

Utah Native Plants

to



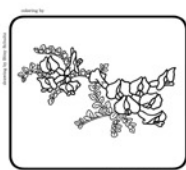
A Production of the
Utah Native Plant Society

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IMPORTANT: Please read the Introduction, which includes a Note from the Artist, before proceeding.

The background of each page has been deliberately left blank. Filling in the background will make a huge difference, to both the quality of the experience and the finished product.

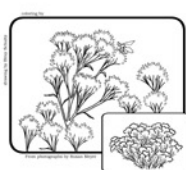
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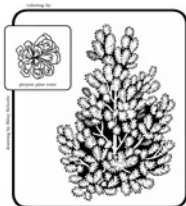
**UTAH
LADYFINGER**



**STICKY
GERANIUM**



**RUBBER
RABBITBRUSH**



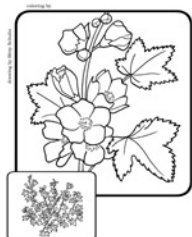
**PINYON
PINE**



**WASATCH
PENSTEMON**



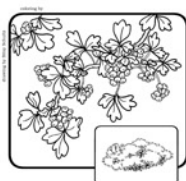
**GOLDEN
ASTER**



**MAPLE
MALLOW**



MORMON TEA



SQUAWBUSH



**CUSHION
EVENING
PRIMROSE**



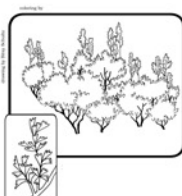
**SULFURFLOWER
BUCKWHEAT**



**LEWIS
FLAX**



**INDIAN
PAINTBRUSH**



SAGEBRUSH



**MUNROE
GLOBEMALLOW**



**SCARLET
GILIA**



**DESERT
FOUR o'CLOCK**



**INDIAN
RICE GRASS**



From a photo by Virginia Markham

UTAH LADYFINGER (*Astragalus utahensis*)
a-STRAG-a-lus yew-ta-EN-sis

You will find the bright pink flowers of Utah ladyfinger blooming in early spring on gravelly roadsides in the foothills of northern Utah. The leaves are very pale green, and fuzzy. Later on, the plant will make white seed pods that lie on the ground around it like downy little chicks. It is in the Pea family.



From photographs by Susan Meyer

RUBBER RABBITBRUSH

(Chrysothamnus nauseosus)

kry-so-THAM-nus naw-zee-O-sis

Rabbitbrush is a shrub in the Aster family. It makes clusters of small yellow flowers in the fall. The leaves are pale bluish green. When the seeds ripen, they form fluffy balls. Each seed has a "parachute" (like a dandelion seed) so it can float away on the breeze. Rabbitbrush grows in open spots along washes and roadsides. The plant has sap that can be made into rubber.



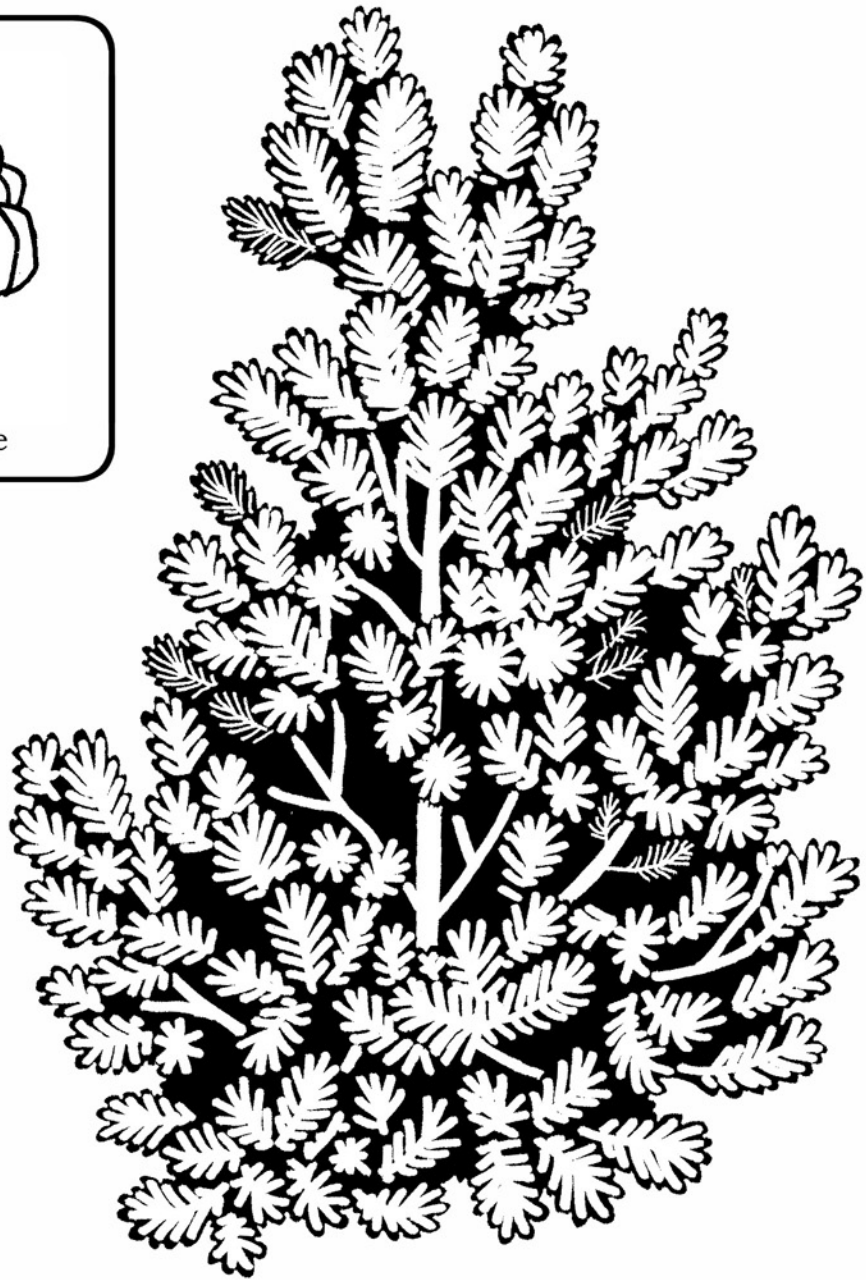
STICKY GERANIUM

(Geranium viscosissimum) je-RAYN-ee-um vis-co-SISS-i-mum

Sticky geraniums grow in mountain meadows and often in the shade of aspen trees. Members of the Geranium family, they have pale pink flowers with dark pink veins. The leaves are bright green and are sticky, with a distinctive smell. When the seeds are ripe, little branches like coiled springs fling the seeds away from the mother plant.



pinyon pine cone



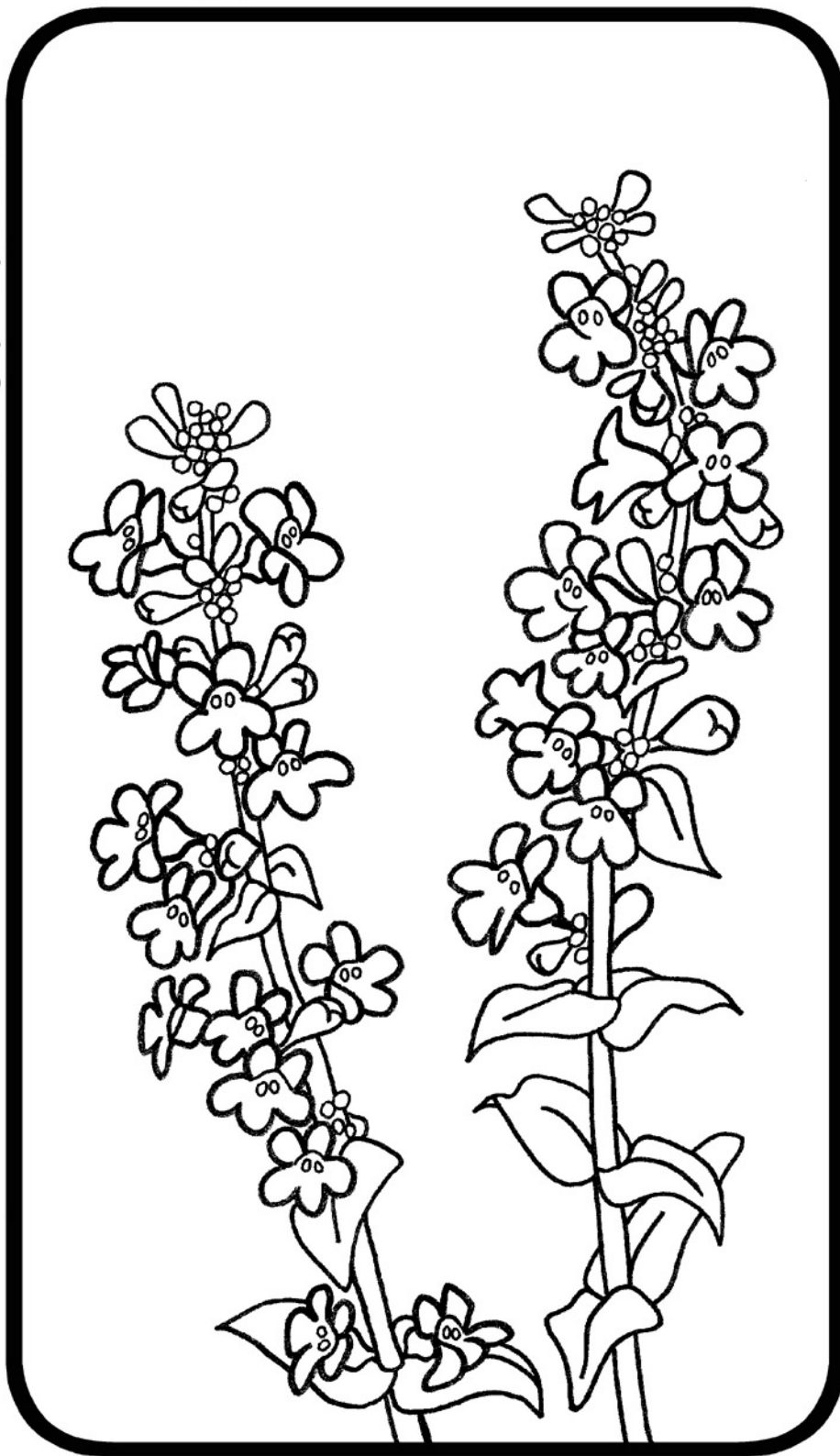
drawing by Bitsy Schultz

PINYON PINE

(Pinus edulis)

PY-nus ED-yew-lus

Pinyon pines are common trees in the foothills, often growing along with junipers. They have fat, woody cones which contain delicious pine nuts. Pine needles are a medium olive green, and grow in "packets," groups held together at the base. The young tree in this picture was planted at Wasatch Elementary School in the spring of 1998.



The "cyan" in *cyananthus* means "blue," and that is the color of these flowers-- a brilliant blue. The leaves are shiny dark green. A member of the Snapdragon family, this species of penstemon grows mostly in the Wasatch Mountains and their foothills. There are many other kinds of penstemons in Utah, with red, pink, purple, blue and white flowers.

From a photo by Susan Meyer

WASATCH PENSTEMON

(Penstemon cyananthus)

PEN-ste-mun sy-an-ANTH-us



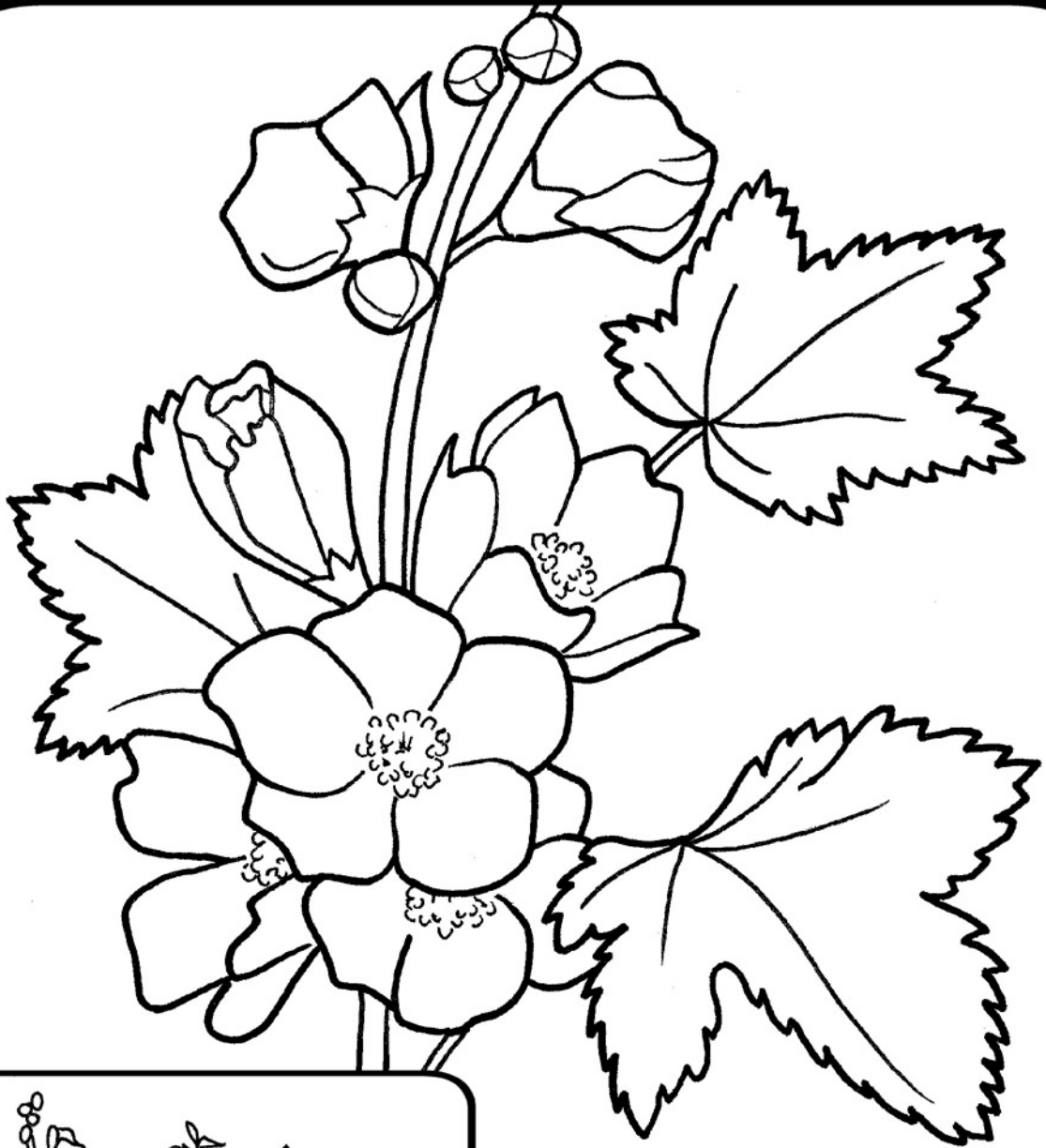
From a photo by Beatrice F. Howitt

GOLDEN ASTER

(Heterotheca villosa)

het-er-o-THEE-ka vil-LOW-sa

Golden asters are very common in open, gravelly or sandy areas in the foothills and the desert. Like many other members of the Aster family, each flowering head has a cluster of tiny disc flowers in the center, with flat ray flowers spreading out around the edge. The whole head is bright yellow, with light green fuzzy leaves.



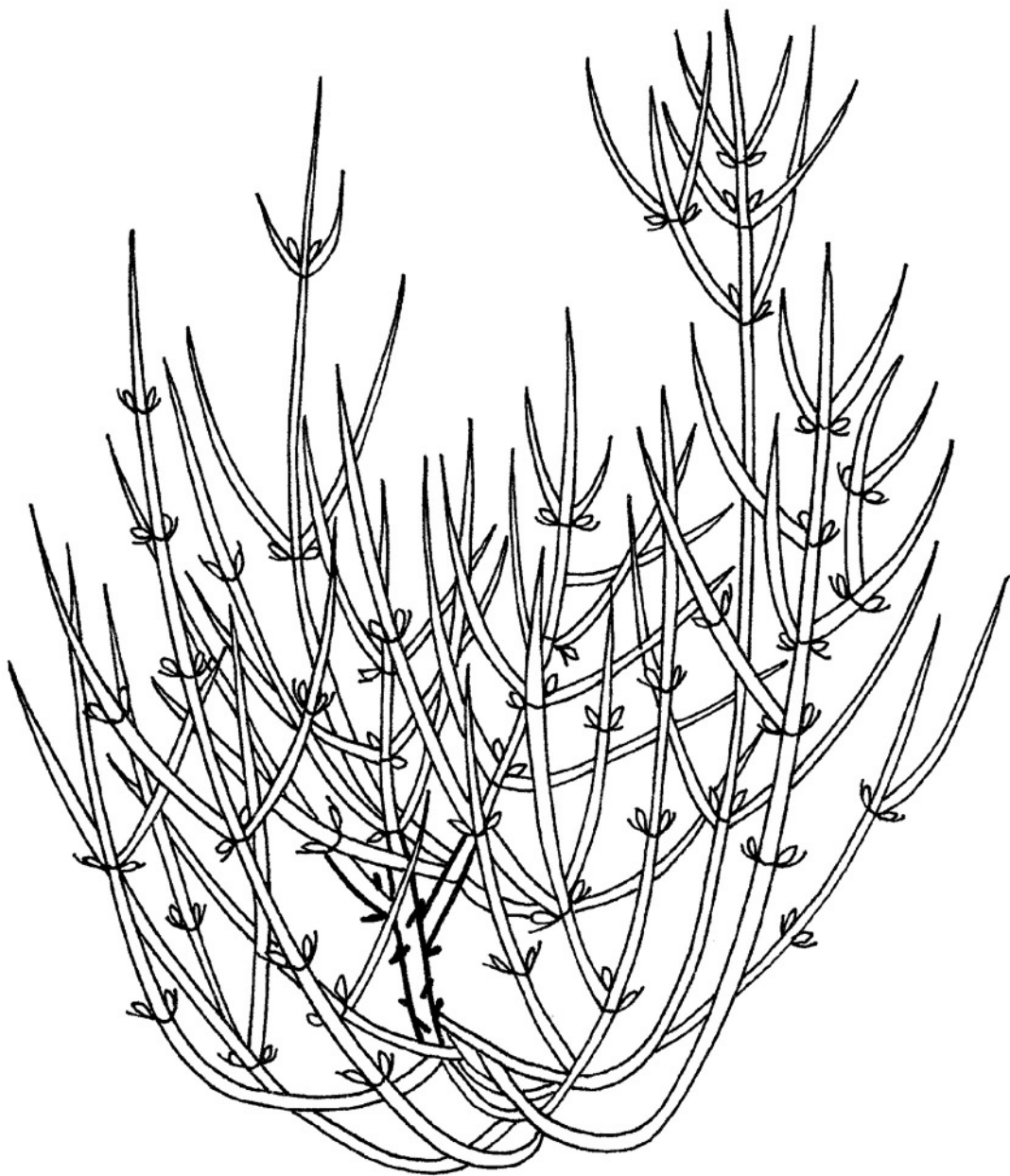
MAPLE MALLOW

(Iliamna rivularis)

il-ee-AM-na riv-yew-LAYR-iss

Maple mallow has pale pink flowers and medium green leaves that look like maple leaves. It

grows in shady woods and along streams in the mountains. Every winter the plant dies back to the ground, and every spring, new leaves and stems spring up from the roots. A member of the Mallow family, it is related to hollyhocks and Rose of Sharon.

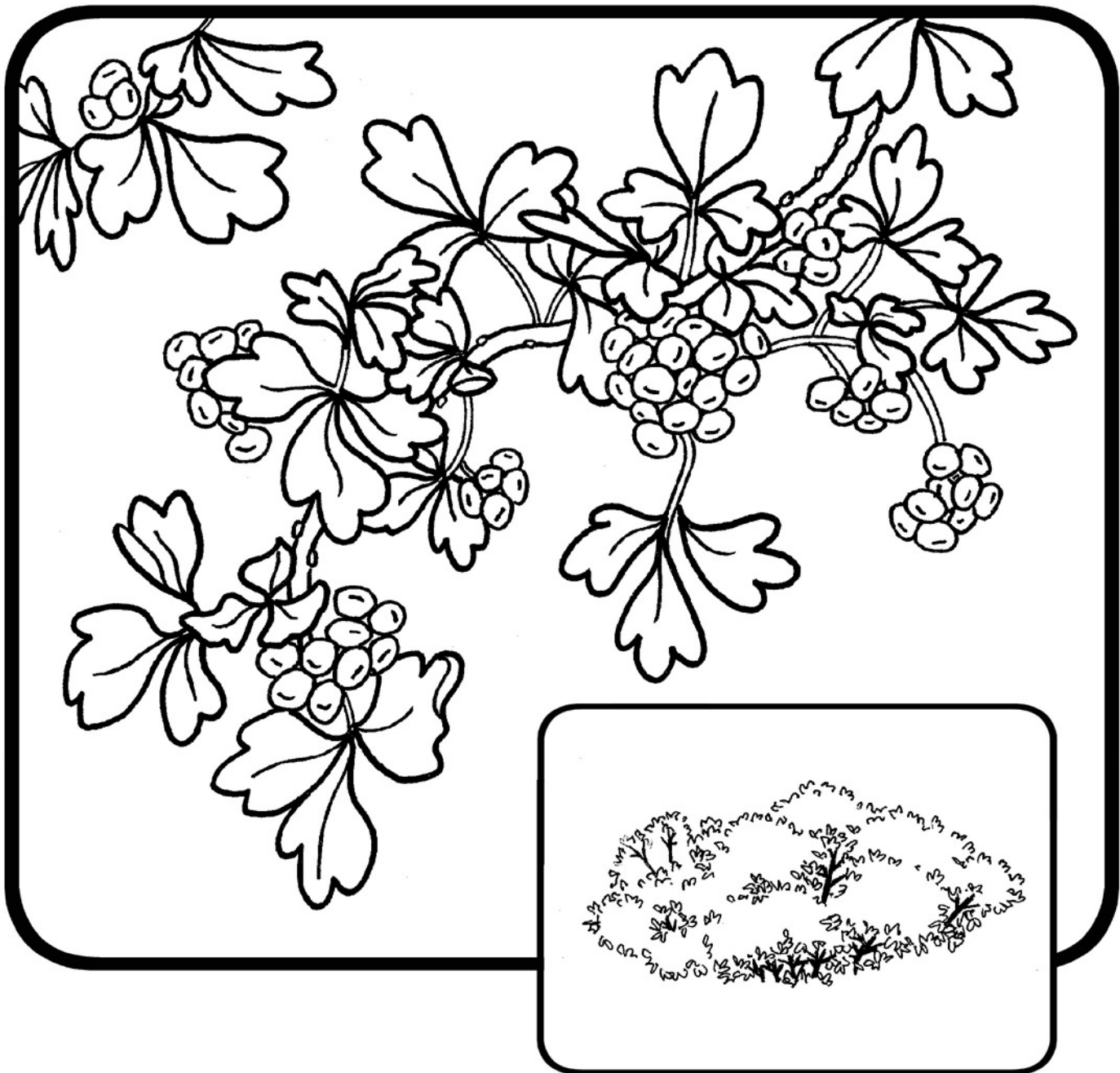


MORMON TEA

(Ephedra viridis)

e-FED-ra VEE-ri-dis

Mormon tea is a shrub in the Ephedra family that is related to pine trees. Instead of making flowers, every few years it will make a lot of tiny cones. It grows in dry places, which is why it has no leaves. It doesn't want to expose big flat leaves to the drying sun and wind. Instead, it makes its food with its dark green stems. It was used by the early settlers to make a drink, which is how it got its name.



SQUAWBUSH

(*Rhus trilobata*)

ROOSS try-lo-BAY-ta

Squawbush is a large shrub in the Cashew family. It is common in the foothills. Its leaves are medium to dark green and have three lobes (that's what *trilobata* means). The flowers are too tiny to notice, but in the late summer, squawbush produces rusty red berries that can be made into "Boy Scout lemonade."

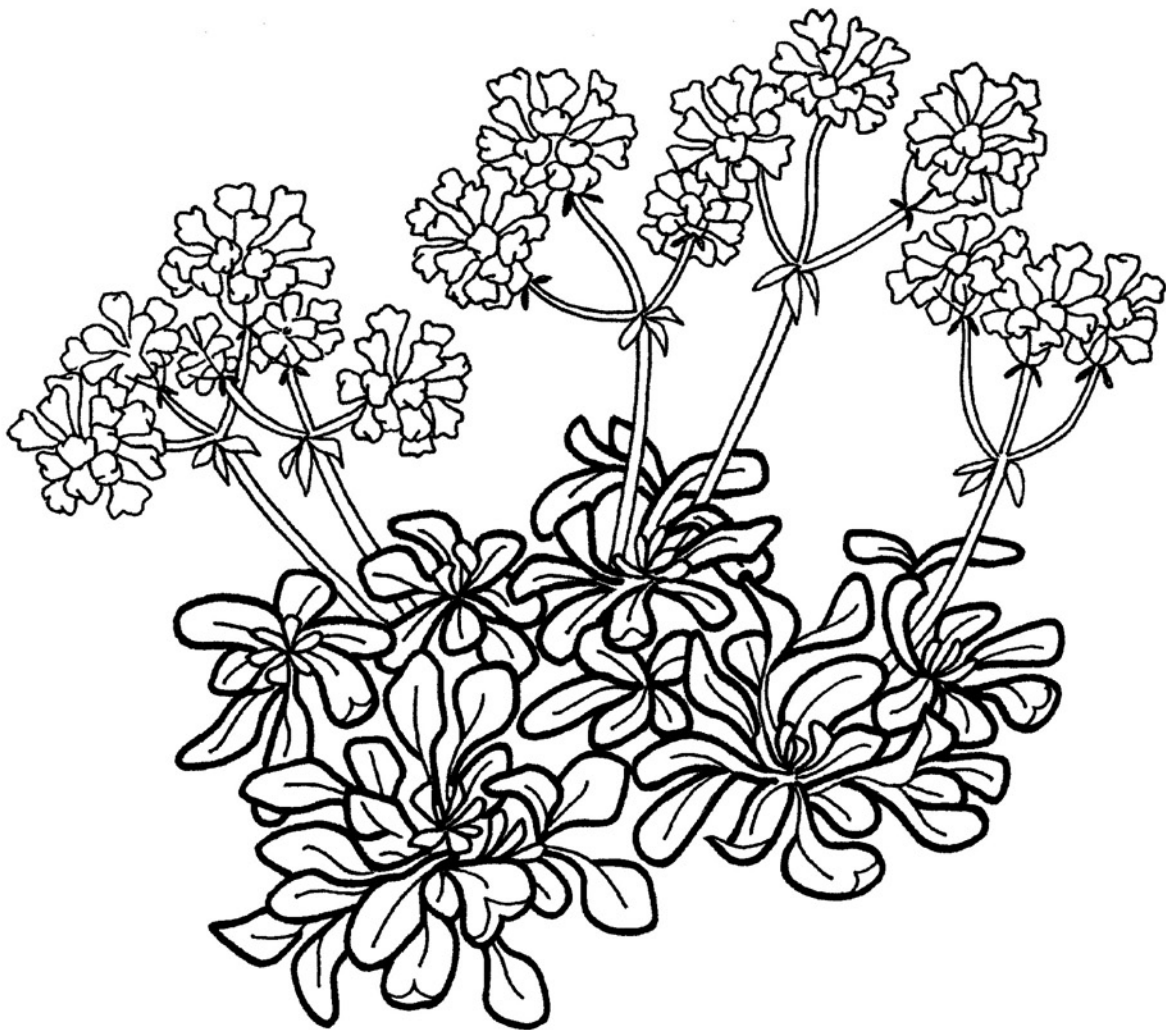


CUSHION EVENING PRIMROSE

(Oenothera caespitosa)

ee-no-THEE-ra ses-pi-TOW-sa

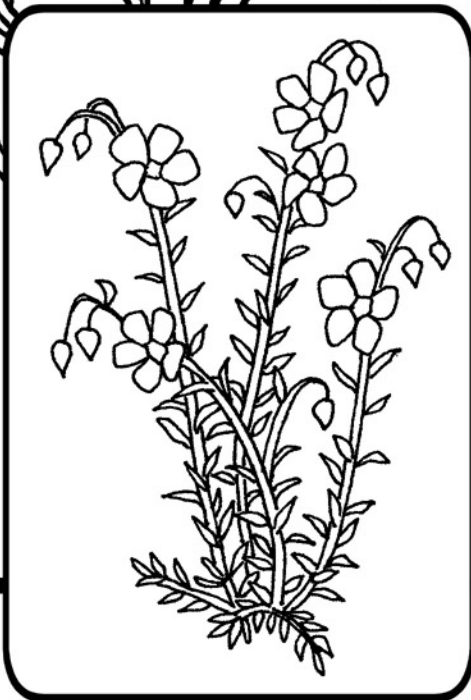
This low-growing Evening primrose has very fragrant white flowers that open as night is coming on. The flowers turn pink over the next few days and then wilt, as new flowers take their place. The leaves are light green with pink edges. In the dusk, the blossoms are visited by large hawk moths, that hover over them like hummingbirds. If you lean in to smell the flower, you may come away with bright yellow pollen on your nose. The plants grow in open, rocky places in the desert and foothills.



SULFURFLOWER BUCKWHEAT

(Eriogonum umbellatum) ee-ree-OG-o-num um-bel-LAY-tum

A member of the Buckwheat family, Sulfurflower buckwheat has bright yellow flowers (pure sulfur is yellow). As the flowers get older, they turn a rusty color. The leaves are a dark grayish green with pale veins. Clusters of new baby leaves may be pinkish around the edges. It likes to grow in sunny open places in the foothills. There are many other kinds of wild buckwheat in Utah.

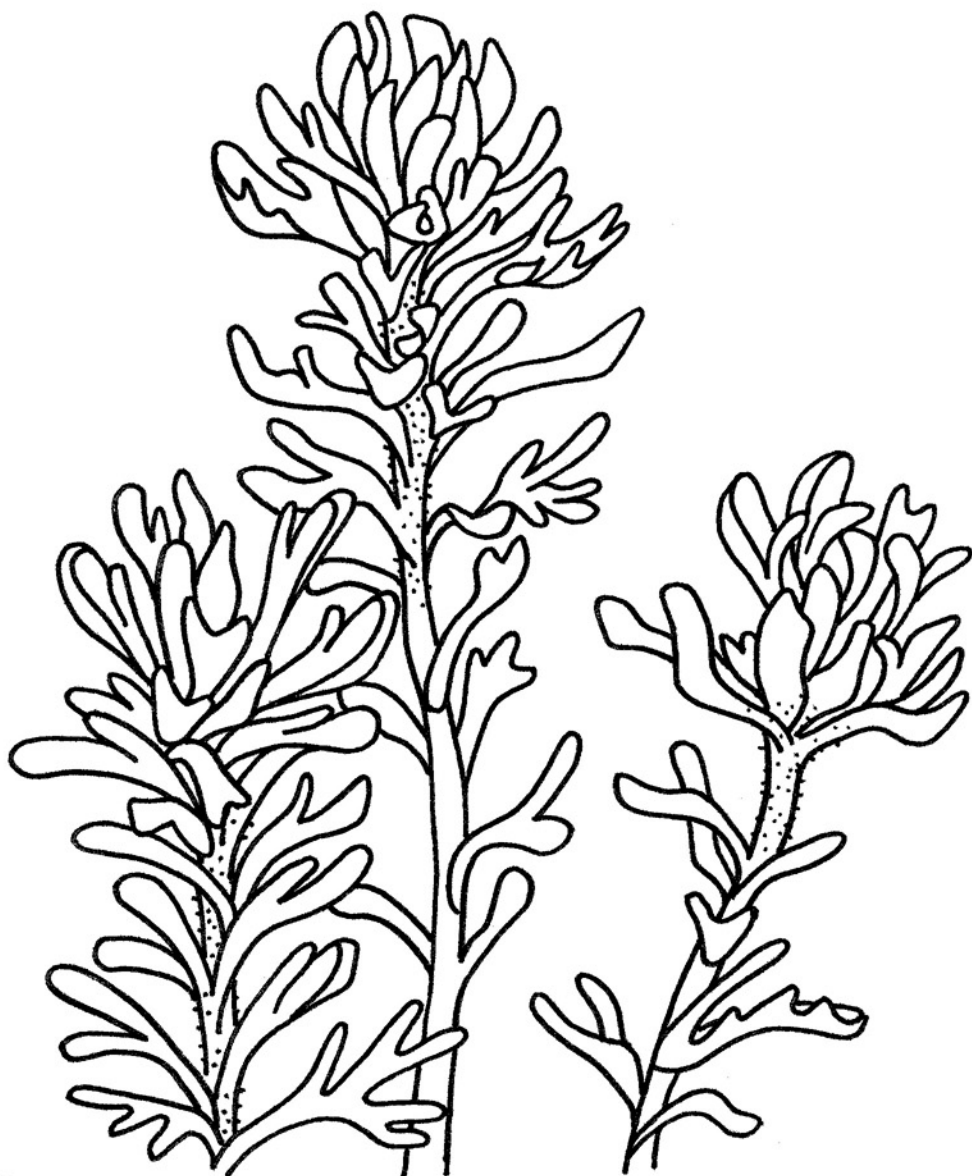


LEWIS FLAX

(Linum lewisii)

LY-num loo-WISS-ee-iy

Lewis flax has pale blue flowers with darker blue veins in the petals. The leaves are medium bluish green, and the seed capsules are tan. It grows in the foothills and in mountain meadows. Every morning, new flowers open, but they drop their petals by afternoon, making a blue carpet under the plant. It is in the Flax family.

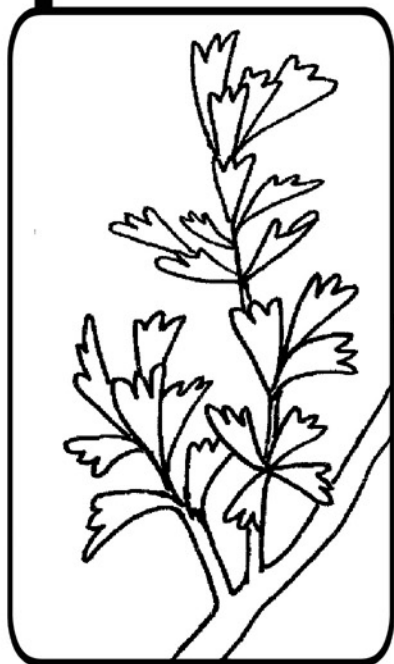


INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

(*Castilleja chromosa*)

kas-te-LEE-a kro-MOW-sa

There are many species of Indian paintbrush in Utah, growing in open spots in the mountains, foothills and lowlands. This one is bright red (*chromosa* means "brightly colored"). The fuzzy stems and leaves shade from reddish green to grey-green. Indian paintbrush almost always grows next to another plant, often sagebrush. Its roots attach themselves to the other plant's roots, so it can get extra water in the summer. It is in the Snapdragon family.



BIG SAGEBRUSH

(Artemisia tridentata)

ar-te-MEE-zee-a try-den-TAY-ta

Sagebrush covers more area than any other shrub in the Intermountain West. The leaves are light greygreen, and have an interesting smell if you rub them. *Tridentata* means "three teeth"--if you look at the leaves you can see the three "teeth." The leaves stay green all winter, providing food for deer. As a member of the Aster family it has lots of tiny flowers in heads, which are a light brown. When a stand of sagebrush grows without disturbance, many kinds of flowers and grasses come up between the bushes.



From a photo by Darrin Johnson

MUNROE GLOBEMALLOW

(Sphaeralcea munroana)

sfer-AL-cee-a mun-ro-AY-na

Munroe globemallow has fragrant orange flowers with yellow centers. The leaves, which are thick, are a medium green. It likes open, dry places in the desert and foothills. As in many other members of the Mallow family, its seedpods are like wagon wheels, with seeds between the spokes.



rosette

SCARLET GILIA (*Gilia aggregata*)
GIL-ee-a ag-gre-GAY-ta

Scarlet gilia grows all over Utah, from the desert to the mountains.

Like other plants with skinny, bright red flowers, it attracts hummingbirds. Its leaves are dark green. A member of the Phlox family, it is a biennial, which means that it goes through its life cycle in two years. The first year, it makes a low clump of leaves called a rosette. The second spring, it sends up tall stalks which burst into flower, giving it its other common name, **Skyrocket**.

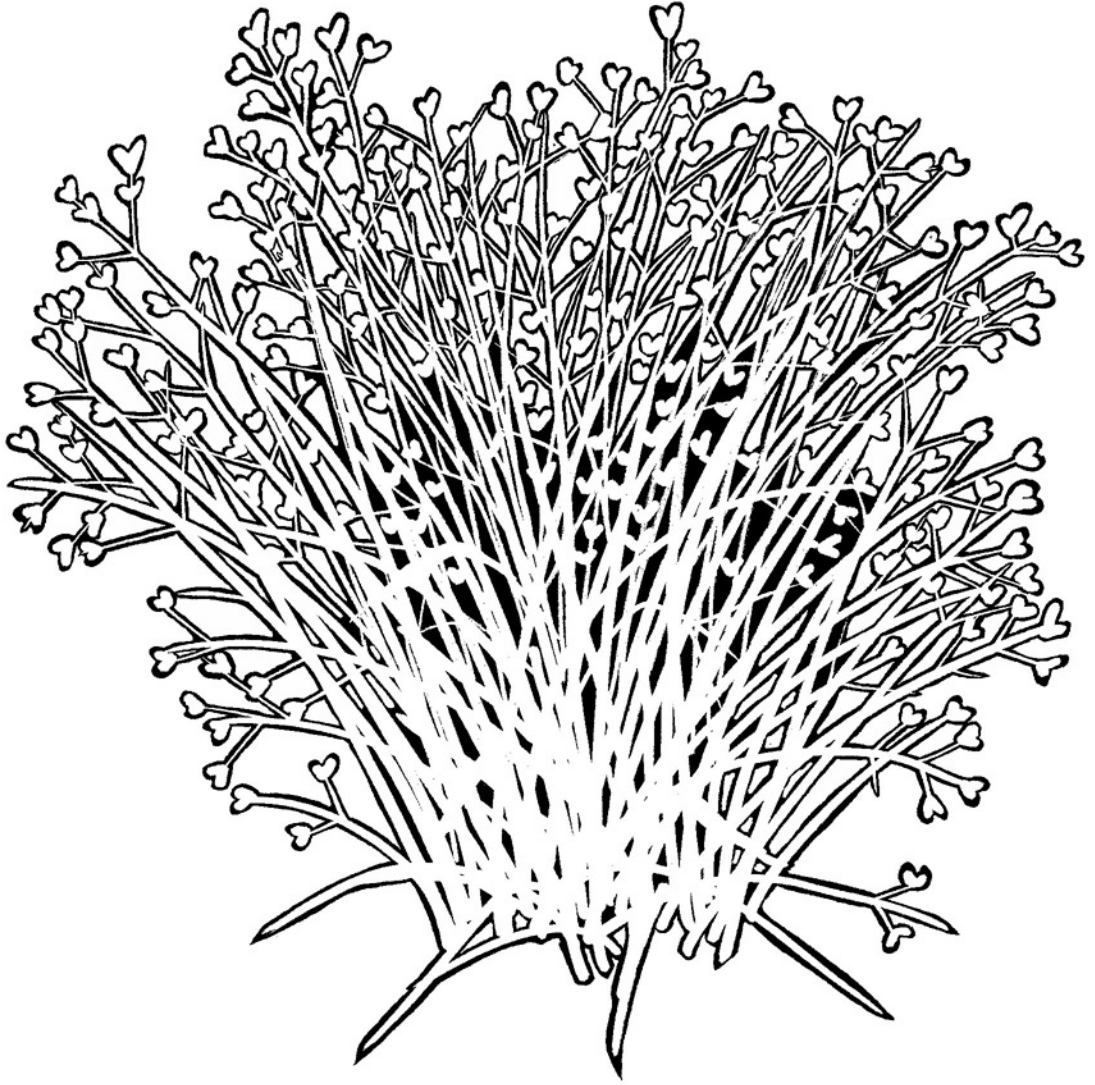


DESERT FOUR o'CLOCK

(Mirabilis multiflora)

mi-RAB-i-lis mult-tee-FLOR-a

Desert four o'clocks grow in the foothills in southern Utah. They are large plants that come back every year from a big storage root. They have medium green leaves and magenta flowers that bloom in the summer. Members of the Four o'clock family often open their flowers in the late afternoon, when the air is starting to get cooler.



INDIAN RICE GRASS

(Oryzopsis hymenoides) or-i-ZOP-sis hy-men-OY-deez

Indian rice grass is the state grass of Utah. It grows in dry, sandy places. It is bright green in the spring, but what you will usually notice later on are the beige stalks with a cloud of pale seeds floating around them. Native Americans used the seeds for food. They are also the favorite food of Kangaroo rats, which bury the seeds for winter storage. The ones that don't get eaten turn into next year's seedlings.