Dichotomous key to sagebrush species growing near Baggs

1a. Spiny shrub, usually less than 10 inches in height, leaves mostly with 6-9 lobes and very hairy.........................................................A. spinescens, bud sagebrush
1b. Shrub or sub-shrub lacking spines.................................................................2

2a. Leaves deeply divided, with many narrow lobes........................................3
2b. Leaves with 3 or fewer lobes.................................................................4

3a. Mounded sub-shrub, up to 10 or so inches not including flower stalks, leaves deeply and multiply lobed ("fringed"), hairy and soft............................A. frigida, fringed sagewort
3b. Low sub-shrub, usually less than 4 inches in height, growing on clay soils. Leaves with divided lobes.............................................................................A. pedatifida, birdfoot sagebrush

4a. Shrub less than 2 feet tall, usually with multiple stems, leaves with three lobes. Often growing as an “island” surrounded by big sagebrush...A. arbuscula, low sagebrush
4b. Shrubs 2 feet or taller, leaves without lobes or with very shallow or irregular lobes........................................................................................................5

5a. Leaves mostly without lobes, but some leaves with irregular lobes, growing in meadows, along streams or in depressions.................................A. cana, silver sagebrush
5b. Leaves with three very shallow lobes ("teeth").................................A. tridentata, big sagebrush

6a. Leaves with l:w greater than 3:1, shrubs with rounded tops, growing in valleys.................................................................A. t. var. tridentata, basin big sagebrush
6b. Leaves with length to width ratio less than or equal to 3:1............................7

7a. Leaves not exceeding 3 mm in width, 7-11 mm in length.....A. t. var. Wyomingensis, Wyoming big sagebrush
7b. Leaves 3-7 mm x 12-15 mm.... A. t. var. vaseyana, mountain big sagebrush
Leaf (subsp. arbuscula)