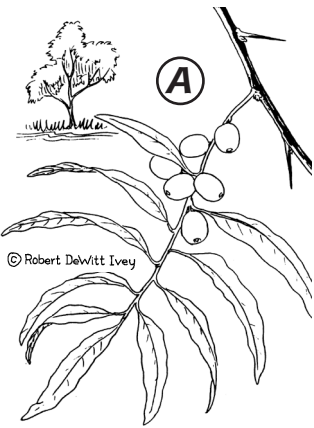




Bosque



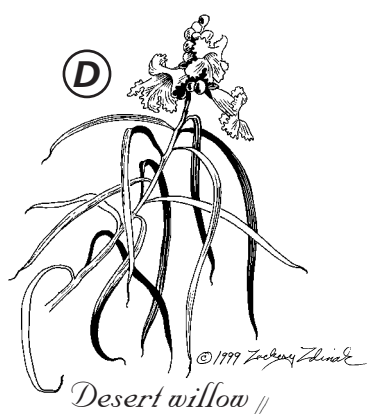
Russian olive



Arizona walnut



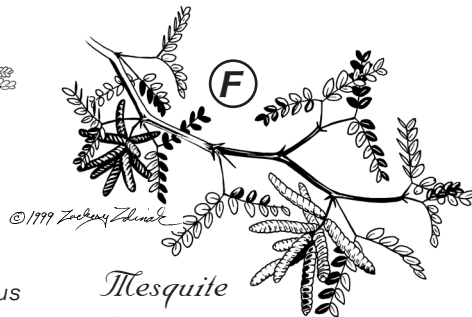
Catclaw acacia



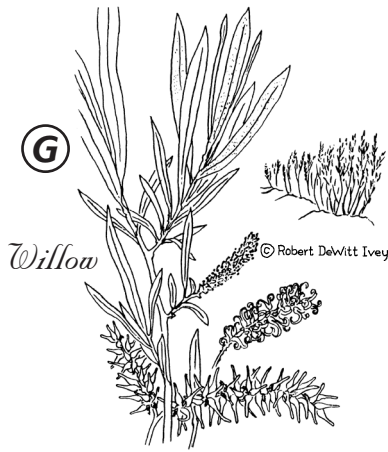
Desert willow



Fremont cottonwood



Mesquite



Willow



Velvet ash



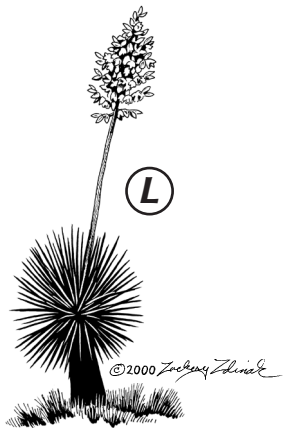
Salt-cedar



Engelmann's prickly-pear



Indigo bush



Soaptree yucca

Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) • Shrub/small tree with silvery-colored leaves and fruit. To 30' tall, 25' wide. Fruits resemble miniature olives, remain on tree long after the leaves fall. Flowers small, yellow, give off a spicy aroma. Invasive nonnative species, dominates many degraded riparian areas.

Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*) • Tree to 50' tall and 30' wide. Bark furrowed and scaly; compound leaves 6-9" long with 9-13 lance-shaped leaflets. Flowers long, drooping clusters; fruits round, 1" diameter. Inside the husk is a hard-shelled walnut.

Catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*) • Shrub, 10-15' tall and 10-15' wide. Branches have short, curved thorns. Black, rough bark. Leaves 1-3" long, divided into 2-6 leaflets which are further divided into 8-12 smaller leaflets. Flowers small, yellow and arranged in a spike 1½" long. Seeds in bean-like light brown pods 2-4" long.

Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) • To 20' tall, often many-branched. Leaves smooth and narrow. Whitish flowers with fine purple markings in small clusters at branch ends. Common shrub of desert washes.

Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) • Large tree to 75' tall and 40' wide. Best known for white, fuzzy cotton that covers seeds. Leaves triangular with toothed edges. Bark whitish-gray and roughly furrowed. Was once the dominant tree in the bosque.

Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) • Tree to 25' tall and 30' wide. Bark dark and rough. Thorns ½" long on branches. Leaves divided into two primary leaflets, which are subdivided into 2-36 leaflets. Yellowish flowers grow in tight clusters in a spike-like arrangement that is 2-4' long. Bean-like seedpods 4-8" long.

Willow (*Salix* spp.) • Dozens of species along waterways. Bark smooth, often reddish-brown. Narrow leaves. When the small fruits open they release many small seeds with copious tufts of hair at their bases.

Velvet ash (*Fraxinus velutina*) • Usually less than 30' tall. The velvety-surface of young leaves and stems distinguish this ash from other ashes. Compound leaves 3-5" long, with 3-5 pairs of oval, pointy-tipped leaflets; pale green and shiny above; green and slightly hairy below. Fruit is paddle-shaped and 1" long, in clusters.

Salt-cedar, tamarisk (*Tamarix chinensis*) • Tree to 25' tall, 20' wide, with delicate, wiry, drooping branches covered with tiny, grayish-green scale-like leaves. Flowers tiny, pink and showy, in large clusters. Trunks greenish, dense, furrowed, dark with age. Invasive nonnative.

Engelmann's prickly-pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*) • 1-6' tall and 1-10' wide; Pads 4-8" long, covered in spines. Flowers yellow-red. Fruit oval, fleshy, yellow-red and small mammals.

Indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) • Shrub 6-15' tall. Flowers single-petaled, purple, in long, dense, spike-like clusters at the ends of branches. Compound leaves with short, round leaflets; 15 leaflets per leaf.

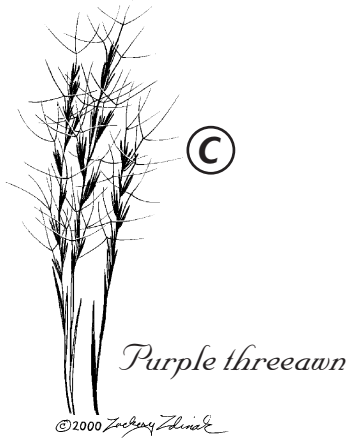
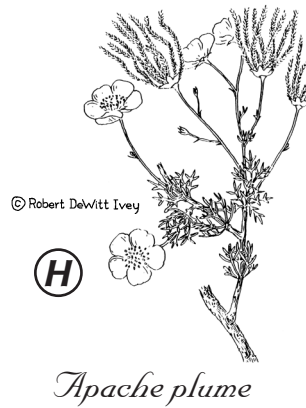
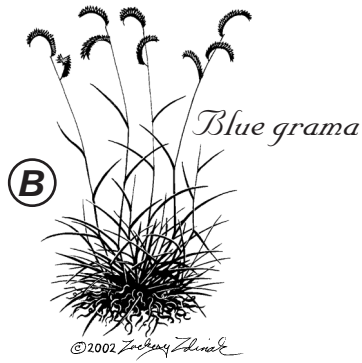
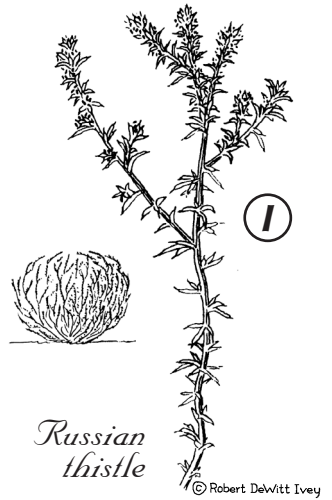
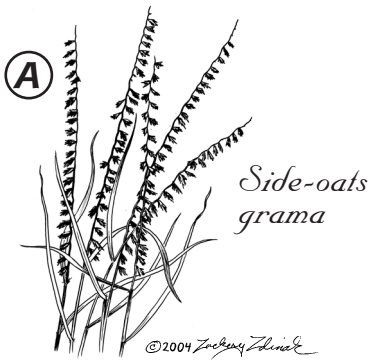
Soaptree yucca (*Yucca elata*) • Yucca 6-20' tall, 6-12' wide; slender, stiff, and sword-like leaves with curly white fibers (1-3" long) along edges, yellowing and curling down when dead; hanging bell-shaped flowers cream to white in color, on a stalk 4-6' above foliage.

Trees, shrubs, and cacti





Bosque



Side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) • Tall bunchgrass with flat blades that are rough on the upper surface and hairy on the edges. Stem is also hairy. Seed stalk has 20–50 short (½") branches that hang off of the main stem giving it a distinctive pennant-like appearance.

Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) • Clumpy perennial grass 8–12" tall. Seed heads elongated and droop perpendicular to flower stalk, curling like eyelashes when dried. Flower stalks between 12–18" tall. Leaf blades gray-green.

Purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*) • Perennial grass to 24" tall; 1–2" wide. Seed heads have three "awns" (long stiff hairs), purple to red in color. Leaf blades from base of plant to 9" tall and are slightly coarse.

Cheatgrass, Downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) • Annual grass to 2' tall. Blades emerge in fall and can over-winter below snow. Mature plants have red/purple drooping seedheads. Rapid spring growth with seeds maturing before most grasses. Usually many short, soft hairs.

Galleta grass, James' galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*) • Perennial grass to 12" tall. Seed heads composed of small clusters that alternate along the flower stalk for up to 3". Leaves are very coarse and are mostly basal with lengths up to 4". Similar to Tobosa grass.

Fluffgrass, low woollygrass (*Dasyochloa pulchella*) • Low, densely tufted perennial bunchgrass that sometimes forms open mats. Flowers have 4–18 spikelets and are covered with fluffy, silvery hairs. Leaves are thin, wiry, and crowded at base of stems.

Sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) • Erect grass, to 30" tall; blades flat, 2–9" long, taper to a slender point, smooth below and rough above, whitish margins. Leaves tend to roll inward from the edges when drying. Seedhead to 12" long, 6" wide, spreads at maturity and has scattered slender branches to 3" long. Seeds crowded towards the branch ends, pale purple to lead-gray.

Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) • Shrub to 6'. White, solitary flowers resemble single white roses and can be 1" wide. Branches are slender and have a shaggy/shreddy texture. Leaves 5–7 lobed and sticky; feather-tailed fruits grow in clusters.

Russian thistle, Tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*) • Dense, round, intricately branched annual shrub up to 3' tall and 4' wide. Branches striped red or purple. Flowers white to pink. Leaves usually 1½" long, roundish, very pointy at tips. Nonnative invasive.

Tobosa grass (*Pleuraphis mutica*) • Perennial bunchgrass to 2' tall. Leaf blades narrow, stiff, 2–3' long, seedheads up to 3" long. Considered good forage. Resembles galleta.

* USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Misc. Publ. No. 200. Washington, DC.

Grasses and wildflowers