

TOWARD A FLORA OF RED ROCK CANYON
A Preliminary Checklist
April 2005

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Foreword

On August 21, 1968 the California legislature appropriated funds to purchase the property, which is now Red Rock Canyon State Park. Nearly fifty years of public support for the preservation of Red Rock Canyon had resulted in the protection of the increasingly significant flora of this Mojave Desert canyonland. Representative of California's "high desert" botanic region, Red Rock Canyon contains numerous uncommon plants of limited range which survive within a narrow zone of the northwestern Mojave where the desert landscape meets the drier portions of the southern and southeastern Sierra Nevada. Some of the unique plants found here are postulated to be relict species from wetter Ice Age environments.

After the state initiated plans to acquire Red Rock Canyon and some of the adjoining land for a state park in 1968, prominent Kern County botanist Ernest C. Twisselmann compiled information on the local flora. In March of 1970 he completed a typewritten botanical monograph, *Toward a Flora of Red Rock Canyon and the El Paso Range: The Mojave Desert, Kern County, California*. This initial plant list for the region was never formalized and apparently was of limited distribution. It was, nevertheless, an excellent starting point for understanding the local flora and remains a valuable reference.

This new list of Red Rock Canyon's plants is an attempt to revise Twisselmann's original document with current information on the flora of this spectacular canyon. The current listing is by no means complete and it is hoped that it's availability will stimulate the interest of other botanists and lead to a greater understanding of the dynamic flora of this desert badland. Submission of new information is encouraged and greatly desired.

Within this guide plants originally listed in Ernest Twisselmann's 1970 work are indicated with a (T) following the Latin species name. A bold face (**T**) reflects the present author's desire to relocate within the canyon a species which Twisselmann had indicated in his 1970 document. We have tried to revise scientific titles to reflect the nomenclature of *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* (edited by James C. Hickman, University of California Press, 1992). One species, *Yucca brevifolia* var. *herberti*, was intentionally not revised, reflecting our commitment to a varietal not recognized in *The Jepson Manual*. Occasional entries will state "sp." or "ssp." or will omit italics from part of the scientific name indicating that further work is needed on that listing.

The assembly of this flora represents the botanical resources thus far identified within the boundaries of Red Rock Canyon State Park. These properties include portions of both the Red Rock Canyon and Last Chance Canyon watersheds within the El Paso Mountains of eastern Kern County, California.

FILICINEAE

Pteridaceae

Cheilanthes viscida (T)

Visid Lace Fern

GYMNOSPERMAE

Ephedraceae

Ephedra nevadensis

Mormon Tea

ANGIOSPERMAE

DICOTYLEDONAE

Amaranthaceae

Amaranthus albus (T)

Tumbleweed

Tidestromia oblongifolia (T)

Honey Sweet

Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)

Lomatium mohavense

Mojave Wild Parsley

Asclepiadaceae

Asclepias erosa (T)

Milkweed

Asteraceae (Compositae)

Acamptopappus sphaerocephalus v. *hirtellus* (T)

Goldenhead

Ambrosia acanthicarpa

Annual Burweed

Ambrosia dumosa (T)

Bur-sage

Anisocoma acaulis (T)

Scale Bud

Artemisia spinescens (T)

Bud Sage

Baccharis salicifolia

Mule Fat (1 sighting)

Baccharis sergiloides

Squaw Waterweed

Bebbia juncea v. *aspera*

Sweetbush

Brickellia californica

California Brickelbush

Brickellia desertorum

Desert Brickelbush

Calycoseris parryi (T)

Yellow Tack Stem

Chaenactis carphoclinia var. *carphoclinia* (T)

Pebble Pincushion

Chaenactis fremontii (T)

Fremont's Pincushion

Chaenactis macrantha

Mojave Pincushion

Chamomilla suaveolens

Pineapple Weed

Chrysothamnus nauseosus mohavensis (T)

Rubber Rabbit Brush

Chrysothamnus teretifolius

Round-leaf Rabbitbrush

Chrysothamnus paniculatus

Wash Rabbit Brush/BlackStem

Cnicus benedictus (T)

Blessed Thistle

Conyza bonariensis

Buenos Aires Thistle

Coreopsis bigelovii (T)

Bigelow's Coreopsis

Coreopsis californica (T)

California Coreopsis

Dicoria canescens (T)

Bug Seed

Encelia actoni (T)

Acton Encelia

Ericameria cooperi var. *cooperi*

Cooper Goldenbush

Ericameria linearifolia (T)

Linear-leaved Goldenbush

<i>Eriophyllum ambiguum</i> var. <i>paleaceum</i>	Yellow Frocks
<i>Eriophyllum pringlei</i>	Pringle's Eriophyllum
<i>Eriophyllum wallacei</i>	Wallace's Woolly Daisy
<i>Filago depressa</i> (T)	Dwarf Filago
<i>Glyptopleura marginata</i>	Keysia
<i>Gnaphalium palustre</i>	Cudweed
<i>Gutierrezia microcephala</i> (T)	Desert Matchweed
<i>Hemizonia arida</i> (T)	Red Rock Tarweed
<i>Hemizonia kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's Tarweed -5rf
<i>Hymenoclea salsola</i> var. <i>salsola</i> (T)	Cheesebush
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
<i>Lasthenia californica</i> (T)	Goldfields
<i>Layia glandulosa</i> (T)	White Layia
<i>Lepidospartum squamatum</i> (T)	Scale Broom
<i>Lessingia lemmonii</i> var.	Autumn Vingerweed
<i>Machaeranthera carnosa</i> (T)	Broom Aster
<i>Malacothrix coulteri</i> (T)	Snake's Head
<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i> (T)	Desert Dandelion
<i>Malacothrix sonchoides</i>	Yellow Saucers
<i>Monolopia lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved Monolopia
<i>Monoptilon belioides</i>	Mojave Desert Star
<i>Monoptilon bellidiforme</i> (T)	Desert Star
<i>Nicolletia occidentalis</i> (T)	Hole-in-the-Sand
<i>Perityle emoryi</i> (T)	Rock Daisey
<i>Peucephyllum schottii</i>	Desert Fir
<i>Prenanthes exiguua</i>	Annual Mitre
<i>Psathyrotes annua</i> (T)	Fan Leaf/Desert Velvet
<i>Rafinesquia neo-mexicana</i> (T)	Desert Chicory
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Sow Thistle
<i>Stephanomeria exiguua</i> (T)	Annual Mitra
<i>Stephanomeria parryi</i>	Parry Rock Pink
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i> ssp? (T)	Desert Straw
<i>Stilochline psilocarphoides</i>	Peck Nest Straw
<i>Syntrichopappus fremontii</i> (T)	Fremont Xerasid
<i>Tetradymia axillaris</i> var.	Cottonthorn
<i>Tetradymia glabrata</i> (T)	Desert Horsebrush
<i>Tetradymia stenolepis</i>	Mojave Horsebrush
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	Silver Puffs
<i>Xylorhiza tortifolia</i> var. <i>tortifolia</i> (T)	Mojave Aster

Boraginaceae

<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> var. <i>intermedia</i> (T)	Fiddleneck
<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i> var. <i>tessellata</i> (T)	Checker Fiddleneck
<i>Cryptantha cicumscissa</i> (T)	Western Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha decipiens</i> (T)	Gravel Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha dumetorum</i> (T)	Twining Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha micrantha</i> (T)	Purple-rooted Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha mohavensis</i> (T)	Mojave Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha nevadensis</i> (T)	Nevada Forget-me-not

<i>Cryptantha oxygona</i> (T)	Sharp-nut Cryptantha
<i>Cryptantha pterocarya</i> (T)	Wing-nut Forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha utahensis</i>	Scented Forget-me-not
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> (T)	Alkali Heliotrope
<i>Pectocarya heterocarpa</i>	Chuckwalla Combseed
<i>Pectocarya linearis ferocula</i> (T)	Linear Combseed
<i>Pectocarya platycarpa</i>	Broad-margin Combseed
<i>Pectocarya recurvata</i> (T)	Curved Combseed
<i>Pectocarya setosa</i> (T)	Stiff-stem Comb-bur
<i>Plagiobothrys arizonicus</i> (T)	Arizona Popcorn Flower
<i>Plagiobothrys jonesii</i> (T)	Jones' Popcorn Flower
<i>Tiquilia nuttallii</i> (T)	Nuttall Coldenia

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Caulanthus cooperi</i> (T)	Cooper Caulanthus
<i>Caulanthus inflatus</i>	Desert Candle (2X)
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i> ssp. (T)	Yellow Tansy Mustard
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed
<i>Dithyrea californica</i> (T)	Spectacle Pod
<i>Erysimum capitatum capitatum</i> (T)	Wild Wallflower
<i>Guillenia lasiophylla</i> (T)	California Mustard
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> (T)	Mediterranean Mustard
<i>Lepidium dictyotum dictyotum</i>	Peppergrass
<i>Lepidium flavum</i> var. <i>flavum</i> (T)	Yellow Peppergrass
<i>Lepidium fremontii</i> (T)	Desert Alyssum
<i>Lepidium lasiocarpum</i> (T)	Modest Peppergrass
<i>Lepidium nitidum</i> (T)	Common Peppergrass
<i>Sisymbrium altissimus</i> (T)	Tumble Mustard
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i>	Eastern Mustard
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i> var. <i>pinnata</i> (T)	Prince's Plume
<i>Streptanthella longirostris</i> (T)	Long-beak Twist Flower
<i>Tropidocarpum gracile</i>	Slender Keel-fruit

Cactaceae

<i>Echinocactus polycephalus</i> var. <i>polycephalus</i> (T)	Cottontop Cactus
<i>Opuntia echinocarpa</i> var. <i>echinocarpa</i> (T)	Golden Cholla
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>basilaris</i> (T)	Beavertail Cactus
<i>Sclerocactus polyancistrus</i> (T)	Mojave Fishhook Cactus

Campanulaceae

<i>Nemacladus gracilis</i> (T)	Slender Thread Stem
<i>Nemacladus rubescens</i> (T)	Stout Thread Plant

Capperaceae

<i>Isomeris arborea</i> (T)	Bladder Pod
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Caryophyllaceae

<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. (T)	Loeflingia
<i>Sagina decumbens occidentalis</i>	Western Pearlwort
<i>Spergularia atrosperma</i> (T)	Spurry
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Sand-Spurry
Chenopodiaceae	
<i>Atriplex canescens canescens</i>	Four-winged Saltbush
<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> (T)	Shadscale
<i>Atriplex hymenelytra</i> (T)	Desert Holly
<i>Atriplex parryi</i>	Parry Saltbush
<i>Atriplex phyllostegia</i> (T)	Arrowscale
<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i> (T)	Allscale
<i>Atriplex rosea</i> (T)	Redscale
<i>Bassia hyssopifolia</i>	5-Hook Bassia
<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>	Narrow-leaved Goosefoot
<i>Grayia spinosa</i> (T)	Spiny Hop-sage
<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> (T)	Winter Fat
<i>Monolepis nuttalliana</i> (T)	Poverty Weed
<i>Salsola paulsenii</i> (T)	Barbed Russian Thistle
<i>Salsola tragus</i> (T)	Russian Thistle
Cuscutaceae	
<i>Cuscuta denticulata</i> (T)	Toothed Dodder
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i>	Rattlesnake Spurge
<i>Chamaesyce setiloba</i>	Spurge
<i>Chamaesyce vallis-mortae</i> (T)	Death Valley Sandmat
<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	Doveweed
<i>Stillingia paucidentata</i> (T)	Toothleaf
Fabaceae	
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>dispermus</i> (T)	Twin-fruit Locoweed
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>variabilis</i> (T)	Varied Milk Vetch
<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>pachypus</i> (T)	Stout-footed Locoweed
<i>Lotus humistratus</i>	Hairy Lotus
<i>Lotus salsuginosus</i> var. <i>brevivexillus</i> (T)	Panamint Lotus
<i>Lupinus concinnus</i> (T)	Bajada Lupine
<i>Lupinus excubitus</i> var. <i>excubitus</i>	Bush Lupine
<i>Lupinus microcarpus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> (T)	Sunset Lupine
<i>Lupinus odoratus</i> (T)	Royal Desert Lupine
<i>Lupinus shockleyi</i>	Desert Lupine
<i>Medicago sativa</i> (T)	Alfalfa
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i> (T)	Mesquite
<i>Psoralethamnus arborescens</i> var. <i>minutifolius</i>	Indigo Bush
<i>Senna armata</i>	Desert Senna
Geraniaceae	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (T)	Red-stemmed Filaree

Erodium texanum

Texas Filaree

Hydrophyllaceae

Emmenanthe penduliflora v. *penduliflora* (T)

Whispering Bells

Eucrypya chrysanthemifolia v. *bipinnatifida* (T)

Spotted Eucrypta

Eucrypta micrantha (T)

Small Flower Eucrypta

Nama demissum var. *demissum* (T)

Purple Mat

Nama depressum

Narrow-leaved Nama

Phacelia distans (T)

Fern Phacelia

Phacelia fremontii

Fremont Phacelia

Phacelia nashiana

Charlotte's Phacelia

Phacelia pachyphylla (T)

Thick-leaved Phacelia

Phacelia rotundifolia (T)

Roundleaf Phacelia

Phacelia tanacetifolia

Lacy Phacelia

Phacelia valis-mortae (T)

Death Valley Phacelia

Phacelia sp. (white fls.)

Pholistoma membranaceum

White Fiesta Flower

Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

Salazaria mexicana (T)

Bladder Sage

Salvia carduacea

Thistle Sage

Salvia columbariae (T)

Chia

Salvia dorrii var. *dorrii*

Gray Ball Sage

Lennoaceae

Pholisma arenarium (T)

Scaly-stemmed Sand Plant

Loasaceae

Eucnide urens (T)

Rock Nettle

Mentzelia affinis

Yellow Comet

Mentzelia albicaulis (T)

Little blazing Star

Mentzelia eremophila (T)

Stout Blazing Star

Mentzelia involucrata (T)

Satin Blazing Star

Mentzelia tricuspis (T)

Spiny-haired Blazing Star

Petalonyx nitidus

Shiny-leaf Sandpaper Bush

Petalonyx thurberi thurberi

Sandpaper Plant

Malvaceae

Eremalche exilis (T)

White Mallow

Eremalche rotundifolium

Desert Five-Spot

Sphaeralcea ambigua var. *ambigua*

Apricot Mallow

Nyctaginaceae

Abronia pogonantha (T)

Mojave Sand Verbena

Mirabilis bigelovii var. *retrorsa* (T)

Wishbone Bush

Onagraceae

Camissonia boothii desertorum (T)

Bottle Washer

<i>Camissonia campestris campestris</i> (T)	Sun Cups
<i>Camissonia claviformis claviformis</i> (T)	Brown-eyed Primrose
<i>Camissonia kernensis gilmanii</i> (T)	Gilman Sun Cup
<i>Camissonia kernensis kernensis</i> (T)	Kern Sun Cup
<i>Camissonia palmeri</i> (T)	Palmer's Primrose
<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	Willow Herb
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> ssp.	Large White Evening Primrose
<i>Oenothera deltoides deltoides</i> (T)	Desert Primrose
<i>Oenothera primiveris bufonis</i> (T)	Large Yellow Primrose

Papaveraceae

<i>Argemone munita</i>	Prickly Poppy
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy (1 sighting)
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora covillei</i>	Coville's Poppy
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora minutiflora</i> (T)	Small-flowered Poppy
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora twisslemannii</i>	Red Rock Poppy
<i>Platystemon californicus</i>	Cream Cups

Plantaginaceae

<i>Plantago ovata</i> (T)	Woolly Plantain
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Polemoniaceae

<i>Eriastrum densifolium mohavense</i> (T)	Blue Mantle
<i>Eriastrum diffusum</i>	Diffuse Stars
<i>Eriastrum eremicum</i>	Desert Woolly Stars
<i>Gilia aliquanta aliquanta</i> (T)	Puffed Calyx Gilia
<i>Gilia brecciarum neglecta</i> (T)	Argus Gilia
<i>Gilia cana speciosa</i> (T)	Red Rock Canyon Gilia
<i>Gilia filiformis</i> (T)	Thread-stemmed Gilia
<i>Gilia hutchinsifolia</i> (T)	Desert Pale Gilia
<i>Gilia latiflora davyi</i>	Tricolor Gilia
<i>Gilia latiflora latiflora</i> (T)	Broad Flowered Gilia
<i>Gilia latifolia</i> (T)	Broad-leaved Gilia
<i>Gilia leptomeria</i> (T)	Sand Gilia
<i>Gilia micromeria</i> (T)	Dainty Gilia
<i>Gilia scopulorum</i>	Rock Gilia
<i>Gilia sinuata</i> (T)	Cinder Gilia
<i>Gilia stellata</i> (T)	Star Gilia
<i>Linanthus aureus</i> (T)	Golden Gilia
<i>Linanthus bigelovii</i> (T)	Bigelow's Linanthus
<i>Linanthus dichotomus</i> (T)	Evening Snow
<i>Linanthus parryae</i> (T)	Parry Linanthus
<i>Loeseliastrum matthewsi</i> (T)	Desert Calico
<i>Loeseliastrum schottii</i> (T)	Little Sunbonnets

Polygonaceae

<i>Centrostegia thurberi</i>	Thurber Spine Flower
<i>Chorizanthe brevicornu</i> var. <i>brevicornu</i> (T)	Bristle Spine Flower
<i>Chorizanthe rigida</i>	Rigid Chorizanthe

<i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i> (T)	Spiny Chorizanthe
<i>Chorizanthe watsonii</i> (T)	Watson Chorizanthe
<i>Eriogonum angulosum</i> (T)	Angle Stem Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum brachyanthum</i> (T)	Yellow Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum brachypodum</i> (T)	Tecopa Skeleton Weed
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i> var.	Flat-crowned Eriogonum
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum polifolium</i> (T)	Gray California Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum gracillimum</i> (T)	Rose and White Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum inflatum</i> var. <i>inflatum</i> (T)	Desert Trumpet
<i>Eriogonum maculatum</i> (T)	Spotted Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum mohavense</i>	Mojave Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum nidularium</i> (T)	Bird's Nest
<i>Eriogonum nudum westonii</i> (T)	Cinder Nude Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i>	Oval-leaved Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum plumatella</i> (T)	Flat Top
<i>Eriogonum pusillum</i> (T)	Yellow Turban
<i>Eriogonum reniforme</i> (T)	Velvet Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum trichopes</i> (T)	Little Trumpet
<i>Eriogonum viridescens</i> (T)	Leafy-stemmed Buckwheat
<i>Mucronea perfoliata</i>	Perfoliated Spineflower
<i>Oxytheca perfoliata</i> (T)	Punctured Bract
<i>Rumex hymenosepalus</i> (T)	Wild Rhubarb

Portulacaceae

<i>Calandrinia ciliata</i> (T)	Red Maids
<i>Calyptridium monandrum</i> (T)	Sand-cress
<i>Claytonia parviflora</i> ssp.	Miner's Lettuce

Ranunculaceae

<i>Delphinium parishii parishii</i> (T)	Parish Larkspur
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Rosaceae

<i>Coleogyne ramosissima</i>	Blackbush
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Salicaceae

<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont Cottonwood
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red Willow
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo Willow

Scrophulariaceae

<i>Castilleja angustifolia</i>	Desert Paintbrush
<i>Castilleja exserta venusta</i> (T)	Mojave Owl's-clover
<i>Mimulus bigelovii</i> (T)	Bigelow Monkey Flower
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i> (T)	Common Monkey Flower
<i>Mimulus palmeri</i> (T)	Palmer 's Monkey Flower
<i>Mohavea breviflora</i> (T)	Lesser Mohavea

Solanaceae*Datura wrightii**Lycium andersonii**Lycium cooperi*

Western Jimson Weed

Anderson Boxthorn

Peach Thorn

Tamaricaceae*Tamarix aphylla**Tamarix parviflora* (T)*Tamarix ramosissima*

Athel

Four-petal Tamarisk

Salt Cedar

Zygophyllaceae*Larrea tridentata* (T)

Creosote Bush

MONOCOTYLEDONAE**Cyperaceae***Eleocharis parishii* (T)*Scirpus americanus* (T)*Scirpus maritimus* (T)

Parish Marshweed

Three Square

Prairie Bulrush

Juncaceae*Juncus balticus* (T)*Juncus bufonius* var. *occidentalis* (T)

Baltic Grass

Toad Rush

Juncaginaceae*Triglochin concinna* var. *debilis* (T)

Arrow Grass (Ricardo?)

Liliaceae*Allium fimbriatum* var. *fimbriatum**Allium fimbriatum* var. *mohavense* (T)*Allium lacunosum* var. *davisae**Calochortus kennedyi* kenedyi*Calochortus striatus**Dichelostemma capitatum* *capitatum**Muilla coronata**Yucca brevifolia* var. *herbertii**Zigadenus brevibracteatus*

Fringed Onion

Mojave Onion

Davis Onion

Desert Mariposa Lily

Alkali Mariposa Lily

Blue Dicks

Crowned Onion

Joshua Tree

Desert Zygadene

Poaceae (Graminae)*Achnatherum hymenoides* (T)*Achnatherum speciosum* (T)*Avena fatua* (T)*Bromus arizonicus* (T)*Bromus diandrus**Bromus madritensis rubens* (T)*Bromus tectorum* var. *glabratus* (T)*Chloris virgata*

Indian Rice Grass

Desert Stipa

Wild Oats

Arizona Brome

Ripgut Brome

Red Brome

Downy Brome

Silky Grass

Deschampsia danthonioides (T)
Distichlis spicata (T)
Elymus elymoides brevifolius
Hordeum depressum (T)
Hordeum murinum glaucum (T)
Muhlenbergia asperifolia
Poa bigelovii (T)
Poa fendleriana longiligula (T)
Poa secunda secunda (T)
Polypogon monspeliensis (T)
Schismus arabicus (T)
Schismus barbatus
Sporobolus airoides (T)
Triticum aestivum (T)
Vulpia octoflora var. *octoflora*
Vulpia microstachys var. *pauciflora*

Hair Grass
Salt Grass
Squirrel-tail
Alkali Foxgrass
Foxtail
Scratch Grass
Bigelow Bluegrass
Mutton Grass
Pine Blue Grass
Beargrass
Arabian Sheep Grass
Mediterranean Sheep Grass
Dropseed
Wheat
Slender Grass
Pacific Fescue Grass

Typhaceae

Typha domingensis (T)

Cat-tail