

AGAVACEAE -- Agave Family

Scientific Name:

Nolina texana

Size:

70 -125 cm

Description:

Usually stemless perennial from thick roots. Leaves basally clustered, linear, 2 - 5 mm wide, 60 - 100 cm long, edges occasionally gently toothed or smooth. Flowers numerous, small, arranged in dense clusters along a long, much branched stalk. Flowers composed of 6 similar, distinct, elliptical segments about 3 mm long. Male and female flowers on separate plants, but with some flowers perfect. Stamens 6, filaments short and stout. Ovary 3-lobed, superior. Fruit a 3-lobed capsule, seeds 1 per lobe often protruding.

Common Name:

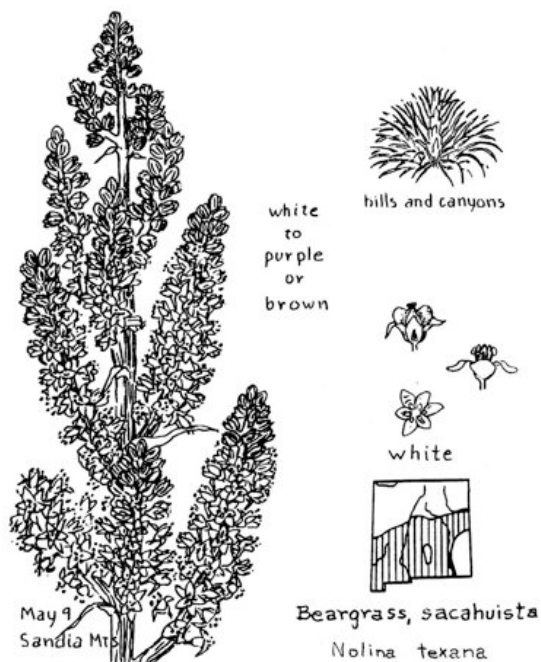
Beargrass, sacahuista

Color:

White

Notes:

Recent molecular studies have indicated that *Nolina* is not closely associated with the Agavaceae. *Nolina* has been placed in several families (Convallariaceae, Ruscaceae, Liliaceae, Nolinaceae), but its position is not clear, so here it is left in its traditional place in Agavaceae. Plants of the genus *Nolina* have leaves that resemble some of the yuccas, but the flowers of *Nolinas* are small and very numerous while yucca flowers are quite large and much less numerous. Beargrass blooms during May and June from 4000 to 8000 ft.



New Mexico Native



AGAVACEAE -- Agave Family

Scientific Name:

Yucca baccata

Size:

50 - 100 cm

Description:

Usually stemless perennial from thick roots. Leaves basally clustered, narrowly lanceolate, 20 - 80 cm long, 3 - 5 cm wide, concave on the front, convex on the back, with curled, loose fibers along the edges. Flowers perfect, large, pendant, densely clustered on a short-branched stalk up to 100 cm long. Flowers composed of 6 lanceolate to oblanceolate segments 4 - 10 cm long, the inner 3 wider than the outer 3. Stamens 6, not protruding, filaments broad and flat. Ovary 3-celled, 5 cm long, style 4 - 10 mm long. Fruit a capsule 12 - 18 cm long, fleshy, not breaking open at maturity.

Common Name:

Banana yucca, datil

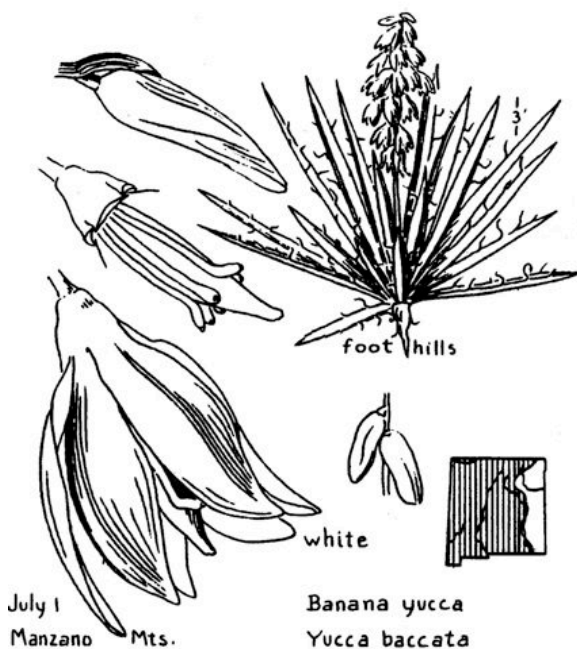
Color:

White

Notes:

Plants of the genus *Yucca* are pollinated by moths of the genus *Tegeticula*, which also deposit their eggs into the ovaries. The larvae feed on a small portion of the immature seeds before boring their way out of the ovary. The species name *baccata* is Latin for "pulpy", descriptive of the pendulous, banana-shaped fruit. Banana yucca blooms from mid-June to late July between 3000 and 7500 ft.

New Mexico Native



AGAVACEAE -- Agave Family

Scientific Name:

Yucca glauca

Size:

50 - 100 cm

Description:

Usually stemless perennial from thick roots. Leaves basally clustered, linear, 30 - 70 cm long, 5 - 15 mm wide, flat on the front, convex on the back. Flowers perfect, large, bell-shaped to spherical, scattered along a long, unbranched stalk much exceeding the leaves. Flowers composed of 6 thick ovate to lanceolate segments, 3 - 5 cm long, the outer 3 tinged with purple, narrower than the inner 3. Stamens 6, not protruding, filaments 10 - 20 mm long. Ovary 3-celled, 3 - 3.5 cm long, style 8 - 12 mm long. Fruit a capsule 4.5 - 6 cm long breaking open at maturity.

Common Name:

Soapweed yucca

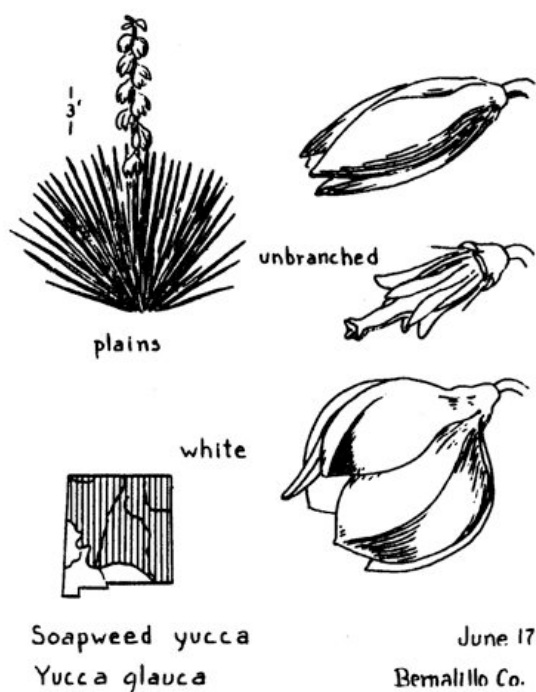
Color:

White to cream

Notes:

Soapweed yucca is a common desert plant all over New Mexico including the Manzanos. Native Americans used the flowers for food, the tough fibers in the leaves for making cloth and baskets, and the roots for making soap. Soapweed yucca blooms from mid-May to the end of June between 4000 and 7000 ft.

New Mexico Native



AMARANTHACEAE -- Amaranth Family

Scientific Name:

Amaranthus hybridus

Size:

20 - 100 cm or more

Description:

Coarse, erect or ascending annual herb. Stems tinged with red, branched, glabrous or with short soft hairs. Leaves alternate, without teeth or lobes, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate or rhombic-ovate, 15 - 80 mm long, glabrous to softly hairy, with long petioles. Flowers in clusters at the ends of stems and branches or in the leaf axils. Flowers small, unisexual, with staminate flowers separate from pistillate flowers on the same plant. Sepals 2 - 5, thin and translucent with stiff spine-tipped bracts below, bracts about twice as long as sepals. Petals absent.

Common Name:

Pigweed, green amaranth

Color:

Green

Notes:

Pigweed is a very common weed throughout New Mexico. The flower clusters of pigweed are dominated by the stiff, pointed "bracts" just below the flowers, giving the cluster a characteristic spiny appearance. The real "flowers" are quite small. The male flowers are totally separate from female flowers on the same plant. Pigweed blooms in August and September from 3000 to 8000 ft.

New Mexico Native



ANACARDIACEAE -- Sumac Family



Scientific Name:

Rhus trilobata

Common Name:

Squawbush, skunkbush

Size:

50 -300 cm

Color:

Light yellow

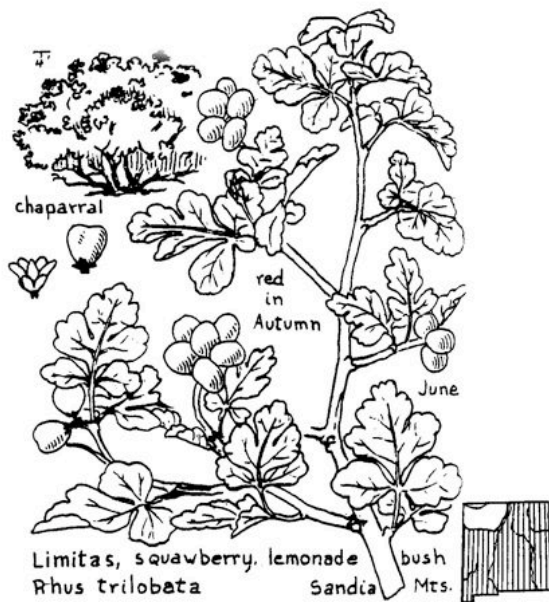
Description:

Synonym: *Rhus aromatica* var. *trilobata*.

Much branched shrub. Leaves foul smelling when crushed, alternate, glabrous or finely hairy, on petioles, sometimes simple and lobed but mostly odd-pinnate with 3 sessile leaflets, the terminal one 15 - 45 mm long, 3 lobed, the lobes with a few rounded teeth, the lateral leaflets smaller, less lobed and toothed. Flowers small, appearing before leaves, in dense stalked clusters from leafless axils on year old wood. Sepals 5 about 1 mm long, subtended by a bract and 2 bractlets. Petals 5, 1.5 - 3 mm long. Stamens 5, small. Pistil 1, style 3-lobed. Fruits reddish, with short gland-tipped hairs, thinly fleshy, with a single hard seed.

Notes:

In autumn, squawbush leaves turn red and orange, a nice addition to the yellowing oaks and browning grasses. The hairy red berry-like fruits are used to make a tart but tasty lemonade flavor drink. The pliant twigs have been long used in basket making by native Americans. Squawbush flowers in early spring, April into May, before leaves appear, between 5000 and 8000 ft.



New Mexico Native



ANACARDIACEAE -- Sumac Family



Scientific Name:

Toxicodendron rydbergii

Size:

10 - 30 cm

Description:

Synonym: *Toxicodendron radicans*

Sparingly branched shrub forming a thicket, stems mostly erect, with fine, short hairs. Leaves alternate, borne close together near top of stem, on long petioles, with 3 stalked, ovate to almost round leaflets 5 - 12 cm long, vaguely and irregularly toothed, pointed at the apex, glabrous or with hairs on veins below. Male and female flowers on separate plants. Flowers on stalks in small, loose clusters from leaf axils. Sepals 5, about 1 mm long, united at base. Petals 5, 2 - 3 mm long, smaller in female flowers. Stamens 5. Fruit whitish, round, fleshy with a single hard seed.

Common Name:

Poison ivy

Color:

Yellowish to cream

Notes:

Poison ivy has a powerful reputation for causing itching and rash. The plant's sap contains a non-volatile oil, urushiol, which causes strong allergic reaction, in about half of the human population. The species name *rydbergii* is for Per Axel Rydberg (1860 -1931), a Swedish-born American botanist who described many Western American plants. Poison ivy gives the sumac family a bad name. Other family members are more pleasant like the pistachio nut. Poison ivy blooms in May and June between 5000 and 8500 ft. Fortunately, it is uncommon in the Manzanos.



New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Aletes acaulis

Size:

10 - 30 cm

Description:

Stemless perennial herb, glabrous. Leaves 3 - 8 cm long, odd-pinnate with 3 - 9 leaflets 6 - 12 mm long, lanceolate to rhombic-ovate or almost circular, with lanceolate lobes tipped with small spines. Flowering stalks exceed foliage. Flowers borne on a stalk tipped by a set of 8 - 15 secondary stalks about 1 mm long, radiating from a single point, each topped by a flower. The secondary set of stalks is subtended by several narrow bractlets 2 - 3 mm long, fused at the base. Calyx with 5 prominent, ovate teeth. Petals 5, curving inwards. Fruit dry, oblong, flattened, 4 - 6 mm long.

Common Name:

Mountain caraway, stemless Indian parsley

Color:

Yellow

Notes:

William A. Weber points out in his *Colorado Flora* that the genus name *Aletes* translates from Greek as "wanderer". This name alludes to the fact that *Aletes acaulis* has variously been placed in six different genera. The fruit of mountain caraway does resemble caraway, the fruit of another member of the parsley family, *Carum carvi*, which has white flowers. Mountain caraway blooms from May into September between 6500 and 9000 ft.

New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Aletes filifolius

Size:

20 - 40 cm

Description:

Erect, glabrous perennial herb rising in dense tufts from a woody root crown. Leaves mostly basal, on long petioles, up to 20 cm long, parted into 3 major divisions, each further parted into thread-like segments 1 - 2 mm wide and 5 - 60 mm long. Flowering stalks mostly leafless, exceeding the leaves. Flower clusters in umbels of 4 - 21 branches, each branch topped by another small umbel, subtended by several linear to lanceolate bractlets, with stalks 2 - 5 mm long supporting the tiny individual flowers.

Common Name:

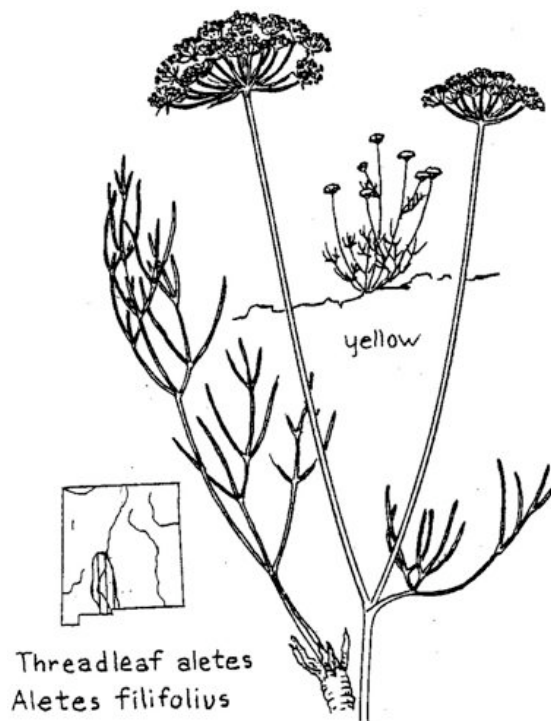
Threadleaf false carrot

Color:

Yellow

Notes:

Threadleaf false carrot is occasional in the Manzanos in dry canyons among piñons and junipers. Without flowers, the extremely dissected, threadlike leaves can easily be mistaken for grass. This plant has a limited range extending from Torrance County southward and westward to the Arizona border and eastward along the southern border to the Guadalupe Mountains and neighboring Texas. It blooms from early May into August between 5500 and 7500 ft.



New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Berula erecta

Size:

20 - 50 cm

Description:

Erect, branched, glabrous aquatic perennial herb. Lower leaves odd-pinnate with 7 - 21 ovate to elliptic leaflets up to 7 cm long and 5 cm wide, edges wavy-toothed to irregularly lobed. Upper leaves similar, but leaflets smaller, narrower, more sharply incised. Flower clusters in umbels of 6 - 15 diverging branches 10 - 20 mm long each topped with a secondary umbel of stalks 3 - 6 mm long tipped with tiny flowers. Both primary and secondary umbels subtended by conspicuous, narrow, leafy bracts.

Common Name:

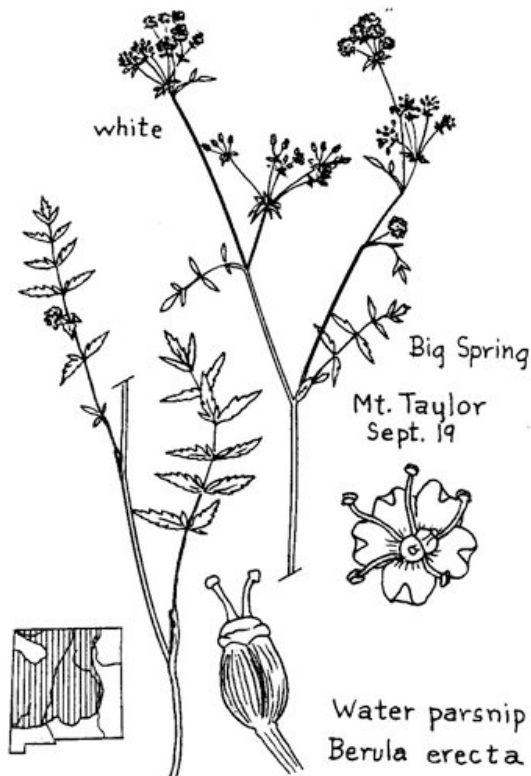
Water-parsnip

Color:

White

Notes:

Water-parsnips of this and other genera strongly resemble the extremely poisonous hemlocks, *Cicuta douglasii* (water hemlock) and *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock). Water hemlock can be distinguished by its swollen stem bases with horizontal chambers. Poison hemlock can be distinguished by the purple spots on its stems. Several members of the carrot family contain dangerous toxins, although others are quite edible, including the spices anise and fennel. Water parsnip blooms from the end of May into August between 4000 and 9000 ft.



New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family



Scientific Name:

Cymopterus acaulis var. *fendleri*

Common Name:

Chimajá

Size:

5 - 15 cm

Color:

Yellow

Description:

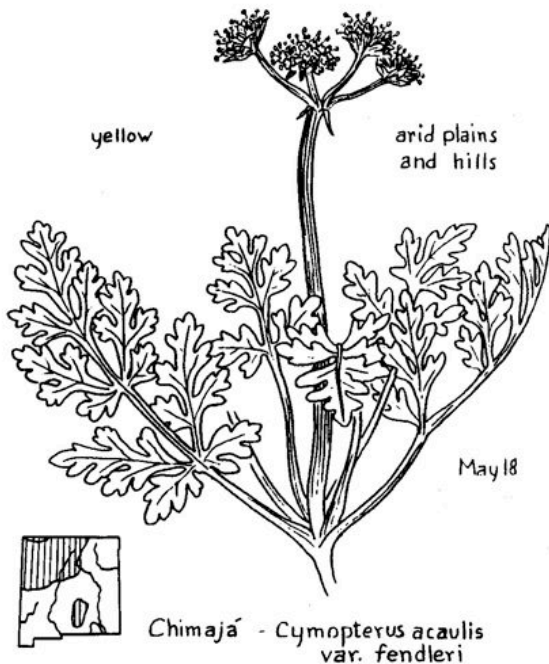
Synonym: *Cymopterus fendleri*.

Glabrous, taprooted perennial herb without stems. Leaves borne on a false stem from the root crown to ground level. Leaves on petioles with broad, wrapping bases, blades ovate in outline, 2 - 7 cm long, 2 - 3 times pinnately dissected into small, narrow segments. Flower stalks 3 - 14 cm long, exceeding leaves. Flower clusters in umbels of 6 - 9 short branches without subtending bracts, each branch topped with an umbel of stalks about 2 mm long tipped with tiny individual flowers, the umbel subtended by several green bracts united at the base. Seeds large, divided into segments with thin, flattened edges.

Notes:

Chimajá is occasional in drier foothills and plains approaching the Manzanos. It has a stout taproot that doesn't reach ground level. The root sends up an underground false stem to reach the surface. The low growing habit, often among grasses, and the tiny flowers make this plant easy to overlook. It blooms during May and June from 5000 to 6500 ft.

New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Cymopterus constancei

Size:

5 - 15 cm

Description:

Glabrous perennial herb. Taproot 3 – 15 cm long, enlarged in lower half. Stems 1 – 3, almost leafless. Basal leaves ovate in outline, 2- to 3- times pinnatifid, 7 – 16 cm long, 15-30 mm wide, on U-shaped petioles 5 – 10 cm long. Stem leaves 1 pair similar to basal, 4.5 – 7.5 cm long, 1.5 – 3.5 cm wide on petioles 2 – 4 cm long. Flower clusters in umbels of 3 – 6 branches subtended by several white, oblong papery bracts with purple veins, each branch topped with an umbel of 9 – 12 flowers, some perfect, some male, the umbel subtended by several white, papery bractlets with purple veins, united at the base. Seeds large, divided into segments with thin flattened edges.

Common Name:

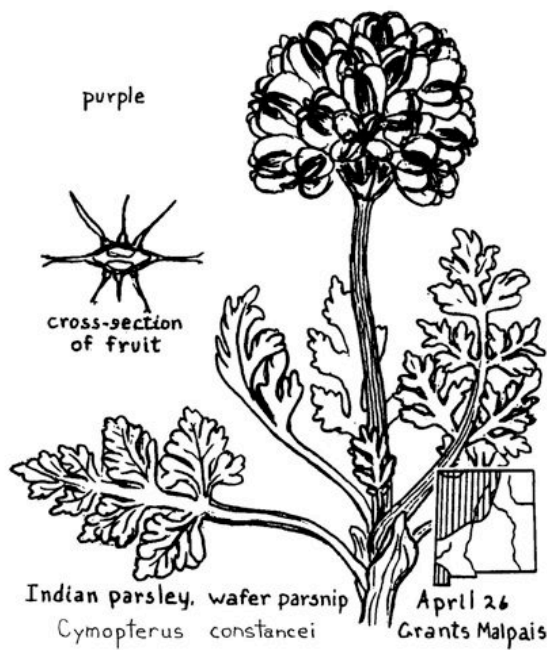
Wafer parsnip

Color:

White with purple

Notes:

Wafer parsnip is an extremely early bloomer, setting flowers from early February to late April. The genus name *Cymopterus* is derived from Greek meaning “wavy wing”, in reference to the thin, papery flanges protruding from its seeds. Wafer parsnip is occasional in the Manzanos between 4500 and 8000 ft.



New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Pseudocymopterus montanus

Size:

20 - 80 cm

Description:

Erect perennial herb, glabrous except for a band of very short, stiff hairs at the top of the stem just below flower clusters. Leaves mostly basal, ovate in outline, on petioles, pinnate, with leaflets again pinnate or pinnatifid with the ultimate segments narrow. Stems usually with 1 - 4 leaves similar to basal, distant from flowers. Flower clusters above leaves, in umbels of loose branches 1 - 2 cm long each topped with a small umbel of stalks 2 - 5 mm long tipped with minute flowers. Secondary umbels subtended by linear bractlets 2 - 8 mm long.

Common Name:

Mountain parsley

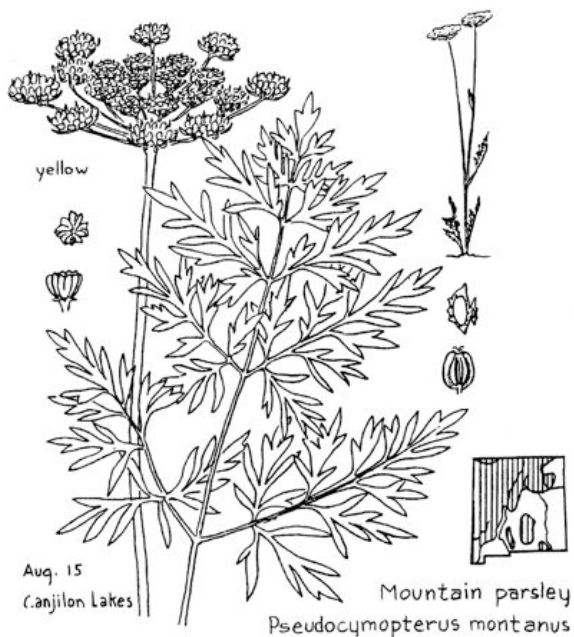
Color:

Yellow

Notes:

Mountain parsley is quite common throughout the Manzanos. It is appropriately named, since its leaves are quite similar in appearance to its relative, common parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), but it does not share the culinary value. The leaves of mountain parsley are extremely variable in the size and degree of dissection. It blooms from May through September between 6000 and 10000 ft.

New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family



Scientific Name:
Foeniculum vulgare

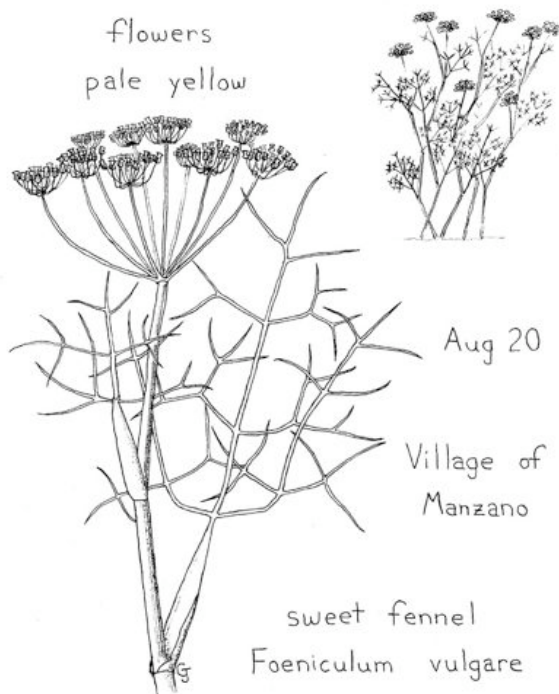
Common Name:
Sweet fennel

Size:
1 - 2 m

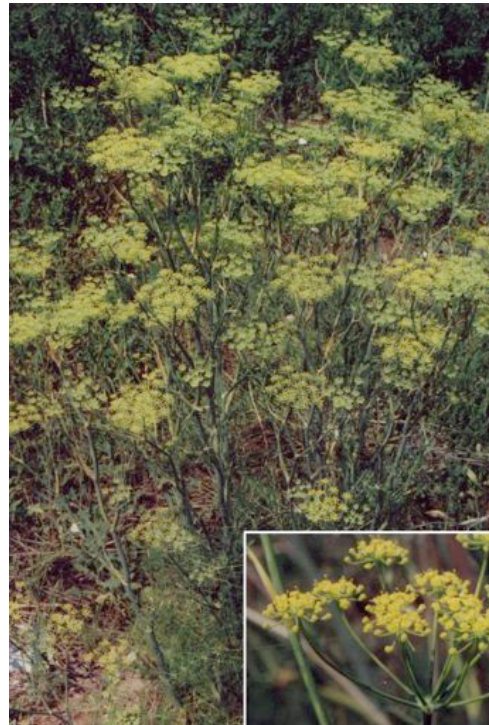
Color:
Yellow

Description:
Glabrous aromatic perennial. Leaves ovate to deltoid in outline up to 30 cm long, pinnately divided, each segment again pinnately divided into ultimately waxy thread-like segments up to 40 mm long. Leaf petioles broad, the bases wrapping the stem. Flowers exceed foliage. Flower clusters in umbels of 15 - 40 curved branches, each topped with a second umbel of short curved stalks tipped with minute flowers. Neither umbel is subtended by bracts.

Notes:
Sweet fennel is a culinary spice with a character like anise. It is indigenous to the Mediterranean region. In the Manzanos it is probably a garden escapee. It is unusual, but there are significant stands in the village of Manzano. It blooms in July and August.



Introduced*



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family



Scientific Name:

Ligusticum porteri

Size:

60 - 90 cm

Description:

Aromatic, erect, perennial herb. Stems much branched, hollow, with longitudinal ridges, glabrous or with a few tiny hairs near flowers. Basal leaves large, on long petioles, repeatedly ternately divided into small, ovate to lanceolate segments variously toothed or incised. Stem leaves 1 to several, similar to basal but smaller and with shorter petioles. Bases of leaf petioles wrap the stem. Flower clusters in umbels of 11 - 24 branches 25 - 50 mm long, each branch topped with a small umbel of stalks tipped with tiny flowers. Neither set of umbels is subtended by bracts.

Common Name:

Oshá, chuchupate, lovage

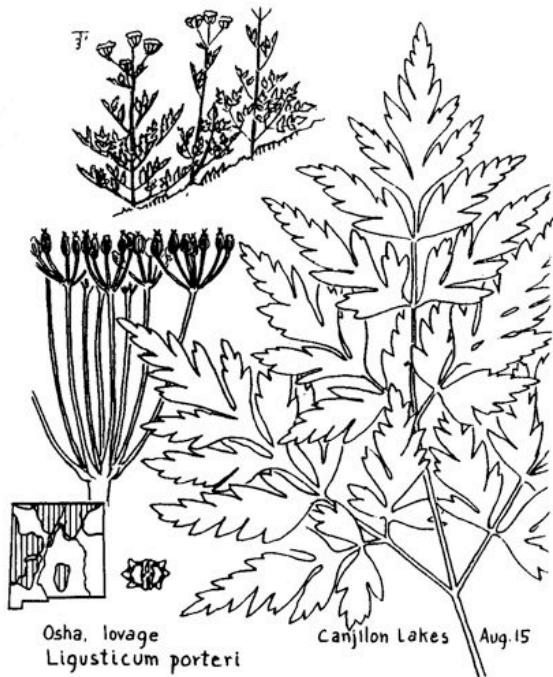
Color:

White to pink

Notes:

This species is named for Thomas Conrad Porter (1822-1901), who, with John Merle Coulter, wrote the first *Synopsis of the Flora of Colorado* in 1874. Oshá is a plant prized by local curanderos and herbalists in general. Its roots are used in various treatments. Some Native American groups believed that parts of the oshá can be used to repel rattlesnakes. The plant is apparently attractive to foraging animals. It blooms from June into August between 7000 and 10000 ft.

New Mexico Native



APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Scientific Name:

Osmorhiza depauperata

Size:

15 - 60 cm

Description:

Synonym: *Osmorhiza obtusa*

Erect perennial herb. Roots aromatic. Stems nearly hairless or with a few minute stiff hairs. Leaves occur in groups of 3 with each group divided into another group of 3, leaflets 2 - 5 cm long, lanceolate to ovate, coarsely toothed or cleft, with a few stiff hairs especially on veins. Flower stalks exceed foliage. Flower clusters in umbels of 3 - 8 divergent branches 2 - 12 cm long, each topped by a second umbel of 3 - 5 stalks 5 - 20 mm long, each tipped by a minute flower. Neither umbel is subtended by bracts.

Common Name:

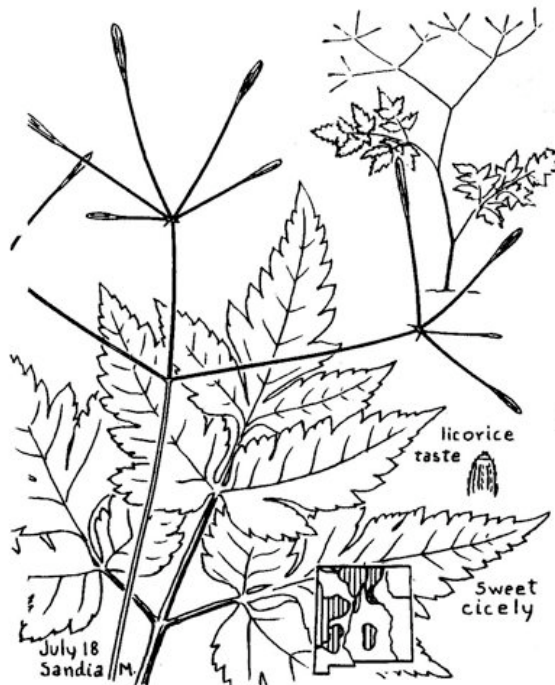
Sweet cicely

Color:

White

Notes:

Sweet cicely is quite common in the Manzanos. Its flowers are so tiny as to be almost invisible. The seeds, although not highly visible, are far from unobtrusive. Black when mature, the seeds have a narrow arrowhead shape. They stick in animal fur and clothing and can actually "burrow" into hikers' socks. Young seeds have a pleasant licorice flavor. Cicely blooms from May to August between 7000 and 10000 ft. Seeds appear in late summer.



New Mexico Native



APOCYNACEAE -- Dogbane Family



Scientific Name:

Apocynum cannabinum

Common Name:

Indian hemp

Size:

50 - 100 cm

Color:

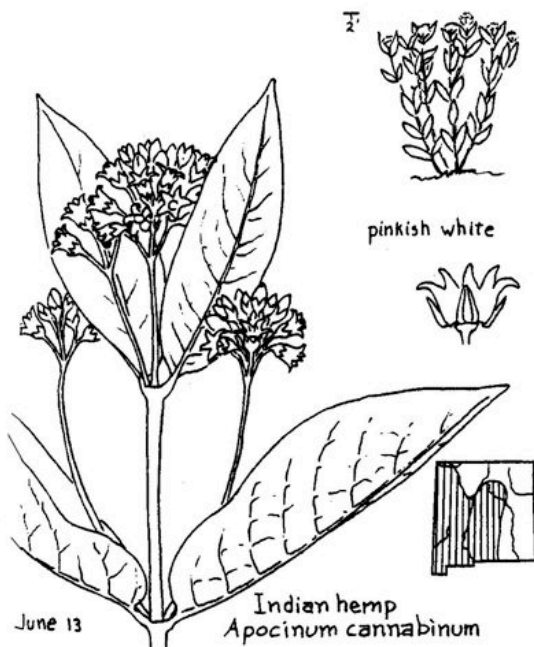
White

Description:

Erect or ascending perennial herb, with tough, fibrous bark, with milky juice, stems branched, glabrous. Leaves opposite, with smooth edges, with a short sharp point, ovate to lanceolate, 2 - 12 cm long, with petioles, ascending to spreading, glabrous or with short, soft hairs on lower surface. Flowers small, in loose clusters at ends of branches. Calyx small, with 5 equal lobes parted nearly to the base, half or more the length of the corolla. Corolla of fused petals, cylindrical to urn-shaped 2 - 5 mm long, with 5 erect lobes 1.5 - 3 mm long, each with a small sagittate appendage on inner surface. Stamens 5, not exceeding corolla, anthers touching but not fused with the stigma.

Notes:

The genus name *Apocynum* translates from Greek to mean “away dog!”, since people thought the plant was poisonous to dogs. This is the genesis of the family name, Dogbane. The species name *cannabinum* means “hemp-like”. Native Americans have used the fibers in this plant to make thread and even rope. It blooms from June through August between 4500 and 7500 ft.



New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family

Scientific Name:

Asclepias asperula

Size:

20 - 40 cm

Description:

Perennial herb with milky juice, stems clustered, unbranched, ascending to somewhat reclining, rough with short, thin, stiff hairs. Leaves irregularly alternate, lanceolate to linear, 10 - 20 cm long, 1 - 2 cm wide, tapering to a point, with some thin, stiff hairs. Flowers perfect, on stalks 1 - 10 cm long, all originating at the same point forming a globular cluster at the stem tip. Calyx lobes 5, ovate, 4 - 5 mm long. Petals 5, united at the base forming ovate lobes 9 - 12 mm long, tightly edge to edge in bud, curving upward when open. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers. Five reddish hooded appendages attach to the base of the staminal column above the petals.

Common Name:

Antelope horns milkweed

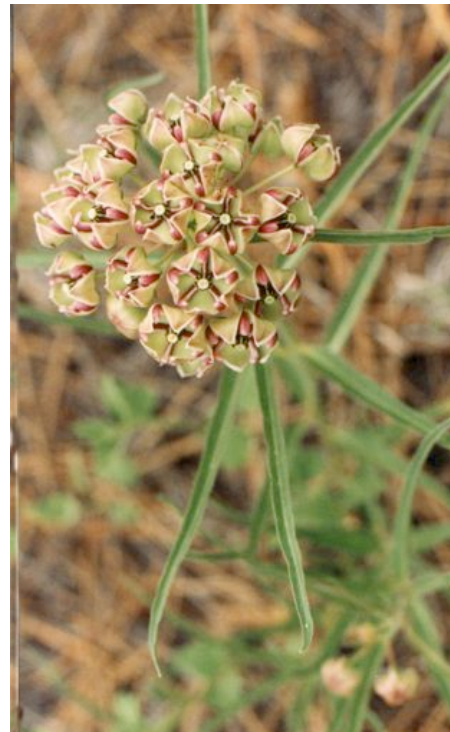
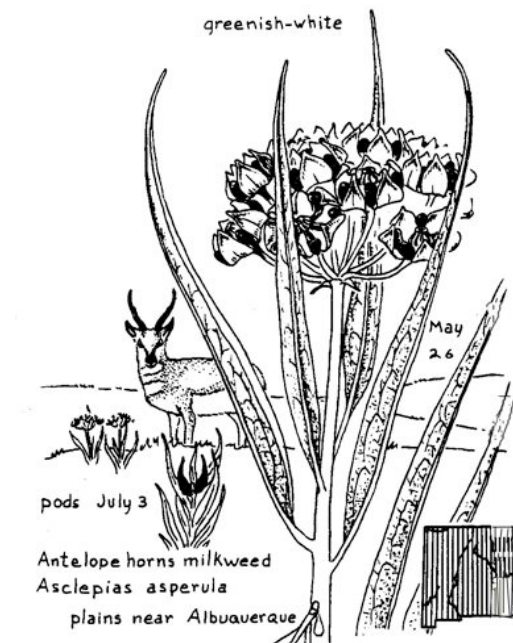
Color:

Yellowish green

Notes:

The fruit of antelope horns milkweed are long, slender pods (technically called follicles) tapered at both ends, 6 - 13 cm long, pointing upwards, which often occur in pairs, strongly resembling the horns of an antelope. The plant is called *immortal* by Hispanic herbalists. It blooms from June through August between 4000 and 8000 ft.

New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family



Scientific Name:
Asclepias latifolia

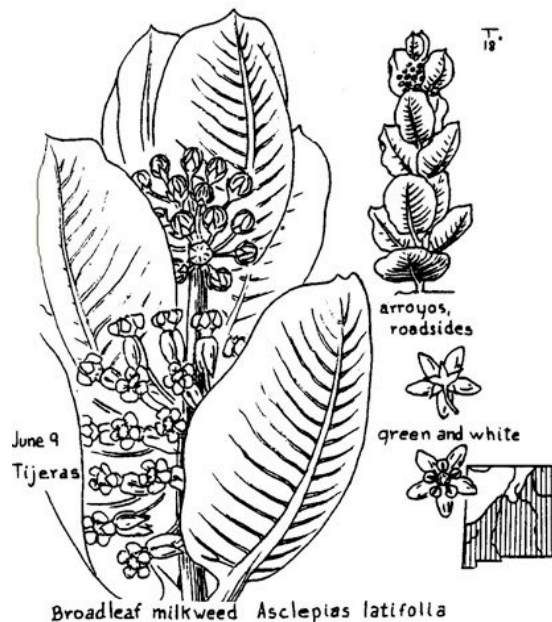
Size:
20 - 60 cm

Description:
Perennial herb with milky juice, stems unbranched, woolly when young becoming almost glabrous. Leaves broadly obovate, 4 - 16 cm long, 4 - 13 cm wide, shallowly notched at apex, waxy and thick. Flowers perfect, on stalks 3 - 4 cm long, all originating from a common point at the tip of a short secondary stalk, forming globular clusters in upper leaf axils. Calyx lobes 5, ovate-lanceolate, about 4 mm long. Petals 5, united at the base, forming ovate lobes 7 - 10 mm long, tightly edge to edge in bud, bent strongly backward when open. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers, surrounded above the petals by 5 hooded appendages each with a protruding, curved horn.

Common Name:
Broadleaf milkweed

Color:
Greenish-white

Notes:
The stout stems and stiff, round, heavily veined leaves of this milkweed are quite distinctive. The flower clusters contain many whitish blossoms which are very attractive to insects, particularly to the large black and orange tarantula wasp (New Mexico's state insect). Broadleaf milkweed blooms from mid-June through August between 3500 and 7000 ft.



New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family

Scientific Name:

Asclepias speciosa

Size:

50 - 100 cm

Description:

Perennial herb with milky juice, stems stout, unbranched, with short woolly hairs. Leaves mostly opposite, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, thick, 8 - 20 cm long, 5 - 10 cm wide, glabrous above, densely woolly below, petioles short. Flowers perfect, in clusters from upper leaf axils, carried on stalks 15 - 30 mm long, originating at a common point at the tip of a stout stalk 2 - 8 cm long, all stalks with dense, woolly hairs. Calyx lobes 5, lanceolate, 5 - 6 mm long. Petals 5, united at the base, forming lanceolate lobes 10 - 15 mm long, bent strongly backwards. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers, surrounded above the petals with 5 narrow hooded appendages 10 - 13 mm long, each enclosing a horn.



Showy milkweed - *Asclepias speciosa*

Common Name:

Showy milkweed

Color:

Pink or red to purplish

Notes:

Milkweeds have potent chemical defenses. Few insects eat them. The most notable exception is the caterpillar of the Monarch butterfly, which is not only unaffected by milkweed toxins, but uses them to assure its own unpalatability to predators, such as birds. The seeds of milkweeds have a large tuft of downy hairs on one end. This down was used during WW II to stuff lifejackets for buoyancy and jackets for warmth, the 1940's version of Thinsulate.™ Showy milkweed blooms from late June into August between 6000 and 9000 ft.

New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family

Scientific Name:

Asclepias subverticillata

Size:

20 - 70 cm

Description:

Perennial herb with milky juice, stems usually several, often with short, small-leaved, non-flowering branches. Herbage glabrous or with short hairs near points of leaf attachment. Leaves whorled or opposite, linear, 4 - 10 cm long, 1 - 3 mm wide, mostly glabrous, with short petioles. Flowers perfect, in clusters from upper leaf axils, carried on stalks 6 - 12 mm long, all originating at the tip of a secondary stalk 2 - 4 cm long. Calyx with 5 lobes 1 - 2 mm long, bent backwards. Petals 5, united at base, forming lobes 3 - 5 mm long, bent backward. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers, surrounded above the petals by 5 hooded appendages, each with a long protruding horn.

Common Name:

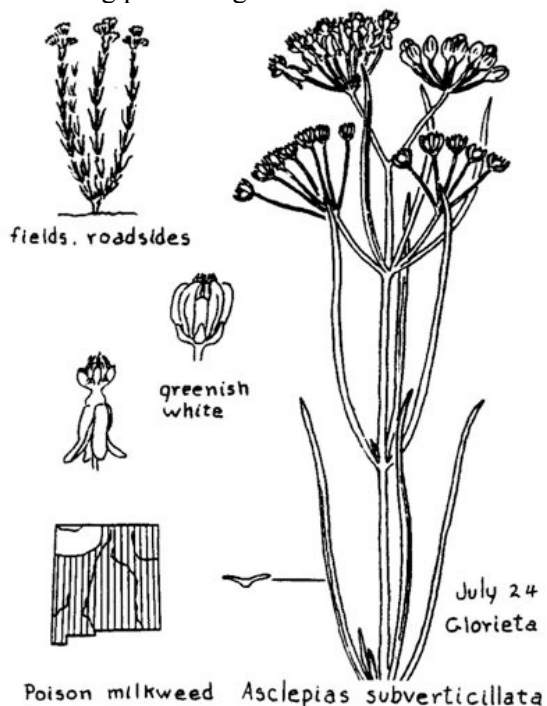
Poison milkweed

Color:

Creamy white

Notes:

Milkweeds contain poisonous glycosides which affect the heart. They can be toxic to people and animals. Poison milkweed can be quite toxic. Fortunately, it is also rather unpalatable, but can be a stock hazard on overgrazed range. Poison milkweed blooms from June into September between 4000 and 7500 ft.



New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family



Scientific Name:

Asclepias tuberosa ssp. *interior*

Size:

20 - 70 cm

Description:

Perennial herb without milky sap, stems clustered, branched only at the top. Herbage with stiff, straight hairs. Leaves crowded, irregularly alternate, narrowly lanceolate, 4 - 10 cm long, 5 - 20 mm wide, with edges smooth and curled under, petioles short. Flowers perfect, in clusters at stem ends, carried on stalks 10 - 25 mm long, all originating at the tip of a secondary stalk 1 - 4 cm long. Calyx with 5 lobes 2 - 3 mm long, hairy. Petals 5, united at the base forming lanceolate lobes 6 - 8 mm long, bent backwards. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers, surrounded above the petals by 5 lanceolate hooded appendages, each enclosing a horn .

Common Name:

Butterfly milkweed, butterflyweed

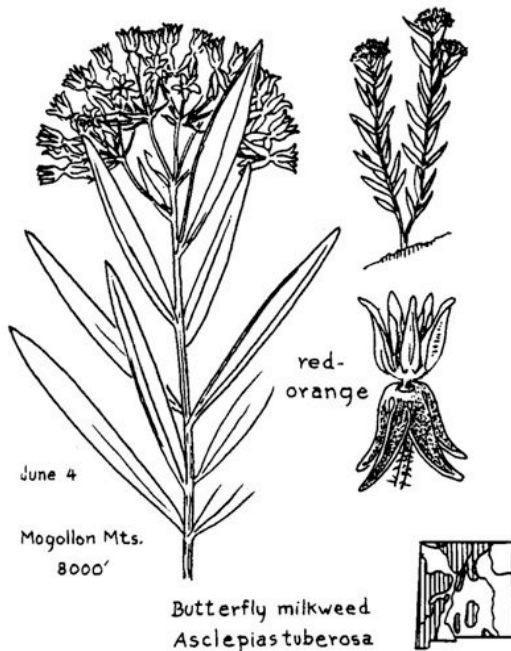
Color:

Bright orange

Notes:

This milkweed lacks the typically milky juice of other milkweeds. Its dense clusters of bright orange flowers are unparalleled. Few plants are as aptly named as butterfly milkweed. The flowers are always covered with butterflies and other insects. The butterfly's legs slip into slits between the hooded appendages above the petals, where they catch on a wishbone-shaped structure with a pollen sac on each end which is transferred to another flower for fertilization. Butterfly milkweed blooms from June through August between 4000 and 8500 ft.

New Mexico Native



ASCLEPIADACEAE -- Milkweed Family

Scientific Name:

Asclepias viridiflora

Size:

10 - 60 cm

Description:

Perennial herb with milky juice, stems mostly solitary or paired, simple or sparsely branched. Herbage almost glabrous or with short curled hairs. Leaves opposite or almost so, lanceolate to ovate or oval, 3 – 10 cm long, 1 – 5 cm wide, margins often undulate, sessile or short-petioled. Flowers perfect, in clusters at the tips of short stalks along stem or in leaf axils, individual flowers on stalks 5 – 15 mm long. Calyx with 5 lobes, 2 – 3 mm long, bent backwards. Petals 5, 5 – 7 mm long, bent backwards. Stamens 5, joined into a tube around the 2 ovaries, styles attached to a flattened stigma, ringed by the joined anthers, surrounded above the petals by 5 hooded appendages without protruding horns.

Common Name:

Green milkweed, green comet

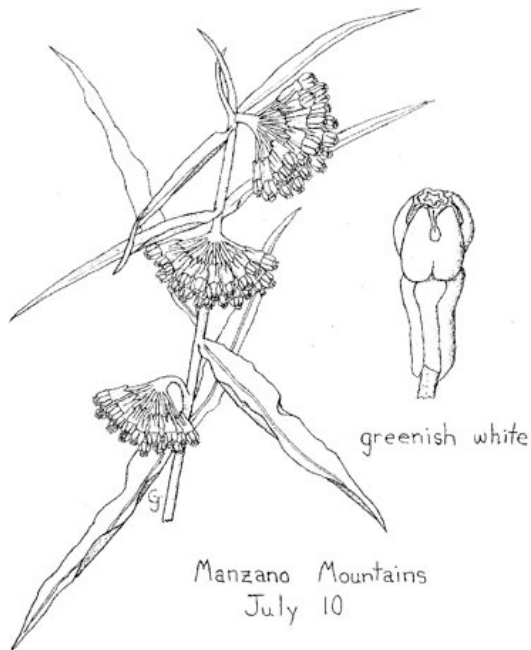
Color:

Greenish white

Notes:

The genus name *Asclepias* is named for the Greek god of medicine. For centuries, milkweeds have been used for numerous medical purposes. Milkweed flowers are very peculiar (see *Asclepias tuberosa*). The lobes of both the sepals and corolla are bent backwards, commonly all the way to the supporting stalk. Visible above are 5 hooded appendages which protect reproductive structures. Typically these appendages have horn-like projections. Only two New Mexico milkweeds lack horns, one of which is green milkweed. Green milkweed blooms from June into August between 5500 and 7500 ft.

New Mexico Native



Manzano Mountains
July 10

Green milkweed
Asclepias viridiflora

