Volume 4. Numbers 1-4. *1982*

# Desert Plants

Published by The University of Arizona for the
Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum

Special Issue

## Biotic Communities of the American Southwest–United States and Mexico

**David E. Brown**
Editor



*Picacho Peak State Park. Photo by Josh Young.*

# Desert Plants

A quarterly journal devoted to broadening knowledge of plants indigenous or adaptable to arid and sub-arid regions, to studying the growth thereof and to encouraging an appreciation of these as valued components of the landscape.

Frank S. Crosswhite, editor

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P.O. Box AB, Superior, Arizona 85273.

The Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum at Superior, Arizona, is cooperatively managed by The Arizona State Parks Board, The Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, Inc., and The University of Arizona.


# A Special Issue of Desert Plants

Since the journal *Desert Plants* began publication in 1979 it has carried a number of articles and reports dealing with trees, shrubs, cacti and other desert plants in the landscape. Acceptance of *Desert Plants* by subscribers has greatly exceeded all expectations. As this is written the chronological list of subscribers, which began with number 0001, has now reached above the 4,000 mark. As the subscription list has grown it has been possible to make various improvements, to publish longer manuscripts, to use more illustrations, and to publish some photographs in full color.

In keeping with the *Desert Plants* policy of having an occasional special issue devoted to a single subject, the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum takes special pride and pleasure in publishing *Biotic Communities of the American Southwest — United States and Mexico* by David E. Brown (ed.), a result of many years of careful research and compilation sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and other state and federal agencies.

This special issue deals with the country between 27° and 37°30′ N Latitude and 103° and 118° W Longitude. Although the "Southwest" thusly defined clearly centers on Arizona and New Mexico, it also includes Baja California del Norte, major parts of Sonora, Chihuahua, California, Nevada and Texas, as well as minor parts of Baja California del Sur, Coahuila, Utah and Colorado. This part of the North American continent is well known for its checkerboard of vegetation which includes major arid and subarid categories.

This issue of *Desert Plants* promises to become a collector's item. Single copies of a 48-inch by 60-inch companion map in color, "Biotic Communities of the Southwest," by David E. Brown and Charles H. Lowe, are available while the supply lasts free of charge from: Publications Distribution, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service, 240 West Prospect, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526.

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