



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Antelope bitterbrush

Scientific Name: *Purshia tridentate*

Plant Family: Rosaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Antelope bitterbrush is a perennial-deciduous, rigidly-branched shrub or small tree, typically 1 to 3 m height (3 to 10 ft), but can grow to 5 m (16 ft).

Leaves: Leaves are wedge-shaped, alternate, 10-20 mm long, deeply 3-lobed at the tip, greenish on the upper surface and grayish-woolly beneath.

Flowers: Flowers are terminal and solitary on short, lateral, leafy spurs. They have five petals that are yellow to pink-red to white, 6-9 mm long.

Bark: The bark is thin, grayish to brown. The twigs are slender, reddish brown becoming gray-brown with age.

Habitat: Dry, well-drained soils (sandy, rocky, gravelly) typical of sagebrush desert, shrub-steppe, ponderosa pine forest and juniper woodland.

Bloom time: Spring/summer (April-June)

Information sources:

The Jepson manual: higher plants of California. University of California Press. Berkeley and Los Angeles, California, and London, Paris. USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov, 13 March 2007).

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. 2006.

(biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/collections/list.php)

USDA Forest Service, Fire Effects Information Service. 2007. (www.fs.fed.us/database/feis)

Did you know? Antelope bitterbrush is long lived: it has been reported that a 115-year-old plant existed that was only 25 cm (10 in) high and spread over 1.8 m² (7 square ft), while at a lower elevation the same botanist found a 128-year-old plant that was 3.6 m (12 ft) high and 6 m (20 ft) across. Antelope bitterbrush is also important browse for wildlife and livestock, and it supports several species of insects.



Photograph by Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

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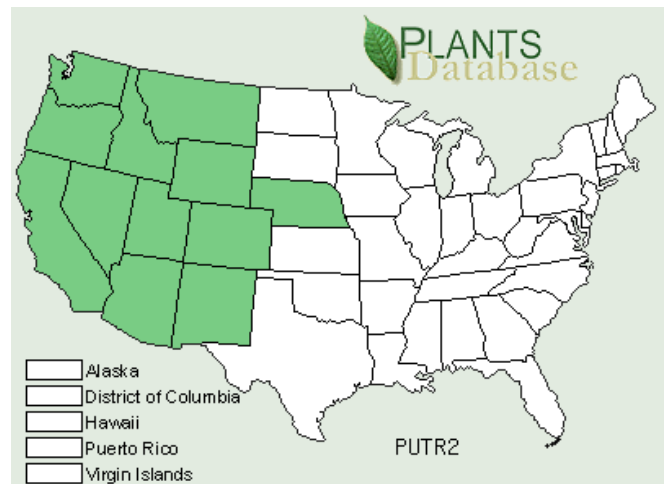


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Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)