

# Plantlife in Unaweep Canyon

## Habitat

Lowland Riparian, Cliff Face, Pinyon-Juniper Forest, Pond, Wet Meadow, Stream

## Plants and Trees

1. **Utah Juniper:** *Juniperus osteosperma* (tall shrub or small tree with wide shallow roots, flakey bark, small blue to white edible berries found throughout the SW US, ranging from 3-6 meters in height.)



2. **Rio Grande Cottonwood:** *Populus deltoides* (A riparian-zone tree reaching to 30m in height with shiny green triangular leaves, with reddish flowers, and light-brown oval shape fruit found throughout the San Juan Basin. (Big trees around campus))



3. **Brown-Spined Prickly Pear:** *Opuntia polyacantha* (more wide than tall, with red/yellow/pink flowers, sharp “leaves” and a thick, waxy, oval-shape blue-green stem.)



4. **Hookless cactus:** *Sclerocactus glaucus* (thick, round and circular stem with light to bright pink flowers with a yellow center, can grow in colonies, endemic species to Colorado (endangered list))



5. **Mormon Tea:** *Ephedra viridis* (an edible shrub species with thick green stems, yellow billowy flowers, and small round red fruits)



6. **CO Pinyon Pine:** *Pinus edulis* (needle-like green leaves, scaly, reddish-brown bark, with brown circular pine cones with edible pine nuts, growing up 10-20 m)



7. **Broadleaf Yucca:** *Yucca glauca* / *baccata* (thick, blue-green, spikey leaves with long thin white hairs, cream to white tear-drop shape flowers and green to brown oval shape fruit)



8. **Ponderosa pine:** *Pinus ponderosa* ssp. *Scopulorum* (scaly jig-saw, orange-brown bark with long green, spiny leaves, thick, light to dark brown pine cones, and ranging in height from 10ft to 140ft - in SW CO around 8-25ft.)



9. **Big sagebrush:** *Artemisia tridentata* (hairy, silvery/green/ blue wedge shape leaves, dark brown woody to shredded stems, can grow 1-3 m tall near riparian.)



10. **Rabbitbrush:** *Chrysothamnus* ssp. (3-5 ft in height, yellow-green leaves, stems form a rounded crown with small yellow flowers)



11. **Willow-** *Salix* ssp. (shrub surrounding the riparian zone/West Creek, wide and ranging from 1-8ft tall with long, elongated green leaves, with red to brown smooth, sticky bark)

