



Rubber Rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*)

Rubber rabbitbrush's species name "Nauseosa" relates to the scent of crushed rubber rabbitbrush. Some find the scent fruit-like while others find it strong and rubber-like. The sap from the plant contains rubber. Its rubber was utilized in World War II and since has been recreated into a variety of resins and synthetics.

Description: Standing two to five feet tall, rubber rabbitbrush typically features white to green stems with light hairs and gray-green leaves. Flowers are formed in yellow clusters at the end of each branch. Wild pollinates seeds and blooming occurs between August and October. Leaves shed in order to provide nutrients to the surface of the soil.

Location: Rubber rabbitbrush is found across the central to western United States, extending to central and western Canada. It is grown in dry and open regions, especially on plains, in valleys, and mountains. Tolerant of harsh, alkaline soils, rubber rabbitbrush is used in restoration and revegetation areas.

Uses: Native Americans extracted yellow dye from rubber rabbitbrush and utilized the plant to produce tea and gum. It is a critical foraging shrub for mule deer, pronghorn and jackrabbits throughout cold months. Shelter is provided to small mammals, reptiles and birds. Insects are attracted to rubber rabbitbrush as it provides perfect dwellings for butterflies and bees.

Sources:

"Rubber Rabbitbrush." *United States Department of Agriculture*. 16 Jan. 2019.
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