

## All-Star Plant: Flattop Buckwheat

This perennial shrub, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*, is native to the Sonoran Desert at elevations from 1,000' to 4,500'. It's commonly found on dry slopes and washes.



Preferring full sun, but tolerant of partial-day sun, flattop buckwheat grows quickly to a rounded shrub about 2' x 3'. It's adaptable to most soil types, as long as the site drains well. Given its desert origins, flattop buckwheat is a low water-use plant and frost tolerant to 15° F. The shrub should be left to grow to its natural shape; no pruning is needed.

Small white to pink flowers are grouped in clusters, blooming from spring through summer. The flower clusters dry to a rust color and commonly stay on the plant until the next blooming season, providing color in the garden year-round. The leaves are food for caterpillars, and the flower nectar is eaten by bees and butterflies; its seeds are eaten by birds.

Low water-use, no maintenance, and beneficial for local pollinators—this plant is an easy all-star choice for any xeriscape, pollinator, or wildlife habitat garden.

### Sources:

Arizona Department of Water Resources, *Drop Your Water Use-Tucson Management Area*  
[www.azwater.gov/azdwr/WaterManagement/AMAs/LowWaterUsePlantList.htm#Tucson](http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/WaterManagement/AMAs/LowWaterUsePlantList.htm#Tucson)

Arizona Native Plant Society, *Native Plants for Pima County Landscaping*  
[www.aznps.com/](http://www.aznps.com/)