

# Petrified Forest

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona



## Common Plants



The environment of Petrified Forest is amazingly diverse, from the open grassland to the intimacy of a small seep spring. Types of plants change with the various habitats, such as the open woodlands along the Painted Desert Rim and mesa tops with juniper, crispleaf buckwheat, and cliffroses while grasses like needle and thread and sideoats grama dominate the open prairie. Animals depend on plants for food and shelter. People enjoy the shade beneath rustling cottonwoods and the beauty of wildflowers. Unfortunately, some native plants are threatened by invasive non-native weeds, including tamarix and bindweed, an issue both within the park and beyond its boundaries. With thousands of species of plants in the park, only a sampling of species is featured here.

Within each category, species are listed alphabetically by scientific name. Non-native, often noxious and invasive, plants are marked with an \*.

### Trees



One seed juniper

*Elaeagnus angustifolia*\* Russian olive  
*Juniperus monosperma* one seed juniper  
*Juniperus osteosperma* Utah juniper  
*Pinus edulis* twoneedle pinyon, pinyon pine  
*Populus angustifolia* narrowleaf cottonwood  
*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizeni* Fremont cottonwood

*Populus fremontii* Fremont cottonwood  
*Salix exigua* narrow leaf willow, coyote willow  
*Salix gooddingii* Goodding's willow  
*Tamarix chinensis*\* fivestamen tamarix, saltcedar

### Shrubs

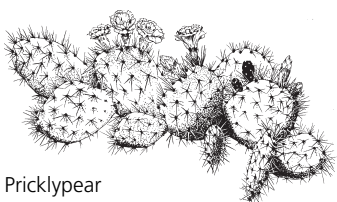


Fourwing saltbush

*Artemisia bigelovii* Bigelow's sage  
*Artemisia filifolia* sand sagebrush  
*Atriplex canescens* fourwing saltbush  
*Atriplex confertifolia* shadescale saltbush  
*Chrysothamnus Greenei* Greene's rabbitbrush  
*Ephedra viridis* Mormon tea  
*Ericameria nauseosa* ssp. *nauseosa* var. *nauseosa* rubber rabbitbrush  
*Eriogonum corymbosum* var. *aureum* crispleaf buckwheat, corymb buckwheat  
*Forestiera pubescens* var. *pubescens* desert olive, New Mexico privet

*Krascheninnikovia lanata* winterfat  
*Lycium pallidum* pale wolfberry  
*Purshia stansburiana* Stansbury cliffrose  
*Poliomintha incana* hoary rosemarymint  
*Rhus trilobata* skunkbush sumac  
*Salsola tragus*\* prickly Russian thistle, tumbleweed  
*Sarcobatus vermiculatus* greasewood

### Cactus

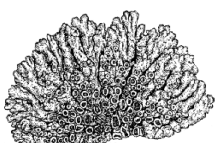


Pricklypear

*Cylindropuntia whipplei* Whipple cholla  
*Echinocereus coccineus* var. *coccineus* scarlet hedgehog cactus  
*Escobaria vivipara* var. *arizonica* Arizona spiny star  
*Opuntia erinacea* grizzlybear pricklypear

*Opuntia fragilis* brittle pricklypear  
*Opuntia macrorhiza* var. *macrorhiza* twistspine pricklypear, plains pricklypear  
*Sclerocactus papyracanthus* paperspine fishhook cactus

### Often Overlooked



Lichen *Xanthoria elegans*

*Orobanche ludoviciana* ssp. *multiflora* manyflowered broomrape  
*Phoradendron juniperinum* juniper mistletoe  
There are also many species of lichens and mosses in the park.

## Subshrubs and Perennials



Banana yucca



Snakeweed

*Abronia fragrans* snowball sand verbena, fragrant sandverbena  
*Achillea millefolium* var. *occidentalis* Western yarrow, milfoil yarrow  
*Alhagi maurorum*\* camelthorn  
*Argemone pleiacantha* southwestern pricklypoppy  
*Asclepias subverticillata* horsetail milkweed  
*Astragalus amphioxys* var. *amphioxys* crescent milkvetch  
*Astragalus flavus* yellow milkvetch  
*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *diphysus* specklepod milkvetch, freckled milkvetch  
*Astragalus mollissimus* var. *thompsoniae* woolly locoweed  
*Calochortus aureus* golden mariposa lily  
*Calylophus lavandulifolius* lavenderleaf sundrops  
*Castilleja* spp. paintbrush  
*Chaetopappa ericoides* rose heath  
*Clematis ligusticifolia* western white clematis, white-virgins-bower  
*Comandra umbellata* ssp. *pallida* pale bastard toadflax  
*Convolvulus arvensis*\* field bindweed  
*Cryptantha flava* Brenda's yellow catseye, yellow cryptanth  
*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *fendleri* Fendler's springparsley  
*Cymopterus bulbosus* bulbous springparsley, corkwing, chimaya  
*Dalea candida* var. *oligophylla* white prairieclover  
*Delphinium scaposum* tall mountain larkspur  
*Descurainia pinnata* western tansymustard  
*Erigeron compactus* fernleaf fleabane, fern-leaf daisy  
*Erigeron concinnus* mound daisy  
*Erysimum capitatum* var. *purshii* Pursh's wallflower  
*Frasera speciosa* showy frasera

*Gaillardia pinnatifida* red dome blanketflower, Hopi blanketflower  
*Gilia rigidula* ssp. *acerosa* bluebowls  
*Grindelia nuda* var. *aphanactis* curlytop gumweed  
*Grindelia squarrosa* curlycup gumweed  
*Gutierrezia sarothrae* broom snakeweed  
*Helioomeris multiflora* var. *multiflora* showy goldeneye  
*Lepidium montanum* var. *glabrum* mountain pepperweed  
*Lesquerella* sp. bladderpod  
*Linum lewisii* prairie flax  
*Lygodesmia arizonica* Arizona skeleton plant  
*Machaeranthera canescens* spp. hoary tansyaster  
*Medicago sativa*\* alfalfa, lucern  
*Mentzelia multiflora* mayflowered mentzelia, Adonis blazingstar  
*Mirabilis multiflora* Colorado four o' clock, large four o' clock  
*Oenothera flava* yellow eveningprimrose  
*Oenothera* spp. white eveningprimrose  
*Psilostrophe tagetina* woolly paperflower  
*Ratibida columnifera* upright prairie coneflower  
*Senecio flaccidus* var. *flaccidus* threadleaf groundsel  
*Solanum elaeagnifolium* silverleaf nightshade  
*Sophora stenophylla* fingerleaf necklace pod, silvery sophora  
*Sphaeralcea* spp. globemallow  
*Stanleya pinnata* desert princeplume  
*Thelesperma megapotamicum* Hopi tea, greenthread  
*Townsendia incana* hoary townsendia  
*Yucca angustissima* var. *angustissima* fineleaf yucca, narrow-leaved yucca  
*Yucca baccata* banana yucca  
*Zinnia grandiflora* Rocky Mountain zinnia

## Annuals and Biennials



Evening primrose

*Camissonia scapoidea* barestem eveningprimrose  
*Chaenactis stevioides* Steve's dustymaiden  
*Cleome serrulata* Rocky Mountain beeplant  
*Dimorphocarpa wislizeni* touristplant, spectaclepod  
*Erigeron divergens* spreading fleabane, spreading daisy  
*Erigeron flagellaris* trailing fleabane  
*Erodium cicutarium*\* redstem stork's bill  
*Gaura mollis* velvetweed, willow gaura  
*Helianthus annuus* common sunflower  
*Heliotropium convolvulaceum* phlox heliotrope, showy heliotrope  
*Heterotheca subaxillaris* camphorweed, sand goldenaster  
*Heterotheca villosa* hairy false goldenaster

*Ipomopsis longiflora* flaxflowered ipomopsis  
*Lupinus pusillus* var. *intermontanus* intermountain lupine, dwarf lupine  
*Malacothrix fendleri* sowthistle desert dandelion  
*Oenothera* spp. eveningprimrose  
*Pectis angustifolia* lemon scent  
*Phacelia crenulata* var. *corrugata* cleftleaf wildheiotrope  
*Phacelia integrifolia* var. *integrifolia* gypsum scorpionweed  
*Phacelia ivesiana* Ives' phacelia  
*Portulaca oleracea*\* purslane  
*Townsendia annua* annual townsend daisy  
*Verbascum thapsus*\* common mullein, woolly mullein

## Grasses, Reeds, and Sedges



Blue grama grass

*Achnatherum hymenoides* Indian ricegrass  
*Aristida purpurea* var. *longiseta* Fendler threeawn, purple threeawn  
*Bouteloua curtipendula* var. *curtipendula* sideoats grama  
*Bouteloua gracilis* blue grama  
*Bromus japonicus*\* Japanese brome  
*Chloris virgata* feather fingergrass  
*Dasyochloa pulchella* low woollygrass, fluffgrass  
*Eragrostis intermedia* plains lovegrass  
*Hesperostipa comata* var. *comata* needle and thread grass  
*Leptochloa fusca* ssp. *fascicularis* bearded sprangletop  
*Muhlenbergia torreyi* ring muhly  
*Panicum obtusum* obtuse panicgrass, vine mesquite

*Phragmites australis* common reed  
*Pleuraphis jamesii* James' galleta  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* ssp. *neomexicanum* New Mexico little bluestem  
*Sporobolus airoides* alkali sacaton  
*Sporobolus cryptandrus* sand dropseed  
*Cyperus squarrosus* bearded flatsedge  
*Eleocharis palustris* common spiderush, creeping spikerush  
*Juncus bufonius* toadrush  
*Schoenoplectus maritimus* cosmopolitan bulrush  
*Typha domingensis* southern cattail, common cattail

## Taking Care of the Wild

Only a fraction of plants found in the park are listed in this publication. National parks create oases of protection for many species of plants in a fragmented environment. Do not harm, disturb, or remove any plants in Petrified Forest or any other national park area. Leave them for other visitors to enjoy.