

Sagebrush

(Artemisia Tridentata)



Flora
Fauna



Some Sagebrush plants
can survive over 100
years.

Explore Idaho
with Scout the Fox!

Scout



How to Identify:

- Sagebrush will have a leaf that is small grey, and hairy with three teeth on the end.
- During warmer weather Sagebrush emits a spicy, bitter smell.
- In late summer, early fall you can find small groups of pale-yellow flowers called inflorescences on the ends of the branches. Sagebrush is in the Aster Family of plants.
- The trunk of mature sagebrush is usually twisting and low to the ground.

Habitat:

- Sagebrush is a plant that grows in steppe regions. A steppe region is characterized by grassland plains without trees except those near inland bodies of water. A steppe may be semi-arid or covered in grass.
- Sagebrush grows in the arid and semi-arid regions of 11 western U.S. states.
- Sagebrush provides food and habitat for many animals, Sage Grouse, Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush Sparrow, Pronghorn, and Mule Deer, just to name a few.

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More Fun Facts!

- Basin Big Sagebrush is typically 3 to 6 feet in height and up to 13 feet in wet areas.
- Young plants have a smooth silver colored bark. Older plants have rough, grey bark divided into strips.
- Sagebrush has a long taproot which helps it absorb water from a depth as deep as 13 feet.
- Sagebrush produces chemicals when injured. This signals the other surrounding plants to produce repelling compounds to protect themselves against larger herbivores.





Portals to Parks



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Help Protect Sagebrush

- Remove invasive plants. Sagebrush looks like a hardy plant, but it is quite delicate.
- Prevent Wildfires! Fires often result in the conversion of sagebrush to cheatgrass.
- Preservation of native lands. Sagebrush is often lost by the conversion of lands to agriculture.

ACTIVITY TIME

Look around as you travel. See if you can identify steppe land and identify a sagebrush plant. Talk about where you found it and what surrounded it.

What kind of animals depend on sagebrush?
