

Table 3. Native plant communities in the Owens Valley, California

[Adapted from Sorenson and others, 1991]

Native plant community	Species name	Common name	Characteristics
High-ground-water alkaline meadow.	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass	Vegetation is highly salt tolerant and grows in areas where the water table ranges from land surface to 4 feet below land surface most of the year. Site L (figure 2) is an example.
	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Wild licorice	
	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Wire rush	
	<i>Sida leprosa</i>	Alkali mallow	
	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Alkali sacaton	
High-ground-water alkaline scrub.	<i>Atriplex torreyi</i>	Nevada saltbush	Vegetation is highly tolerant of alkalinity and salinity; generally found where the water table ranges from 3 to 10 feet below land surface. Predominant plant species are phreatophytic and require contact between the rooting zone and the water table. Community also may contain plant species characteristic of the high-ground-water alkaline meadow community. Sites B, H, and K (figure 2) are examples.
	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	Greasewood	
	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush	
	<i>Suaeda torreyana</i>	Inkweed	
Dryland alkaline scrub	<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	Burrobush	Vegetation is found where there is no connection between the water table and the rooting zone. Soils are well drained and usually alkaline or saline. Site K (figure 2) has some of these species.
	<i>Artemisia spinescens</i>	Bud sage	
	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	Shadscale	
	<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>	Allscale	
	<i>Ceratoides lanata</i>	Winterfat	
	<i>Hymenoclea salsola</i>	Cheesebush	
	<i>Lycium cooperi</i>	Peach thorn	
	<i>Psoralea sp.</i>	Dalea	
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>	Desert milkaster		
Dryland nonalkaline scrub	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush	Vegetation generally is intolerant of high alkalinity or salinity. Found on coarse, well-drained soils, often on alluvial fans that border the valley.
	<i>Chrysothamnus teretifolius</i> ...	Green rabbitbrush	
	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	
	<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	Nevada squawtea	
	<i>Purshia glandulosa</i>	Desert bitterbrush	