

25. *Nolina microcarpa* / Mixed Perennial Grass - *Agave schottii* Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Beargrass / Mixed Perennial grass - Schott's century plant Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This community is characterized by a moderately sparse (<15% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*) and a highly variable (10–40% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by perennial grasses and Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*). The canopy strata (>2 m) are extremely sparse (<<5%), typically characterized by scattered pockets of trees. Border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) and California rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*) are the most common of these trees; when present, they can provide 1–2% cover. Distribution of beargrass (*N. microcarpa*) is variable, ranging from scattered, small individuals to large, dense clumps. Locally, cover can be as low as 1% or reach to 10% in some areas. Other noteworthy subcanopy species include common sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*), pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), dollarjoint prickly pear (*Opuntia chlo-rotica*), catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), and desertbroom (*Baccharis sarothroides*). Schott's agave (*A. schottii*) is the most consistent (1.0) field component, providing 2–10% cover. Overall, the grasses are mainly dominated by a single non-native, Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*). Other documented species include sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*), and prairie acacia (*Acacia angustissima*).

Common species

- *Nolina microcarpa*
- *Agave schottii*
- *Eragrostis lehmanniana*

This community covers 0.6% (168 ha/415 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread across Tanque Verde Ridge and on the western slopes of Rincon Peak, especially within the boundaries of the Box Canyon Fire of 1999. It is restricted to low-angle (5–20%) ridges and benches from 1,200 to 1,700 meters (4,100–5,577 ft).



