

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WYOMING SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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It is becoming increasingly important to distinguish the subspecies of *Artemisia tridentata*. The following information was obtained at the 1978 Shrub Ecology Workshop from Dr. Durant MacArthur and field tested by Everet Bainter, Area Range Conservationist (now State Range Conservationist). Although no visual identification technique developed thus far is completely satisfactory, the following procedure appears satisfactory.

	<u>Smell</u>	<u>Usual Height</u>	<u>Leaf</u>	<u>Blue Light</u> (w/alcohol)	<u>Soils</u>
Wyoming big sagebrush (ARTR ^W)	Pungent- Can be tolerated	2' or less	Short, wedged shaped w/narrowest part below	Dull	Well drained non-saline, upland
Mountain big sagebrush (ARTR ^V)	Mild - even sweet	2' - 4'	Like (ARTR ^W) but longer	Bright blue cream	Well drained non-saline
Basin big sagebrush (ARTR ^T)	Most pungent, bitter. Cannot stand to breathe it	3' to 15'	Longer and narrower than others	Dull	Well drained but often receives add'l water, non-saline

LEGEND

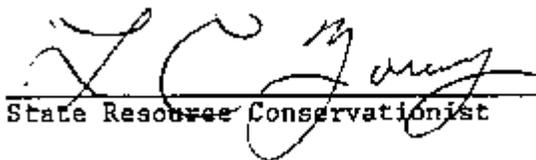
W = Wyomingensis
V = Vaseyanna
T = Tridentata

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Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)

One to 12-foot tall shrub with trunk or several trunk-like branches; has silver gray to whitish foliage with dense, fine hairs; bark, dark brown to nearly black, shred-like; leaves 2/3 - 1 inch long, narrow, wedge-shaped, generally three-toothed, sometimes as many as five at tip; flowers four to six, sometimes nine, in small heads; heads yellowish or brownish in loose clusters 1-4 inches across.




State Resource Conservationist

