



Friends of SNOW CANYON

What's That Plant??

Manzanita plants are well known throughout western North America. Over one hundred species occur from British Columbia to Mexico and in many southwestern states including Utah. Snow Canyon is home to only **one** species that is quite distinctive.

Look For...

Foliage:

The leaves are evergreen, shiny and leathery in appearance. They are oval shaped and up to 1½" long. If you bend them in half, they will snap in two.



Flowers: This is one of the first woody plants to bloom in spring with flowers appearing as early as February and continuing into May. White to pink urn-shaped flowers are borne in clusters and resemble those of blueberries who are in the same family. Bees love them!

Fruit: Very small (¼") fleshy fruits (called drupes) ripen to red and look like miniature apples. The common name *Manzanita* is the Spanish diminutive of *manzana* (apple) which literally translates to "little apple". The fruit are edible and consumed by various mammals and birds. Native Americans found various medicinal and culinary uses for them including a cider-like drink.



Pointleaf Manzanita

Arctostaphylos pungens
Ericaceae — Heath Family



Manzanita along West Canyon Road

Habit: This species is a wide spreading shrub and generally rounded in form. It grows to a height of 3 to 9 feet. It can form dense thickets of great size.



The bark of Manzanita is very striking. The young stems are shiny and reddish-brown or mahogany in color. With age, the branches fade to gray and become smooth and twisted.