

Other Plants

This subsection is a sort of catch-all for plants that do not neatly fit into another category, but which are either very common or very visible in Vistoso Trails. As with other sections, this is in no way intended to be comprehensive.

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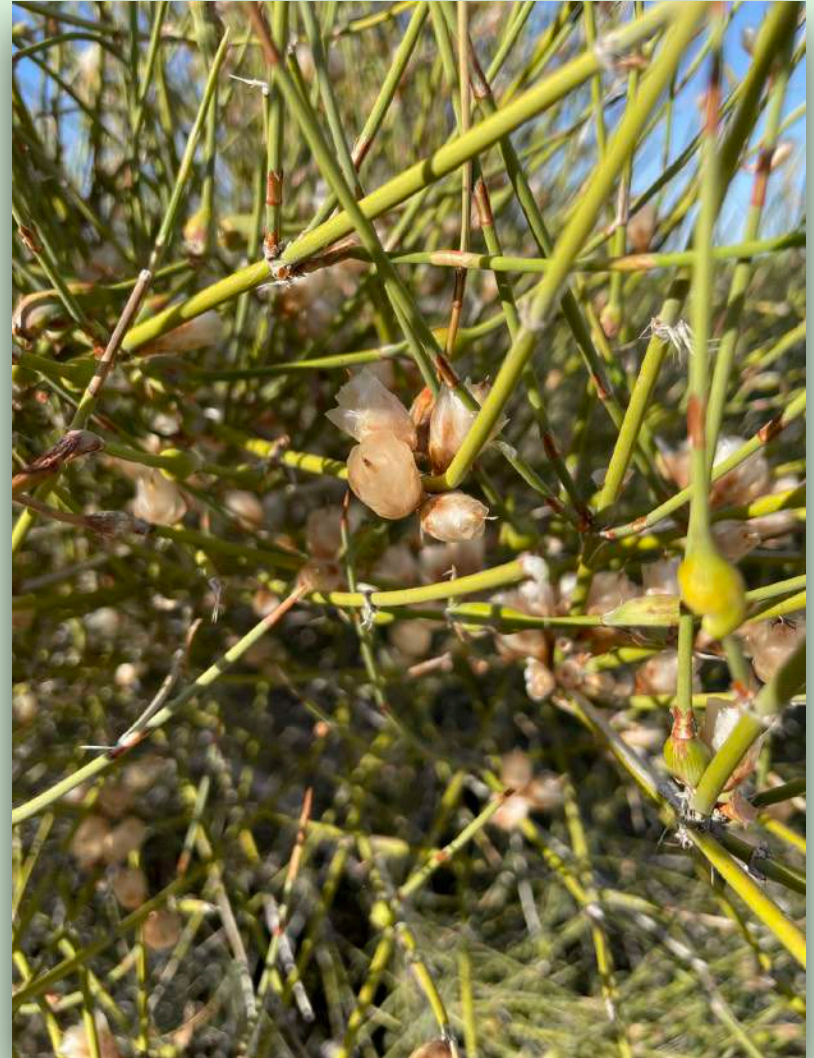




Common name: Wheeler Sotol or Desert Spoon

Scientific name: *Dasyliirion wheeleri*

Notes: Near spherical growth. Leaves have sharp teeth. Closely related to yuccas. Tall flower clusters.



Common name: Longleaf Ephedra

Scientific name: *Ephedra trifurca*

Notes: An ancient lineage closer to conifers than flowering plants. Long, segmented sections. Shrub-like.



Common name: Red-gland Spurge

Scientific name: *Euphorbia melanadenia*

Notes: Forms a low mat on the ground. Toxic, white sap.



Common name: Ocotillo

Scientific name: *Fouquieria splendens*

Notes: Not a cactus. Red spring flowers. Popular with pollinators. Green leaves after rain.



Common name: Hartweg's Climbing Milkweed

Scientific name: *Funastrum heterophyllum*

Notes: Vine. Host for certain caterpillars and popular with butterflies. Rush milkweedi is also common here.



Common name: Desert Mistletoe

Scientific name: *Phoradendron californicum*

Notes: Hemiparasitic. Found on many trees (in the legume family) in the preserve.



Common name: Soaptree Yucca

Scientific name: *Yucca elata*

Notes: Upright growth. Tall flower stalks. Related to sotols and agaves. Leaves have smooth but sharp edges.



Common name: Desert Thorn-apple

Scientific name: *Datura discolor*

Notes: Annual and abundant. Blooms in the fall. In other seasons look for desiccated stems and round, spike-covered seed pods.