

River of Time Museum

Tips and Tidbits

ENVIRONMENT: DESERT PLANTS

Agave is endangered

Christmas Cholla is endangered

Devil's Claw - grows in the Superstition Mountains - sticky leaf

Indian Paintbrush - red flower grows @ 4000 feet

Queen of the Night - white flower

- Grows @ the base of the creosote
- Hard to find
- Night bloomer for 1 day only
- Pollinated by moths
- Clove-like fragrance

Starflower - white petals

Southern half of the state is Sonoran Desert:

- Saguaro
- Jojoba - requires male and female plants to propagate
- Brittlebush

Superstition Mountains - Ironwood

Some cacti become crested - curly and pleated at the top

It is permitted to collect seeds on tribal and private land if you have permission

Seeds should be stored in paper - not plastic (which fosters mold)

Nature always has more males in its plant population than females

Saguaro fruit is harvested at night - red fruit/black seeds

Native Americans have a fruit harvest as part of their ceremonies and make it into wine

Yavapai water around the base of the Saguaro to encourage a blessing for the next year

Desert space is expanding/spreading due to the climate

Creosote bush (chaparral) is one of the oldest plants there is - since before the continents divided, and is used for medicinal purposes.

Recipe for medicinal oil:

Grain alcohol

Olive oil

Chaparral plant

Weight plant into liquid and let sit until well absorbed. Good for topical skin ailments, including cold sores, blisters, aches and pains, bruises