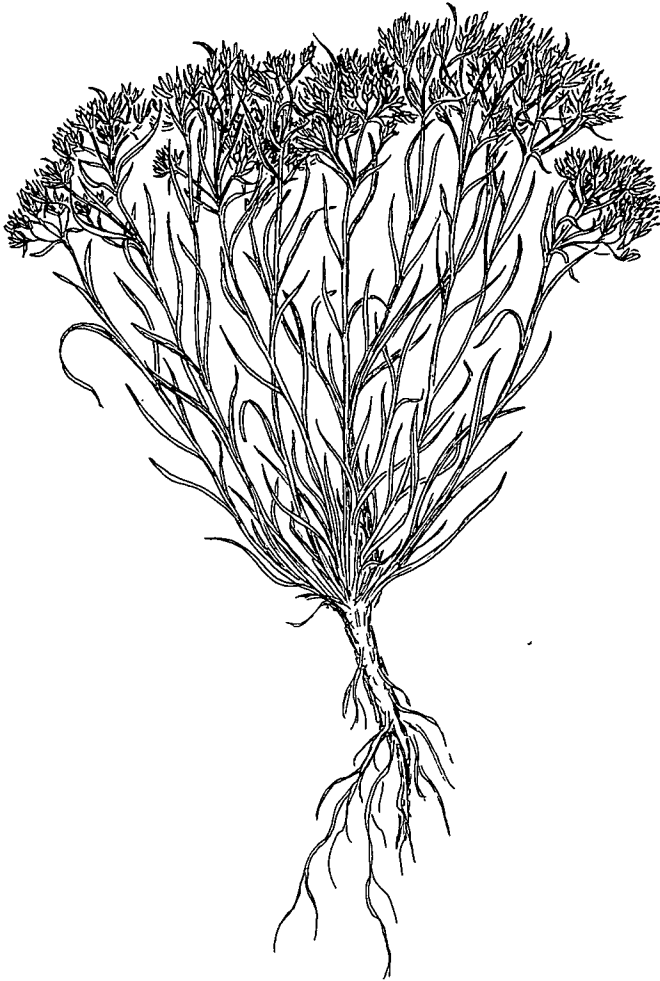


Douglas Rabbitbrush

(Green rabbitbrush)
(Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus)



Where does it grow? It occurs in most of the semiarid sections of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains. It may occur in colonies or may be scattered throughout the sagebrush communities. In many areas where the rangeland has deteriorated or where repeated burning has occurred, rabbitbrush may dominate the area. This rabbitbrush occurs more on heavier soils than rubber rabbitbrush.

Is it important? Although this plant is not very palatable, it is important because of its abundance and its prolific invasion as a weedy species into disturbed areas. This particular rabbitbrush is more palatable than other rabbitbrushes. Deer browse is lightly at all times of the year. Cattle and sheep use it slightly in the fall.

What does it look like? It is a low-growing perennial shrub which usually ranges between $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall. The flower-heads are yellow and in flat or round-topped clusters. The leaves are linear and bright green to greenish-white in color. This plant is often called green rabbitbrush because of the leaf color. The stems are woody.

Description:

Length of Life--Long-lived perennial.

Height-- $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Leaves--Alternate on the stem, bright green, flat, usually somewhat twisted, 1. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $1/8$ to $1/4$ inches wide.

Flowers--Yellow heads which are arranged in 6 to 8 flowered clusters at the tips of the branches.

Seed--Small achene.

How does it spread?--It sprouts vigorously from the root crown and is a very prolific seeder.

Growth period--Leaves grow from May to June. Flower bud initiation occurs between mid-June and early July. The flowers become yellow during late July and early August. Seeds mature during September and October.

Roots--This plant has a long taproot and lateral roots branching out about 8 inches below the surface of the ground. This plant can compete for surface water much better than rubber rabbitbrush.

Other names--Dwarf yellowbrush, lanceleaf yellowbrush, green rabbitbrush.

Does it look like anything else? If examined carefully, this plant is seldom mistaken for anything else.