



Visit the Virtual Florilegium Gallery



When it comes to appreciating the beauty of plants, not everyone likes a biology lesson. A florilegium preserves science and history in a way that doesn't need words- art. It's a holistic way of communicating science that promotes appreciation for native plants by seeing them in an inspiring and beautiful light.

The digital version of the florilegium can be viewed on our website! Clicking on each species photograph leads to a page where you can view the botanical art, artist profile, common name, and botanical name with a link to read useful information about the species.

[Click Here to Explore the Virtual Gallery](#)



Acacia constricta



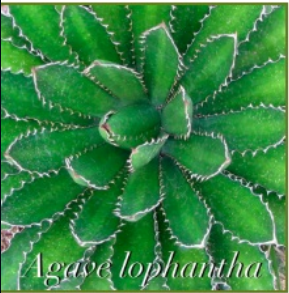
Acacia greggii



Agave felgarii



Agave lechuguilla



Agave lophantha



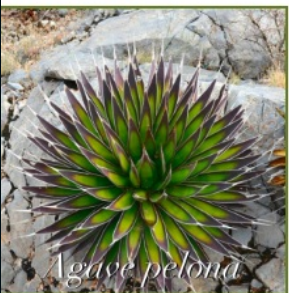
Agave ocahui



Agave parryi



Agave parviflora



Agave pelona



Agave toumeyana



Aloe vera



Antigonon leptopus

<https://arboretum.arizona.edu/florilegium-virtual-gallery>



Echinocereus fasciculatus



Featured Florilegium Plant: Desert Globemallow

Botanical Name: *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

Common Name: desert globemallow, globemallow

Family Name: Malvaceae

Sphaeralcea ambigua is a native perennial to the Sonoran Desert, found in regions of the Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau, as well as northern Baja, Mexico. It is commonly known for its wide range in flower color.



This species displays brilliant flowers in orange and apricot, while the sub species *S. ambigua subsp. rosacea* blooms variations of red, white, pink and purple flowers. Flowers bloom throughout the spring. Flowers have 5 petals, each with a notch at the end, and a cluster of anthers in the center.

The hardy globemallow has a moderate growth rate and requires very little water. It is important in desert landscapes for erosion control, revegetation of disturbed areas, and habitat for pollinating species.



The leaves of the plant are commonly toothed and three-lobed (with a longer middle lobe), and covered with yellow/white fine hairs. *Sphaeralcea* is closely related to *Hibiscus*, but the



hairs that give the green foliage a grayish almost white appearance, are a defining characteristic of globemallow.

Native people of the Southwest have documented numerous uses for the leaf, flower, and root of globemallow. The Yavapai would use the stems to create trays for drying saguaro fruit. Topical application of this cooling, soothing member of the mallow family has been used to heal sores and relieve inflammation, as well as a digestive remedy that's also useful with colds and flu. It has also been used as a traditional remedy for snakebites, wounds, and sore eyes.

[Read the Species Description Page](#)



[Click Here to View the Globemallow Florilegium Page](#)

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