



MARCH ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

COULTER'S OR SPARSE-FLOWERED LUPINE



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COULTER'S LUPINE



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Coulter's or sparse-flowered lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*)

This month we are learning about Coulter's lupine as we enter the spring wildflower season. Here are some key facts:

- Palmate basal leaves are divided into five leaflets, giving it the appearance of a hand with fingers spread and facing the sun during the day but folding up at night, giving it the name of "sun watcher" by the Tohono O'Odham people.
- Most have a spike of deep blue-purple flowers with a yellow throat, although some may have white flowers.
- Lupines are in the pea or legume family, but this species has toxic seeds.

Source:

Dimmitt, MA, PW Comus, and LM Brewer. 2015. A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert. 2nd Edition. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Press and University of California Press. 575 p.



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