

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

EPHEDRA VIRIDIS VAR *VIRIDIS*
GREEN EPHEDRA
Family: Ephedraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Green ephedra is a broom-like, dioecious shrub, 1 to 15 dm tall. The jointed branches are usually less than 3 mm thick and are bright or yellow green to olive, and opposite or seemingly whorled. The leaves are opposite, 1.5 to 4 mm long, and deciduous. The staminate cones are paired or numerous at a node, upside-down egg-shaped, sessile, and 5 to 7 mm long, with light yellow-orange bracts. The ovulate cones are paired or several at the nodes, obovate, and sessile or with a short stalk. The seeds are light brown to brown, three-angled, and 5 to 8 mm long, slightly longer than the bracts. (Dorn 2001, Welsh 1993, Cronquist 1972)

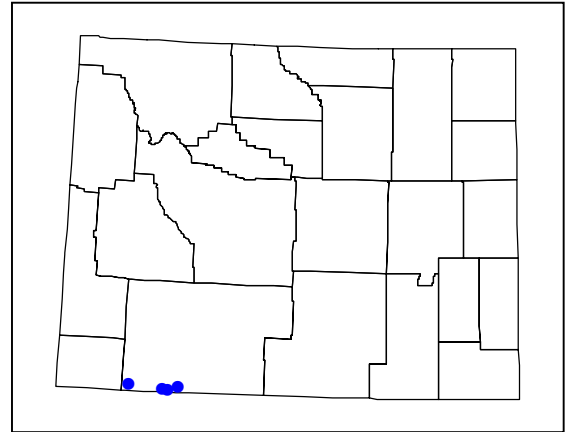
Similar Species: There are no other species of *Ephedra* known from Wyoming.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering and fruiting occur from May to June.

Distribution: Green ephedra is known from Oregon and California east to Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. In Wyoming, it is found in the Uinta foothills of southern Sweetwater County.

Habitat: Green ephedra is often found under a nurse plant in juniper communities, with shallow soil and sandstone.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Green ephedra is known from four occurrences in southern Sweetwater County. One is historic (1951). The most recent record is from 1997.



Wyoming distribution of *Ephedra viridis* var *viridis*

Abundance: Populations are typically small, and the total number of plants in the state is probably in the 100's. The largest known population is estimated at 100-150 individuals.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Most occurrences are on public land managed for multiple use. One is on the Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Known from lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office.

References:

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Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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