



Friends of SNOW CANYON

The Plants in Snow Canyon Have Come Alive!

What's That Plant???

Colorful wildflowers tend to attract our attention when they are in bloom, but there are other, less showy plants found in the park that also add a lot of interest to the desert landscape.

One of these is a woody shrub called Desert Almond. You can see it just about anywhere in Snow Canyon. It is one of the “core” plants in the desert community that hangs out all year long. It loses its leaves in the winter but leafs out in early spring, adding a vibrant green hue to the desert.

Desert Almond - *Prunus fasciculata* (Rose Family)

LOOK FOR:

- **Foliage:** Bright green leaves, less than an inch long, often in clusters.
- **Flowers:** White in early spring, occurring only on female plants. They are not very showy and may occur on just one or two branches.
- **Fruit:** Appearing in early summer, they look like a fuzzy almond, but do NOT eat them! The seeds contain too much cyanide.
- **Habit:** Woody shrub around 6-7 feet tall.
- **Other:** Some Native Americans pounded the seeds into flour and leached it to make it edible. They also used the stems for starting fires and making arrow shafts.



Western Tent Caterpillars love to make their webs on this plant!

- **Where to find this plant in Snow Canyon:** Desert Almond plants are very prevalent especially in the lower part of the park. Just take a walk on the Whiptail Trail or West Canyon Road.