



Old Man, Sand Sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*)

Historically known to have treated indigestion, infusions of sand sagebrush also treated snake bites. The plant is a part of the Asteraceae plant family, also known as the sunflower or daisy family. Asteraceae plants share a common trait of bearing a small fruit that contains one seed.

Description: Sand sagebrush is a perennial plant that grows between two and five feet tall. Stems are thin and can be brown to gray-brown. Leaves are blue-green and resemble hair. Crushed leaves produce a mint-like scent infused with rich desert soil. Flowers are very small and its fruit is brown. Blooming and seed production occurs between August and September. Pollination is by wind.

Uses: Livestock and wildlife rely upon sagebrush when food and forage is limited or unavailable. Pronghorn deer consume sagebrush regularly in some cold low elevation desert areas. Birds and other small wildlife find refuge under sagebrush canopies. A large amount of sagebrush prevents sunlight and encourages the growth of grasses in densely grazed regions.

Sources:

"Sand Sagebrush." *Utah State University*. 11 Jan. 2019. <https://extension.usu.edu/rangeplants/shrubs-and-trees/OldManSagebrush>

"Asteraceae Artemisia." *National Park Service, Arches National Park*. 11 Jan. 2019. https://www.nps.gov/arch/learn/nature/asteraceae_artemisia_filifolia.htm



Location: Sand sagebrush prefers to grow in dry locations, specifically sand dunes. These plants thrive in southern Utah due to its dense, sandy soils. Production occurs between 3,000 and 5,000 feet. Found abundantly on sand hills and dunes.