

Arizona Quail Chow (and how to find it)



Photo Credit: Susan Mullaney

Rana Tucker, AZ Game & Fish Dept
2018

Plant ID 101

- ▣ What kind of plant is it?
- ▣ What is its habitat (eg should it be growing here)?
- ▣ How is this plant important to quail?

What kind of plant is it?

- ▣ Grasses
- ▣ Forbs
- ▣ Shrubs
- ▣ Trees



Trees

White oak: white lines;
blueish-green, basically smooth leaves,
acorns ready when school back in session

Emory-black bark,
Acorns ready when rains
start in summer



Mexican blue oak:
Blue-ish, smooth leaves,
acorns ready around
Thanksgiving



**Border pinon:
needles in bunches of
three instead of two**



Shrubs

- ▣ True shrubs vs half-shrubs
- ▣ How much should there be?



Wolfberry (lycium)



Skunkbush/three-leaf sumac



Littleleaf Sumac



mesquite



White-thorn acacia







Tumbleweed



Dove-seed croton



Forbs

- ▣ Forb vs half-shrub
- ▣ What is a “weed”?



White-mouthed dayflower

Mentzella (aka stickleaf, blazingstar)



Lotus (aka bird's-foot trefoil);
Loves winter moisture





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Ragweed



Grasses

- ▣ Perennial vs annual
- ▣ Cool-season vs warm-season
- ▣ What is a bunch grass?
- ▣ Native vs non-native vs invasive vs noxious

Grasses – growth forms

- ▣ When does it grow?
 - Early spring vs summer rains?
- ▣ How does it grow?
 - Low to the ground?
 - Big and tall?
 - Compact or spread-out?
 - Roots....
- ▣ How does it spread?
 - Seeds or shoots?
- ▣ Where did it come from?
 - Native vs non-native



Bulb panic



Plains bristlegoass





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Ecological Site Descriptions

- ▣ Derived from soil maps
 - ▣ Rainfall
 - ▣ Slope (determines what the water does)
 - ▣ Determines what kind of plants you may see there, in what quantities
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- ▣ Web Soil Survey, NRCS - ESD

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How is this plant important to quail?

What do these plants provide for quail?

- ▣ Food
 - Seeds
 - Bulbs
 - Greens
 - Insects
- ▣ Water
 - Tender greens provide water
- ▣ Cover
 - Shade
 - Predator Avoidance
 - Nesting Material



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Grassland Plant ID for Everyone

*Except Folks That Take
Boring Technical Stuff Too Seriously*



By Jim Koweek
Photos by Dale Armstrong