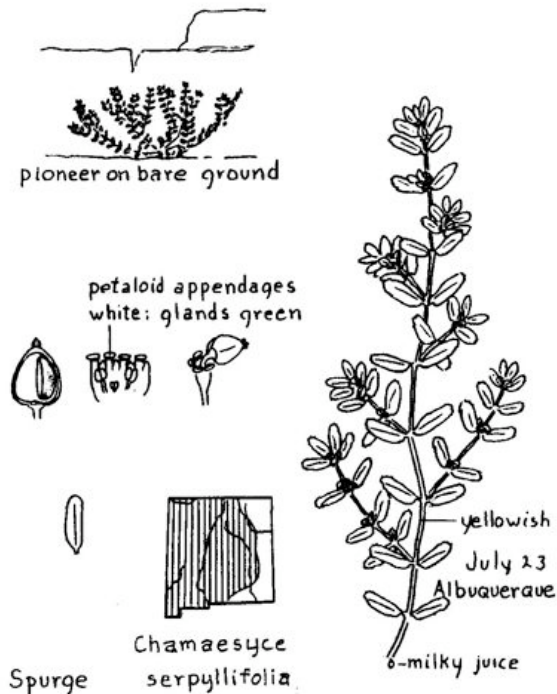
**Synonym:** *Euphorbia serpyllifolia*

Reclining glabrous annual herb, stems much branched. Leaves opposite, oblong to obovate, 3 – 12 mm long, 2 – 4 mm wide, rounded at the tip, often with asymmetric edges and bases, margins faintly toothed at least near apex. Stipules distinct, narrow, up to 2 mm long. Flowers solitary at leaf nodes or upper forks. Flowers small, unisexual, with staminate flowers separated from the pistillate, but housed together in a cup-like involucre (cyathium) rimmed by 4 greenish glands with whitish petaloid appendages. Inside the cyathium, a single pistil is surrounded by 5 – 12 staminate flowers, each with one stamen and no petals or sepals.

**Notes:**

The genus name *Chamaesyce* comes from the Greek combining form *chamae-*, “on the ground” and *syce*, “fig tree”. This is most likely in reference to the fruits of the plants that develop a stalk and grow much larger than the flowers. Members of the Euphorbia family have been used medicinally for centuries. The word spurge is derived from the Old French *expurgier*, “to purge”. Thyme-leaved spurge blooms from mid-May into September between 4000 and 7500 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## EUPHORBIACEAE -- Euphorbia Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Euphorbia brachycera*

**Size:**

20 - 30 cm

**Description:**

Erect glabrous perennial herb with milky juice. Leaves simple, alternate, linear to oblong, 10 - 25 mm long, without divisions or serrations. Leaves near flowers ovate to deltoid, opposite, to whorled. Flowers borne terminally in umbels with three branches, each of which is generally further branched. Flowers small, unisexual, with staminate flowers separated from pistillate flowers, but housed together in a glandular cup-like involucre, with a central single pistillate flower surrounded by several separate staminate flowers, each with one stamen.

**Common Name:**

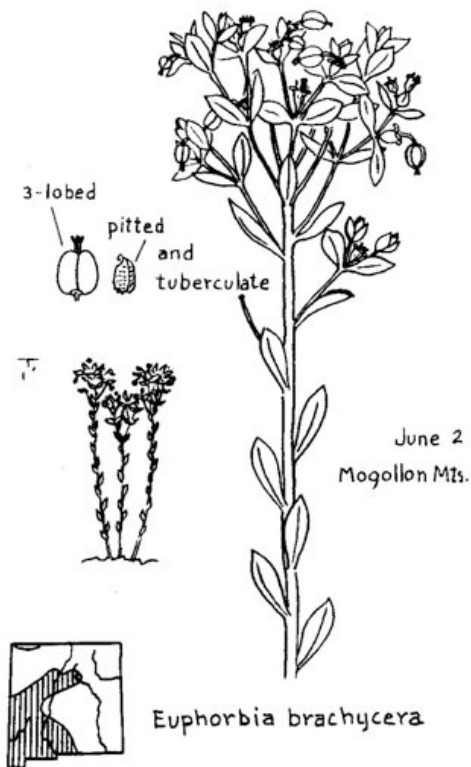
Horned spurge

**Color:**

Yellowish green

**Notes:**

The milky juice of one *Euphorbia*, the rubber tree, has obvious commercial importance. Members of this family have been used for medicinal purposes for centuries. The poinsettia is a famous *Euphorbia*. This family also contains very irritating and poisonous members. Ricin, contained in the castor bean plant (*Ricinus communis*), is one of the deadliest toxins known to man. *E. brachycera* blooms from June until September between 4500 and 7500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## EUPHORBIACEAE -- Euphorbia Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Euphorbia davidii*

**Size:**  
20 - 30 cm

**Description:**

**Synonym:** *Euphorbia dentata*.

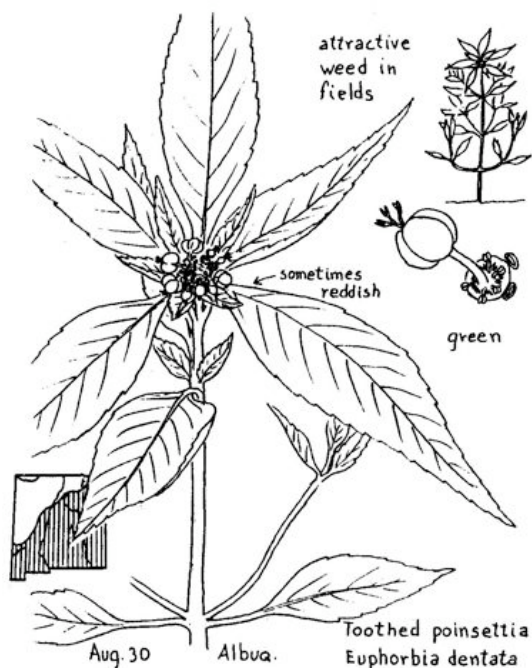
Erect, usually branched, annual herb from a taproot. Contains milky juice. Herbage with short, stiff hairs. Leaves mostly opposite, ovate to lanceolate or broadly linear, coarsely toothed, with petioles. Flowers in congested clusters at stem and branch ends. Flowers nearly sessile, small, unisexual, with staminate flowers separated from pistillate flowers, but housed together in a glandular cup-like involucre with five dentate lobes containing a single pistillate flower surrounded by several separate staminate flowers, each with one stamen.

**Common Name:**  
Toothed poinsettia

**Color:**  
Greenish white

**Notes:**

Poinsettias may well be the most famous of Euphorbias. Although not nearly so colorful, the toothed poinsettia resembles its more famous cousin, the Christmas poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. The Christmas poinsettia was first introduced into the US by Joel Poinsett (1779 - 1851) of North Carolina. Poinsett served as the first American Minister to Mexico in 1822 - 23, from where he returned with the famous plant. Toothed poinsettia blooms from July into September between 4000 and 7500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**



## EUPHORBIACEAE -- Euphorbia Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Tragia ramosa*

**Common Name:**

Noseburn

**Size:**

10 - 40 cm

**Color:**

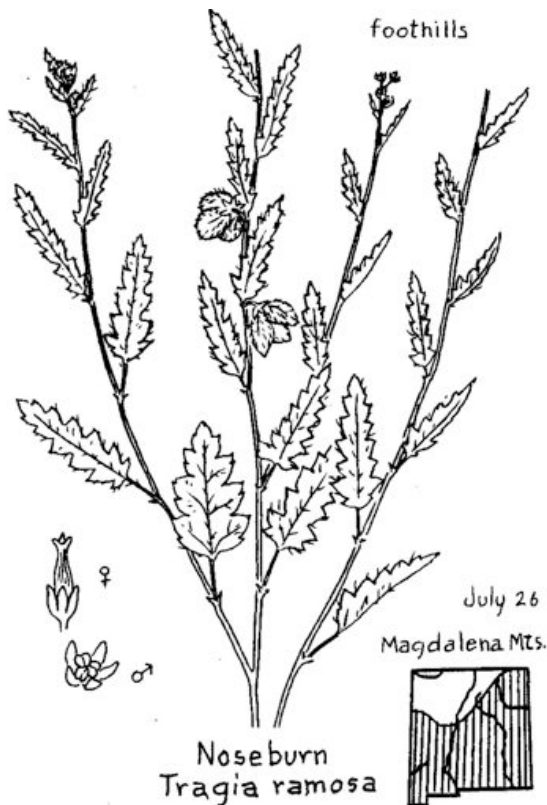
Yellowish

**Description:**

Perennial herb, stems erect to reclining. Herbage with stiff stinging hairs. Leaves alternate, lanceolate, 10 - 40 mm long, toothed along the edges, with short petioles. Flowers minute, unisexual with staminate flowers separate from pistillate flowers. Staminate flowers in groups of 2 - 4 (up to 6), with 3 - 5 sepals, lanceolate, curving backwards. Stamens 4 - 5. Pistillate flowers with 3 - 8 smaller sepals. Capsules on a short pedicel, 3-lobed, 5 - 6 mm in diameter, hairy.

**Notes:**

Noseburn is fairly named. Its stinging hairs can be a mild irritant to sensitive skin areas. Male and female flowers occur in separate places on the same plant. The extremely small flowers produce a remarkably large seed capsule. Noseburn blooms from May through August between 5000 and 7500 ft.



**New Mexico Native**





## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### **Scientific Name:**

*Amorpha canescens*

### **Size:**

40 - 100 cm

### **Description:**

Mostly erect shrub, stems 1 to several, branched. Herbage densely white-hairy. Leaves almost sessile, alternate, odd-pinnate, with 15 - 51 leaflets, elliptic to lanceolate, green above, white-hairy below. Flowers almost sessile, in dense clusters at branch ends. Calyx tubular, 5-toothed, hairy. Petals reduced to 1, wrapped around stamens and style. Stamens 10, united at base, free above. Pods 3 - 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, white-hairy, gland dotted, with a style about 1 mm long.

### **Common Name:**

Leadplant

### **Color:**

Light blue

### **Notes:**

*Amorpha* is a North American genus of 15 species. *Amorpha* translates from Greek as "without form" in reference to the fact the flowers, which have only one petal, do not have the normal form. *A. canescens* was once thought to show the presence of lead, hence its common name. It is a highly palatable forage plant. It blooms from June into August between 4500 and 7000 ft.



### **New Mexico Native**



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Astragalus amphioxys*

### Size:

5 - 10 cm

### Description:

Reclining perennial herb, stems clustered, short. Herbage silvery with a dense covering of T-shaped hairs. Leaves with petioles, alternate, 2 - 12 cm long, odd-pinnate, with 9 - 21 elliptic to oblanceolate leaflets, 3 - 20 mm long, 1 - 9 mm wide. Stipules 2 - 12 mm long, tending to sheath stem. Main flowering stalks 2 - 15 cm long, bearing 2 - 13 flowers, each on a short individual stalk. Calyx tubular, 6 - 14 mm long, 5-toothed, hairy. Petals 5, dissimilar. Top petal broad, 11 - 28 mm long, somewhat bent backward, with a white eye. Lateral petals 10 - 25 mm long. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel 8 - 23 mm long, between laterals. Pods hairy, crescent-shaped, 2 - 4 cm long, narrowed and flattened at both ends, lying on the ground.

### Common Name:

Crescent milkvetch

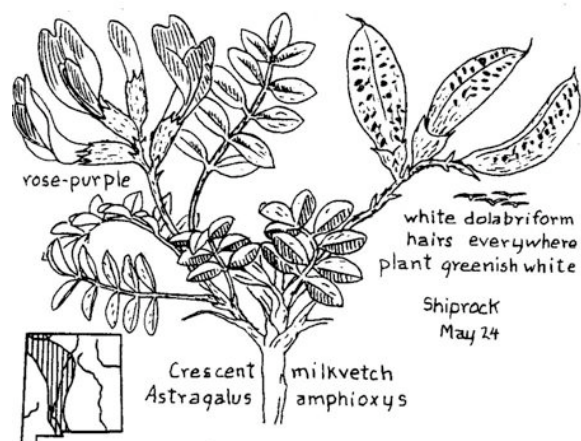
### Color:

Light purple

### Notes:

Crescent milkvetch is uncommon around the Manzanos. Occasionally, when significant spring rains occur during strong El Niño events, large stands appear in the plains approaching the eastern slopes of the Manzanos. The species name *amphioxys* translates from Greek as "pointed at both ends", in reference to the crescent-shaped pods. Crescent milkvetch blooms in April and May between 2000 and 6500 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

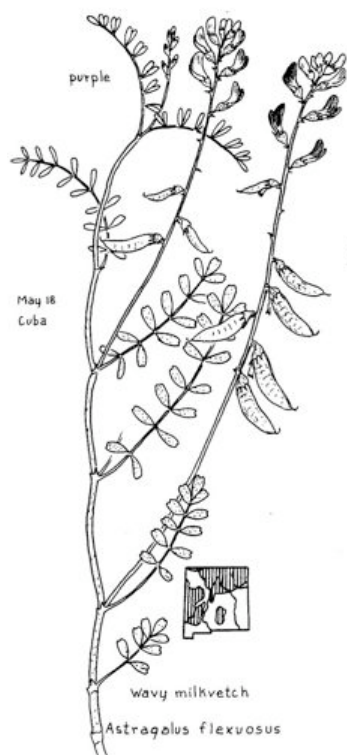
*Astragalus flexuosus*

### Size:

10 - 60 cm

### Description:

Ascending to reclining perennial herb, stems several, somewhat sinuous or zigzag. Herbage often grayish or whitish with simple hairs lying flat. Stipules 1 - 7 mm long, often wrapping stem. Leaves alternate, odd-pinnate, with 9 - 25 linear to oblong or oblanceolate leaflets, 3 - 18 mm long, often flat or notched at apex, almost glabrous above. Main flowering stalks 2 - 14 cm long, with 8-28 flowers, each on a short individual stalk. Calyx bell-shaped, 3 - 6 mm long, toothed. Top petal, 7 - 11 mm long, bent backward. Lateral petals similar in length. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel 4 - 8 mm long, between laterals. Pods hairy, oblong to elliptic, 10 - 24 mm long, 3 - 5 mm wide, somewhat compressed, hanging down or spreading.



### Common Name:

Pliant milkvetch

### Color:

Purple

### Notes:

The stems of pliant milkvetch are long and kinked at each leaf joint. They tend to clamber over rocks and branches. The pairs of small leaflets are spaced apart giving the plant a delicate appearance. *Astragalus* is the single largest genus in the state, with 72 species and a total of 106 varieties. Pliant milkvetch blooms from May through August between 4000 and 9000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Astragalus humistratus* var. *humistratus*

### Size:

10 - 60 cm

### Description:

Reclining perennial herb, stems several. Herbage with a covering of T-shaped hairs. Leaves alternate, 1 - 7 cm long, odd-pinnate, with 11 - 17 elliptic to oblong leaflets 2 - 17 mm long. Stipules 2 - 9 mm long, wrapping the stem. Main flower stalks curving upward, 2 - 9 cm long, with 3 - 20 flowers, each on a short individual stalk. Calyx 3 - 8 mm long, bell-shaped, toothed. Top petal 6 - 12 mm long, bent backward. Two lateral petals about equal to top. Bottom 2 petals fused into a triangular tipped keel 5 - 8 mm long, between laterals. Pods hairy, ascending or spreading, asymmetrically ovoid or oblong-ellipsoid, 6 - 14 mm long, 3 - 5.5 mm wide, curved.

### Common Name:

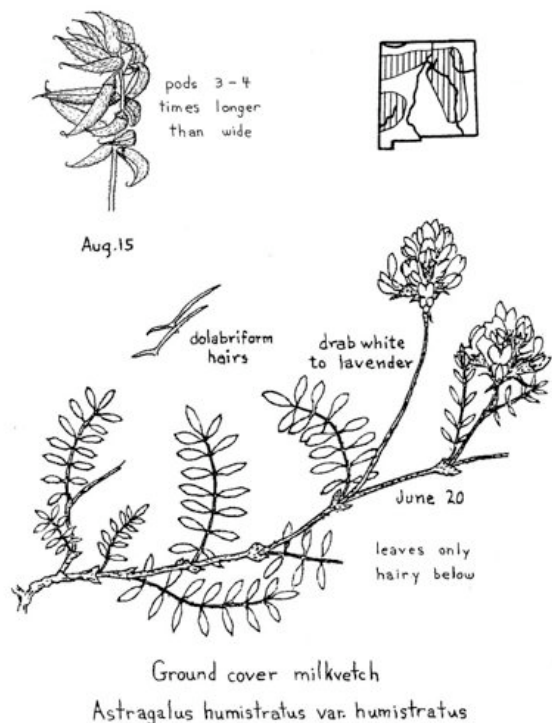
Groundcover milkvetch

### Color:

Yellowish white with purple streaks

### Notes:

The species name *humistratus* translates from Latin as "layer on the ground". Certainly this milkvetch keeps a very low profile. Its stems can be well over a foot long, but the plant rarely projects more than 4 inches above ground. Its dense yellowish white flower clusters and dense clusters of green, pointed, curved pods are distinctive. Groundcover milkvetch blooms from June into September between 4500 and 8500 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Astragalus mollissimus* var. *mollissimus*

### Size:

10 - 30 cm

### Description:

Perennial herb, stems clustered in mounds, outer reclining, inner erect. Leaves and stems densely woolly with simple hairs. Leaves alternate, 6 - 26 cm long, odd-pinnate with 15 - 31 ovate to almost round leaflets 2 - 15 mm long. Stipules 5 - 15 mm long, free, bases wrapping stems. Main flower stalks erect, 4 - 20 cm long, with 7 - 44 flowers, elongating in fruit. Calyx hairy, cylindrical, 11 - 15 mm long, 3 - 5 mm wide, toothed. Top petal 18 - 23 mm long, spatulate. Two lateral petals about equal to top. Two bottom petals fused into a keel 15 - 20 mm long between laterals. Pods glabrous, lanceolate, ovoid or crescent-shaped, 11 - 23 mm long.

### Common Name:

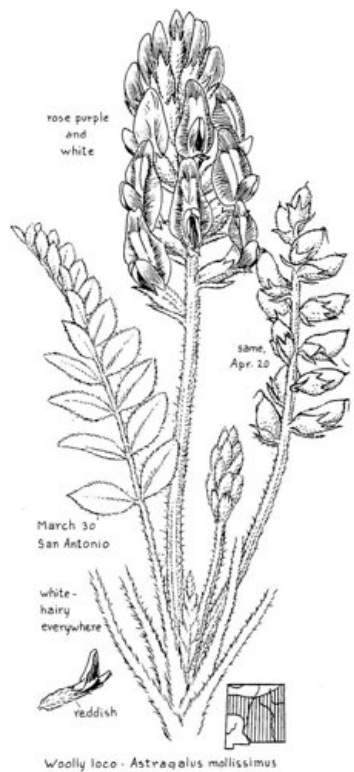
Woolly locoweed

### Color:

Rose purple with white

### Notes:

Several species of *Astragalus* in New Mexico contain chemicals toxic to animals, the alkaloid swainsonine, nitro-compounds, or selenium. Woolly locoweed contains swainsonine which has toxic effects on neurological, cardiovascular and reproductive systems. There is no effective treatment for locoweed poisoning. Woolly locoweed blooms from April into June between 4000 and 7500 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### **Scientific Name:**

*Astragalus nuttallianus*

### **Size:**

2 - 30 cm

### **Description:**

Annual herb, stems reclining to ascending. Herbage gray with simple hairs lying flat or green and almost glabrous. Leaves alternate, 1 - 8 cm long, odd-pinnate with 7 - 19 obovate to elliptic or oblong leaflets 2 - 14 mm long, 1 - 6 mm wide. Stipules 1 - 5 mm long, distinct. Main flower stalks 2 - 8 cm long from leaf axils, with 1 - 7 flowers. Calyx bell-shaped, 2 - 3 mm long, with teeth 1 - 2 mm long. Top petal 4 - 7.5 mm long, bent backwards, with a strong white eye. Two lateral petals 4.5 - 6.5 mm long. Two bottom petals fused into a keel 4 - 6 mm long between laterals. Pods 12 - 25 mm long, narrowly oblong, curved.

### **Common Name:**

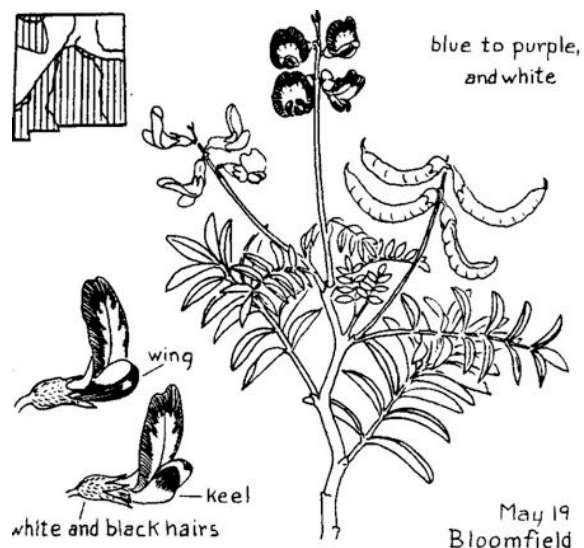
Small-flowered milkvetch, Nuttall loco

### **Color:**

Purple or blue with white

### **Notes:**

The flowers of this milkvetch are small, less than 1 cm long. Also, the number of flowers per stalk is small, generally less than 7. The top petal is bent backwards and has a distinct white "eye". The species name *nuttallianus* honors Thomas Nuttall (1786-1859), the first major botanical explorer of the American west between 1810 and 1835. Small-flowered milkvetch blooms from March through May between 4000 and 8000 ft.



Nuttall loco - *Astragalus nuttallianus*

### **New Mexico Native**



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

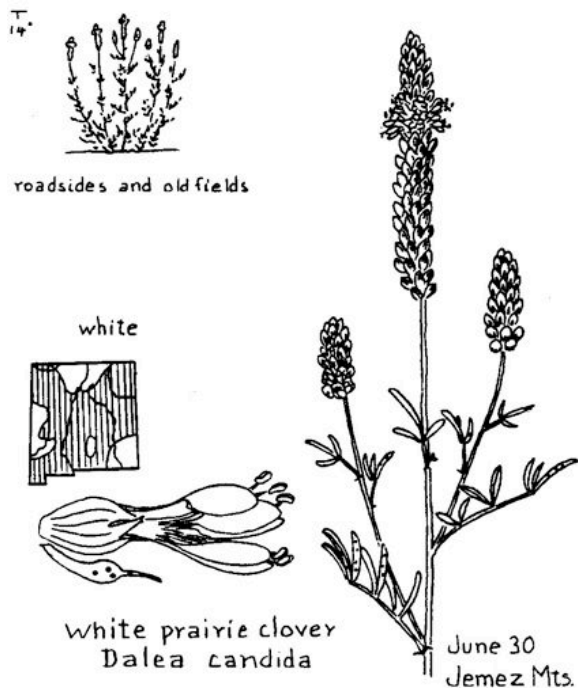
*Dalea candida*

### Size:

40 - 80 cm

### Description:

Erect perennial herb with aromatic foliage, stems 1 to several, simple or branched. Herbage below flowers glabrous, but with gland dots. Leaves alternate, 1.5 - 6 cm long, odd-pinnate with 5 - 7 obovate to oblanceolate leaflets 5 - 30 mm long. Stipules narrow, 1.5 - 5 mm long. Flowers in extremely dense, narrow, cylindrical clusters 1.5 - 6 cm long at branch tips. Calyx tube 2 - 3 mm long, gland-dotted, glabrous or slightly hairy, 10-ribbed, tipped with 5 teeth. Top petal 4 - 5.5 mm long, heart-shaped, with a long narrowed base. Two lateral petals oblong 3 - 5 mm long with a narrowed base. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between laterals. Pods obovoid 3 - 4 mm long, glandular.



### Common Name:

White prairie clover

### Color:

White

### Notes:

The long, cylindrical flower clusters of prairie clover bloom from the bottom up. A ring of flowers near the bottom blooms and sets seeds. Gradually the active flowering region progresses upward. The genus *Dalea* is named for the British physician Samuel Dale (1659-1739). White prairie clover is common in the foothills of the Manzanos. It blooms from June into September between 4500 and 8000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Dalea formosa*

### Size:

15 - 80 cm

### Description:

Perennial shrub, stems much branched, glabrous; young twigs gland-dotted. Leaves alternate, 3 - 11 mm long, glabrous, gland-dotted, odd-pinnate with 3 - 13 oblanceolate leaflets 2 - 3 mm long, somewhat folded. Flowers 2 - 9, in headlike clusters at branch ends. Calyx tube 3 - 4 mm long with very long soft hairs, topped with 5 plumose, threadlike teeth 4 - 9 mm long. Top petal yellow at first, then red violet, 7 - 9 mm long narrowing to the base. Lateral 2 petals 8 - 10 mm long with a narrow base. Two bottom petals fused into a keel 9 - 11 mm long. Pods about 3 mm long, with long, soft hairs and gland-dotted.

### Common Name:

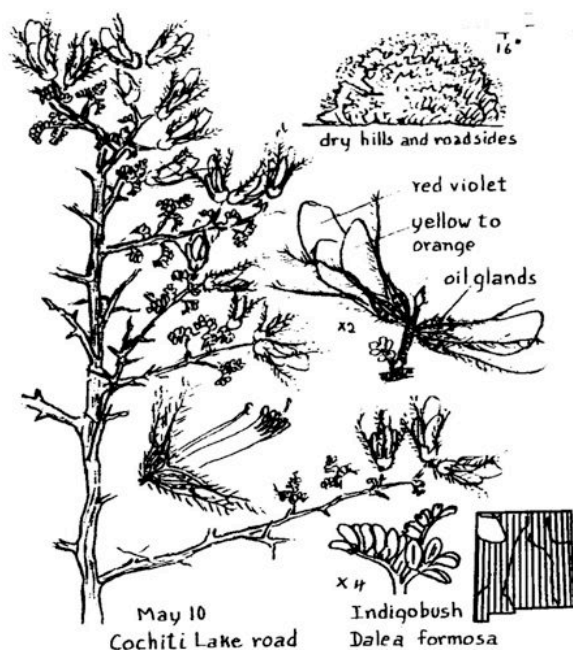
Indigobush, feather plume

### Color:

Red violet with yellow

### Notes:

The tube supporting the flowers of indigobush is capped with 5 very long, slender teeth which are lined on both sides with delicate bristles giving the clusters a very feathery character. Indigobush is also commonly called feather plume, feather peabush, or feather dalea. This plant serves as a host for a parasite *Pilostyles thurberi* (*Rafflesiaceae*) whose tiny flowers erupt through the surface of the branches in early summer. Indigobush blooms from late April into July between 4000 and 7000 ft.



### New Mexico Native





## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Dalea jamesii*

### Size:

5 - 15 cm

### Description:

Ascending to erect perennial herb, stems woody at base. Herbage densely silky-hairy. Leaves alternate, on ascending petioles, composed of 3 obovate to oblanceolate leaflets 8 - 15 mm long, 2 - 5 mm wide all originating from the same point at tip of petiole. Leaves hairy on both sides, without gland dots. Stipules free, bristle-like, to 5 mm long. Flowers perfect, sessile, in a dense cluster 2 - 6 cm long at stem end. Calyx 8 - 10 mm long, the 5 lobes bristle-like, much longer than tube, densely long-hairy. Subtending bracts purplish, bristle-like, feathery, as long as calyx. Petals 5, top petal bent back, tapered to a point. Lateral 2 pointing forward. Lower 2 longest, folded together into a keel between laterals.

### Common Name:

James' dalea

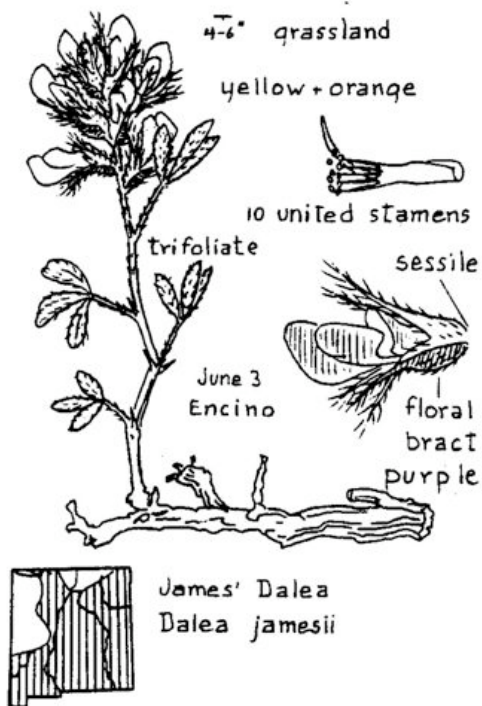
### Color:

Yellow

### Notes:

James' dalea is a small, easily overlooked plant. Almost all parts are densely hairy. The flower cluster is congested with the bristly, feathery bracts and lobes of the flowers' supporting structures. Fortunately, the remarkable blossoms protrude. The concave and sharply pointed top petal is extremely unusual. The two lower petals are folded about each other (and the stamens) forming a long hollow keel. James' dalea blooms from late April into June between 5000 and 7000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### *Scientific Name:*

*Dalea purpurea*

### *Size:*

20 - 90 cm

### *Description:*

Erect perennial herb, stems 1 to several, marked with parallel lines, with long, soft hairs or glabrous. Herbage gland-dotted. Leaves alternate, 2 - 5 cm long, glabrous or with long, soft hairs, odd-pinnate with 3 - 7 linear leaflets, 8 - 20 mm long, often folded. Flowers small, in extremely dense, narrow, cylindrical clusters 1 - 6 cm long at branch tips. Calyx bell-shaped, 3 - 4 mm long, with long hairs, toothed, subtended by long pointed bracts 3 - 6 mm long. Top petal 4.5 - 7 mm long with a long narrowing base. Two lateral petals 3 - 5 mm long. Two bottom petals fused into a keel 3 - 5 mm long between laterals. Pods obovoid, about 3 mm long.

### *Common Name:*

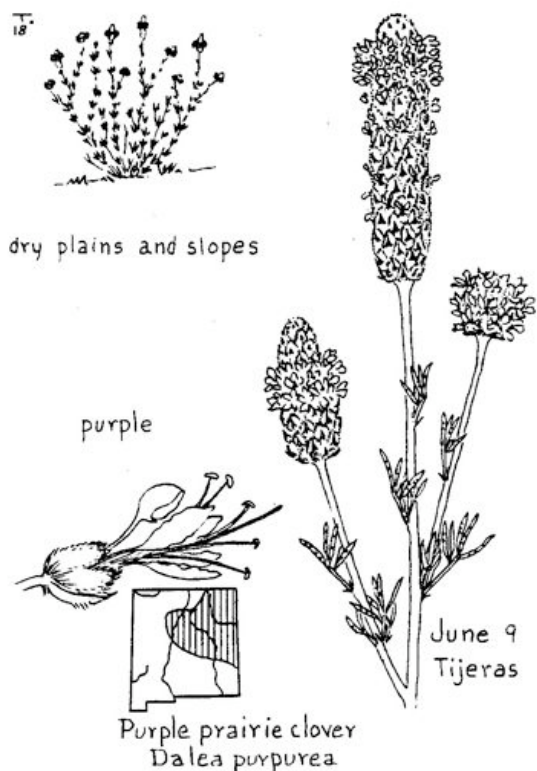
Purple prairie clover

### *Color:*

Purple

### *Notes:*

The foliage of purple prairie clover, like other plants in the genus *Dalea*, is covered with tiny glandular dots. When crushed or bruised, the foliage is aromatic. Purple prairie clover is readily grazed by a variety of animals. It blooms from July into September between 4000 and 7000 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*

**Size:**  
30 - 100 cm

**Description:**

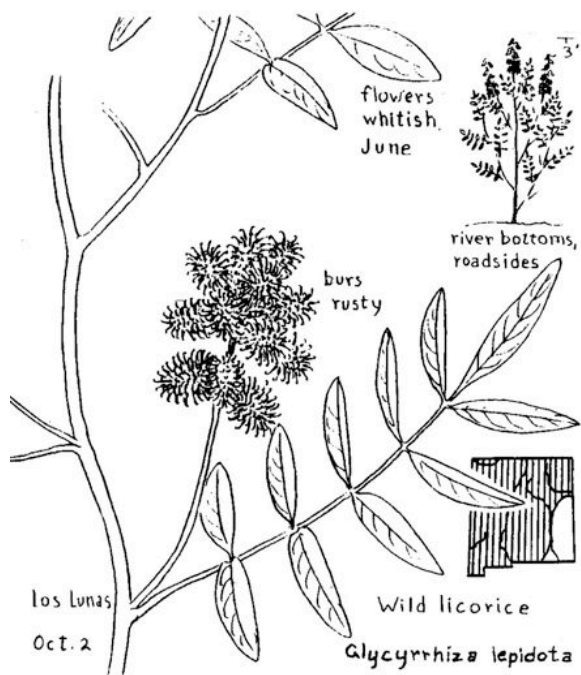
Aromatic perennial herb, stems 1 to several, erect, glabrous or lightly hairy, gland-dotted. Leaves alternate, 8 - 18 cm long, odd-pinnate with 9 - 19 lanceolate to oblong leaflets, glabrous above, gland-dotted below. Flowers in dense clusters on stalks 3-8 cm long from upper leaf axils. Calyx with stalked glands, tube 2 - 3 mm long with 5 unequal teeth 2 - 4 mm long. Top petal lanceolate 11 - 15 mm long, bent backward. Two lateral petals 8 - 12 mm long. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel 8 - 12 mm long between laterals. Pods reddish brown, oblong 1 - 2 cm long, 5 - 7 mm wide, covered with hooked prickles.

**Common Name:**  
Wild licorice

**Color:**  
White

**Notes:**

The genus name *Glycyrrhiza* translates from Greek as "sweet root". In fact, the stout roots of wild licorice are sweet and highly sought after by herbalists. *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, a close cousin of *G. lepidota*, is commercial licorice, highly used by the pharmaceutical, candy, and tobacco industries. Wild licorice blooms from June through August between 3500 and 7500 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### **Scientific Name:**

*Lathyrus eucosmus*

### **Size:**

15 - 40 cm

### **Description:**

Clambering or climbing perennial herb. Leaves alternate, 3 - 10 cm long, abruptly even-pinnate with 6 - 10 narrowly elliptic leathery leaflets. Leaf central axes terminated by simple or branched tendrils. Flowers in loose clusters of 2 - 5 on a stalk 3 - 12 cm long. Calyx bell-shaped, 9 - 12 mm long, 10 veined, with 5 teeth 2 - 5 mm long. Top petal 22 - 29 mm long, broadly obovate, bent strongly backwards. Two lateral petals pale, shorter than the top. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals. Pods 3 - 4.5 cm long, 7 - 10 mm wide, with a very narrow neck 4 - 6 mm long.

### **Common Name:**

Wild sweetpea, seemly vetchling

### **Color:**

Purple

### **Notes:**

The genus *Lathyrus* (sweetpea) contains about 150 species. Several are popular in ornamental gardens. New Mexico has 8 species of wild sweetpea. Certainly the most beautiful sweetpea in the Manzanos is *L. eucosmus*. Groups of this sweetpea with its large deep rose-purple blossoms and delicate leaves can be spectacular. It blooms from May into September between 5000 and 7000 ft.



### **New Mexico Native**



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### **Scientific Name:**

*Lathyrus lanszwertii*

### **Size:**

20 - 60 cm

### **Description:**

Clambering to erect perennial herb, glabrous or with long, soft hairs. Leaves alternate, 5 - 14 cm long, even-pinnate with 4 - 12 elliptic, oval or lanceolate leaflets 1 - 6 cm long, 3 - 18 mm wide. Leaf central axes terminated by simple or branched tendrils. Flowers in loose clusters of 2 - 5 on a stalk 2 - 10 cm long, each flower on an individual stalk 2 - 6 mm long. Calyx glabrous or lightly hairy, bell-shaped, 6 - 9 mm long, 10 nerved, with 5 unequal teeth. Top petal 10 - 15 mm long, bent backwards. Two lateral petals slightly shorter. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals. Pods 3 - 6 cm long, 3 - 7 mm wide.

### **Common Name:**

Aspen peavine, white peavine

### **Color:**

White with pink veins

### **Notes:**

This species is highly variable. It ranges from central Washington to central New Mexico. Although the plants seem to have geographical differences, there are many intermediates. Some botanists feel that the species is rapidly evolving and has not stabilized sufficiently to establish varieties or subspecies. It blooms from June into September between 7000 and 10000 ft.



### **New Mexico Native**



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Lotus wrightii*

### Size:

20 - 50 cm

### Description:

Perennial herb, stems erect to ascending, branched. Herbage with silky hairs lying flat. Leaves on short stalks with 3 - 5 leaflets originating from the same point. Leaflets 2 - 22 mm long, 1 - 5 mm wide, narrowly obovate to linear-oblongate. Flowers mostly solitary, in upper leaf axils, sessile or with very short stalks. Calyx bell-shaped, 6 - 9 mm long, with 5 almost equal lanceolate teeth. Petals open yellow, fading to red. Top petal 11 - 16 mm long. Two lateral petals slightly shorter. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals. Pods straight, oblong, 25 - 35 mm long, 2 - 2.5 mm wide, hairy.

### Common Name:

Red and yellow pea, deervetch

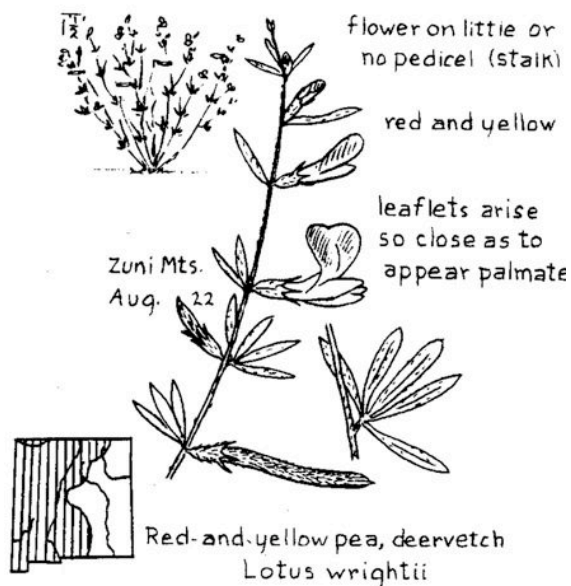
### Color:

Red and yellow

### Notes:

Red and yellow peas are common in the foothills of the Manzanos and provide browse for local deer. *Lotus wrightii* is another species named for Charles Wright (1811-1885) noted collector of plants of the Southwest. New Mexico has 56 plants bearing his name (see *Eriogonum wrightii*, *Gutierrezia wrightii*, *Solidago wrightii*, *Thelypodium wrightii*, for example), making his by far the most honored name in the state. Red and yellow peas bloom from June through September between 6000 and 9000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Lupinus kingii*

### Size:

10 -25 cm

### Description:

Annual herb from a taproot, stems usually branched. Herbage with fine, silvery hairs 1 – 3 mm long. Leaves alternate, generally not basal, on petioles 1 – 3 cm long, with 4 – 7 leaflets originating from the same point. Leaflets oblanceolate, 7 – 20 mm long, 2 – 6 mm wide, flat or folded. Flowers in clusters of 3 – 12, on stalks 1 – 8 cm long, each flower on an individual stalk 1 – 2 mm long. Calyx 5 – 7 mm long, unequally 2-lipped, with fine, long hairs. Top petal almost round 5 – 8 mm long, with a white eyespot. Two lateral petals longer than top, convex, united at tip. Bottom 2 petals fused into a curved keel encapsulated by laterals. Pods ovate, 9 – 13 mm long, with long hairs.

### Common Name:

King's lupine

### Color:

Purple and white

### Notes:

The genus name *Lupinus* comes from the Latin *lupus*, "wolf". The wolf was considered a thief and the ancients thought the plants robbed the soil. However, since they are legumes, they actually enrich the soil with nitrogen. The lupines are a difficult genus to treat taxonomically since the plants can self-pollinate and seem to lack barriers to interbreeding. King's lupine blooms from early June into September between 6000 and 8000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Medicago lupulina*

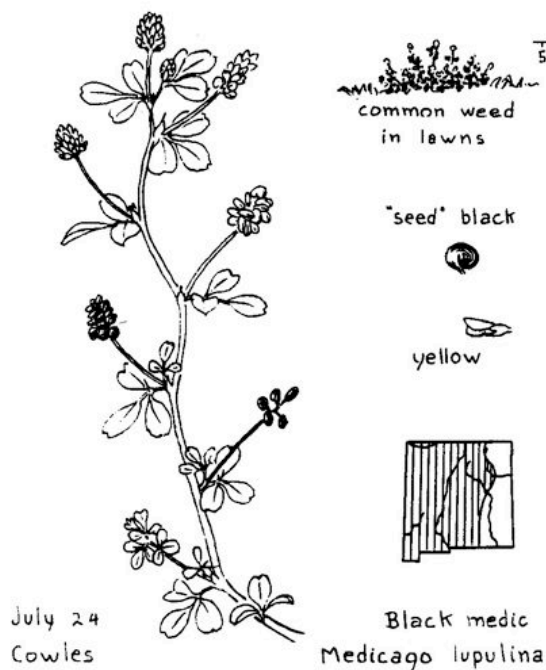
**Size:**  
10 - 50 cm

**Description:**  
Annual or short-lived perennial herb, stems trailing to ascending, branched. Herbage lightly hairy to almost glabrous. Leaves alternate, on short petioles, odd-pinnate with 3 obovate leaflets 8 - 15 mm long, lightly toothed at the apex. Flowers in dense cylindrical clusters 7 - 13 mm long on stalks 10 - 35 mm long from leaf axils. Calyx bell-shaped, 1 mm long, 5-toothed. Flowers 2 - 3 mm long. Pod black, wrinkled, kidney-shaped, flattened, curved 1 - 2 mm long, with a narrow coiling tip.

**Common Name:**  
Black medic

**Color:**  
Yellow

**Notes:**  
The species name *lupulina* means "little hop". The flower clusters of black medic resemble the flower clusters of the hop plant (see *Humulus lupulus*) whose early genus name was *Lupulus*. Black medic is one of the most ubiquitous plants in the Manzanos. It blooms from mid-May into October between 3500 and 8500 ft.



### Introduced\*





## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Medicago sativa*

### Size:

40 - 120 cm

### Description:

Erect to ascending perennial herb, stems 1 to several, glabrous to finely hairy. Leaves alternate, on short petioles, odd-pinnate with 3 oblanceolate to obovate leaflets 10 - 30 mm long, lightly toothed at the apex. Flowers in dense cylindrical to ellipsoidal clusters 1 - 4 cm long on stalks somewhat longer than the leaves from leaf axils near branch tips. Calyx 4 - 6 mm long, with 5 teeth about as long as the tube. Top petal 6 - 10 mm long, bent backwards. Two lateral petals shorter. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals. Pods spirally coiled through 1 to 5 turns, 4 - 8 mm in diameter.

### Common Name:

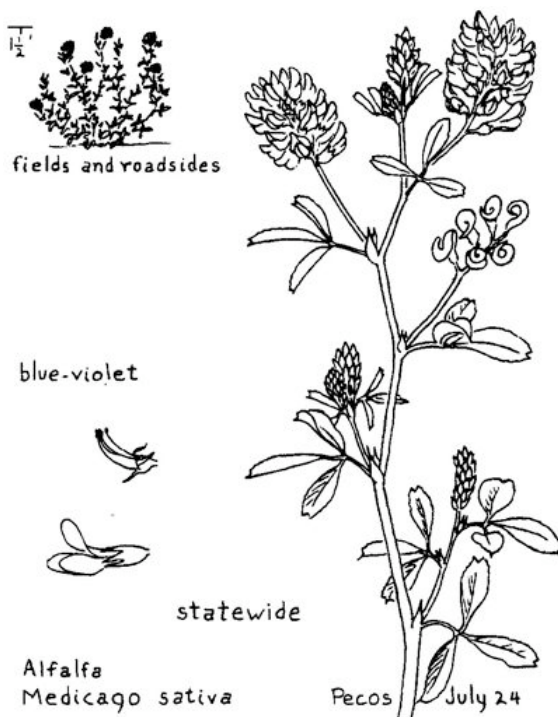
Alfalfa

### Color:

Blue-violet

### Notes:

*Medicago sativa* originated in the Middle East. Since it was such excellent feed for livestock, the Arabic word *al-fasfasah*, meaning "best fodder", was applied to it. With the Moors, the plant made its way to Spain where the name became *alfalfa*, and was imported to the new world by the Conquistadors. The species name *sativa* means cultivated, and alfalfa is heavily cultivated world wide. It blooms from May through September between 4000 and 8000 ft.



### Introduced\*



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Melilotus alba*

### Size:

40 - 150 cm

### Description:

Erect biennial herb, stems branched above. Herbage glabrous to sparsely hairy. Leaves alternate, on short petioles, odd-pinnate with 3 obovate to elliptic or oblanceolate leaflets 8 - 35 mm long, with minute teeth on the upper half or more of the blades. Flowers in long, loose, many-flowered clusters from upper leaf axils. Cluster and stalk 5 - 16 cm long. Individual flowers on stalks 1 - 2 mm long. Calyx bell-shaped, 2 - 3.5 mm long, with 5 equal teeth about as long as tube. Top petal 3 - 6 mm long. Two lateral petals shorter. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between laterals. Pods ellipsoid to ovoid 2.5 - 5 mm long with a net-veined surface.

### Common Name:

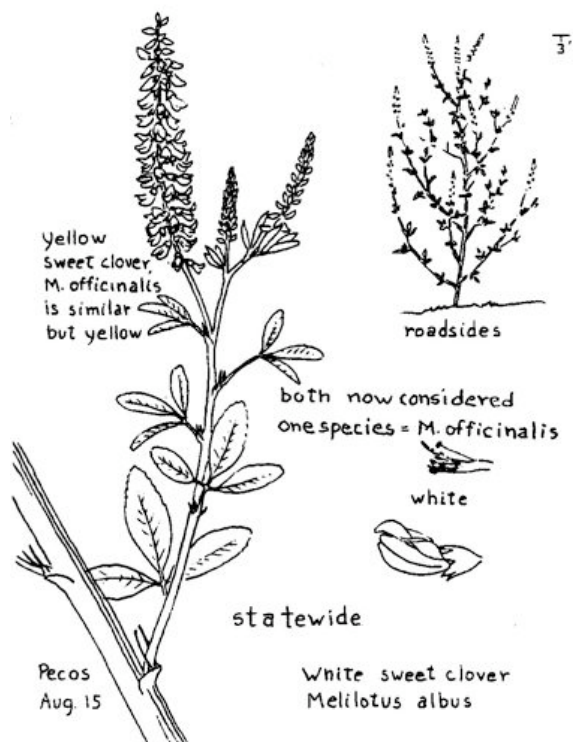
White sweet clover

### Color:

White

### Notes:

Dried sweet clover has a sweet aroma due to the presence of coumarin. This organic compound can cause hemorrhaging in cattle. Research into the hemorrhagic properties of coumarin has led to its use as a blood thinner for patients with heart disease and to the development of Warfarin™, a powerful rodent killer. White sweet clover blooms from May into October between 4000 and 8000 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Melilotus officinalis*

**Size:**  
40 - 150 cm

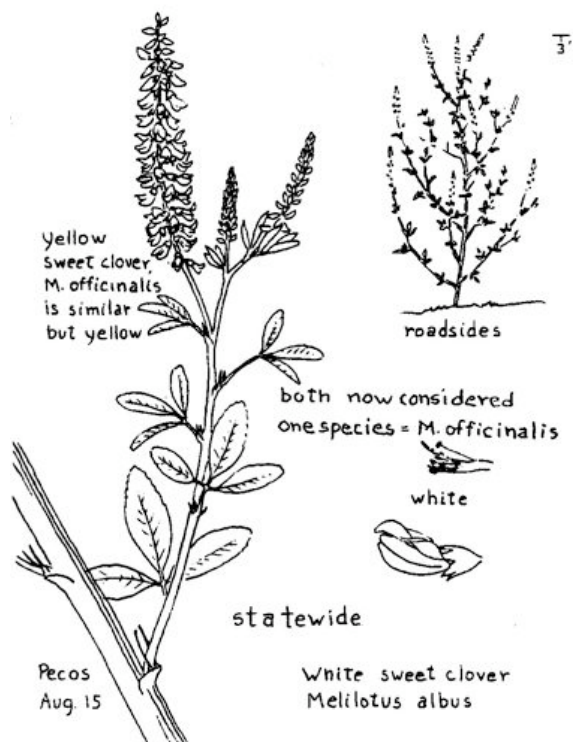
**Description:**  
Erect biennial herb, stems branched above. Herbage glabrous to sparsely hairy. Leaves alternate, on short petioles, odd-pinnate with 3 obovate to elliptic or oblanceolate leaflets 8 - 35 mm long with minute teeth on upper half or more of the blades. Flowers in long, loose, many-flowered clusters from upper leaf axils. Cluster and stalk 5 - 16 cm long. Individual flowers on stalks 1 - 2 mm long. Calyx bell-shaped, 2 - 3.5 mm long, with 5 equal teeth about as long as tube. Top petal 4.5 - 7 mm long. Two lateral petals about equal to top. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals. Pods obovoid, 3 - 5 mm long, cross-veined.

**Common Name:**  
Yellow sweet clover

**Color:**  
Yellow

**Notes:**  
Yellow sweet clover and white sweet clover are virtually identical when not in flower. They occupy much the same range and often grow side by side. Some botanists consider them merely different colored forms of the same species, but apparently they are not genetically similar. Yellow sweet clover blooms from May into October between 4000 and 8000 ft.

### Introduced\*



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Oxytropis lambertii*

### Size:

5 - 25 cm

### Description:

Perennial herb without stems. Herbage with short T-shaped hairs. Leaves clumped, with petioles rising from the root crown, odd-pinnate with 7 - 15 lanceolate to oblong or linear leaflets 6 - 40 mm long. Flowers in clusters of 6 - 30 on stalks 5 - 25 cm long. Individual flowers each subtended by a single lanceolate bract. Calyx cylindrical, 6 - 10 mm long, 5-toothed. Top petal 18 - 23 mm long, bent backwards. Two lateral petals 2 - 3 mm shorter, with a dilated, notched tip. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals, the keel with a pronounced pointed projection. Pods erect, sessile, lance-ovoid, 15 - 27 mm long, tapering to a narrow point.

### Common Name:

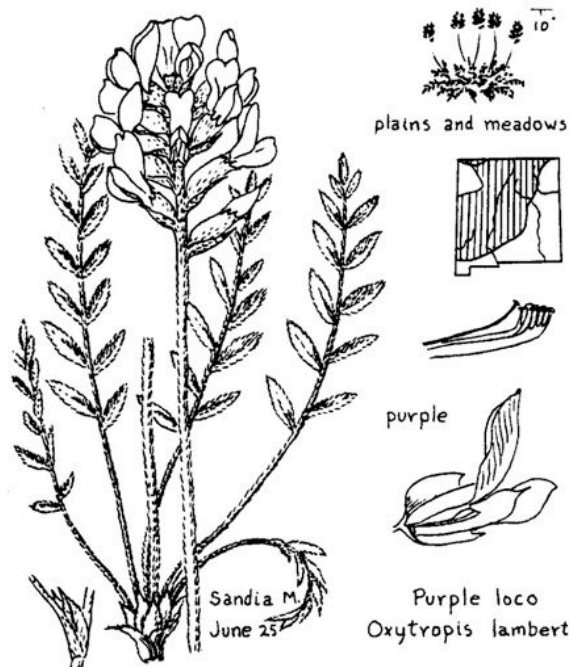
Purple loco, Lambert's locoweed

### Color:

Rose purple

### Notes:

The species name *Lambertii* is for the British botanist A. B. Lambert (1761-1842). The noted American botanist Asa Gray visited him in 1839. Lambert held the plant specimens of Frederick Pursh (1774-1820), the author of one of the earliest *Flora of North America* (1814). Gray labeled Lambert "the queerest old mortal I ever set eyes on". Purple loco is closely related to and often interbreeds with silverleaf loco (see *Oxytropis sericea*). Purple loco contains the toxic alkaloid swainsonine. It blooms from June into September between 5000 and 10000 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Oxytropis sericea*

**Size:**  
10 - 40 cm

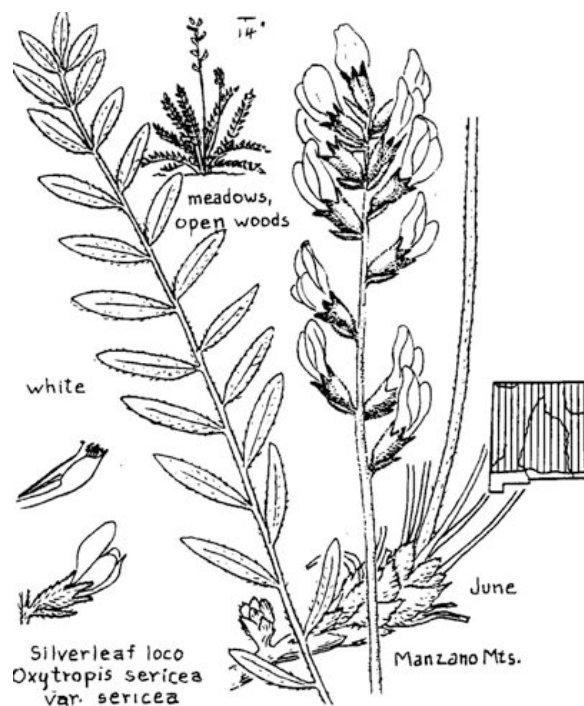
**Description:**  
Perennial herb without stems. Herbage with long, silky hairs. Leaves clumped, with petioles rising from the root crown, odd-pinnate with 9 - 21 lanceolate to elliptic or ovate leaflets 5 - 30 mm long. Flowers in clusters of 6 - 25 on stalks 5 - 25 cm long. Individual flowers each subtended by a single lanceolate bract. Calyx tubular, 8 - 12 mm long, 5-toothed. Top petal 18 - 26 mm long, bent backward. Two lateral petals somewhat shorter with a dilated, notched tip. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between the laterals, the keel with a pronounced pointed projection. Pods erect, sessile, ellipsoid to oblong ovoid, 10 - 25 mm long, 4 - 7 mm in diameter, tapering to a narrow point.

**Common Name:**  
Silverleaf loco, white locoweed

**Color:**  
White

**Notes:**  
The genus name *Oxytropis* comes from the Greek words *oxys*, "sharp", and *tropis*, "keel". The two bottom petals of the flower are fused into a boat-shaped structure called the keel. In plants of this genus the tip of the keel extends into a sharp point. Silverleaf loco contains the alkaloid swainsonine which is poisonous to livestock (see *Astragalus mollissimus*). It blooms from April into September between 4000 and 10000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

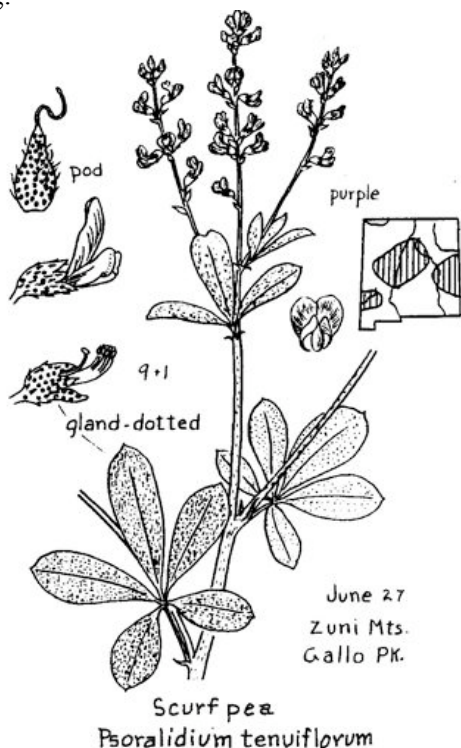
*Psoralidium tenuiflorum*

### Size:

40 - 120 cm

### Description:

Erect perennial herb dotted with glands, stems 1 to several, much branched. Herbage with short hairs lying flat to almost glabrous. Leaves alternate, on petioles 1 - 20 mm long, with 3 - 5 oblanceolate leaflets 10 - 40 mm long originating from the same point, glabrous above. Flowers in loose clusters of 2 - 10 on a stalk 1 - 9 cm long. Individual flowers on a short stalk. Calyx bell-shaped, 2.5 - 3.5 mm long, 5-lobed, the lowermost the largest. Top petal pale, elliptic to obovate 4.5 - 6 mm long, 2 lateral petals pale, 4 - 6 mm long, 2 mm wide. Bottom 2 petals fused into a keel between laterals, deep purple 3.5 - 4.5 mm long. Pod glabrous, gland-dotted, ellipsoidal, 7 - 8 mm long.



### Common Name:

Scurf-pea

### Color:

Lavender with purple

### Notes:

The genus name *Psoralidium* is the diminutive of the Greek word *psoralea* (once the name of this genus) which means "scabby". This is in reference to the fact that the plant is covered with gland dots that resemble scabs. The word scurfy comes from Old English and means crusty. Presumably, the crusty, scabby appearance of the pods gave rise to the common name scurf-pea. Scurf-peas bloom from late May into September between 4500 and 8000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Robinia neomexicana*

### Size:

1 - 8 m

### Description:

Shrub or small tree, older stems armed with pairs of spines 5 - 20 mm long. Younger twigs with tiny hairs. Leaves alternate, 7 - 25 cm long odd-pinnate with 9 - 19 ovate to oblong or elliptic, lightly hairy leaflets 12 - 40 mm long each on a short petiole. Flowers in dense clusters of 6 - 25 on stalks 4 - 10 cm long with dense glandular bristles. Individual flowers on stalks 4 - 7 mm long. Calyx bell-shaped, 8 - 11 mm long, glandular, 5-toothed. Top petal broadly heart-shaped 18 - 24 mm long. 2 lateral petals shorter. Bottom 2 petals united at the tip into a keel between the laterals. Pods oblong, straight, 4 - 8 cm long, flattened, papery, brown, with dense glandular bristles.

### Common Name:

New Mexico locust

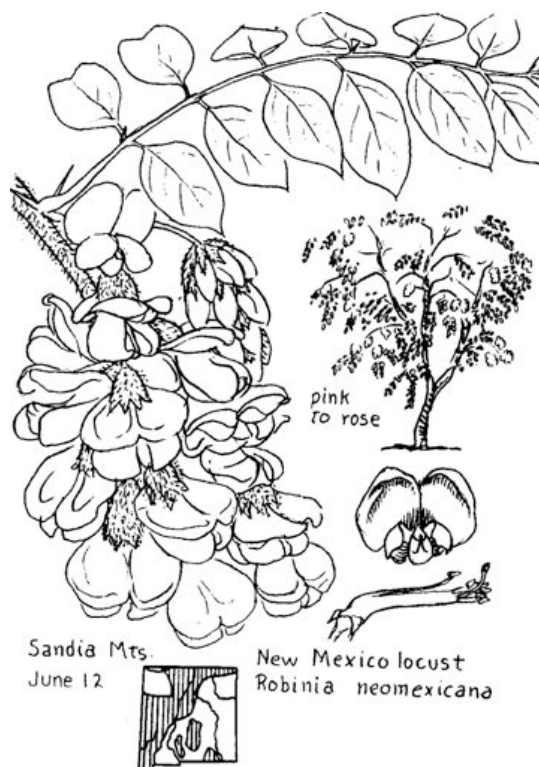
### Color:

Lilac

### Notes:

The stems and older branches of New Mexico locust are armed with paired spines. The plants reproduce by seed, but also, very successfully, by root suckers. They form thickets which can be the bane of hikers, but help to control erosion. Locusts are also quick to re-sprout after fires. They are drought-tolerant and their attractive blossoms are quite fragrant. New Mexico locust blooms from May into July between 4000 and 9000 ft.

### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family



**Scientific Name:**  
*Sophora nuttalliana*

**Common Name:**  
Silky sophora

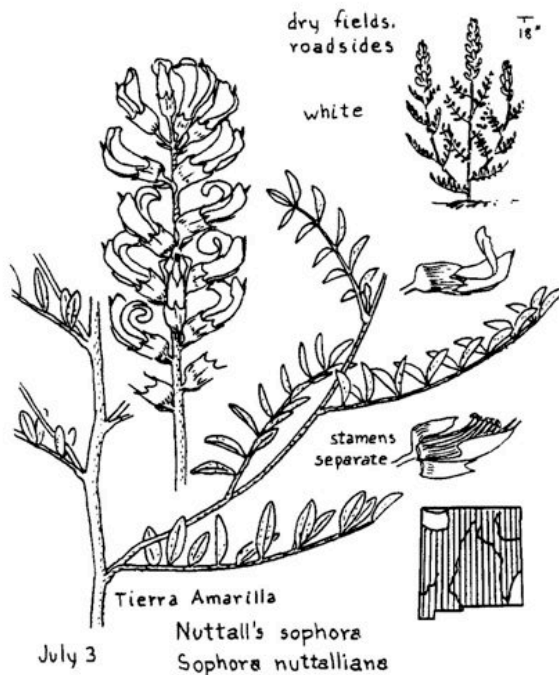
**Size:**  
10 - 30 cm

**Color:**  
White to cream

**Description:**  
Erect or ascending perennial herb, stems 1 to several, branched. Herbage with short, white, silky hairs. Leaves alternate, almost sessile, 2.5 - 7 cm long, odd-pinnate with 13 - 23 obovate to oblanceolate leaflets 3 - 12 mm long, each on a short petiole. Flowers in a cluster of 8 - 35 on a stalk 3 - 15 cm long at tip of stem or branch. Individual flowers on stalks 2 - 4 mm long. Calyx purplish 7 - 11 mm long, tubular, asymmetric with 5 mostly equal teeth. Top petal oblanceolate 11 - 17 mm long, bent backwards. Two lateral petals 9 - 14 mm long. Bottom 2 petals 9 - 14 mm long, between laterals but not fused. Pods erect, fairly straight, cylindrical, 12 - 50 mm long, with constrictions between the 1 - 3 seeds.

**Notes:**  
Several species of *Sophora* have poisonous seeds. The seeds have a very hard coat and generally pass through the digestive tract harmlessly. A single well-chewed seed of the mescal bean, a *Sophora* species from southeastern New Mexico, can kill a person. Silky sophora is much less toxic, but can cause problems for cows. It blooms from late April into June between 4000 and 7000 ft.

### New Mexico Native





## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Thermopsis rhombifolia* var. *ovata*

### Size:

15 - 60 cm

### Description:

**Synonym:** *Thermopsis gracilis* var. *ovata*

Erect perennial herb, stems 1 to several, simple or branched above. Herbage with short, silky hairs. Leaves alternate, with petioles 10 - 35 mm long, with 3 ovate to obovate leaflets 2 - 10 cm long originating from the same point. Upper leaf stipules leaf-like. Flowers in loose clusters of 7 - 30 on a stalk 10 - 30 cm long at stem end. Individual flowers on stalks 3 - 7 mm long subtended by a single bract. Calyx 8 - 13 mm long, bell-shaped, asymmetrically 5-toothed. Top petal broad, bent backward. Two lateral petals as long as top. Bottom 2 petals united into a keel between the laterals. Pods linear, 4 - 7 cm long, erect, lumpy, furry.

### Common Name:

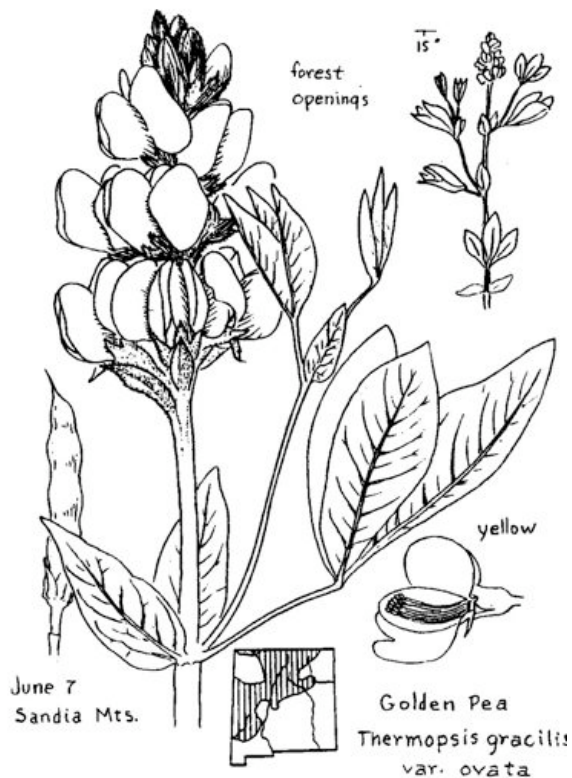
Golden pea

### Color:

Yellow

### Notes:

Golden peas spread by vigorous rootstock, often forming large stands. These stands of bright golden yellow peas can be magnificent, and are a beautiful sight in forest openings along the Crest Trail and Ox Canyon Trail. The genus name *Thermopsis* is derived from the Greek *thermos*, "lupine" and *opsis*, "resembling". The flowers of golden peas distinctly resemble those of the lupines (see *Lupinus kingii*). Golden peas are one of the earliest bloomers at higher altitudes in the Manzanos. They bloom from late April through June between 7000 and 10000 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

**Scientific Name:**  
*Trifolium pratense*

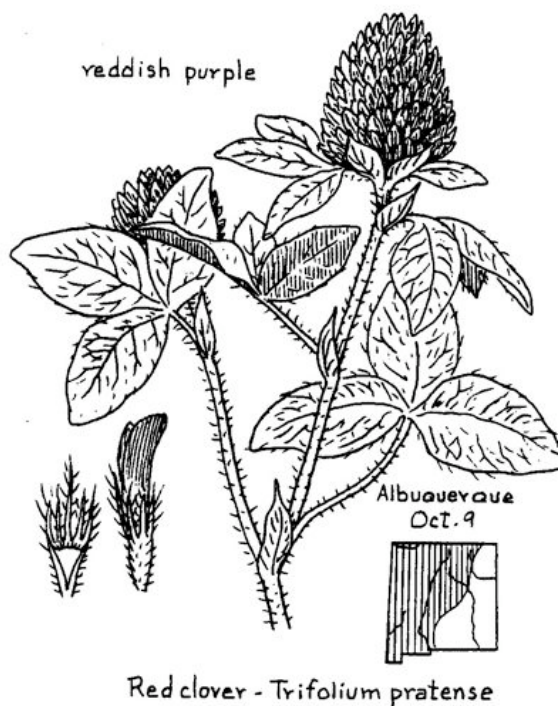
**Size:**  
20 - 60 cm

**Description:**  
Ascending to erect perennial herb, stems simple or few-branched lightly hairy towards tips. Leaves alternate, with petioles 1 - 15 cm long, with 3 ovate to broadly elliptic or obovate leaflets 10 - 55 mm long, originating at the same point, with long, soft hairs below, edges with tiny teeth. Flowers in dense many-flowered heads mostly sessile between the stipules of 2 reduced leaves near stem ends. Calyx tubular, 7 - 10 mm long, with 5 unequal teeth, hairy. Top petal 12 - 17 mm long, straight, forming a tube around the other petal bases. Two lateral petals somewhat shorter. Bottom 2 petals between laterals. Pods small.

**Common Name:**  
Red clover

**Color:**  
Reddish purple

**Notes:**  
The species name *pratense* means “of meadows”. Certainly red clover prefers moist, montane meadows. This clover is a favorite of herbalists who collect the upper leaves and flower heads for a variety of uses. It has been cultivated for centuries for fodder and honey. Red clover blooms from June into September between 4000 and 9000 ft.



### Introduced\*



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Trifolium repens*

### Size:

10 - 30 cm

### Description:

Trailing perennial herb, stems rooting at nodes, glabrous. Leaves alternate, with petioles 2 - 25 cm long, with 3, sometimes 4, obovate or obcordate glabrous leaflets 5 - 25 mm long, originating from the same point, with finely toothed edges, marked with a pale inverted V. Flowers in dense, spherical, many-flowered clusters on stalks 6 - 30 cm long from leaf axils. Individual flowers on unequal stalks 2 - 6 mm long, with short hairs, the stalks bending downward with age. Calyx tubular 3 - 6 mm long, 10-nerved, 5 toothed. Top petal obovate, 6 - 9 mm long, forming a tube around other 4 petals. Pods small.

### Common Name:

White clover

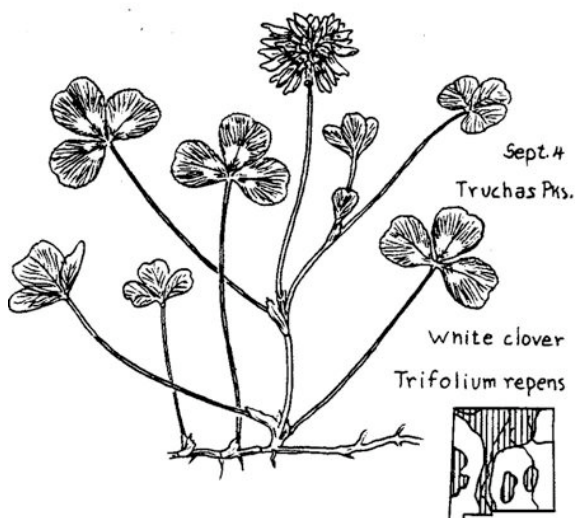
### Color:

White

### Notes:

The species name *repens* means creeping in reference to this plant's ability to root at stem nodes touching the ground forming independent plants. White clover is a common contaminant of grass seed and is common in lawns. It is important in the production of honey. Its narrow, tubular top petal makes the nectar, which is accessible to bees, inaccessible to many insects. White clover blooms from May through September between 4000 and 9000 ft.

### Introduced\*



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family

### Scientific Name:

*Trifolium wormskjoldii*

### Size:

15 - 35 cm

### Description:

**Synonyms:** *Trifolium macronatum*,  
*Trifolium lacerum*.

Ascending to erect perennial herb, stems simple or few-branched. Stems and foliage glabrous. Leaves alternate, on petioles 2 - 7 cm long, with 3 oblanceolate to elliptic or obovate leaflets 12 - 35 mm long originating from the same point, edges with small teeth or spine-tipped teeth. Stipules herbaceous, irregularly toothed. Flowers in dense many-flowered globular heads on stalks 3 - 9 cm long, the heads subtended by lobed and irregularly toothed involucre. Calyx tubular, 6 - 10 mm long, 5-toothed. Top petal elliptical, 7 - 17 mm long, enclosing other petals. Two lateral petals narrow, shorter. Bottom 2 petals forming a keel between laterals.

### Common Name:

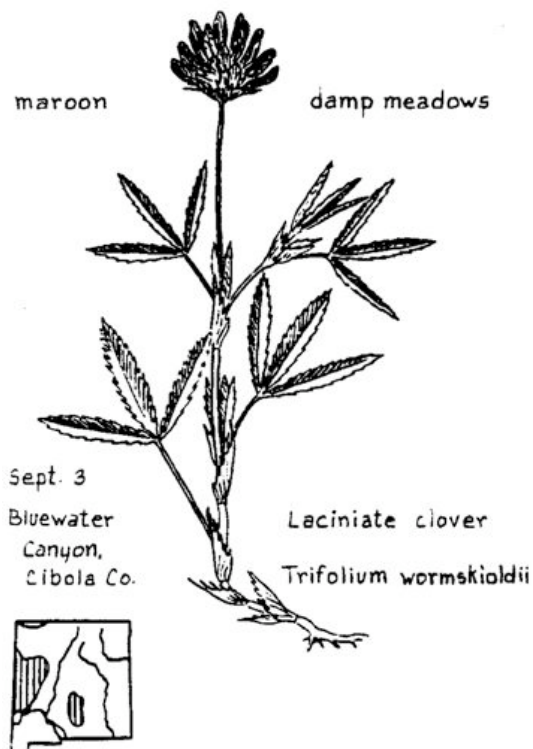
Cow clover

### Color:

Reddish purple

### Notes:

The species *wormskjoldii* is named for the Danish botanist Morten Wormskjold (1783 - 1845) who, in 1813, made some of the first major botanical collections in Greenland. Cow clover resembles red clover (see *Trifolium pratense*), but the flower heads of cow clover are on a stalk well above the nearest leaves and the heads are subtended by a very ragged leaf-like involucre. Cow clover blooms from May into August between 5500 and 8000 ft.



### New Mexico Native



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Vicia americana* var. *minor*

**Common Name:**

American vetch

**Size:**

vine 40 - 100 cm

**Color:**

Purple to pink

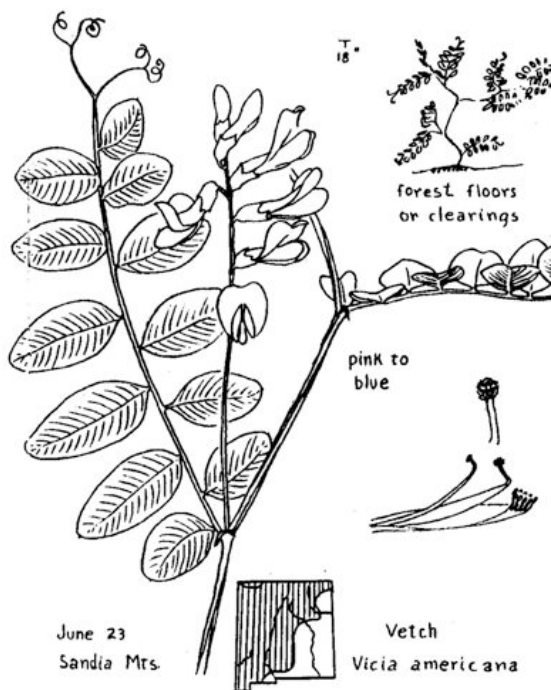
**Description:**

Clambering or climbing perennial herb. Herbage finely hairy to almost glabrous. Leaves alternate, abruptly even-pinnate, with 6 - 16 lanceolate-elliptic to oblanceolate-elliptic smooth-edged leaflets 15 - 40 mm long. Leaf central axes terminated by a simple or branched tendril. Flowers in a loose cluster of 2 - 5 on a stalk 3 - 7 cm long. Calyx asymmetrically tubular, 6 - 8.5 mm long, unequally 5-toothed. Top petal oblong-oblanceolate 14 - 21 mm long, bent backwards. Two lateral petals shorter. Bottom 2 petals much shorter, united into a keel between the laterals. Pod elliptical in outline 25 - 35 mm long, 6 - 8 mm wide, flattened

**Notes:**

American vetch is extremely common in the Manzanos, often in dense and extensive groups. It provides food for deer, rodents and birds. The hairiness of the plants as well as leaf size and shape vary tremendously in *V. americana*. It blooms from May through August between 6000 and 10000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**



## FABACEAE -- Legume Family



**Scientific Name:**

*Vicia ludoviciana*

**Size:**

vine 30 - 80 cm

**Description:**

Slender clambering annual or winter annual herb. Herbage lightly hairy to glabrous. Leaves 2 - 5 cm long, alternate, abruptly even-pinnate, with 6 - 10 linear to narrowly elliptic leaflets 10 - 25 mm long, the pairs often offset. Leaf central axes terminated by a simple or branched tendril. Flowers occur singly or in pairs on a stalk 1 - 5 cm long. Calyx 2 - 3 mm long, tubular, unequally 5-toothed. Top petal 6 - 7 mm long, folded, enclosing other 4 petals. Pods asymmetrically oblong-elliptic in outline 16 - 28 mm long, flattened.

**Common Name:**

Louisiana vetch, slim vetch

**Color:**

Lavender to pink

**Notes:**

Louisiana vetch is generally found at lower altitudes, but is occasional in the Manzanos. The plants are somewhat delicate and wispy. The flowers occur singly or in pairs, unusual in the family which has many representatives with dense many-flowered clusters. The folded top petal hides the other four petals characteristic of the pea family. Louisiana vetch blooms from early May into July between 3500 and 7000 ft.

**New Mexico Native**

