

# UINTA COUNTY *Connection*

JULY 2023

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**Yellow Miner's Candle**  
*Cryptantha flava*

## Southwest Wyoming Ranch Day

The Uinta County Conservation District has been working with local landowners, organizations and businesses to put together a day full of learning opportunities for area ranchers and others who want to learn more about agriculture in southwest Wyoming. The goal was to have several short presentations on topics of interest and importance to those who live and work in our area. We also wanted landowners to be able to share success stories of practices they have tried on their ranch and talk about what has worked for them and what hasn't. Sharing experiences that have taken place in our area, in our climate, on our soils can be beneficial for those looking to try new things on their own place.

Here are a few of the topics that will be on the agenda for the day:

## Southwest WY Ranch Day

September 6  
10am-3pm

Lyman Town Hall

**RSVP by  
August 31**

**Rangeland Health: Sagebrush Treatments** - hear from a local rancher about the different sagebrush treatments he has used and what has worked best for his operation.

**Invasive Species: Toxic Weed Management, Controlling Foxtail and Cheatgrass** - Uinta County Weed & Pest

**Managing Your Margin** - Western Ag Credit

**Transition Planning; Land as Your Legacy Program** - this program was specifically developed by Nationwide to help agribusiness owners develop a key framework to protect their family-owned business for generations to come.

**Risk Management; Ranch Hazard and Key Man Insurance** - Farm Bureau

Other potential topics include grazing management using electric fence, animal health/proper vaccination, ranch monitoring using photography, and others. This will be a great learning opportunity for all who attend.

Mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at the Lyman Town Hall. Lunch will be provided, so we ask that you please RSVP by August 31st. Follow our Facebook page and check our website for more details as they become available. There will also be an RSVP form on our website in the coming weeks. We are excited for this event and hope that you will plan to spend the day with us!

# DID YOU KNOW?

I hope at some point in your life you have been intrigued by the grass-like plant with segmented stems commonly found growing along water courses and in other wet places.

I still find satisfaction in the popping noise made by pulling apart the segments. Growing up, we called it *puzzlegress* because it could be pulled apart and then pushed back together like a puzzle. For me, a summer would not be complete without it. My kids are equally intrigued, and I have taught my daughter & her friends how to remove the top & wrap the stem in a circle, hooking the ends together to make a necklace.

Here are some interesting facts about this plant you may not know...

## EQUISETUM



**Common names** for Equisetum include horsetail, scouring rush, puzzlegress, skeletonweed, snakegrass, & snakeweed.

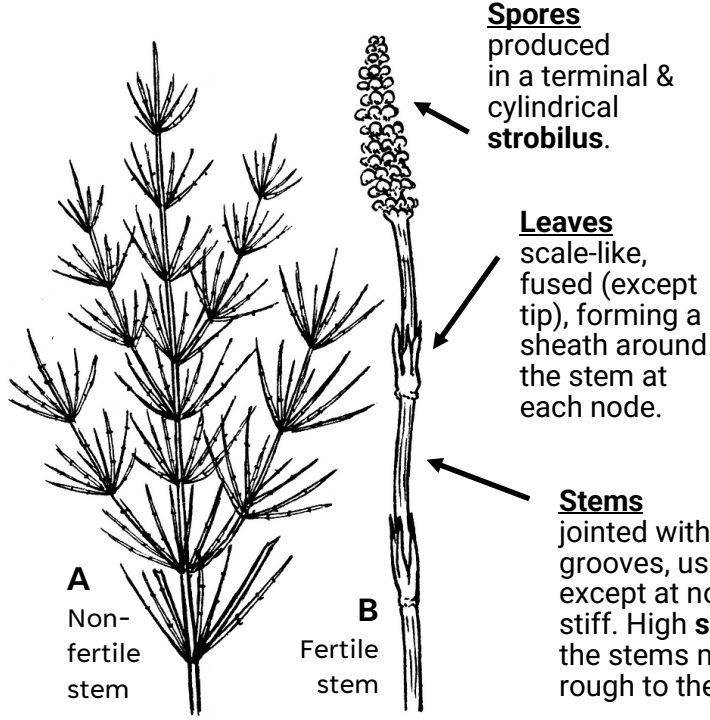
Equisetum is the only living genus in **Equisetaceae**, a family of vascular plants that reproduce by **spores**, not seeds. Although this is not the only family of living plants with spores, it's important to note that chronologically, plants that reproduce by spores evolved long before seed producing plants.

The scientific name for this genus of plants is '**Equisetum**'. Descriptive of physical characteristics of the plant, the name Equisetum is derived from the **Latin** root words equus, meaning '**horse**', & seta, meaning '**bristle**'.

The genus Equisetum includes 15 extant species with worldwide distribution. Of these species, four are found in our area (up to 10,000 ft). These **four species** have many similar characteristics that make Equisetum easy to spot & a few differences that set each individual species apart.

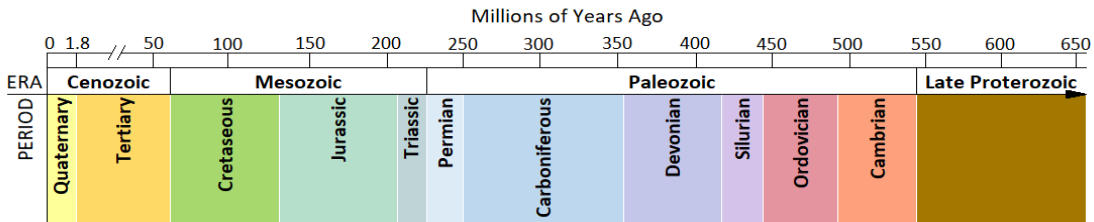
Three of the species in our area produce only fertile stems (**B**), which are green & unbranched.

One species is **dimorphic**, meaning it produces 2 types of stems:  
**A** - branched vegetative stems which produce no strobili & are green.  
**B** - unbranched fertile stems which are brown because they lack chlorophyll & whither after producing spores.



Equisetum has perennial rhizomes, which are continuous underground stems capable of producing shoots & roots.

Paleobotanists have evidence that the evolutionary history of Equisetaceae can be traced as far back as the Carboniferous or Devonian periods. After 300-400 million years of evolution, it is thought that the few species of Equisetum alive today are the sole surviving representatives of a much more diverse ancient group of species that were around before, during & after the dinosaurs.





# Evergreen Tree Winter Desiccation



**Above:** A blue spruce tree in Bridger Valley, that experienced winter desiccation on mostly all of its branches.

**Below:** New buds on branches of the same tree indicate this tree is still healthy and will regenerate its needles.



Uinta County Conservation District has had many calls this spring and summer about 'pine' trees that appear to be dead or dying.

**PLEASE, do not be too hasty to cut your evergreen trees down!**

It is fairly common for established ornamental evergreen trees (including pine & spruce) to experience **winter desiccation**, or winter burn, which results in dead needles but not a dead tree!

Winter Desiccation can happen over the winter due to low soil moisture, freezing temperatures, blowing wind, a sudden change from a mild fall to a hard winter, or a combination of these conditions.

Symptoms (dead needles) of winter desiccation may not appear until the weather starts warming up in the spring. Your evergreen trees may have a few brown needles, a few branches of brown needles, or be completely brown.

But, please give your tree a chance! Most likely, your tree has already produced buds for new needles, even on seemingly dead branches. Throughout the summer, new GREEN needles will grow, dead brown needles will be shed, and your tree will be healthy and happy looking again (maybe even better than before).

So don't cut your evergreen tree down, and don't trim out the 'dead branches' this summer if your trees look rough. Give them time and they will most likely pull out of it.

If in a year or two, the tree has not changed, remains dead looking, has no new buds, or is dead, then you consider cutting it down.

Questions about your trees?  
UCCD may be able to help.

*Another resource we have available in Uinta County is  
Barry Tye, District Forester,  
Wyoming State Forestry Division District #4.  
His office is located in at  
100 E Sage St in Lyman.  
307-787-6148*

# Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street  
Lyman, WY 82937  
(307) 787-3070

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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



Save the  
Date!

# GARDEN TOUR

## Good To Grow Farms

554 Nacho Rd, Evanston

(Follow the signs from the Recycle Center in Evanston)

**Aug 1, 2023**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Come learn how Barb & Leanne  
are able to grow so much  
produce in Uinta County.

Bring your friends!



Scan for QR Code more  
info & directions, or visit  
[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)