



Common shrubs shrub-steppe habitats

Photos (unless noted) by Susan Ballinger

Sources for text include:

<http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php>

Flora of the Pacific Northwest by C. Leo Hitchcock & Arthur Cronquist

Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest by

Roberta Parish, Ray Coupe, and Dennis Lloyd

Fall, 2012

Artemisia tridentata big sagebrush

ASTER Family

Habitat: widespread and common in deep soiled (>12 in.) shrub-steppe
up to 7 feet tall

Prior fall's flowering stalks.

Leaves: wedge-shaped, most with 3 toothed-tip. Dense gray hair on both sides. **Most leaves persist through winter.**

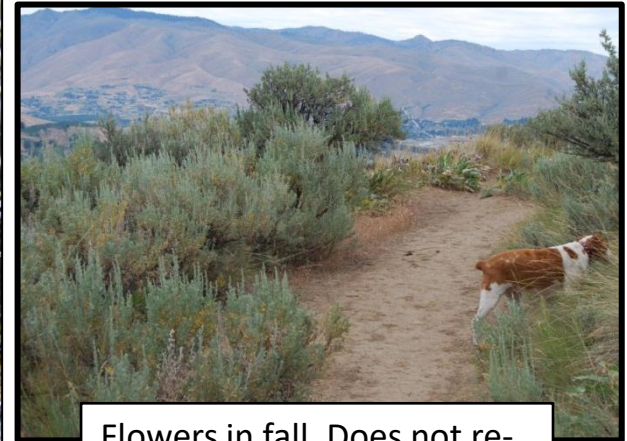


Yellow in photo are long thin leaves, that dry up & die in summer. Smaller hairy, thick leaves remain year-round



Flowers:
small, yellow,
born in
composite
heads of 3-5
disk flowers.
Very small.

Evergreen aromatic shrub. Grayish shredding bark on older branches.



Flowers in fall. Does not re-sprout after wildfire but regenerates from seed.



Artemisia tripartita three-tip sagebrush

Habitat: Generally smaller shrub than big sagebrush, growing in slightly moister areas. 2-4 ft. tall

Flowers in fall, evergreen
1-2 feet tall. Vigorous
sprouter after wildfire.

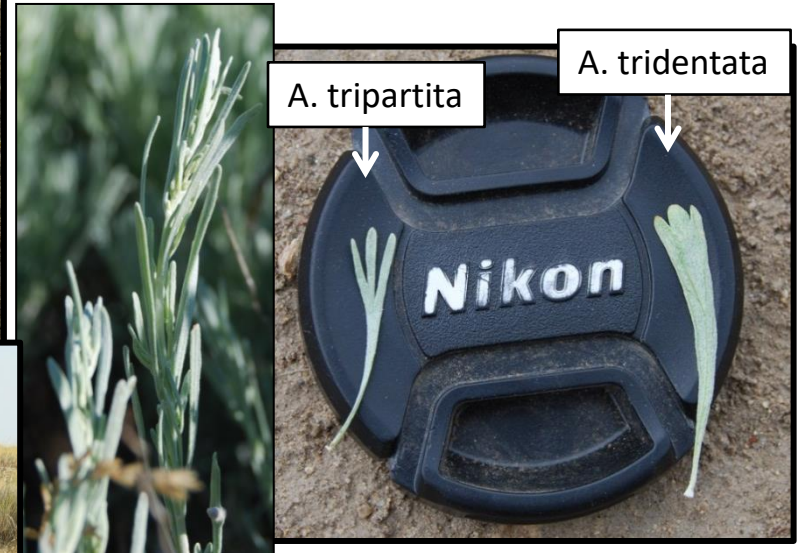


Flower buds
appear brown



ASTER Family

Leaves: deeply cleft into narrow linear divisions, which may themselves be 3-cleft



Artemesia rigida rigid sagebrush

habitat: dry, rocky, thin soils in shrub-steppe. **Less than 2 feet tall**

ASTER Family

Small, often spreading outward on ground.
Older bark is very black.



Flowers in fall

Leaves: 1-4 cm. long, narrow, deeply divided into 3-5 narrow segments. All **deciduous** leaves



Flowers: heads or clusters of heads sessile in the axils, surrounded by longer leaves. Inconspicuous & hard to see.



***Purshia tridentata* bitterbrush**

ROSE Family

Habitat: in hot dry environments. Most abundant on sandy soils up to 4,000 feet.

Usually killed by Summer & Fall wildfires, but some can sprout after being burned in a light spring fire
2-6 feet tall.



Leaves: Deciduous, alternate. Wedge-shaped with 3-toothed tip. Hairy to wooly. Silver-green on upper leaf, grey-wooly below. Commonly, edges rolled under

Flowers: Bright yellow & numerous. Funnel-shaped. Solitary on short, leafy branches. 5 petals.



Fruits: Seeds are pyramid-shaped. Small rodents cache seeds for later food use.



Stems: Rigidly branched with grey or brown bark and twigs covered in dense hairs.



Ericameria* (formerly *Chrysothamnus*) *nauseosus rubber rabbit brush **ASTER Family**

Habitat: widespread & common in shrub-steppe, especially in sandy soils, & low-elevation dry forests.

up to 3-4 feet tall

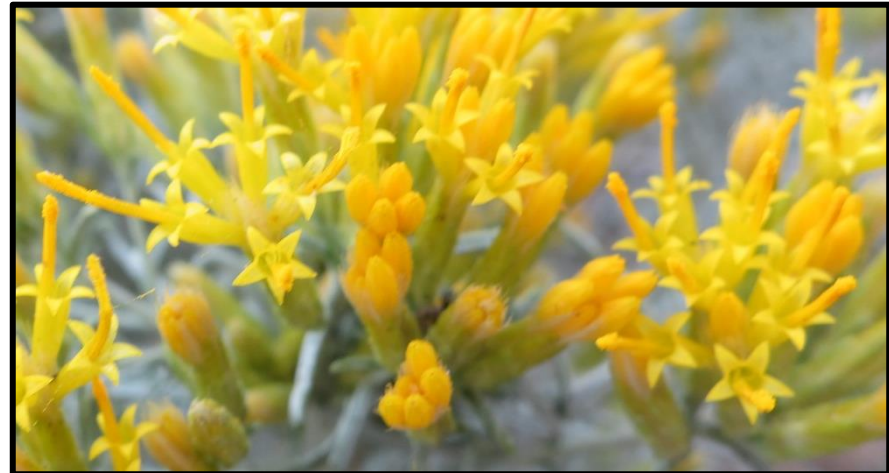
ID tip: If you scrape any stem, a brighter green shows, distinguishing it from the similar species, green rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*.

Leaves:

long,
narrow, &
linear.
Stems &
leaves
covered
with dense
gray velvety
hairs on
both sides.



Fall blooming deciduous
Re-sprouts vigorously after wildfire



Flowers: small, yellow, born in small composite heads of 5 disk flowers at branch tips. Blooms in late summer.

Amelanchier alnifolia serviceberry (Saskatoon)

ROSE Family

Habitat: In moister shrub-steppe gullies and ravines and at edge of talus slopes, up to dry open forests and rocky sites from low to subalpine elevations. **Up to 30 feet tall**



Leaves:

Deciduous, thin, round to oval, and toothed above the middle. Finely hairy on underside



Flowers: 5 petals, white, showy, linear to oblong petals. In short leafy clusters of 3-20 flowers at branch tips



Stems: Smooth with bark grey to red. Spreads with underground stems forming dense colony



Fruits: purple to nearly black, apple-like, with a whitish film (glaucous).



Ribes cereum wax current (older name, squaw current) CURRANT Family

Habitat: lowest zone of dry forest in open, hot, & rocky sites.

Up to 6 feet tall



Stems: new branches finely hairy, becoming gray-brown with age

Very branched, no prickles (un-armed) deciduous.



Fruits: small red berries

Leaves: numerous & small, fan-shaped, weakly 3-5 lobe. Sparsely hairy and often glandular on both sides. At branch tips



Flowers: green-white to pink, urn-shaped. In clusters of 2-8 hanging on a drooping stalk. All are sticky & finely hairy

Ribes aureum golden current

Habitat: shrub-steppe floodplains of rivers & streams, talus slopes.
Up to 10 feet tall

CURRENT Family

Deciduous rounded shrub



Branches: multi-stemmed, reddish when young, turning dark gray



Fruits: orange, round berry



Flowers: 5 golden-yellow petals fused into a tube, fragrant
Early spring bloomer.



Leaves: alternate, bright green, 3-lobed, somewhat leathery

Prunus virginiana Chokecherry

ROSE family

Habitat: along watercourses in grasslands, & shrub-steppe. In open low elevation forests, often in exposed dry sites & in rocky outcrops. **Up to 13 feet tall.**



Flowers: small, white, saucer-shaped, 5 rounded petals; in long clusters at branch tips, pendulous



Fruits shiny, red to purple to black
In hanging clusters.

Deciduous, straggly shrub, trunks crooked, smooth bark (red to gray brown) without horizontal lenticels

Leaves: Alternate, thin, broadly oval, finely sharp-toothed, sharp-pointed tip, dull green above, paler below.

