

BURNING BUSH

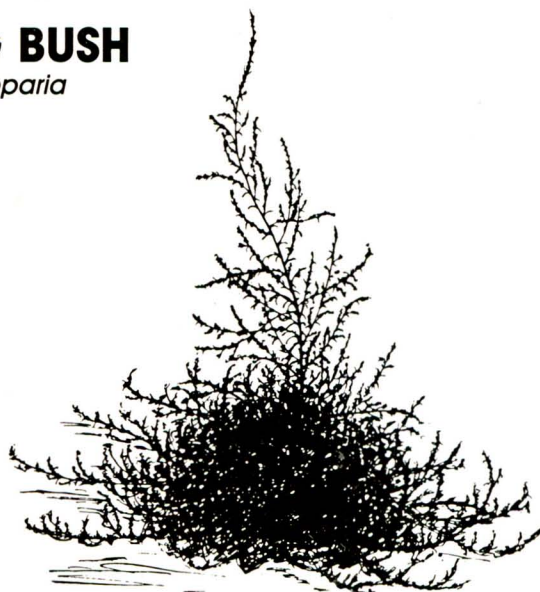
Kochia scoparia

FAMILY: Chenopodiaceae

GENUS: Kochia

SPECIES: scoparia

COMMON NAMES: Burning Bush
Fire Bush
Summer Cypress
Belvedere
Kochia



POLLEN GRAINS: Spheroidal 29 to 30 microns in diameter. Germinal pores 3 microns in diameter and 6 microns apart. Exine thin and granular.

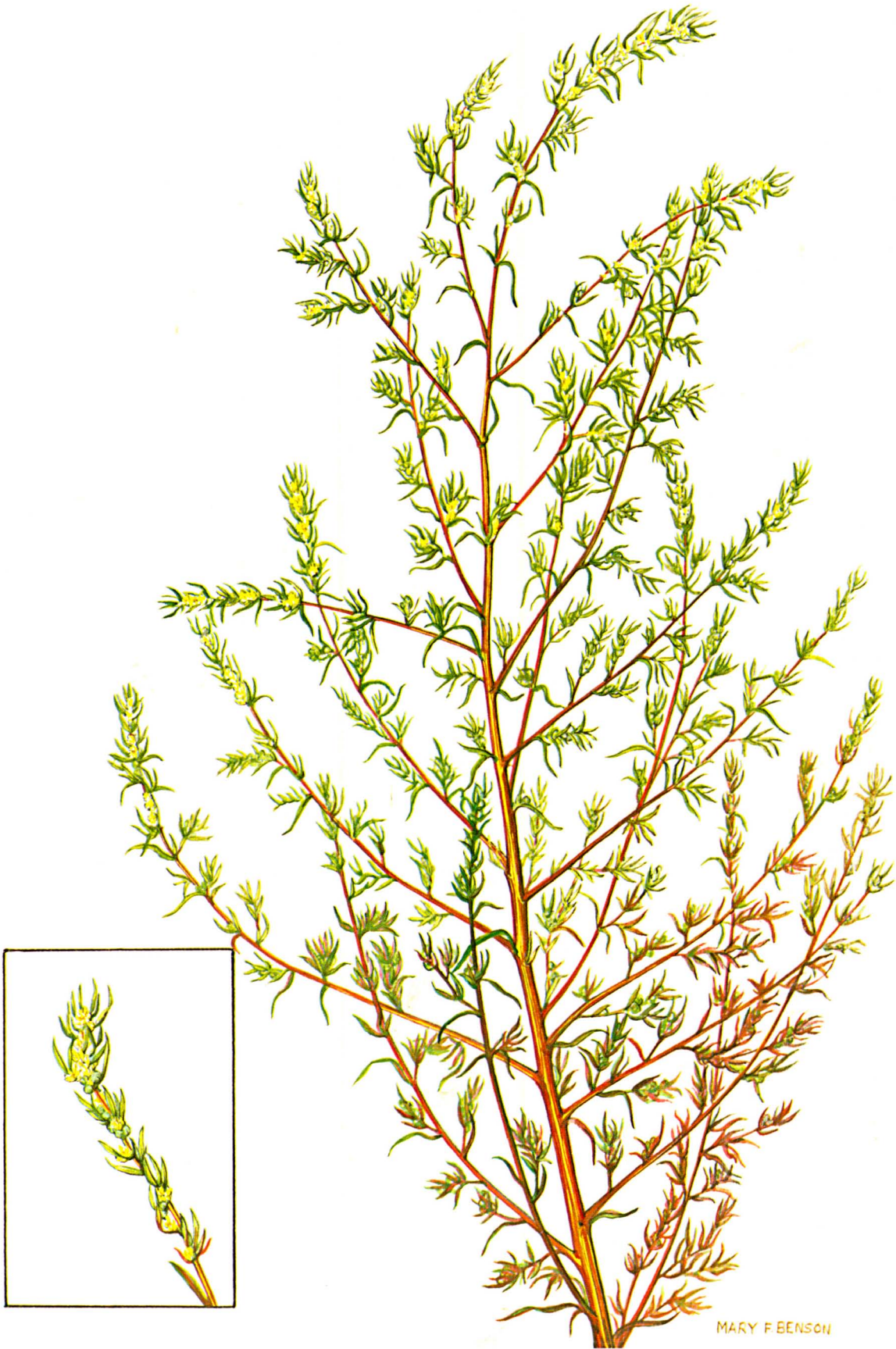
POLLINATING PERIOD: July to September

DISTRIBUTION: Originally an escape in Colorado, it has spread into most western states, north to South Dakota and Montana and eastward into Illinois.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: Considered important where abundant.

Burning Bush is a much branched annual somewhat resembling Russian Thistle. However, the leaves are longer and are not spine tipped. It has been planted ornamentally because of its compact, pyramidal shape and the red color it assumes in late summer and early fall. However, where the species has become naturalized, it loses this formal character and is a rank growing weed to six feet tall. This species is seldom grown ornamentally now. A similar species, Kochia trycophylla (sometimes erroneously labeled K. scoparia), also called Fire Bush and Summer Cypress, is widely used ornamentally. This latter species has a more formal compact growth habit and more brilliant fall coloration.

Kochia scoparia produces considerable pollen. Due to the active migration of this plant, it is to be expected that its importance in hayfever will increase in additional regions.



MARY F BENSON

Kochia scoparia
(Burning Bush)