

# Havasu

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

---

### *Plants*



*There are 218 plant species listed at the 37,515-acre Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, one of more than 530 refuges throughout the United States. These National Wildlife Refuges are administrated by the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service mission is to work with others “to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitat.”*

## General Information

*Havasu National Wildlife Refuge* is located in the southern portion of the Mojave Desert. Established in 1941 for the benefit of migratory birds, it is also the home of a diverse array of vegetation. The Colorado River (Topock Gorge) and Topock Marsh, cut into the arid, hostile desert and provide relief from the creosote flats and smoke tree/palo verde washes associated with the area. Goodding willow and Fremont cottonwood can be found in patches around the river and marsh along with screwbean and honey mesquite. Havasu NWR is dedicated to the restoration of native vegetation and, where ever possible, the removal of the exotic, invasive salt cedar (*Tamarix sp.*)

Spring comes early to this part of the world and wild flowers and other herbaceous plants may be found in February, depending on rainfall patterns. Spring is the best time to view most of the plants listed below, but some shrub and tree species will be found throughout the year. Palo verde is in full bloom in March followed by smoke tree in the warmer months of June.

### Occurance (O)

- A = Annual
- P = Perennial
- B = Biennial

### Growth Form (GF)

- G = Grass
- F = Forb
- S = Shrub
- T = Tree

### Status (S)

- E = Endangered
- T = Threatened
- C = Candidate
- / = No Status

### Exotic (E)

- Y = Yes
- N = No

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Agavaceae - Lilies				
Funnel lily				
<i>Androthepium breviflorum</i>	P	F	/	N
Desert (Ajo) lily				
<i>Hesperocallis undulata</i>	P	F	/	N
Aizoaceae - Carpet Weed				
Western sea purslane				
<i>Sesuvium sessile</i>	A	F	/	N
Horse purslane				
<i>Trianthema Portulacastrum</i>	A	F	/	N
Amaranthaceae - Amaranth				
Red root pigweed				
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	A	F	/	N
Honey sweet				
<i>Tidestromia oblongifolia</i>	P	F	/	N
Apiaceae - Carrot				
Pennywort				
<i>Bowlesia incana</i>	P	F	/	N
Whorled pennywort				
<i>Hydrocotyl verticillata</i>	P	F	/	N
Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed				
Rush milkweed				
<i>Asclepias subulata</i>	P	F	/	N
White-stemmed milkweed				
<i>A. albicans</i>	P	F	/	N
Rambling milkweed				
<i>Funastrum hirtellum</i>	P	F	/	N
Climbing milkweed				
<i>F. heterophyllum</i>	P	F	/	N
Asteraceae - Sunflower				
Ambrosia leaved burbush				
<i>Ambrosia ambrosiodes</i>	P	S	/	N
Aster				
<i>Aster exilis</i>	A	F	/	N
Mexican devilweed				
<i>A. spinosus</i>	P	F	/	N
Mojave (desert) aster				
<i>A. abatus</i>	P	F	/	N
Ash-colored aster				
<i>A. tephrodes</i>	B	F	/	N
Parachute plant				
<i>Atrichoseris platyphylla</i>	A	F	/	N
Mulefat				
<i>Baccharis vimenea</i>	P	S	/	N
Short-leaved baccharis				
<i>B. brachyphylla</i>	P	S	/	N
Sweetbush				
<i>Bebbia juncea aspera</i>	P	S	/	N
White tack-stem				
<i>Calycoseris Wrightii</i>	A	F	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Yellow tack-stem <i>C. Parryii</i>	A	F	/	N
Pebble pincushion <i>Chaenactis carphoclinia</i>	A	F	/	N
Fremont's pincushion <i>C. Fremontii</i>	A	F	/	N
Horseweed (mare's tail) <i>Conyza canadensis</i>	A	F	/	N
Rabbitbrush <i>Chrysothamnus spp.</i>	P	S	/	N
Rayless encelia <i>Encelia frutescens</i>	P	S	/	N
Brittlebush <i>E. farinosa</i>	P	S	/	N
Bug seed <i>Dicoria canescens</i>	A	F	/	N
Wallace daisy <i>Eriophyllum Wallacei</i>	A	F	/	N
Wooly daisy <i>E. lanosum</i>	A	F	/	N
Burrobush (bursage) <i>Franseria dumosa</i>	P	S	/	N
Wooly-fruited bursage <i>F. eriocentra</i>	P	S	/	N
Desert sunflower <i>Geraea canescens</i>	A	F	/	N
Cudweed <i>Gnaphalium spp.</i>	A	F	/	N
Arrowleaf <i>Hofmeisteria pluriseta</i>	P	S	/	N
Cheesebush <i>Hymenoclea Salsola</i>	P	S	/	N
Prickly lettuce <i>Lactuca scariola</i>	B	F	/	N
Desert dandelion <i>Malacothryx californica glabrata</i>	A	F	/	N
Mojave desert star <i>Monoptilon belloides</i>	A	F	/	N
Spanish needle <i>Palafoxia linearis</i>	A	F	/	N
Chinchweed <i>Pectis papposa</i>	A	F	/	N
Rock daisy <i>Perityle Emoryi</i>	P	F	/	N
Desert fir <i>Peucephyllum Schottii</i>	P	S	/	N
Arrowweed <i>Pluchea sericea</i>	P	S	/	N
Marsh fleabane <i>P. camphorata</i>	A	F	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Odora				
<i>Porophyllum gracile</i>	P	S	/	N
Velvet rosette				
<i>Psathyrotes ramosissima</i>	A	F	/	N
California chicory				
<i>Rafinesquia neomexicana</i>	A	F	/	N
Sow thistle				
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	A	F	/	N
Desert straw				
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>	P	F	/	N
Trixis				
<i>Trixis californica</i>	P	S	/	N
Crown beard				
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	A	F	/	N
Common cocklebur				
<i>Xanthium spp.</i>	A	F	/	N
Bignoniaceae - Catalpa				
Desert willow				
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	P	T	/	N
Boraginaceae - Forget-Me-Not				
Checker fiddleneck				
<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>	P	F	/	N
Plicate coldenia				
<i>Coldenia plicata</i>	P	F	/	N
White-haired forget-me-not				
<i>Cryptantha maritima</i>	A	F	/	N
Alkali heliotrope				
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	P	F	/	N
Comb bur				
<i>Pectocarya recurvata</i>	P	F	/	N
Arizona popcorn plant				
<i>Plagiobothrys arizonicus</i>	A	F	/	N
Brassicaceae - Mustard				
Mustard				
<i>Arabis glaucovalvula</i>	P	F	/	N
Field mustard				
<i>Brassica campestris</i>	A	F	/	N
Spectaclepod				
<i>Dithyria Wislizeni</i>	A	F	/	N
Pepper grass				
<i>Lepidium densiflorum</i>	A	F	/	N
Palmer's beadpod				
<i>Lesquerella Palmeri</i>	A	F	/	N
Hedge mustard				
<i>Sisymbrium sp.</i>	A	F	/	N
Long-beaked twist flower				
<i>Streptanthella longirostros</i>	A	F	/	N
Cactaceae - Cacti				
Beavertail				
<i>Opuntia bassilaris</i>	P	-	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Buckhorn Cholla				
<i>O. acanthocarpa</i>	P	-	/	N
Silver stem cholla				
<i>O. echinocarpa</i>	P	-	/	N
Teddy bear cholla				
<i>O. Bigelovii</i>	P	-	/	N
Hedgehog cactus				
<i>Echinocereus spp.</i>	P	-	/	N
Barrel Cactus				
<i>Ferocactus acanthodes</i>	P	-	/	N
Ocotillo				
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>	P	-	/	N
Characeae - Green algae				
Muskgrass				
<i>Nitella hyalina</i>	-	-	-	-
Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot				
Pickleweed				
<i>Allenrolfia occidentalis</i>	P	S	/	N
Four-wing saltbush				
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	P	S	/	N
Desert holly				
<i>A. hymenolytra</i>	A	S	/	N
Narrow-leaved saltbush				
<i>A. linearis</i>	P	S	/	N
Australian saltbush				
<i>A. semibaccata</i>	P	S	/	Y
Annual wheelscale				
<i>A. elegans fasciculata</i>	P	S	/	N
Quailbrush				
<i>A. lentiformis</i>	P	S	/	N
Cattle spinach				
<i>A. polycarpa</i>	P	S	/	N
Five hook bassia				
<i>Bassia hyssopifolia</i>	A	S	/	N
White goosefoot				
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	A	F	/	Y
Wall goosefoot				
<i>C. murale</i>	A	F	/	Y
Kochia				
<i>Kochia spp.</i>	A	F	/	N
Russian thistle				
<i>Salsola iberica (kali)</i>	A	S	/	Y
Iodine weed				
<i>Suaeda Torreyana ramosissima</i>	P	S	/	N
Convolvulaceae				
Field bindweed				
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	A	F	/	Y
Desert dodder				
<i>Cuscuta denticulata</i>		parasite	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Cucurbitaceae - Gourd				
Palmate leaved gourd				
<i>Cucurbita palmata</i>	A	F	/	N
Cyperaceae - Sedge				
Purple nut sedge				
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	P	F	/	N
Yellow nut sedge				
<i>C. esculentas</i>	P	F	/	N
Spike rush				
<i>Eleocharis caribaea</i>	A	F	/	N
Alkali bulrush				
<i>Scirpus paladosus</i>	P	-	/	N
American great bulrush				
<i>S. validus</i>	P	-	/	N
Ephredaceae - Joint Fir				
Nevada mormon tea				
<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	P	S	/	N
Equisetaceae - Horsetail				
California horsetail				
<i>Equisetum Funstonii</i>	P	S	/	N
Euphorbiaceae - Spurge				
California croton				
<i>Croton californicus mohavensis</i>	P	F	/	N
Fabaceae - Pea				
Catclaw acacia				
<i>Acacia greggi</i>	P	T	/	N
Camelthorn				
<i>Alhagi camelorum</i>	P	F	/	Y
Blue palo verde				
<i>Cercidium floridum</i>	P	T	/	N
Foothills palo verde				
<i>C. microphylla</i>	P	T	/	N
White ratany				
<i>Krameria grayi</i>	P	S	/	N
Hairy lotus				
<i>Lotus tomentellus</i>	A	F	/	N
Arizona lupine				
<i>Lupinus arizonicus</i>	A	F	/	N
Narrow leaf lupine				
<i>L. sparsiflorus</i>	A	F	/	N
Yellow sweet clover				
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	A	F	/	Y
White sweet clover				
<i>M. albus</i>	A	F	/	Y
Ironwood				
<i>Olneya tesota</i>	P	T	/	N
Silk dalea				
<i>Dalea mollis</i>	P	F	/	N
Parry's dalea				
<i>D. Parryi</i>	P	F	/	N



PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Texas palo verde <i>Parkinsonia sp.</i>	P	T	/	Y
Screwbean mesquite <i>Prosopis pubescens</i>	P	T	/	N
Honey mesquite <i>P. glandulosa</i>	P	T	/	N
Colorado River hemp <i>Sesbania macrocarpa</i>	A	F	/	N
Gentianaceae - Gentian Alkali chalice <i>Eustoma exaltatum</i>	A	F	/	N
Geraniaceae - Geranium Heron's bill (filaree) <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	A	F	/	Y
Crane's bill <i>E. texanum</i>	A	F	/	N
Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Yerba santa <i>Eriodictyon sp.</i>	P	S	/	N
Yellow-flowered eucrypta <i>Eucrypta micrantha</i>	A	F	/	N
Purple mat <i>Nama demissum</i>	A	F	/	N
Baby blue-eyes <i>Nemophila spathulata</i>	A	F	/	N
Lacy phacelia <i>Phacelia tenacetifolia</i>	A	F	/	N
Notch-leafed phacelia <i>P. crenulata</i>	A	F	/	N
Juncaceae - Rush Torrey's rush <i>Juncus Torreyi</i>	P	-	/	N
Round-seed bulrush <i>J.T. sphaerocarpus</i>	P	-	/	N
Loasaceae - Loasa Rock nettle <i>Eucnide urens</i>	P	S	/	N
Small flowered blazing star <i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i>	A	F	/	N
Paiute blazing star <i>M. a. gracilis</i>	A	F	/	N
Sand blazing star <i>M. involucrata</i>	A	F	/	N
Spiny-haired blazing star <i>M. tricuspis</i>	A	F	/	N
Sandpaper plant <i>Petalonyx Thurberi</i>	P	S	/	N
Loranthaceae - Mistletoe Desert mistletoe <i>Phoradendron californicum</i>		parasite	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Lythraceae - Loosestrife				
Ammania				
<i>Ammania coccinea</i>	A	F	/	N
Common loosestrife				
<i>Lythrum californicum</i>	P	F	/	N
Malvaceae - Mallow				
Alkali mallow				
<i>Sida hederacea</i>	P	F	/	N
Globemallow				
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	A	F	/	N
Marcilaceae				
Hairy pepperwort				
<i>Marsilea vestita</i>	P	F	/	N
Menthaceae - Mint				
Desert lavender				
<i>Hyptis emoryi</i>	P	S	/	N
Bladderbush				
<i>Salazaria mexicana</i>	P	S	/	N
Chia				
<i>Salvia Columbariae</i>	A	F	/	N
Naidaceae - Naias				
Spiny naiad				
<i>Najas marina</i>	A	F	/	N
Nycataginaceae - Four O'Clock				
Sand verbena				
<i>Abronia villosa</i>	A	F	/	N
Red spiderling				
<i>Boerhaavia coccinea</i>	P	F	/	N
Onograceae - Evening Primrose				
Small flowered gaura				
<i>Gaura parviflora</i>	A	F	/	N
Brown Eyes				
<i>Camissonia clavaeformis</i>	A	F	/	N
Wishbone bush				
<i>Mirabilis Bigelovii retrorsa</i>	P	S	/	N
Woody bottle-washer primrose				
<i>Oenothera decorticans desertorum</i>	A	F	/	N
Brown-eyed primrose				
<i>O. clavaeformis</i>	A	F	/	N
Yellow cup				
<i>O. brevipes</i>	A	F	/	N
Narrow leaf primrose				
<i>O. refracta</i>	A	F	/	N
Birdcage (dune) primrose				
<i>O. deltoides</i>	A	F	/	N
Long-tubed primrose				
<i>O. cardiophylla splendens</i>	A	F	/	N
Orobanchaceae - Broom Rape				
Broom rape				
<i>Orobanche ludoviciana</i>		parasite	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Papaveraceae - Poppy				
Prickly poppy				
<i>Argemone sp.</i>	P	F	/	N
Desert gold poppy				
<i>Escholtzia glyptosperma</i>	A	F	/	N
Little gold poppy				
<i>E. minutiflora</i>	A	F	/	N
Plantaginaceae - Plantain				
Broad-leaved plantain				
<i>Plantago major</i>	A	F	/	N
Mousetail plantain				
<i>P. insularis</i>	A	F	/	N
Poaceae - Grass				
Three awn				
<i>Aristida sp.</i>	A/P	G	/	N
Slough grass				
<i>Beckmannia sp.</i>	A	G	/	N
Red brome				
<i>Bromus rubens</i>	A	G	/	N
Bermuda grass				
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	P	G	/	Y
Saltgrass				
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	P	G	/	N
Jungle grass				
<i>Echinochloa colonum</i>	A	G	/	Y
Six weeks lovegrass				
<i>Eragrostis lutescens</i>	A	G	/	N
Big galleta				
<i>Hilaria rigida</i>	P	G	/	N
Green sprangletop				
<i>Leptochloa dubia</i>	P	G	/	N
Fountain grass				
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	P	G	/	Y
Phragmites				
<i>Phragmites communis</i>	P	G	/	N
Yellow Bristlegrass				
<i>Setaria lutescens</i>	A	G	/	Y
Foxtail millet				
<i>S. italica</i>	A	G	/	Y
Rabbit-foot grass				
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	A	G	/	Y
Dallis grass				
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	P	G	/	Y
Johnson grass				
<i>Sorghum halapense</i>	P	G	/	Y
Polemoniaceae - Phlox				
Golden gilia				
<i>Gilia aurea</i>	A	F	/	N
Desert gilia				
<i>G. eremica</i>	A	F	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Thread-stemmed gilia				
<i>G. filiformis</i>	A	F	/	N
Prickly gilia				
<i>G. setosissima</i>	A	F	/	N
Polygonaceae - Buckwheat				
Rigid spiny herb				
<i>Chorizanthe rigida</i>	P	F	/	N
Brittle spiny flower				
<i>C. brevicornu</i>	A	F	/	N
Skeleton weed				
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	A	F	/	N
Desert trumpet				
<i>E. inflatum</i>	A/P	F	/	N
Smartweed				
<i>Polygonum hydropiperoides</i>	P	F	/	N
Wire grass (knotweed)				
<i>P. aviculare</i>	A	F	/	Y
Wild rhubarb				
<i>Rumex hymenosepalous</i>	P	F	/	N
Sonora dock				
<i>R. violascens</i>	A/P	F	/	N
Willow dock				
<i>R. salicifolius</i>	P	F	/	N
Potamogetonaceae - Pond Weed				
Pondweed				
<i>Potamogeton spp.</i>	A	F	/	N
Resedaceae - Mignonette				
Linear-leaved cambess				
<i>Oligomeris linifolia</i>	A	F	/	N
Salicaceae - Willow				
Fremont's cottonwood				
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	P	T	/	N
Coyote willow				
<i>Salix exigua</i>	P	T	/	N
Goodding's willow				
<i>S. gooddingii</i>	P	T	/	N
Scrophulariaceae - Figwort				
Ghost flower				
<i>Mohavea confertiflora</i>	A	F	/	N
Lesser mohavea				
<i>M. breviflora</i>	A	F	/	N
Common owl clover				
<i>Orthocarpus purpurascens</i>	A	F	/	N
Solanaceae - Potato				
Jimson weed (sacred datura)				
<i>Datura Wrightii (meteloides)</i>	A	F	/	N
Wolfberry				
<i>Lycium Andersonii</i>	P	S	/	N
Narrow leaf thorn bush				
<i>L. a. deserticola</i>	P	S	/	N

PLANT	O	GF	S	E
Peach thorn <i>L. cooperi</i>	P	S	/	N
Brazilian tree tobacco <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	P	T	/	N
Desert tobacco <i>Nicotiana trigonophylla</i>	B/P	F	/	N
Thick-leaved ground cherry <i>Physalis crassifolia</i>	P	F	/	N
Silver nightshade <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	B	F	/	N
Tamaraceae - Tamarisk				
Salt cedar <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	P	S	/	Y
Athel calt cedar <i>T. aphylla</i>	P	T	/	Y
Typhaceae - Cat Tail				
Cattail <i>Typha angustifolia</i>	P	-	/	N
Verbenaceae - Verbena				
Frog fruit <i>Phyla (Lippia) lanceolata</i>	P	F	/	N
Garden lippia <i>Phyla (Lippia) nodiflora</i>	P	F	/	N
Violaceae - Violets				
Wood sorrel <i>Oxalis sp.</i>	P	F	/	N
Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop				
Smooth-stemmed fagonia <i>Fagonia chilensis laevis</i>	P	S	/	N
Fagonia <i>F. californica</i>	P	S	/	N
Creosote bush <i>Larrea tridentata</i>	P	S	/	N
Goathead <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	A	F	/	Y

This list represents hundreds of hours of year-round observations and record keeping. It is largely the work of a volunteer, John Hohstadt, Native Plant Specialist, an indispensable source of knowledge. The primary source for identification of plants on this list is *Desert Wild Flowers* by Edmund C. Jaeger, 1969. Other sources used: *Arizona Flora* by Kearney et al., 1960, *Flora of the Marshes of California* by H.L. Mason, 1957, *A Manual of Aquatic Plants* by N.C. Fassett, 1957, and *Manual of the Grasses of the United States* by A.S. Hitchcock; Agnes Chase ed., 1971.

## NOTES

## NOTES

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 3009  
317 Mesquite Avenue  
Needles, California 92363  
760/326-3853  
760/326-5745 FAX

FW2\_RW\_HAVASU@FWS.GOV

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information  
1 800/344 WILD

Reprint April 2001

