



PLANTS OF CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

MARIAN ROHMAN
2025



WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER ROHMAN



LOR
FOUNDATION



SOUTHWEST COLORADO
CANYONS ALLIANCE
FRIENDS OF CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS

This book is dedicated to the untiring staff and volunteers of *Canyons of the Ancients* National Monument who have worked for twenty-five years to make this into an outstanding place to visit.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| White Flowers | 3 |
| Pink/Purple Flowers | 13 |
| Blue/Purple Flowers | 21 |
| Yellow Flowers | 23 |
| Red/Orange Flowers | 38 |
| Trees | 41 |
| Grasses | 43 |
| Fruits | 46 |
| Index | 48 |
| Other Resources | inside back cover |



Sego Lily – light pink form

see pg. 8

INTRODUCTION

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) covers 176,000 acres in the southwest corner of Colorado at an elevation of 4840–7070 feet. It consists of a series of parallel canyons in the north and crosses McElmo Creek in the southwest to include an area of mesas and sand dunes. The monument was designated in 2000 to protect the amazing density of prehistoric archaeological sites in the area, but it has an interesting diversity of plants, too. There are over 550 plant species and varieties in the many plant communities in the monument, with about 30 of the plants tracked as rare by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The CANM Visitor Center is on 50 acres in the town of Dolores, about 11 miles east of the monument.

Plant communities within the monument include:

Sagebrush shrublands – dominated by either big sagebrush or black sagebrush

Piñon-juniper woodland – dominated by piñon pine and/or Utah juniper with understory shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Salt desert shrub/scrub – dominated by fourwing saltbush, shadscale, or greasewood, depending on the clay content and moisture level of the soils

Grasslands, sometimes with small shrubs – dominated by blue grama, galleta, and/or western wheatgrass, sometimes with scattered big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, or other shrubs

Riparian – dominated by sandbar willow and saltcedar with various rushes and sedges

Sand dunes – each dune has its' own combination of shrubs and wildflowers; common shrubs include Cutler's ephedra, sand wild buckwheat, and sand sage; common wildflowers include narrow-leaved beardtongue, pale evening primrose, and sand dock

Small wetlands – usually associated with man-made cattle tanks, dominated by cocklebur, creeping knotweed, and various rushes and sedges

Almost all of the plants in this book grow in or near the piñon-juniper woodland community.

In all of these communities, there is variety of colorful and interesting wildflowers and plants. However, the abundance, and even the presence, of flowers each year is very dependent on precipitation. The perennial plants need rain in the late summer and early fall in order to come up the next spring. The annuals need snow and rain in the winter and early spring. Without adequate moisture, the numbers and size of the plants can vary dramatically, down to almost nothing in a very dry year.

The one hundred twenty-nine plants in this field guide are present in one or more of the developed areas of the monument:

Lower Sand Canyon Trail System

Sand Canyon Pueblo area

Painted Hand Pueblo area

Lowry Pueblo area

Visitor Center area

There are plants that are common in other parts of the monument that are not included in the field guide due to a lack of space. We want this guide to be one that you can easily carry with you, so you can identify the plants while you're looking at them. Your photographs will help you later, but having the plant in front of you is always a plus. But please don't pick them; we want everyone to be able to see the same beautiful flowers you see. And please, stay on the trails and make sure your dogs are leashed and also stay on the trails due to the sensitivity of the cultural sites, the biological soil crust, and the high number of visitors. Biological soil crust is a living component of the soil. It takes hundreds of years to develop and stabilizes the soil surface. It looks like small dark knobs or towers on the surface of the soil. When you walk on the crust, you break down the surface, which can take decades, or even centuries, to restabilize.

One of the exciting parts of visiting CANM is the nearness of other national parks and monuments – there are six within 100 miles of CANM. This field guide will also be useful for those parks, particularly for Hovenweep National Monument which shares boundaries with CANM and is in the same elevational range.

Arches National Park – 76,519 acres, 4085-5653 ft

Bears Ears National Monument – 1.35 million acres, 3000-13,000 ft

Canyonlands National Park – 337,598 acres, 3190-7190 ft

Chimney Rock National Monument – 4726 acres, 7600 ft

Hovenweep National Monument – 785 acres, 5200-6760 ft

Mesa Verde National Park – 52,485 acres, 7000-8400 ft

The information and photographs for the plants in this book were gathered during a multi-year botanical inventory of the monument conducted by the authors. Not every plant was seen every year. Some were only seen in one or both of the two wet years.

The photographs emphasize the flowers and are arranged by flower color. When a plant can have more than one flower color, it is shown under the most common color and the other color is mentioned in the description. Trees, grasses, and fruits follow the flowers.

WHITE FLOWERS



Funnel Lily (*Androstephium breviflorum*)

Asparagus Family

The flower stalk of Funnel lily has two to six thick, almost waxy flowers clustered at the top and is about 8 inches tall. The few narrow leaves are at the base. Each flower produces a distinctive three-lobed fruit.

Blooms April thru early May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Narrowleaf Yucca (*Yucca angustissima*)

Asparagus Family

Narrowleaf yucca flowers bloom well above a cluster of narrow sharp-pointed leaves. In a wet year, there can be hundreds of flower stalks. In a dry year, there may be none. They prefer open areas with sandy soil.

Blooms in May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*)

Asparagus Family

Banana yucca has a stalk of showy white flowers growing within a cluster of wide, succulent leaves. It is named for its fruits, which are yellow and resemble stubby bananas.

Blooms mid-May thru early June.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Sunflower Family

Yarrow grows to about 2 feet tall. The clusters of bright white flowers and fern-like leaves are distinctive. It likes lots of sun and a little extra moisture so it frequently grows along creeks and roadsides.

Blooms late June thru August.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and the Visitor Center.



Pussytoes (*Antennaria parvifolia*)
Sunflower Family

This low growing plant is named for its clusters of fuzzy flowers. It can form large mats and is usually found in piñon-juniper woodland.

Blooms in May; it looks very similar in fruit.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos.



Desert Pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*)
Sunflower Family

The flower clusters of Desert pincushion are held above deeply cut leaves. It is usually about 12 to 18 inches tall and prefers sandy soil.

Blooms in May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.
(see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Sand Aster (*Chaetopappa ericoides*)

Sunflower Family

Sand aster can have flowers with pointed or round tips and can be very plentiful. It particularly likes to grow in open sandy areas.

Blooms mid-April thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry, and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Spreading Fleabane (*Erigeron divergens*)

Sunflower Family

There are several fleabanies in CANM. This one is the most common and usually grows to about 1 foot tall. It has single flowers on short side stems and is found in open areas, often in sandy soil.

Blooms May thru August.

Known from Lowry Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Silvery Easter Daisy
(*Townsendia incana*)

Sunflower Family

This low growing plant has large white flowers compared to the size of the plant. The tips of the petals can be pointed or rounded.

Blooms May thru June; can bloom as early as February.

Known from Sand Canyon and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Baker's Cat's-eye (*Oreocarya bakeri*)

Borage Family

Baker's cat's-eye can have flowers on very short stems, making it look like a bouquet. It has prickly hairs on the leaves and stems and is found in open, often rocky areas.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Wedgeleaf Whitlow-grass

(*Draba cuneifolia*)

Mustard Family

This tiny plant is easily overlooked since it stands only about 2 inches tall. It is covered with short hairs on the leaves and flower stalk and has four petals, typical of most flowers in the Mustard Family.

Blooms mid-March thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Mountain Pepperwort

(*Lepidium montanum*)

Mustard Family

Mountain pepperwort grows to about 1½ feet tall with many clusters of white flowers. It usually grows in open areas, often in piñon-juniper woodland.

Blooms in May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Naturita Milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*)

Legume Family

The beautiful bi-colored flowers of Naturita milkvetch only reach about 2 inches above the ground. It is usually found in sandy soil along the edges of sandstone bedrock. It is listed as rare by the state of Colorado.

Flowers mid-April thru early May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Desert Green Gentian (*Frasera albomarginata*)

Gentian Family

The basal leaf clusters of Green gentian come up for several years before they flower. When the conditions are right, this plant produces beautiful flowers on a multi-branched stalk up to 1½ feet tall. And then it dies. The leaves have striking white margins.

Blooms mid-May thru mid-June.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Cliff Fendlerbush (*Fendlera rupicola*)

Hydrangea Family

This is one of the showiest shrubs in our area. It grows about 5 feet tall and can be somewhat scraggly, but the plentiful flowers make it truly beautiful. It grows well on rocky slopes, often in or near piñon-juniper woodlands.

Flowers mid-April thru early May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Winding Mariposa Lily

(*Calochortus flexuosus*)

Lily Family

Winding Mariposa lily has white to pale pink flowers with a large orange spot outlined in yellow on each petal. The plants are about 1 foot tall with zig-zagging stems and a few long curly leaves. They prefer open grassy areas. It is listed as rare by the state of Colorado.

Blooms mid-April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Sego Lily (*Calochortus nuttallii*)

Lily Family

Sego lily flowers range from white to deep rose pink. Each petal has a pale orange spot surrounded with yellow and one or two "eyebrows". The plant tends to be straight with flat leaves.

Blooms in May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

(see photo of pink form of flowers on the Table of Contents page)



Tufted Evening Primrose

(*Oenothera cespitosa*)

Evening Primrose Family

These 2-inch white flowers bloom for about 15-20 hours starting at the end of the day. The plant has a basal cluster of leaves that can be toothed or smooth on their edges. It is found in open areas that often have clay in the soil.

Blooms mid-April thru mid-May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Woolly Plantain (*Plantago patagonica*)
Snapdragon Family

Woolly plantain is a small plant with a cluster of narrow fuzzy leaves at the base and a flower stalk that varies from 1 inch to more than a foot tall depending on rainfall. The flowers are very small and have beautiful papery petals. It prefers sandy soil.

Blooms late April thru June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Ballhead Gilia (*Ipomopsis congesta*)
Phlox Family

This low growing plant is named for the shape of its flower clusters. It is usually found in open piñon-juniper woodland.

Blooms May thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Prickly Phlox
(*Linanthus pungens*)
Phlox Family

Prickly phlox blooms in the evening and through the night and has a very strong sweet fragrance. The plant is a clump of very prickly leaves.

Blooms May thru June

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Carpet Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*)
Phlox Family

The petals on Carpet phlox flowers range from broad and rounded to narrow and pointed. The flowers can vary from white to pale pink. The plant is a mound of short prickly leaves.

Blooms April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Longleaf Phlox (*Phlox longifolia*)
Phlox Family

Longleaf phlox can grow to about 10 inches and has pairs of narrow leaves along the stem. It can form quite large patches. The flowers range in color from white to deep pink.

Blooms April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Nodding Wild Buckwheat
(*Eriogonum cernuum*)
Buckwheat Family

This plant has a basal cluster of rounded leaves that send up an open, intricately branched flower stalk about 1 foot tall. Each flower hangs down on its own little stalk. The whole plant turns a deep brownish-red in the fall.

Blooms June thru mid-July.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Redroot Wild Buckwheat
(*Eriogonum racemosum*)
Buckwheat Family

This wild buckwheat also has a basal cluster of leaves, but the leaves are larger and are on longer stems. The minimally branched flower stalks grow to 3 feet tall.

Blooms late July thru early Sept.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and the Visitor Center.



Virgin's Bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)
Buttercup Family

Virgin's bower is a climbing vine that covers the vegetation along the creeks in our area, both dry and flowing. The large clusters of flowers turn into fruits with numerous long feathery white tendrils.

Blooms in August.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Utah Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Rose Family

Utah serviceberry is the first shrub to bloom in the spring. It grows to about 8 feet tall and is usually covered with white flowers and then small red fruits.

Blooms April thru early May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Wild Crabapple (*Peraphyllum ramosissimum*)

Rose Family

This shrub is about 7 feet tall. The flowers are white with a pink blush and look like miniature apple flowers. The fruits are red and look like miniature apples.

Blooms in May.

Known from Lowry Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 47)



Cliffrose (*Purshia stansburiana*)

Rose Family

The sweet musky fragrance of Cliffrose flowers is unmistakable. You usually smell them before you see them. The creamy white flowers bloom on a medium shrub. The fruits are five feathery tails per flower.

Blooms May thru June, later in the season if there is rain.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 47)



Pale False Toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*)

Sandalwood Family

Both the leaves and flowers of this plant are somewhat succulent. The flowers are white, often tinged with pink. The fruits are a somewhat misshapen large reddish to purple berry with a little crown on top.

Blooms May thru early June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

PINK/PURPLE FLOWERS



Tapertip Onion (*Allium acuminatum*)
Amaryllis Family

A patch of Tapertip onions can be quite striking – bright pink flowers on straight stems sticking up about 8 inches above the ground. The leaves are just a few curly wisps at the base. There are two other onions in CANM with white or pale pink flowers.

Blooms May thru early June.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo.



Constance's Spring Parsley (*Vesper constancei*)
Parsley Family

The flower clusters of Constance's spring parsley grow on short stems about 2 to 4 inches long. Each flower is a cup of white petals enclosing the pink stamens. The leaves are blue-green, finely cut and in a cluster on the ground.

Blooms late March thru mid-April.

Known from Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos.



Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)
Dogbane Family

This milkweed can grow over 3 feet tall and has several clusters of sweet-smelling flowers. When the pods split open there are dozens of fluffy seeds. It usually grows along creeks and roadsides where it can get a little extra water.

Blooms in June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
Sunflower Family

Musk thistle is a spiny plant with spiny leaves and beautiful pink flowers. It grows to about 5 feet tall. It is not native to our area and is classified as a noxious weed since it is not palatable to cattle and can invade agricultural land.

Blooms mid-June thru August.

Known from Lowry Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



New Mexico Thistle (*Cirsium neo-mexicanum*)
Sunflower Family

The flowers of New Mexico thistle are typically pale pink but can also be white. It grows to about 4 feet tall with the flowers on long stems. The plant and leaves are covered with spines.

Blooms mid-May thru early July.

Known from areas near Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos.



Bigelow's Tansyaster (*Dieteria bigelovii*)
Sunflower Family

Bigelow's tansyaster grows about 3 feet tall and is covered with purple flowers when it is in bloom. If you look closely, you can see that the stems and flower bracts are covered with shiny oil glands.

Blooms late July thru Sept.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Pretty Rockcress (*Boechera formosa*)

Mustard Family

Almost all flowers in the Mustard Family have four petals. Pretty rockcress has stalks of pale pinkish purple flowers about 1½ to 2 feet tall from a basal cluster of leaves.

Blooms mid-April thru early May.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Pincushion Cactus (*Escobaria vivipara*)

Cactus Family

The plants of Pincushion cactus are small round balls, often no more than 2 inches tall and can be easily missed. But you would never miss the glowing pink flowers.

Blooms in June.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Small-flower Fishhook Cactus (*Sclerocactus parviflorus*)

Cactus Family

This cactus usually grows as single spiny stems up to about 8 inches tall. The central spine in each cluster is hooked on the tip. They prefer drier areas with gravelly soil.

Blooms May thru early June.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Torrey's Milkvetch (*Astragalus calycosus*)

Legume Family

There are at least fifteen species of milkvetch in CANM. This species forms large rounded clumps of blue green leaves encircled by bi-colored flowers. The flower stalks are only about 3 inches tall. In a wet year, they are quite showy.

Blooms mid-April thru mid-May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Painted Milkvetch (*Astragalus ceramicus*)

Legume Family

Painted milkvetch grows as small individual plants about 4 inches tall. The tiny pink flowers produce large inflated red-mottled pods. It prefers sandy soil.

Blooms mid-April thru mid-May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Colton's Milkvetch (*Astragalus coltonii*)

Legume Family

This is probably the showiest milkvetch in our area. It produces stalks of brilliant purple flowers about 18 inches tall. The flowers can also be pure white. It is listed as rare by the state of Colorado.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Missouri Milkvetch (*Astragalus missouriensis*)

Legume Family

This milkvetch is more common than some of the others, but not very distinctive. It has small to large clumps of larger flowers on small to medium plants ranging up to 8 inches tall.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from and Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Wooly Locoweed (*Astragalus thompsoniae*)

Legume Family

Wooly locoweed is one of the earliest plants to bloom in our area. The flower stalk reaches about 12 inches in height. The leaves are clustered at the base of the stalk and the leaves and inflated fruits are fuzzy!

Blooms April thru early May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 49)



Fort Wingate Milkvetch (*Astragalus wingatanus*)

Legume Family

This milkvetch has stalks of many small flowers growing about 15 inches tall above a multi-branched plant. The fruits are relatively short, flat ovals.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Northern Chainpod (*Hedysarum boreale*)

Legume Family

Northern chainpod has long stalks of bright pink flowers that look like milkvetch flowers. But the fruits are very different – each seed is in its own little pocket so the fruit looks like a long chain of flat green beads.

Blooms mid-May thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)

Geranium Family

Filaree is low-growing with the flower stalks up to 4 inches tall. Another name is storksbill because of the long narrow fruits that resemble a bird's beak. It can be invasive and is considered a noxious weed.

Blooms mid-March thru mid-June, or any time there is rain.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Showy Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*)

Four O'Clock Family

This is one of the showiest plants in our area. It grows as a rounded mound that can be up to 2 feet tall and 3 feet across. They love to grow under piñon pine, but can also be found out in the open.

Blooms mid-May thru early June.

Known from Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Wright's Bird's Beak

(*Cordylanthus wrightii*)

Broomrape Family

These odd flowers grow on very open plants up to 3 feet tall with many narrow leaves. The stems are often red, especially later in the season. The flowers can also be yellow.

Blooms in August.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry, and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Shortstem Beardtongue

(*Penstemon breviculus*)

Snapdragon Family

Shortstem beardtongue grows to about 10 inches tall with leaves clustered at the base and continuing up the flower stalk. The flowers can be pinkish or a bluish purple. There are usually several stalks on each plant. It is listed as rare by the state of Colorado.

Blooms in May.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Handsome Beardtongue

(*Penstemon lentus*)

Snapdragon Family

Handsome beardtongue has a few stalks of showy flowers and thick leaves both at the base and growing up the stalks. The flowers can range from pink to pinkish purple and even bluish purple.

Blooms mid-April thru early May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Cushion Wild Buckwheat

(*Eriogonum ovalifolium*)

Buckwheat Family

These pompom flowers range from white to pink, deep red and even pale yellow. The leaves are blue-green and form low cushions with the flowers standing 6 to 8 inches tall.

Blooms in May.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Saltcedar (*Tamarix chinensis*)

Tamarisk Family

Saltcedar is a shrub reaching 8 feet or more in height. It has invaded almost all moist areas in the southwest and is considered a noxious weed. But it can be very attractive when covered with sprays of small pink flowers.

Blooms mid-May thru June.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Carpet Vervain (*Verbena bracteata*)

Vervain Family

Carpet vervain covers the ground with a mat of bright green leaves and clusters of small pink flowers. It is not native to our area and often grows in disturbed places.

Blooms mid-May thru July.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

BLUE/PURPLE FLOWERS



Silvery Lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*)

Legume Family

Everyone knows the beauty of lupines – and we have one of the loveliest in our area. It grows to about 2½ feet tall and has many stalks of glowing purple flowers.

Blooms in May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos.



Notchleaf Scorpionweed

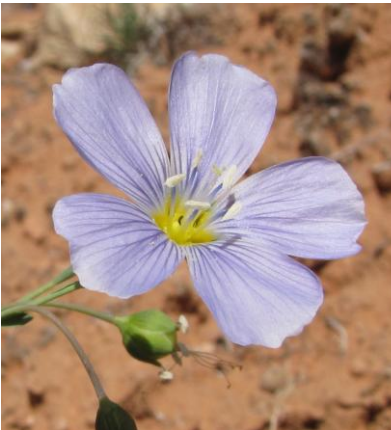
(*Phacelia corrugata*)

Waterleaf Family

The upper branches of the flower stalk of Notchleaf scorpionweed are covered with bluish purple flowers and curl over at the top. The leaves are relatively long and narrow and scalloped along their edges.

Blooms mid-April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)

Flax Family

Blue flax flowers are on long wispy stalks about 15 inches tall with short narrow leaves. Only one flower opens on a stalk each day, but there are usually many stalks in a clump. The flowers vary from almost white to a medium purple.

Blooms mid-May thru early June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Toadflax Beardtongue

(*Penstemon linarioides*)

Snapdragon Family

Toadflax beardtongue is one of the smaller beardtongues, growing only about 8 to 12 inches tall. The plant has several stems with flowers on the upper halves of the stems. The flowers range from bluish purple to pinkish purple.

Blooms mid-May thru early July.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Nuttall's Larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*)

Buttercup Family

The flowers of the two species of larkspur are very similar, but the clusters of leaves at the base of the flower stalk are very different. In Nuttall's Larkspur, the leaves are deeply cut into ten or so narrow segments. Both larkspurs grow to about 1 to 2½ feet tall.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Barestem Larkspur (*Delphinium scaposum*)

Buttercup Family

The larkspurs are some of the bluest flowers in our area. The basal leaves for Barestem larkspur are scalloped into a few rounded segments. This larkspur also has white and double flowers.

Blooms late April thru early June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.

YELLOW FLOWERS



Fourwing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*)

Amaranth Family

Fourwing saltbush is a medium-size shrub growing about 5 feet tall. The flowers have no petals and are not very showy. But the fruits are large and distinctive with four broad papery wings.

Blooms late May thru mid-June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center. (see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Skunkbush Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)

Sumac Family

The pale yellow flowers of Skunkbush sumac are very small, but when this shrub is covered with thousands of them, they put on quite a show. The name comes from the smell of the bark when the stems are bruised.

Blooms mid-April thru early May.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon. (see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Purple Spring Parsley (*Cymopterus purpureus*)

Parsley Family

This is another plant with small individual flowers that really catch your eye as a group. A few weeks after the flowers, the stems and sometimes the winged fruits turn purple.

Blooms mid-April thru mid-May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry, and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon



Antelope Horns (*Asclepias asperula*)

Dogbane Family

Antelope horns is a low growing, sprawling plant with long narrow leaves and several large balls of beautiful flowers. It is named for the interesting placement of its fruits which often end up looking like a pair of horns.

Blooms mid-May thru mid-June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.
(see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Pallid Milkweed (*Asclepias cryptoceras*)

Dogbane Family

This is a small plant with a few big thick leaves and a few big flowers followed by a large fruit. It only grows to about 4 inches tall. As in all milkweeds, it's sap is poisonous to people and dogs.

Blooms mid-May thru mid-June.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)

Sunflower Family

This common shrub can grow as tall as 6 feet and has hundreds of small yellow flowers on the ends of the branches in the fall. The leaves have a medicinal aroma when crushed.

Blooms Sept. thru early Oct.

Known from Sand Canyon,
Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos,
lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor
Center.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot

(*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)

Sunflower Family

When you see this plant, you know it. It has large arrow-shaped leaves and large flowers, all growing straight up from the ground. The flower stalks can grow up to 1½ feet tall.

Blooms early May thru mid-May.

Known from the Sand Canyon Pueblo area.



Rubber Rabbitbrush

(*Ericameria nauseosa*)

Sunflower Family

This open shrub has large clusters of small yellow flowers on the tips of branches about 5 to 6 feet long. The leaves are narrow and can be bright green or bluish-green.

Blooms late August thru early Oct.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon



Curly Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*)

Sunflower Family

Curly gumweed lives up to its name. The stems, leaves and even flower buds are very sticky and the tips of the small bracts under the flower curl backwards.

Blooms mid-August thru mid-Sept.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*)

Sunflower Family

Broom snakeweed is a small shrub growing only about 12 to 15 inches tall. In the late summer it is covered with small yellow flowers.

Blooms late July thru early Oct.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Sunflower Family

Our native sunflower grows throughout the area. It can grow up to 6 feet tall and often shows up in disturbed areas. The bracts below the flower narrow abruptly to a thin tip.

Blooms mid-July thru mid-Sept.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Showy Goldeneye (*Heliomeris multiflora*)

Sunflower Family

Showy goldeneye has yellow petals with yellow centers and long narrow leaves. The leaves have a prominent midvein. The plant has several stems reaching about 3 feet tall.

Blooms August thru Sept.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Hairy Goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*)

Sunflower Family

Hairy goldenaster also has yellow petals with yellow centers, but the leaves are shorter and broader, often with wavy edges. The plants are rounded and about 1 foot tall.

Blooms mid-May thru mid-September, and beyond.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Fineleaf Woollywhite

(*Hymenopappus filifolius*)

Sunflower Family

This distinctive plant has clusters of small yellow flowers on long stems above a cluster of several fernlike leaves. The flower stalks grow to about 1½ feet tall and can be wooly at their bases.

Blooms May thru mid-June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Lobeleaf Groundsel (*Packera multilobata*)

Sunflower Family

Lobeleaf groundsel flowers are on stalks about 15 inches tall. Most of the leaves are clustered at the base of the stalks and are deeply notched.

Blooms May thru mid-June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Rock Goldenrod (*Petradoria pumila*)

Sunflower Family

Rock goldenrod and Perky Sue are very similar-looking plants: each has a cluster of long stiff narrow basal leaves. This one has flower stalks with a few narrow leaves and flowers in a narrow cluster that have no obvious outer petals. Both grow about 10 inches tall.

Blooms July thru August.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos.



Broom Ragwort (*Senecio spartioides*)

Sunflower Family

Broom ragwort is about 2 feet tall with multiple branches and flowers. The flower petals are quite narrow. The plant can be much wider at its top than at its base and the leaves are long and very narrow.

Blooms mid-August thru Sept.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Perky Sue (*Stenotus armerioides*)

Sunflower Family

Perky Sue has solid yellow flowers with prominent outer petals. The plants are very similar to Rock goldenrod: stiff narrow basal leaves, but Perky Sue has no leaves on the flower stalk.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Ive's Woollybase (*Tetrameuris ivesiana*)

Sunflower Family

This plant forms a clump of soft narrow leaves and sends up many flower stalks about 1 foot tall. The stalks usually have one or two small leaves on them.

Blooms late April thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Yellow Salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*)

Sunflower Family

Yellow salsify is about 2 feet tall with one or two flower stalks, each with a single flower. The fruits look like a giant dandelion puffball about 3 inches across. The leaves are long and narrow. It is not native to our area.

Blooms mid-May thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Spiny Goldenweed (*Xanthisma spinulosum*)

Sunflower Family

Spiny goldenweed is a small plant, only about 6 inches tall. The leaves are deeply cut and look crinkly. It often grows in very gravelly or clayey soil.

Blooms May thru June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Yellow Cat's-eye (*Oreocarya flava*)

Borage Family

These bright yellow flowers grow about 1 foot tall. Most of the leaves are clustered at the bases of the stalks and are covered with prickly hairs.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*)

Mustard Family

Wallflower stalks can vary in height, but are typically 1½ to 2 feet tall. There is usually only one stalk per plant. The long narrow leaves are numerous at the base and then climb right up the stalk.

Blooms mid-April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Double Bladderpod (*Physaria acutifolia*)

Mustard Family

Double bladderpod is one of the first flowers to bloom. It is named for its fruit: a short, inflated pod with two prominent lobes.

Blooms mid-March thru mid-May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Straight Bladderpod (*Physaria rectipes*)

Mustard Family

This bladderpod has flower stalks reaching about 10 inches tall. They radiate out from a cluster of basal leaves. The fruit is a single small inflated pod with no lobes.

Blooms in May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Flaxleaf Plainsmustard

(*Sisymbrium linifolium*)

Mustard Family

Flaxleaf plainsmustard has the typical four petals of most Mustard family flowers. They grow about 2½ feet tall with several stalks of flowers and long narrow leaves.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Desert Prince's Plume

(*Stanleya pinnata*)

Mustard Family

This plant has several stalks of flowers with numerous buds, flowers and developing fruits lined up along the stalk. They grow about 3 feet tall.

Blooms late May thru early July.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Longbeak Fiddle-mustard
(Streptanthella longirostris)
 Mustard Family

This plant and the next one are oddballs in the Mustard family. The flowers do have four petals, but the flower is tubular rather than open. This one has many long thin fruits that hang down from the stalk. The plant varies in height up to about 2½ feet.

Blooms mid-April thru mid-May.
 Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Heartleaf Twistflower
(Streptanthus cordatus)
 Mustard Family

Heartleaf twistflower grows to about 1½ feet tall. It usually has one unbranched stalk of flowers. The long flat fruits stick straight up. The base of the leaf is heart-shaped where it joins the stem.

Blooms early April thru mid-May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center. (see photo of fruit on pg. 46)



Whipple's Cholla (*Cylindropuntia whipplei*)
 Cactus Family

Chollas are related to prickly pears, but have cylindrical segments rather than flat round ones. Whipple's cholla stays near the ground: only very large clumps reach 1½ to 2 feet tall.

Blooms in June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Brittle Pricklypear (*Opuntia fragilis*)

Cactus Family

This prickly pear rarely flowers, but is recognizable as a clump of small stems right at ground level. The stems are very poorly attached: they break off easily and stick to shoes, pants or anything else that gets too close.

Blooms late May thru mid-June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Plains Pricklypear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*)

Cactus Family

Plains pricklypear is notable for the way many of the pads will grow in a chain along the ground. The pads usually have only a few large spines. The flowers form large red fruits.

Blooms late May thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 47)



Starvation Pricklypear (*Opuntia polyacantha*)

Cactus Family

Starvation and Plains pricklypear are similar, but this one grows more upright and usually has many large spines.

Blooms mid-May thru mid-June.

Known from Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Field Dodder (*Cuscuta campestris*)

Morning Glory Family

Field dodder is one of the strangest plants in our area. It is parasitic so it does not need any green parts. The small flowers are yellowish-white. What really stands out are the orangey-yellow stems twining around and over its host plants.

Blooms mid-August thru mid-Sept.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Mormon Tea (*Ephedra viridis*)

Ephedra Family

This small shrub grows to about 3 or 4 feet tall. It usually looks like a collection of green sticks. But when it blooms it is eye-stopping. It is often found in the piñon-juniper woodland, but here it's growing on a rocky slope.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Cronquist's Blazing-star

(*Mentzelia cronquistii*)

Blazing-star Family

There are several Blazing-stars in CANM. This one grows about 1 to 2 feet tall. It is an open plant with bright yellow flowers. This species has short hairs on the underside of the petals and is listed as rare by the state of Colorado.

Blooms mid-May thru early July.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Lavenderleaf Sundrops

(*Oenothera lavandulifolia*)

Evening Primrose Family

The combination of striped buds with bright yellow flowers and soft orange faded flowers on a 6-inch-tall plant is unmistakable.

Lavender-leaf sundrops likes to grow around the edges of slickrock and other open areas.

Blooms mid-April thru May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Dwarf Lousewort (*Pedicularis centranthera*)

Broomrape Family

Dwarf lousewort is another low-growing plant. It has a cluster of fern-like leaves right at ground level with small clusters of pale yellow or white flowers tipped with purple early in the spring.

Blooms in April.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Winged Wild Buckwheat

(*Eriogonum alatum*)

Buckwheat Family

Winged wild buckwheat has many small yellow flowers that turn into small winged fruits very quickly.

The fruits turn reddish brown as they mature. The flower stalk can be over 3 feet tall rising from a cluster of wide basal leaves.

Blooms in June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)
Purslane Family

Purslane has small bright yellow flowers that only bloom for a short time. But its ground-hugging, fleshy red stems and deep green leaves are obvious throughout the growing season. Purslane is not native to our area.

Blooms mostly in mid-Sept.

Known from Painted Hand Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Alderleaf Mountain Mahogany
(*Cercocarpus montanus*)
Rose Family

The flowers of this shrubby member of the Rose Family don't have petals: they are just little cups with dangling stamens. The fruits look like furry tails. The shrub is many-branched and stands about 4 feet tall.

Blooms late April thru early May.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.
(see photo of fruit on pg. 47)



Antelope Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*)
Rose Family

Antelope bitterbrush is a small shrub about 2 to 3 feet tall. The pale yellow flowers are nestled among small leaves that have three rounded points at their tips.

Blooms in May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Juniper Mistletoe

(*Phoradendron juniperinum*)

Sandalwood Family

Juniper mistletoe is parasitic and grows as large yellowish-green clumps on the branches of Utah juniper trees. The blooms are tiny and hard to see.

Blooms possibly in May and June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and the Visitor Center.



Pale Wolfberry (*Lycium*

pallidum)

Potato Family

Pale wolfberry is a scraggly, thorny shrub about 4 to 5 feet tall. It doesn't bloom often, but when it does, it is covered with large flowers ranging from pale yellow to pale purple. The fruits are red or orange berries.

Blooms in May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon.



Goathead (*Tribulus terrestris*)

Caltrop Family

This is a low growing plant forming mats with small yellow flowers. The fruits are very hard and have very sharp spines. The other name for Goathead is Puncture Vine. It will certainly puncture feet and bicycle tires and has been claimed to puncture car tires. It is not native and is listed as a noxious weed.

Blooms late August thru Sept.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.

RED/ORANGE FLOWERS



Claretcup Cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*)

Cactus Family

Claretcup cactus grows as a group of 6-inch-tall spiny columns, sometimes with dozens of stems and flowers in a group. It is our earliest blooming cactus.

Blooms late April thru May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Plains Flax (*Linum puberulum*)

Flax Family

Plains flax stands about 8 inches tall with several spreading stems. The flowers are pale orange with red centers and fall off with the slightest breeze or touch.

Blooms in mid-May.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Scarlet Globemallow

(*Sphaeralcea coccinea*)

Mallow Family

The flowers of Scarlet globemallow are a true orange, although rarely they can be pure white. They grow up to 1½ feet tall and have leaves divided into five or more fingers.

Blooms mid-April thru June.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Desert Paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*)

Broomrape Family

The bracts of Desert paintbrush flowers can vary thru many different shades of red. The plant has several flowering stems about 8 to 12 inches tall. The leaves are divided into three or more narrow fingers.

Blooms April thru mid-June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Sand Dock (*Rumex hymenosepalus*)

Buckwheat Family

Sand dock has one to several large flowering/fruiting stalks growing to 3 feet tall above a cluster of large leaves. This is one of the first plants to emerge in the spring. And as the name suggests, it likes to grow in sand.

Blooms in April.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Scarlet Gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*)

Phlox Family

These brilliant orange-red tubular flowers grow along the top half of the 2-foot-tall flower stalks. The leaves are finely cut and are present as a cluster on the ground for a year before the flower stalk grows.

Blooms mostly late May thru July, but can be both earlier and later.

Known from Lowry Pueblo.



Scarlet Beardtongue

(*Penstemon barbatus*)

Snapdragon Family

There are three red beardtongues that you are likely to see in CANM. The flowers on this one have a flaring lower lip and the leaves are long and narrow. It grows to about 2 feet tall.

Blooms mid-June thru early July.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Firecracker Beardtongue

(*Penstemon eatonii*)

Snapdragon Family

These flowers are tubular and don't flare at all. The leaves are much broader with the plants also growing to about 2 feet tall.

Blooms May thru June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Beaked Beardtongue

(*Penstemon rostriflorus*)

Snapdragon Family

On Beaked beardtongue the lower lip flares even more widely than on Scarlet beardtongue. The leaves are still narrow, but broader than Scarlet beardtongue. The plant can be quite full and grows up to about 3 feet tall.

Blooms late June thru July.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and lower Sand Canyon

TREES



Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*)
Cypress Family

Utah juniper is a medium-size tree that is a major part of the piñon-juniper woodland in CANM. The leaves are reduced to small green scales covering the branches. The fruits are light blue balls.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Piñon Pine (*Pinus edulis*)
Pine Family

Piñon pine is the other major part of the piñon-juniper woodland. The leaves are short needles. The male flowers are in clusters near the tips of the branches. The female flowers are tiny, but make pine cones about 2 inches long.

Blooms in May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Gambel's Oak (*Quercus gambelii*)
Oak Family

Gambel's oak is somewhat shrubby when young, but can grow into a small tree. The male flowers hang down in loose clusters from the branches. The female flowers are tiny. They produce acorns that starts to form in June.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos and the Visitor Center.



Singleleaf Ash (*Fraxinus anomala*)

Olive Family

Singleleaf ash is a small scraggly tree that grows to about 7 feet tall. The leaves are thick and rounded. The small yellow flowers form clustered fruits that are about 1 inch long, flat and winged and can almost cover the tree. The fruits start developing in mid-May. It likes to grow in rocky areas.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

Willow Family

Cottonwood is a large tree usually found near drainages and moist areas. It has triangular shaped leaves with a long tip. The fruits burst into white cotton starting in late May.

Known from Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*)

Elm Family

Siberian elm is also a large tree. It has small leaves with toothed edges that come out after the flowers. The clusters of fruits start developing in mid-April. Each individual fruit is round and winged. Siberian elm is not native to our area.

Known from Lowry Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.

GRASSES



Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
Grass Family

This is one of our most common native grasses. It stands about 1 to 1½ feet tall with many stalks, each with one or two “flags” waving in the breeze. As with most grasses, the leaves are mostly at the base.

New flowering stalks appear in late May.

Known from Lowry Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)
Grass Family

Cheatgrass is the most common grass in the area. It is about 8 inches tall. When the plants turn brown, the awns harden and stick painfully to anything that comes near. It is considered a noxious weed.

New plants appear in April.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Showy Windmill Grass (*Chloris virgata*)
Grass Family

Even though the “windmill” doesn’t open fully, this is an interesting grass. The stalks can grow up to 1 foot tall with a few stalks of fruits. In the monument, it likes to grow along the edge of the parking areas.

New flowering stalks appear in late August.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Bottlebrush Squirreltail

(*Elymus elymoides*)

Grass Family

The flower stalks of Bottlebrush squirreltail reach about 1½ feet tall. As they dry, they fluff open to form airy “tails”.

New flowering stalks appear in late May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.

(see photo of fruit on pg. 47)



Indian Ricegrass (*Eriocoma*

hymenoides)

Grass Family

Indian ricegrass grows to about 2 feet tall. The upper third of the plant is a large open cluster of small green fruits that turn golden brown as they dry.

The first flowers are in early May.

Known from Sand Canyon, Lowry and Painted Hand Pueblos, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



Needle-and-Thread Grass

(*Hesperostipa comata*)

Grass Family

The long fruits of this grass do look like a needle on a piece of thread. The fruiting stalks reach about 3 feet tall and wave in the slightest breeze.

The first flowering stalks appear in early June.

Known from, Painted Hand Pueblo, lower Sand Canyon and the Visitor Center.



False Buffalograss (*Munroa squarrosa*)

Grass Family

False buffalograss is only about 3 to 4 inches tall. It is not noticeable because of its fruits, but because it is usually covered with white fuzz. The fuzz is the remains of egg cases of a white wooly aphid. There can be so many plants in an area that the ground looks like it is covered with cotton.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.



Muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*)

Grass Family

Muttongrass is the earliest grass to come up in the spring. The numerous stalks are about 2 to 3 feet tall from a cluster of basal leaves. The fruits spread open and turn a golden brown as they dry.

New flowering stalks appear in mid-April.

Known from Sand Canyon Pueblo and lower Sand Canyon.



Rabbitfoot Grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*)

Grass Family

The long fuzzy fruits of Rabbitfoot grass are unmistakable. It grows to about 1 foot in height and is usually found along creeks and other areas with a little extra moisture.

New flowering stalks appear in mid-June.

Known from lower Sand Canyon.

FRUITS



Fourwing Saltbush
flowers pg. 23



Antelope Horns
flowers pg. 24



Skunkbush Sumac
flowers pg. 23



Desert Pincushion
flowers pg. 4



Double Bladderpod
flowers pg. 30



Heartleaf Twistflower
flowers pg. 32



Plains Pricklypear
flowers pg. 33



Woolly Locoweed
flowers pg. 7



Bottlebrush Squirreltail
flowers pg. 44



Alderleaf Mountain Mahogany
flowers pg. 36



Wild Crabapple
flowers pg. 12



Cliffrose
flowers pg. 47

INDEX

- Achillea millefolium* 4
 Alderleaf Mountain Mahogany
 36, 47
 Amaranthaceae (Amaranth
 Family) 23
 Amaranth Family
 (Amaranthaceae) 23
 Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis
 Family) 13
 Amaryllis Family
 (Amaryllidaceae) 13
Amelanchier alnifolia 11
 Anacardiaceae (Sumac
 Family) 23
Androstephium breviflorum 3
Allium acuminatum 13
 Antelope Bitterbrush 36
 Antelope Horns 24, 46
Antennaria parvifolia 4
 Apiaceae (Parsley Family)
 13, 23
 Apocynaceae (Dogbane
 Family) 13, 24
 Arrowleaf Balsamroot 25
Artemisia tridentata 24
Asclepias asperula 24
 cryptoceras 24
 speciosa 13
 Ash, Singleleaf 42
 Asparagaceae (Asparagus
 Family) 3
 Asparagus Family
 (Asparagaceae) 3
 Aster, Sand 5
 Asteraceae (Sunflower
 Family) 4, 5, 14, 24, 25,
 26, 27, 28, 29
Astragalus calycosus 16
 ceramicus 16
 coltonii 16
 missouriensis 17
 naturitensis 7
 thompsoniae 17
 wingatanus 17
Atriplex canescens 23
 Baker's Cat's-eye 6
 Ballhead Gilia 9
Balsamorhiza sagittata 25
 Balsamroot, Arrowleaf 25
 Banana Yucca 3
 Barestem Larkspur 22
 Beaked Beardtongue 40
 Beardtongue
 Beaked 40
 Firecracker 40
 Handsome 19
 Scarlet 40
 Shortstem 19
 Toadflax 22
 Bigelow's Tansyaster 14
 Big Sagebrush 24
 Bird's Beak, Wright's 19
 Bitterbrush, Antelope 36
 Bladderpod
 Double 30, 46
 Straight 31
 Blazing-star, Cronquist's 34
 Blazing-star Family
 (Loasaceae) 34
 Blue Flax 21
 Blue Grama 43
Boechera formosa 15
 Borage Family
 (Boraginaceae) 6, 30
 Boraginaceae (Borage
 Family) 6, 30
 Bottlebrush Squirreltail 44, 47
Bouteloua gracilis 43
 Brassicaceae (Mustard
 Family) 6, 15, 30, 31
 Brittle Pricklypear 33
Bromus tectorum 43
 Broom Ragwort 28

Broomrape Family
 (Orobanchaceae) 19, 35, 39
 Broom Snakeweed 26
 Buckwheat Family
 (Polygonaceae) 10, 11, 20, 35, 39
 Buffalograss, False 45
 Buttercup Family
 (Ranunculaceae) 11, 22
 Cactaceae (Cactus Family)
 15, 32, 33, 38
 Cactus
 Claretcup front cover, 38
 Pincushion 15
 Cactus Family (Cactaceae)
 15, 32, 33, 38
Calochortus flexuosus 8
 nuttallii 8
 Caltrop Family
 (Zygophyllaceae) 37
Carduus nutans 14
 Carpet Phlox 10
 Carpet Vervain 20
Castilleja chromosa 39
 Cat's-eye
 Baker's 6
 Yellow 30
Cercocarpus montanus 36
Chaenactis stevioides 4
Chaetopappa ericoides 5
 Chainpod, Northern 18
 Cheatgrass 43
Chloris virgata 43
 Cholla, Whipple's 32
Cirsium neo-mexicanum 14
 Claretcup Cactus 38
Clematis ligusticifolia 11
 Cliff Fendlerbush 7
 Cliffrose 12, 47
 Colton's Milkvetch 16
Comandra umbellata 12
 Constance's Spring Parsley 13

Convolvulaceae (Morning
 Glory Family) 34
Cordylanthus wrightii 19
 Cottonwood 42
 Crabapple, Wild 12, 47
 Cronquist's Blazing-star 34
 Cupressaceae (Cypress
 Family) 41
 Curly Gumweed 25
Cuscuta campestris 34
 Cushion Wild Buckwheat 20
Cylindropuntia whipplei 32
Cymopterus purpureus 23
 Cypress Family
 (Cupressaceae) 41
Delphinium nuttallianum 22
 scaposum 22
 Desert Green Gentian 7
 Desert Paintbrush 39
 Desert Pincushion 4, 46
 Desert Prince's Plume 31
Dieteria bigelovii 14
 Dock, Sand 39
 Dodder, Field 34
 Dogbane Family
 (Apocynaceae) 13, 24
 Double Bladderpod 30, 46
Draba cuneifolia 6
 Dwarf Lousewort 35
 Easter Daisy, Silvery 5
Echinocereus triglochidiatus
 38
 Elm Family (Ulmaceae) 42
 Elm, Siberian 42
Elymus elymoides 44
 Ephedraceae (Ephedra
 Family) 34
 Ephedra Family
 (Ephedraceae) 34
Ephedra viridis 34
Ericameria nauseosa 25
Erigeron divergens 5
Eriocoma hymenoides 44
Eriogonum alatum 35

cernuum 10
ovalifolium 20
racemosum 11
Erodium cicutarium 18
Erysimum capitatum 30
Escobaria vivipara 15
 Evening Primrose Family
 (Onagraceae) 8, 35
 Evening Primrose, Tufted 8
 Fabaceae (Legume Family)
 7, 16, 17, 18, 21
 Fagaceae (Oak Family) 41
 False Buffalograss 45
 False Toadflax, Pale 12
 Fendlerbush, Cliff 7
Fendlera rupicola 7
 Field Dodder 34
 Filaree 18
 Fineleaf Woollywhite 27
 Firecracker Beardtongue 40
 Fishhook Cactus, Small-
 flower 15
 Flax
 Blue 21
 Plains 38
 Flax Family (Linaceae) 21, 38
 Flaxleaf Plainsmustard 31
 Fleabane, Spreading 5
 Fort Wingate Milkvetch 17
 Four O'Clock Family
 (Nyctaginaceae) 18
 Four O'Clock, Showy 18
 Fourwing Saltbush 23, 46
Frasera albomarginata 7
Fraxinus anomala 42
 Funnel Lily 3
 Gambel's Oak 41
 Gentianaceae (Gentian
 Family) 7
 Gentian Family
 (Gentianaceae) 7
 Geraniaceae (Geranium
 Family) 18

Geranium Family
 (Geraniaceae) 18
 Gilia
 Ballhead 9
 Scarlet 39
 Globemallow, Scarlet 38
 Goathead 37
 Goldenaster, Hairy 27
 Goldeneye, Showy 26
 Goldenrod, Rock 28
 Goldenweed, Spiny 29
 Grama, Blue 43
 Grass Family (Poaceae) 43,
 44, 45
 Grass
 Needle-and-Thread 44
 Rabbitfoot 45
 Showy Windmill 43
 Green Gentian, Desert 7
Grindelia squarrosa 25
 Groundsel, Lobeleaf 27
 Gumweed, Curly 25
Gutierrezia sarothrae 26
 Hairy Goldenaster 27
 Handsome Beardtongue 19
 Heartleaf Twistflower 32, 46
Hedysarum boreale 18
Helianthus annuus 26
Heliomeris multiflora 26
Hesperostipa comata 44
Heterotheca villosa 27
 Hydrangeaceae (Hydrangea
 Family) 7
 Hydrangea Family
 (Hydrangeaceae) 7
 Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf
 Family) 21
Hymenopappus filifolius 27
 Indian Ricegrass 44
Ipomopsis aggregata 39
 congesta 9
 Ive's Woollybase 29
 Juniper Mistletoe 37
 Juniper, Utah 41

Juniperus osteosperma 41
 Larkspur
 Barestem 22
 Nuttall's 22
 Lavenderleaf Sundrops 35
 Legume Family (Fabaceae)
 7, 16, 17, 18, 21
Lepidium montanum 6
 Liliaceae (Lily Family) 8
 Lily Family (Liliaceae) 8
 Lily
 Funnel 3
 Sego 8
 Linaceae (Flax Family) 21, 38
Linanthus pungens 9
Linum lewisii 21
 puberulum 38
 Loasaceae (Blazing Star
 Family) 34
 Lobeleaf Groundsel 27
 Locoweed, Woolly 17, 47
 Longbeak Fiddle-mustard 32
 Longleaf Phlox 10
 Lousewort, Dwarf 35
 Lupine, Silvery 21
Lupinus argenteus 21
Lycium pallidum 37
 Mallow Family (Malvaceae)
 38
 Mariposa Lily, Winding 8
Mentzelia cronquistii 34
 Milkvetch
 Colton's 16
 Fort Wingate 17
 Missouri 17
 Naturita 7
 Painted 16
 Torrey's 16
 Milkweed,
 Pallid 24
 Showy 13
Mirabilis multiflora 18
 Missouri Milkvetch 17
 Mistletoe, Juniper 37

Morning Glory Family
 (Convulvulaceae) 34
 Mormon Tea 34
 Mountain Mahogany,
 Alderleaf 36, 47
 Mountain Pepperwort 6
Munroa squarrosa 45
 Musk Thistle 14
 Mustard Family
 (Brassicaceae) 6, 15, 30,
 31
 Muttongrass 45
 Narrowleaf Yucca 3
 Naturita Milkvetch 7
 Needle-and-Thread Grass 44
 New Mexico Thistle 14
 Nodding Wild Buckwheat 10
 Northern Chainpod 18
 Notchleaf Scorpionweed 21
 Nuttall's Larkspur 22
 Nyctaginaceae (Four O'Clock
 Family) 18
 Oak Family (Fagaceae) 41
 Oak, Gambel's 41
Oenothera cespitosa 8
 lavandulifolia 35
 Oleaceae (Olive Family) 42
 Olive Family (Oleaceae) 42
 Onagraceae (Evening
 Primrose Family) 8, 35
 Onion, Tapertip 13
Opuntia fragilis 33
 phaeacantha 33
 polyacantha 33
Oreocarya bakeri 6
 flava 30
 Orobanchaceae (Broomrape
 Family) 19, 35, 39
Packera multilobata 27
 Paintbrush, Desert 39
 Painted Milkvetch 16
 Pale False Toadflax 12
 Pale Wolfberry 37
 Pallid Milkweed 24

Parsley Family (Apiaceae)
 13, 23
Pedicularis centranthera 35
Penstemon barbatus 40
 breviculus 19
 eatonii 40
 lentus 19
 linarioides 22
 rostriflorus 40
 Pepperwort, Mountain 6
Peraphyllum ramosissimum
 12
 Perky Sue 28
Petradora pumila 28
Phacelia corrugata 21
 Phlox
 Carpet 10
 Longleaf 10
 Prickly 9
 Phlox Family
 (Polemoniaceae) 9, 10, 39
Phlox hoodii 10
 longifolia 10
Phoradendron juniperinum
 37
Physaria acutifolia 30
 rectipes 31
 Pincushion, Desert 4, 46
 Pincushion Cactus 15
 Pine Family (Pinaceae) 41
 Pine, Piñon 41
 Piñon Pine 41
Pinus edulis 41
 Plains Flax 38
 Plainsmustard, Flaxleaf 31
 Plains Pricklypear 33, 47
 Plantain, Woolly 9
 Plantaginaceae (Snapdragon
 Family) 9, 19, 22, 40
Plantago patagonica 9
 Poaceae (Grass Family) 43,
 44, 45
Poa fendleriana 45

Polemoniaceae (Phlox
 Family) 9, 10, 39
 Polygonaceae (Buckwheat
 Family) 10, 11, 20, 35, 39
Polypogon monspeliensis 45
Populus deltoides 42
 Portulacaceae Family
 (Purslane) 36
Portulaca oleracea 36
 Potato Family (Solanaceae)
 37
 Pretty Rockcress 15
 Pricklypear
 Brittle 33
 Plains 33, 47
 Starvation 33
 Prickly Phlox 9
 Prince's Plume, Desert 31
Purshia stansburiana 12
 tridentata 36
 Purple Spring Parsley 23
 Purslane 36
 Purslane Family
 (Portulacaceae) 36
 Pussytoes 4
Quercus gambelii 41
 Rabbitbrush, Rubber 25
 Rabbitfoot Grass 45
 Ragwort, Broom 28
 Ranunculaceae (Buttercup
 Family) 11, 22
 Redroot Wild Buckwheat 11
Rhus trilobata 23
 Ricegrass, Indian 44
 Rockcress, Pretty 15
 Rock Goldenrod 28
 Rosaceae Family (Rose) 11,
 12, 36
 Rose Family (Rosaceae) 11,
 12, 36
 Rubber Rabbitbrush 25
Rumex hymenosepalus 39
 Sagebrush, Big 24
 Salicaceae (Willow Family) 42

Salsify, Yellow 29
 Saltbush, Fourwing 23, 46
 Saltcedar 20
 Santalaceae (Sandalwood Family) 12, 37
 Sandalwood Family (Santalaceae) 12, 37
 Sand Aster 5
 Sand Dock 39
 Scarlet Beardtongue 40
 Scarlet Gilia 39
 Scarlet Globemallow 38
Sclerocactus parviflorus 15
 Scorpionweed, Notchleaf 21
 Sego Lily 8
Senecio spartioides 28
 Serviceberry, Utah 11
 Shortstem Beardtongue 19
 Showy Four O'Clock 18
 Showy Goldeneye 26
 Showy Milkweed 13
 Showy Windmill Grass 43
 Siberian Elm 42
 Silvery Easter Daisy 5
 Silvery Lupine 21
 Singleleaf Ash 42
Sisymbrium linifolium 31
 Skunkbush Sumac 23, 46
 Small-flower Fishhook Cactus 15
 Snakeweed, Broom 26
 Snapdragon Family (Plantaginaceae) 9, 19, 22, 40
 Solanaceae (Potato Family) 37
Sphaeralcea coccinea 38
 Spiny Goldenweed 29
 Spreading Fleabane 5
 Spring Parsley Constance's 13
 Purple 23
 Squirreltail, Bottlebrush 44, 47

Stanleya pinnata 31
 Starvation Pricklypear 33
Stenotus armerioides 28
 Straight Bladderpod 31
Streptanthella longirostris 32
Streptanthus cordatus 32
 Sumac, Skunkbush 23, 46
 Sumac Family (Anacardiaceae) 23
 Sundrops, Lavenderleaf 35
 Sunflower 26
 Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) 4, 5, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
 Tamaricaceae (Tamarisk Family) 20
 Tamarisk Family (Tamaricaceae) 20
Tamarix chinensis 20
 Tansyaster, Bigelow's 14
 Tapertip Onion 13
 Tetraneuris ivesiana 29
 Thistle Musk 14
 New Mexico 14
 Toadflax Beardtongue 22
 Torrey's Milkvetch 16
Townsendia incana 5
Tragopogon dubius 29
Tribulus terrestris 37
 Tufted Evening Primrose 8
 Ulmaceae (Elm Family) 42
Ulmus pumila 42
 Utah Juniper 41
 Utah Serviceberry 11
Verbena bracteata 20
 Verbenaceae (Vervain Family) 20
 Vervain, Carpet 20
 Vervain Family (Verbenaceae) 20
Vesper constancei 13
 Virgin's Bower 11
 Wallflower 30

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Waterleaf Family | | Woolybase, Ive's | 29 |
| (Hydrophyllaceae) | 21 | Wooly Locoweed | 17, 47 |
| Wedgeleaf Whitlow-grass | 6 | Wooly Plantain | 9 |
| Whipple's Cholla | 32 | Woolywhite, Fineleaf | 27 |
| Whitlow-grass, Wedgeleaf | 6 | Wright's Bird's Beak | 19 |
| Wild Buckwheat | | <i>Xanthisma spinulosum</i> | 29 |
| Cushion | 20 | Yarrow | 4 |
| Nodding | 10 | Yellow Cat's-eye | 30 |
| Redroot | 11 | Yellow Salsify | 29 |
| Winged | 35 | Yucca | |
| Wild Crabapple | 12, 47 | Banana | 3 |
| Willow Family (Salicaceae) | 42 | Narrowleaf | 3 |
| Winding Mariposa Lily | 8 | <i>Yucca angustissima</i> | 3 |
| Windmill Grass, Showy | 43 | <i>baccata</i> | 3 |
| Winged Wild Buckwheat | 35 | Zygophyllaceae (Caltrop | |
| Wolfberry, Pale | 37 | Family) | 37 |

Other Resources

Popular books with photographs:

Fagan, Damian: **Canyon Country Wildflowers: A Guide to Common Wildflowers, Shrubs, and Trees**

Taylor, Raymond J.: **Sagebrush Country: A Wildflower Sanctuary**

Scientific books with keys and descriptions:

Ackerfield, Jennifer: **Flora of Colorado, Second Edition**

Heil, Kenneth D., Steve L. O'Kane, Jr., Linda Mary Reeves, Arnold Clifford: **Flora of the Four Corners Region: Vascular Plants of the San Juan River Drainage**

Websites with photographs:

iNaturalist: **Community Project: Canyons of the Ancients National Monument** <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/canyons-of-the-ancients-national-monument>

Schneider, Al: **Wildflowers, Ferns & Trees of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona & Utah** <https://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com>

Complete list of plants for CANM

Rohman, Marian: **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Checklist of Plants** available at the CANM Visitor Center

Map of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

available at the CANM Visitor Center



WITH GRATITUDE

THIS PUBLICATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE OF **MARIAN AND PETER ROHMAN**, WHOSE PASSION FOR THE NATIVE FLORA OF CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT SHINES THROUGH EVERY PAGE.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE **LOR FOUNDATION** FOR GENEROUSLY SPONSORING THIS PROJECT, HELPING TO SHARE THE BEAUTY AND RICHNESS OF THIS LANDSCAPE WITH VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND STEWARDS OF THE LAND.



LOR
FOUNDATION



**SOUTHWEST COLORADO
CANYONS ALLIANCE**
FRIENDS OF CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS