

## Scent of Science

Wyoming hosts diverse sagebrush (*Artemisia*) and conifer species, including *Juniperus* and pines, yet their bactericidal properties are largely unexplored. We evaluated antimicrobial effects of extracts from several *Artemisia* species (*A. a. nova*, *A. frigida*, *A. tridentata vaseyana*, *A. tridentata tridentata*, *A. tridentata wyomingensis*, *A. cana*), and juniper species (*J. osteosperma*, *J. horizontalis*, *J. scopulorum*). Additionally, we studied lodgepole and limber pine (*Pinus contorta* and *P. flexilis*, respectively), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*) and fetid marigold (*Dyssodia papposa*). We also utilized various plant parts, including the flowers, arils, berries, leaves, and stems, from different plant species. Extracts were tested using the Kirby-Bauer method on *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Results suggest potential for these plants as antimicrobial agents, with *A. nova* and *A. tridentata vaseyana* showing strong activity, particularly against *S. aureus* and *P. aeruginosa*. Among conifers, *J. scopulorum*, especially berries, exhibited the strongest effect against *S. aureus*. Not all plants showed antimicrobial properties. These findings also highlight potential for further ethnobotanical research into their traditional uses.