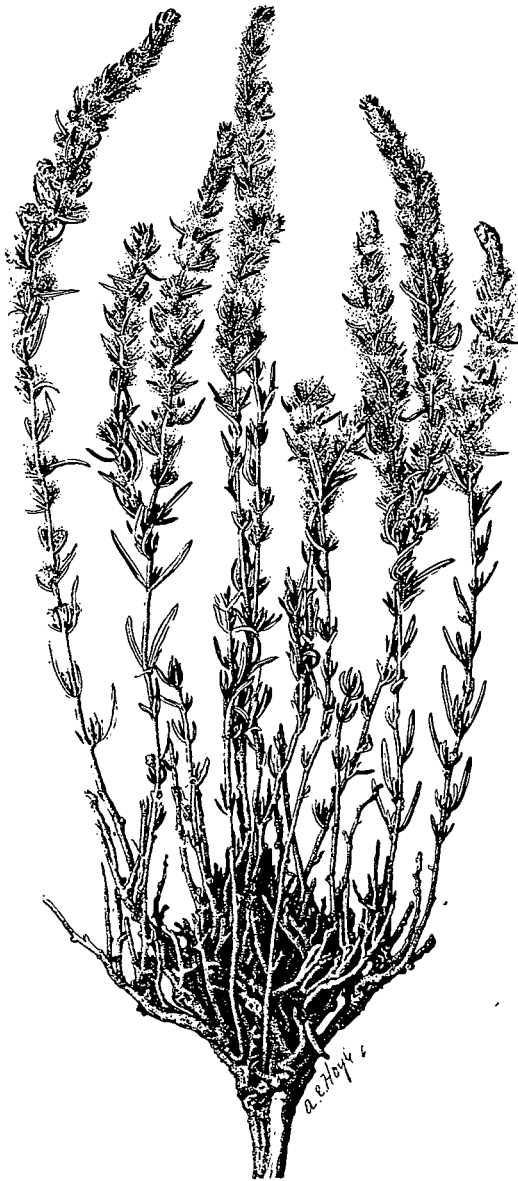


# Winterfat

(Eurotia lanata)



## Description:

Length of Life--Long-lived perennial.

Height--One to three feet at maturity.

Growth Period--It is still growing in fall and winter when other plants are dormant.

Where does it grow? This plant is largely known to western stockmen as "white sage". It is a conspicuous plant found on vast areas of winter range. It grows well on dry alkali soils in the southeastern part of Oregon. It is also found on the lower sandy foothills, plains, and valleys of the Columbia Basin.

Is it important? Yes, all classes of livestock relish this plant. It is particularly important as sheep and cattle forage. As its name implies, it is a very good fattening feed and is of chief value on fall and winter ranges. A number of studies have shown this plant to contain a remarkably high percentage of crude protein. The seeds, produced in abundance, are also nutritious and add greatly to the forage value of this plant. It has been said that stock, grazed on lands where winterfat grows, thrive well and are remarkably free from disease because of the tonic properties of this plant.

What does it look like? Winterfat is a half-shrub growing from 1 to 3 feet in height. The white-hairy, stem herbage is its most distinguishable characteristic.

How does it spread?--By seed.

Shape of Leaves--Usually less than an inch in length with the edges of the leaves rolled under.

Location of Leaves--Alternately spaced on the stem.

Seed--Small and enclosed in dense white-tufts of hairs.

Roots--Deep taproot, with numerous lateral roots.

Stems--Round, woody at the base, but soft tissue is found above the base. The twigs and branches are silvery-white and covered with white woolly hairs that become pale-rust colored with age.

Other names--White sage, winter sage, feathersage, and sweetsage.

How to use it--In the fall and winter when other plants are dormant. Care must be taken to insure that the plant is not destroyed by overgrazing.

Does it look like anything else? No, the plant's white-hairiness and rolled-under leaf edges distinguish it from all other plants in the salt desert or sagebrush areas.