



# Friends of SNOW CANYON

## What's That Late Bloomer???

During hot and dry summers, many desert plants slowly drift into some state of dormancy. Luckily, there are a few plants that spring to life in the fall months, adding a refreshing touch of color to the desert landscape. Two of these "Late Bloomers" can be found in Snow Canyon. Both species produce yellow flowers from September into October and are members of the Aster Family.

### Rubber Rabbitbrush *Ericameria nauseosus*



**Rubber Rabbitbrush is the larger of these two plants**, growing 2 to 6 feet in height.

Clusters of golden-yellow flowers appear atop numerous stems.

The individual flowers are tubular in shape. Both the narrow leaves and flexible stems are grayish green in color and have an aromatic smell.



The common name comes from the **rubbery latex in the leaves**. This plant has been studied as a source of rubber since the early 1900's. Native Americans used it to make a yellow dye, medicinal tea and chewing gum. It is a significant source of food for wildlife such as rabbits and game animals.

**Broom Snakeweed can be confused with Rabbitbrush but it is smaller**, reaching a height of 8 to 36". It is fine textured with many slender stems. Since most of the branches are about the same length, it tends to be dome shaped.

The lower leaves usually drop before a multitude of tiny, bright yellow flowers appear. A single plant is capable of producing over 9,000 seeds annually! This plant is very common and can quickly invade disturbed areas. It is not eaten by any type of animal as it has toxic properties.

### Broom Snakeweed *Gutierrezia sarothrae*



**Another "Late Bloomer" that you may see... Chinchweed (*Pectis papposa*)**

is an annual that appears after summer rains, usually in September. It is low growing, forming a 5-8" tall mound with small, yellow daisy flowers. The leaves have a lemony fragrance.

