



Plants

OF SNOW CANYON STATE PARK

Scrophulariaceae – Snapdragon Family

- Castilleja linariifolia*..... Narrowleaf paintbrush
- Mimulus guttatus*..... Seep monkey flower
- Penstemon ambiguus*..... Bush penstemon
- Penstemon eatonii*..... Firecracker penstemon
- Penstemon palmeri*..... Palmer penstemon
- Penstemon utahensis*..... Utah penstemon
- Verbascum thapsus**..... Common mullein

Solanaceae

- Datura wrightii*..... Sacred datura; jimsonweed
- Lycium andersonii*..... Anderson lycium
- Lycium pallidum*..... Pale wolfberry
- Nicotiana trigonophylla*..... Desert tobacco

Tamaricaceae

- Tamarix ramossissima**..... Salt cedar; tamarisk

Ulmaceae

- Celtis reticulata*..... Netleaf hackberry

Verbenaceae

- Verbena goodingii*..... Goodding’s verbena

Zygophyllaceae – Caltrop Family

- Larrea tridentata*..... Creosote bush
- Tribulus terrestris*..... Goathead; puncturevine

If you would like to share your observations, especially those species not included in this plant list, please visit the park headquarters or send findings to: snowcanyon@utah.gov

This list was compiled by Kristen Comella and Maria Werner of Snow Canyon State Park.

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Snow Canyon State Park has a diversity of plants, with over 190 documented species occurring within the canyon. Factors contributing to this variety are elevation, temperature, and the overlap of three distinct ecoregions: The Mojave Desert, the Great Basin Desert and the Colorado Plateau.

The southern portion of Snow Canyon State Park, located at 3100’ in elevation, has many plant species that are representative of the Mojave Desert including creosote bush, bursage, and brittlebush. Species typical of the Great Basin Desert, such as big sagebrush and Mormon tea, are visible in the northern portion of the park. While plants endemic to the Colorado Plateau are not apparent within the park, the canyons and rock formations are representative of this ecoregion. Sheltered canyons create microclimates or places that have different climates from the surrounding area due to variations in the amount of precipitation and sunlight they receive. The differences in temperature of microclimates determine where different plants can grow and survive.

These factors as well as many others contribute to the amazing array of plant life and the animal communities they support that help to make Snow Canyon State Park a unique place to experience.

This list contains over 190 plant species that are known to occur in Snow Canyon State Park.

Species are listed alphabetically by family. Non-native species are marked with an asterisk (*).

Agavaceae – Agave Family

- Agave utahensis*..... Utah agave
- Yucca baccata*..... Banana yucca
- Yucca brevifolia**..... Joshua tree
- Yucca utahensis*..... Utah yucca

Amaranthaceae – Amaranth Family

- Amaranthus blitoides**..... Prostrate pigweed
- Amaranthus fimbriatus*..... Fringed amaranth

Anacardiaceae – Cashew Family

- Rhus trilobata*..... Three-leaf sumac

Apiaceae – Parsley Family

- Lomatium scabrum*..... Rough desert parsley

Asclepiadaceae – Milkweed Family

- Asclepias erosa*..... Desert milkweed
- Asclepias subverticillata*..... Whorled milkweed

Asteraceae – Aster Family

- Acamptopappus sphaerocephalus*..... Early green
- Ambrosia acanthicarpa*..... Annual ragweed
- Ambrosia dumosa*..... Bursage
- Artemesia filifolia*..... Sand sagebrush
- Artemesia tridentata*..... Big sagebrush
- Baccharis glutinosa*..... Sticky seepwillow
- Baileya multiradiata*..... Desert marigold
- Chaenactis carphoclinia*..... Pebble pincushion
- Chrysothamnus nauseosus*..... Viscid rabbitbrush
- Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*..... Sticky rabbitbrush
- Conyza canadensis**..... Horsetweed
- Dicoria canescens*..... Bugseed
- Encelia farinosa*..... Brittlebush
- Encelia frutescens*..... Bush encelia
- Eriophyllum lanosum*..... White-ray woolly sunflower
- Eriophyllum wallacei*..... Woolly daisy
- Erigeron pumilis*..... Shaggy fleabane
- Gaillardia pinnatifida*..... Blanketflower
- Gutierrezia microcephala*..... Threadleaf snakeweed
- Gutierrezia sarothrae*..... Broom snakeweed
- Haplopappus linearifolius*..... Narrowleaf goldenbush
- Helianthus deserticola*..... Desert sunflower
- Heterotheca villosa*..... Hairy goldenaster
- Hymenoclea salsola*..... Cheese bush
- Hymenopappus filifolius*..... Hyaline herb
- Lactuca serriola**..... Prickly lettuce
- Machaeranthera canescens*..... Hoary aster
- Malacothrix californica*..... Desert dandelion
- Palafoxia arida*..... Spanish needles
- Pectis papposa*..... Chinch-weed
- Pluchea sericea*..... Arrowweed
- Psathyrotes pilifera*..... Hairybeast turtleback
- Rafinesquia neomexicana*..... Chicory
- Senecio douglassii*..... Thread-leaf groundsel
- Senecio monoensis*..... Mono ragwort
- Senecio multilobatus*..... Lobeleaf groundsel
- Stephanomeria exigua*..... Small wirelettuce
- Stephanomeria paucifolia*..... Wirelettuce
- Tetradymia axillaris*..... Longspine horsebush
- Tragopogon dubius*..... Yellow salsify
- Xylorhiza tortifolia*..... Mojave woody aster

Berberidaceae – Barberry Family

- Mahonia fremonti*..... Fremont’s mahonia

Bignoniaceae – Trumpet Creeper Family

- Chilopsis linearis*..... Desert willow

Boraginaceae – Borage Family

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> | Fiddleneck |
| <i>Cryptantha angustifolia</i> | Narrow-leaf cryptantha |
| <i>Cryptantha flava</i> | Yellow cryptantha |
| <i>Cryptantha micrantha</i> | Redroot cryptantha |
| <i>Pectocarya heterocarpa</i> | Hairy-leaved comb-bur |

Brassicaceae – Mustard Family

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Arabis perennans</i> | Perennial rockcress |
| <i>Brassica kaber</i> *..... | Wild mustard |
| <i>Erysimum asperum</i> | Western wallflower |
| <i>Descurainia pinnata</i> | Western tansy-mustard |
| <i>Dithyrea wislizenii</i> | Spectacle pod |
| <i>Draba cuneifolia</i> | Wedgeleaf draba |
| <i>Lepidium fremontii</i> | Desert allysum |
| <i>Malcomia africana</i> *..... | African mustard |
| <i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i> *..... | Tumbling mustard |
| <i>Stanleya pinnata</i> | Prince’s plume |
| <i>Streptanthella longirostris</i> | Long-beaked twist-flower |
| <i>Thysanocarpus curvipes</i> | Sand fringe-pod |

Cactaceae – Cactus Family

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i> | Englemann’s hedgehog cactus |
| <i>Mammillaria tetrancistra</i> | Fish-hook cactus |
| <i>Opuntia chlorotica</i> | Pancake prickly pear |
| <i>Opuntia echinocarpa</i> | Golden cholla |
| <i>Opuntia erinacea</i> | Mojave prickly pear |
| <i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> | Englemann prickly pear |

Capparaceae – Caper Family

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Cleome lutea</i> | Yellow beeplant |
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Caryophyllaceae – Carnation Family

| | |
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| <i>Arenaria macradenia</i> | Desert sandwort |
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Chenopodiaceae – Goosefoot Family

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| <i>Atriplex canescens</i> | Four-winged saltbrush |
| <i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> | Winterfat |
| <i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i> *..... | Lambsquarters |
| <i>Grayia spinosa</i> | Hopsage |
| <i>Salsola iberica</i> *..... | Tumbleweed |

Cupressaceae – Cedar Family

| | |
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| <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> | Utah juniper |
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Elaeagnaceae – Oleaster Family

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| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> *..... | Russian olive |
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Ephedraceae – Ephedra Family

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| <i>Ephedra nevadensis</i> | Nevada ephedra |
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| <i>Ephedra viridis</i> | Mormon tea |
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Ericaceae – Heather Family

| | |
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| <i>Arctostaphylos pungens</i> | Manzanita |
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Euphorbiaceae – Spurge Family

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| <i>Croton californicus</i> | Mojave croton |
| <i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i> | White-margin sandmat |

Fabaceae – Pea Family

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> | Western redbud |
| <i>Lotus rigidus</i> | Bush trefoil |
| <i>Lupinus concinnus</i> | Elegant lupine |
| <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> *..... | Yellow sweetclover |
| <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> | Honey mesquite |
| <i>Prosopis pubescens</i> | Screwbean mesquite |
| <i>Psoralethamnus fremontii</i> | Indigo bush |

Fagaceae – Oak Family

| | |
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| <i>Quercus gambelli</i> | Gambel oak |
| <i>Quercus turbinella</i> | Shrub live oak |
| <i>Quercus gambelli x turbinella</i> | Hybrid oak |

Geraniaceae – Geranium Family

| | |
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| <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *..... | Storksbill; filaree |
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Hydrophyllaceae – Waterleaf Family

| | |
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| <i>Eriodictyon angustifolium</i> | Yerba santa |
| <i>Phacelia crenulata</i> | Notch-leaved phacelia |
| <i>Phacelia fremontii</i> | Fremont phacelia |

Krameriaceae – Krameria Family

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| <i>Krameria parvifolia</i> | Range ratany |
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Lamiaceae – Mint Family

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| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> *..... | White horehound |
| <i>Salazaria mexicana</i> | Bladdersage |
| <i>Salvia dorrii</i> | Purple sage |

Liliaceae – Lily Family

| | |
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| <i>Allium nevadense</i> | Nevada onion |
| <i>Androstephium breviflorum</i> | Funnel lily |
| <i>Calochortus flexuosus</i> | Winding sego lily |
| <i>Calochortus nuttallii</i> | Sego lily |
| <i>Dichelostemma pulchellum</i> | Desert hyacinth |

Loasaceae – Loasa Family

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| <i>Mentzelia sp.</i> | Blazing-star |
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Malvaceae – Mallow Family

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| <i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> | Desert globemallow |
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| <i>Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia</i> | Gooseberry-leaf globemallow |
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Martyniaceae – Unicorn Plant Family

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| <i>Proboscidea parviflora</i> | Devil’s claw |
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Nyctaginaceae – Four o’clock Family

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| <i>Abronia fragrans</i> | Fragrant sand verbena |
| <i>Allionia incarnata</i> | Windmills |
| <i>Mirabilis bigelovii</i> | Desert wishbone |
| <i>Mirabilis multiflora</i> | Desert four o’clock |

Oleaceae – Olive Family

| | |
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| <i>Fraxinus anomala</i> | Singleleaf ash |
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Onagraceae – Primrose Family

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| <i>Camissonia brevipes</i> | Yellow sun cups |
| <i>Guara coccinea</i> | Scarlet guará |
| <i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> | Fragrant evening primrose |
| <i>Oenothera pallida</i> | Pale evening primrose |

Orobanchaceae – Broomrape Family

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| <i>Orobanche fasciculata</i> | Broomrape |
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Papaveraceae – Poppy Family

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| <i>Argemone munita</i> | Prickly poppy |
| <i>Eschscholzia glyptosperma</i> | Desert gold poppy |
| <i>Eschscholzia minutiflora</i> | Little gold poppy |

Pinaceae – Pine Family

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| <i>Pinus monophylla</i> | Single-leaf pinyon |
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Plantaginaceae – Plantain Family

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| <i>Plantago patagonica</i> | Woolly plantain |
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Poaceae – Grass Family

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| <i>Aristida purpurea</i> | Purple threeawn |
| <i>Bothriochloa barbinodis</i> | Cane bluestem: cane beardgrass |
| <i>Bromus rigidus</i> *..... | Ripgut brome |
| <i>Bromus rubens</i> *..... | Red brome |
| <i>Bromus tectorum</i> *..... | Cheatgrass |
| <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *..... | Bermudagrass |
| <i>Elymus elymoides</i> | Bottlebrush squirreltail |
| <i>Erioneuron pulchellum</i> | Fluffgrass |
| <i>Festuca octoflora</i> | Sixweeks fescue |
| <i>Hilaria rigida</i> | Big galleta |
| <i>Hordeum murinum</i> *..... | Foxtail; mouse barley |
| <i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> | Bush muhly |
| <i>Schismus barbatus</i> *..... | Mediterranean grass |
| <i>Sporobolus contractus</i> | Spike dropseed |

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| <i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> | Sand dropseed |
| <i>Sporobolus flexuosus</i> | Mesa dropseed |
| <i>Stipa comata</i> | Needle and thread |
| <i>Stipa speciosa</i> | Desert needlegrass |

Polemoniaceae – Phlox Family

| | |
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| <i>Eriastrum diffusum</i> | Spreading erastrum |
| <i>Eriastrum eremicum</i> | Mojave erastrum |
| <i>Gilia scopulorum</i> | Rock gilia |
| <i>Gilia sp.</i> | Unknown gilia |
| <i>Loeseliastrum schottii</i> | Schott gilia |
| <i>Phlox austromontana</i> | Showy phlox |

Polygonaceae – Buckwheat Family

| | |
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| <i>Chorizanthe rigida</i> | Spiny herb |
| <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> | Mojave buckwheat |
| <i>Eriogonum inflatum</i> | Desert trumpet |
| <i>Eriogonum thompsonae</i> | Thompson’s buckwheat |
| <i>Rumex hymenosepalus</i> | Wild rhubarb; Canaigre |

Portulacaceae – Portulaca Family

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| <i>Montia chamissoi</i> | Miner’s lettuce |
| <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> *..... | Common purslane |

Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family

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| <i>Anemone tuberosa</i> | Desert anemone |
| <i>Delphinium andersonii</i> | Anderson larkspur |

Rhamnaceae – Buckthorn Family

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| <i>Rhamnus betulaeifolia</i> | Birchleaf buckthorn |
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Rosaceae – Rose Family

| | |
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| <i>Amelanchier utahensis</i> | Utah serviceberry |
| <i>Cercocarpus intricatus</i> | Dwarf mountain Mahogany |
| <i>Coleogyne ramosissimum</i> | Blackbrush |
| <i>Cowania mexicana</i> | Cliff-rose |
| <i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> | Apache plume |
| <i>Petrophytum caespitosum</i> | Rockmat |
| <i>Prunus fasciculata</i> | Desert almond |
| <i>Purshia tridentata</i> | Bitterbrush |

Rubiaceae – Madder Family

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| <i>Galium stellatum</i> | Crevice bedstraw |
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Salicaceae – Willow Family

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| <i>Populus fremontii</i> | Fremont cottonwood |
| <i>Salix exigua</i> | Narrowleaf willow |

Santalaceae – Sandlewood Family

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| <i>Comandra umbellata</i> | Bastard toadflax |
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