

*Senegalia greggii*  
catclaw acacia

**Why Observe?**

Species marked for inclusion in the *Nature's Notebook* monitoring program have been identified by scientists or natural resource managers as ecologically important for the Sonoran Desert region. Many Sonoran Desert species have not been observed nor studied as closely as other species in the United States. They are the standard bearer of the Sonoran Desert Region.

**Tips for Identification**

It is a large **shrub** or small **tree** growing to 10-15 m (33-49 ft) tall with a trunk up to 20-30 cm (7.9-11.8 in) diameter. The grey-green **leaves** are **deciduous**, and bipinnate, divided into 1-3 pairs of pinnae, each pinna 2-3 cm (0.79-1.18 in) long with 10-18 **leaflets** that are 3-6 mm (0.12-0.24 in). Pinnae are most frequently in two pairs, with the proximal pair perpendicular to the petiole and the distal pair forming a V at the tip.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senegalia\\_greggii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senegalia_greggii)

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a “?” for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



Dionna Hatch. [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)



Dionna Hatch. [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)



### Young leaves

One or more young, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "young" and "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the leaf stalk (petiole) or stem, but before the leaf has reached full size or turned the darker green color or tougher texture of mature leaves on the plant. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

Dionna Hatch.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)



### Leaves

One or more live, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the leaf stalk (petiole) or stem. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

Dionna Hatch.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)



### Colored leaves

One or more leaves show some of their typical late-season color, or yellow or brown due to drought or other stresses. Do not include small spots of color due to minor leaf damage, or dieback on branches that have broken. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves that remain on the plant.



### Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Dionna Hatch.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

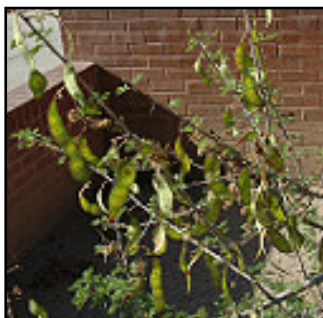


### Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Dionna Hatch.

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)



### Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Senegalia greggii*, the fruit is a pod that changes from green to tan, red-brown or brown and splits open to expose the seeds. Do not include empty pods that have already dropped all of their seeds.

Sara Schaffer

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)



### Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Senegalia greggii*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned tan, red-brown or brown. Do not include empty pods that have already dropped all of their seeds.

Sara Schaffer

[CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

**Phenophases not pictured:** Falling leaves, Recent fruit or seed drop