

COMMON NAME:

MORMON TEA

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

EPHEDRA TRIFURCA

ALSO CALLED: MEXICAN TEA AND LONGLEAF JOINTFIR

FLOWER COLOR: GREEN

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: CONE-LIKE FLOWERS

FLOWERING TIME: MARCH TO MAY

NORMAL SIZE: 2' TO 4'

EDIBLE: YES

NORMAL ELEVATION: 2000' TO 4000'

HABITATION: FLAT PLAINS

ABUNDANCE: COMMON

NOTABLE DETAILS: WOODY BUSHES WITH FINE BRANCHES SEGMENTED INTO SHORT PIECES AND BUDS THAT CONTAIN MALES PARTS. IT IS THOROUGHLY COVERED WITH POLLEN FILLED STAMENS AND IS CALLED THE LARGEST OF THE ARIZONA SPECIES.

SPECIAL INTEREST: USED FOR A TEA SUBSTITUTE BY EARLY TRAVELERS