**Wyoming Big Sagebrush**

*Scientific name:* *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*

The big sagebrush complex composed of four subspecies, is adapted to a wide range of precipitation zones and soil conditions. Plants are well adapted to the arid plains, valleys, foothills and mountains of the West where annual rainfalls ranges from 8 to 300 in.

Big sagebrush are evergreen shrubs ranging in size form less than 2 ft tall to as large as 13 ft tall. Branches are spreading, arising from numerous main stems in the lower growing subspecies or from one main trunk in the larger forms.

Leaves are blue-green in color due to dense gray hairs. They are typically wedge-shaped, triangular and gradually tapers to the base, or bell shaped depending on the subspecies. Floral heads contain from 3 to 18 perfect flowers per head.

Big sagebrush plants provide many additional benefits to the plant community. The dense canopy protects under-story herbaceous plants from grazing. Healthy sagebrush communities provide a multi-tiered ecosystem with high levels of biodiversity.

**Treasure Valley Native Plant Network**
Antelope Bitterbrush

Scientific Name: Purshia tridentata

Antelope bitterbrush is a slow growing shrub that is moderate to very deep rooted. It is normally 2 to 6 feet in height and up to 8 feet in width with wedge shaped, three lobed leaves. Leaves can vary in color from grey green to bright green. Some plants have branches near the soil that provide additional rooting for the plant.

Flowering occurs in late spring to early summer. The spindle-shaped seed shatters easily at maturity. Flowers are small, varying from white to yellow, and produced profusely along each leader. They are about one-fourth inch long. Seeds, stems, and leaves are nontoxic.

Individual bitterbrush plants exhibit considerable variation in growth form. Bitterbrush's growth forms vary from a uniform, erect growth habit to more decumbent, layering forms. Users are encouraged to consider the various forms of bitterbrush in choosing a strain best suited to their needs.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Antelope Bitterbrush

Seed

Mature

Flower
Common Yarrow

Scientific name: *Achillea millefolium*

Common Yarrow is found throughout North America from the coast to alpine zones.

A member of the aster family, yarrow has flat-topped or dome-shaped clusters of small white flowers that bloom from April to October. Its aromatic, fine, feathery-cut leaves give the plant a soft, fern-like appearance.

An attractive, hardy perennial, yarrow can reach about 3 feet in height.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Lewis Flax

Scientific name: *Linum lewisii* Pursh

Lewis flax can be found from Alaska to California and east to Minnesota in mixed grass, sagebrush, shad scale, juniper, mountain brush and aspen communities and in openings in coniferous forests.

Flax plants have many narrow, small, alternate, simple and entire leaves that are on the steams. Generally showy flowers, sepals, petals and stamens are five, the fruit a capsule.

The flax plant is annual, semi-evergreen perennial, sometimes semi-woody at the base with attractive flowers ranging from white to blue to yellow to red in color.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Rubber Rabbitbrush

**Scientific name:** *Ericameria nauseosa*

Rubber rabbitbrush is a native, perennial, warm-season shrub that grows to 1 to 8 feet tall. It has a rounded crown and stems originating from its base. Stems are yellowish green, flexible, erect and spreading, and are covered with a dense felt-like layer of white hairs.

Leaves are 0.75 to 2.75 inches long, 0.02 to 0.12 inches wide, alternate, linear to spatula shaped with entire margins, 1 to 3 nerved, and are also covered with white hairs.

Flowers are yellow, tubular, 0.25 to 0.4 inch long, arranged in terminal, rounded clusters. The flower bracts are narrow, layered and papery. Flowers begin bloom in late July in cool environments, in October in hot desert environments, and at variable times in cold desert environments.

Seeds are wind disseminated. Reproduction is primarily by seeds.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Sandberg’s Bluegrass

Scientific Name: *Poa secunda* Presl

The Sandberg bluegrass complex is composed of cool-season perennial bunch grasses. Most accessions mature early in the growing season. This grass is one of the first to green up in the spring, but is commonly cured and dormant by early summer.

The plant usually occurs as small tufts, with soft basal leaves and few to many flowering stalks. The leaves have the typical bluegrass characteristics of prow-shaped tip and double groove down the center of the upper leaf surface.

The seeds are free of hair except for short crisp hairs on the lower portion. The flowers are in narrow loose branching cluster of flowers that are somewhat spreading during the flowering period. Plants seldom exceed 24 inches in height. Plants of the Sandberg bluegrass complex have extensive, deep penetrating, coarse, fibrous roots that make them quite drought tolerant and resistant to grazing and trampling.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Showy Golden-eye

Scientific name: *Heliomeris multiflora*

Showy golden-eye is a perennial flowering arising from a woody taproot. The much branching stems reach approximately 39 inches in height. Leaves are narrow oval shape tapering to a point at each end, 0.4 to 3.2 inches long and 0.08 to 0.8 inches wide.

There are commonly 2 to several flower heads per stem. The disk is 6 to 14 mm (0.25 to 0.6 in) across with dark yellow flowers. The disk is surrounded by 10 to 14 yellow ray flowers, 0.3 to 0.7 inches long. The fruit is a brown achene 0.05 to 0.07 inches long.

Treasure Valley Native Plant Network
Showy Goldeneye

Seed

Mature

Flower
**Showy Milkweed**

**Scientific name:** Asclepias speciosa Torr.

Showy milkweed grows in well-drained soil in full or nearly full sun, in pastures, meadows, forest clearings, untilled fields, roadsides, and ditch banks, from sea level to 6250 ft.

Showy milkweed is a native herbaceous perennial from widespread rhizomes, which produce stems that grow to 1 1/2 to 5 ft tall in summer. The gray-green leaves are opposite, 4 to 7 inches long, oval, and covered in velvety hairs.

Flowers are in loose clusters at the top of the stems and are rose-purple, aging to yellow. Individual flowers look like crowns, with the petals reflexed, and hoods above the corolla.

**Treasure Valley Native Plants Network**