

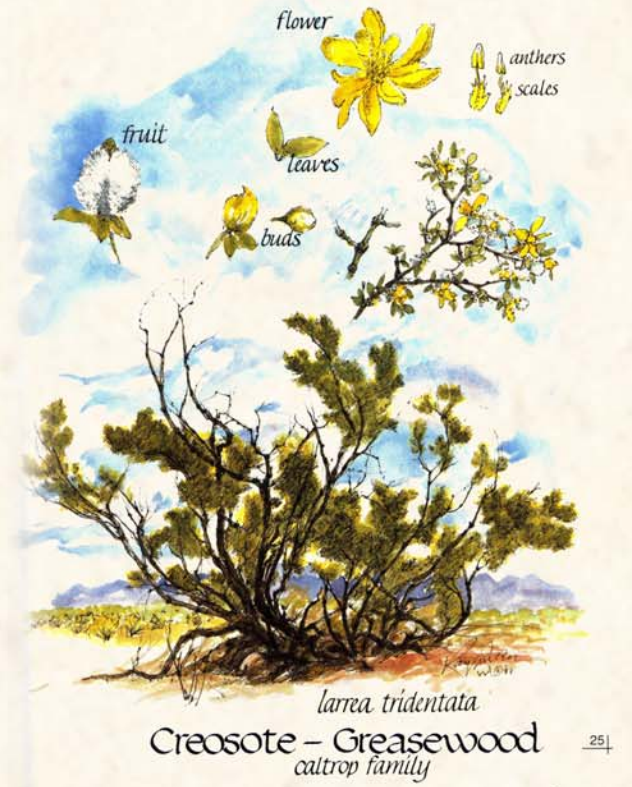
Life Beyond the Air Conditioner: Cool Plant Adaptations

Mojave Desert native plants in Sunset Park can take the desert heat and dryness. They have to—they can't move! Some avoid heat and dryness by completing their life cycles from sprout to seed in a few weeks. Others store water or nearly stop life activity and become dormant during dry periods. Some have "coated" or "hairy" leaves to help keep water in, or special roots to collect water near the surface or deep underground.



Brittlebush produces daisy-like yellow flowers in the spring. It drops its leaves during dry periods, but immediately puts out new leaves after the next rain.

Barrel Cacti store water in their round stems. The plants look round and plump after rains, and plected or shrunken as they use up their reserves.



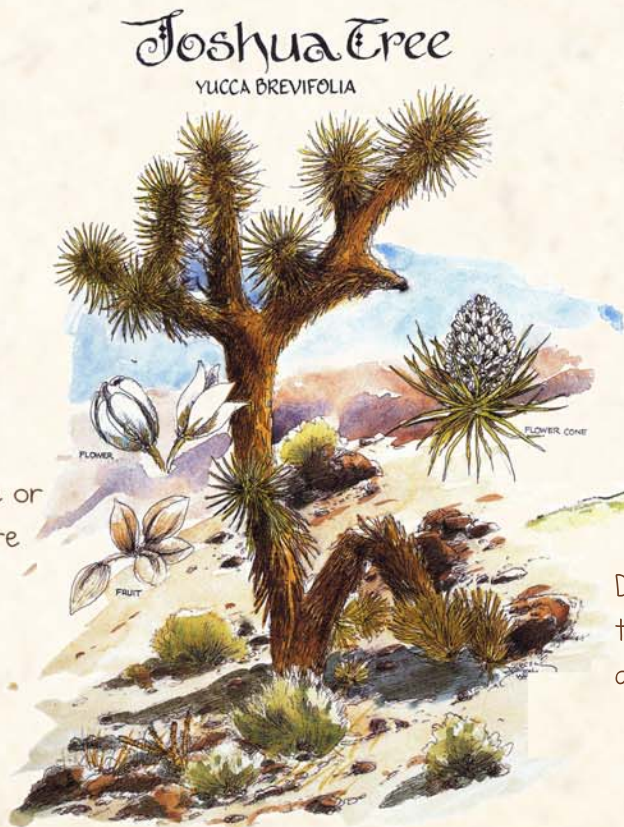
The Creosote bush has pungent smelling leaves with a shiny resin coating that helps keep water in.



Dusty Discovery's Dictionary

dormant (adjective) - In a relatively inactive or resting condition in which some processes are slowed down or temporarily suspended.

Joshua trees have thick leaves with a waxy coating to help keep moisture in, and send out temporary roots to collect water after rain storms.



CHILOPSIS LINEARIS Desert Willow



Desert willow roots can find water as deep as 30 feet below the surface. In severe droughts, the tree drops its leaves and becomes dormant until the next rain.