

## Common Plant Species at Mesa Verde National Park

The following is a list of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that are found along the roads and trails of Mesa Verde National Park. Trees and shrubs are, of course, visible year round but wildflowers are seasonal. The approximate blooming time for wildflowers is indicated.

### TREES

The trees that you are most likely to see are listed first.

Common Names	Scientific Name	Synonym
Gambel oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	
Utah juniper	<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	<i>Sabina osteosperma</i>
Pinyon pine	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	<i>Padus virginiana</i>
Rio Grande cottonwood, Alamo	<i>Populus deltoids</i> subspecies <i>wislizenii</i>	<i>Populus fremontii</i>
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	

### SHRUBS

The shrubs that you are most likely to see are listed first.

Common Names	Scientific Name	Synonym
Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>
Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	<i>Seriphidium tridentatum</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier utahensis</i>	
Mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	
Cliff fendlerbush	<i>Fendlera rupicola</i>	<i>Fendlera falcata</i>
Bitterbrush	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	
Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos rotundifolius</i>	
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>	
Mountain lover, Boxleaf myrtle	<i>Paxistima myrsinites</i>	
Mormon tea	<i>Ephedra viridis</i>	

## WILDFLOWERS

Wildflowers are arranged by approximate bloom time beginning in the Spring.

Common Names	Scientific Name	Synonym	Notes
Double bladderpod, Southern twinpod	<i>Physaria acutifolia</i>		Bright yellow, low to the ground.
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>		Spring, summer, fall.
Arrowhead balsamroot	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>		Large yellow flowers, clumps of large leaves.
Mule's ears	<i>Wyethia arizonica</i>		Large yellow flowers, clumps of large leaves.
Pepperweed, Peppergrass, (White Mustard)	<i>Lepidium spp.</i>		Several species, spring-fall.
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>		A number of species bloom through most growing months.
Scarlet gilia, Skyrocket gilia, Trumpet gilia	<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>		Blooms from late spring into fall.
Yellow mustard, Flaxleaf plainsmustard	<i>Schoenocrambe linifolia</i>	<i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i>	Very sweet smelling.
Locoweed, Vetch, Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus spp.</i>		Many species from early spring into summer.
Eaton's penstemon	<i>Penstemon eatoni</i>		Spring. Bright red tube.
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>		Large, ground-hugging, white flower.
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron spp.</i>		Several species from late spring into fall.
Thistle	<i>Cirsium spp.</i>		Several native and non-native species, summer.
Salsify, Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>		Yellow flowers, large silky seed heads.
Perky sue, Ive's four-nerved daisy	<i>Tetranneuris ivesiana</i>		Summer and early fall.
Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis spp.</i>	<i>Psilochenia spp.</i>	Late spring, early summer.
Sulfur flower, buckwheat)	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>		Long-blooming yellow flower, tuft of small leaves.
New Mexico sunflower, New Mexico groundsel	<i>Packera neomexicana</i>		Widely occurring small sunflower.
Broadleaf yucca, banana yucca	<i>Yucca baccata</i>		Dense cluster of white flowers.
Rocky Mountain penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>		Tall, dark purple, showy.
Low penstemon, toadflax penstemon	<i>Penstemon linarioides</i>		Short, light blue, in numerous large clumps.
Scarlet bugler, beardlip penstemon	<i>Penstemon barbatus</i>		Summer, bright red, tall.
Purple onion, tapertip onion	<i>Allium acuminatum</i>		Early summer in large colonies.
Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia repens</i>		Bright yellow, under Oaks.
Rock goldenrod	<i>Petradoria pumila</i>		Tiny flowers in masses, clusters, very common.
Fine-leaf sunflower	<i>Hymenopappus filifolius</i>		Clumps of fine leaves, small clusters of tiny flowers.
Hairy golden aster, hairy false golden aster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>		Lines roads. Very common. Summer-fall.
Sugarbowls, hairy clematis	<i>Clematis hirsutissima</i>	<i>Coriflora hirsutissima</i>	Upside down purple flowers.
Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>		Vine, white flowers.
Globemallow, scarlet globemallow)	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>		Orange flowers, short plants in colonies.

## WILDFLOWERS (con't)

Common Names	Scientific Name	Synonym	Notes
Globemallow, smallflower globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea parvifolia</i>		Orange flowers, tall plants.
Winged buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum alatum</i>	<i>Pterogonum alatum</i>	Noticeable red and green basal leaves, tall, wispy flower stalk.
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>	Summer and fall. Long lasting.
Death camas	<i>Toxicoscordion venenosum</i>	<i>Zigadenus venenosus</i>	Summer
Wyoming paintbrush, narrowleaf paintbrush.	<i>Castilleja linariifolia</i>		Showy red leaves, inconspicuous flowers.
Showy goldeneye	<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>		Summer, long lasting.
Tansy aster, hoary tansy-aster	<i>Dieteria canescens</i>	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Fall, attractive, tall.
Snakeweed, broom snakeweed	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>		Late summer, fall. Widespread.

*Thanks to Al Schneider with the San Juan/Four Corners Native Plant Society,  
for creating Mesa Verde National Park's Common Plant Species list.*