

by Gladys Nisbet

Of the plants blooming in the fall, some bloom only during this season, some bloom from spring through the fall, and occasionally extra rainfall may cause a few spring bloomers to produce flowers.

Jimmy-weed, *Aplopappus heterophyllus*: May bloom in June, but most of the bloom comes after the summer rains and into the fall months.

It is a somewhat woody perennial with few to many stems from near the base, 1½- to 5-feet tall. The lower leaves may be 2½-inches long, but the upper ones are shorter.

A group of smaller leaves are produced at each node and will produce a branch next year.

The inflorescence is also branched, each ultimate branch bears a head of 10 to 15 individual yellow flowers. There are no rays which give rise to the common name "rayless goldenrod."

This is probably the most common yellow-flowered plant along Cave Creek streets.

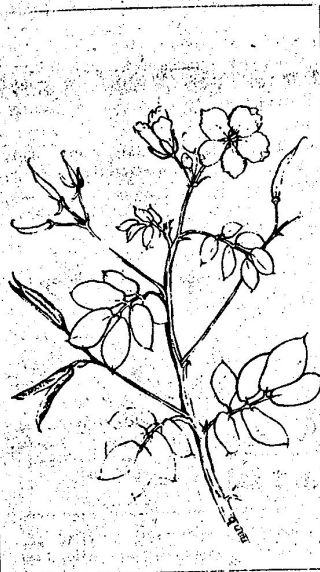
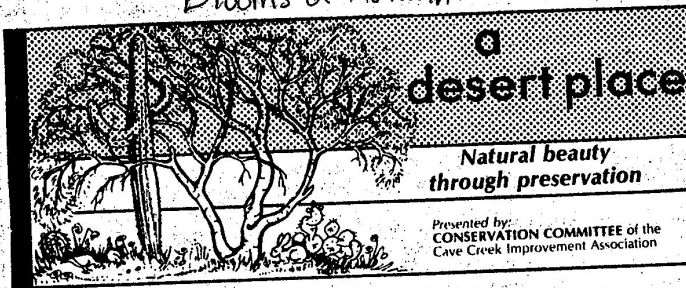
Also common

Snakeweed, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*: This perennial is also common along streets in Cave Creek and Carefree.

It differs from Jimmy-weed: 1) It does not grow as tall. 2) The leaves are all small, very narrow and more or less sticky. 3) The small ¼-inch diameter, yellow flowers have eight or fewer rays as well as disk flowers.

Snakeweed blooms July to November.

Telegraph plant, camphorweed, *Heterotheca subaxillaris*:



SENNA

This is another common roadside plant.

It is either annual or biennial, but can bloom its first year. It may grow quite tall, with broad leaves. Stem leaves have lobes at the base that may extend partly around the stem. The stem leaves and the green phylleries below each flower are hairy and glandular.

On stalks

In the branched inflorescence the flowers are on leafless stalks. The yellow ray flowers are numerous as are the disk flowers.

Since these flowers are about three-fourths to an inch in diameter, they make quite an attractive yellow daisy-like flower.

Desert marigold, *Baileya multiradiata*: Is so well-known it hardly needs any description.

Its many broad, yellow, three-lobed rays and yellow disk flowers on their long leafless stalks stand out beautifully from the gray-green lobed leaves that cloak the hairy lower stems. This favorite blooms from March to November.

Rabbit-brush, *Chrysothamnus paniculatus*: This low shrub looks somewhat like both aplopappus and snakeweed, but it is more compact and the leaves are short, roundish and many shiny glands can be seen with magnification.

The inflorescence has no long branches, but is narrow with the flower heads on short branches.

Yellow disks

Each flowerhead is made up of yellow disk flowers, usually 10 or fewer in number.



WOOLLY MARIGOLD

Rabbit-bush blooms from September to November.

Many of these shrubs are along Spur Cross and Fleming Springs roads, and Cave Creek leading to Tonto Hills.

Senna, *Cassia covessi*: These perennials are less than 2-feet tall, and woody at the base.

The leaves are compound, pinnate with two or three pairs of opposite oval leaflets.

Stems, leaflets and the five yellowish sepals are covered with fine, short, white hairs that give a soft velvety feel to the leaves.

The five roundish petals of the flowers are yellow, and nearly ½-inch long.

There are 10 stamen, but some do not bear pollen sacs.

The long, narrow seed pods split open to release the seeds, but remain on the stems for some time. Senna is plentiful along Fleming Springs Road.

Woody at base

Foothill aster, *Aster bigelovii*: A perennial that in old plants becomes woody at the base. It blooms from March to November, whenever there is enough moisture.

Mature plants are widely branched; first-year plants usually with one main stem. Lower leaves are sharply toothed and may be 2 inches long, but upper leaves are much shorter. The green phyllaries, upper leaves and stems are covered with short hairs that have tiny glands on their tips.

The glands look like a minute drop of oil or water.

The inflorescence is branch with the flowers at the tips branches.

The ray flowers are about ½-inch long, narrow and violet in color.

Wolfbeery, squaw-berry *Lycium exsertum*, *Lycium fremontii*: These shrubs stay bare of leaves during d weather, but leaf out and bloom whenever there is sufficient rainfall.

Small leaves

These freely branching shrubs have small leaves, usually clusters of several leaves at each node.

The small tube flowers are about ½-inch long, the tube widening where the tiny lobes fall out. The tube is whitish, the lobes lavender in species *exsertum* and purple in *fremontii*.

The four, five or six stamens are exerted beyond the tube species *exsertum*. The berries are red and edible and make delicious jelly; also an important food for birds and animals.