

Botanical Name: Rhamnus californica

Common Name: California coffeeberry

Type of Plant: Dicot: shrub Family Rhamnaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A potentially large shrub having variable growth; is fairly dense with a full rounded form in full sun, more open, rangy and wide-spreading in shaded habitats

Height 4'-8' (10') Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure prefers full sun near the coast, likes some shade at inland sites

Soil tolerates most except alkaline pH soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-24): thrives from sea level to 3000' elevation

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, 1"-3" long, oblong-elliptic, with entire margins; upper surface is shiny, dark green; lower surface is dull green

Flowers tiny, yellow-green, in small clusters; March-May

Fruit a berry: green, turning red to black when ripe - showy

Propagation: seed or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a good filler or background shrub for 'connecting' sunny locations with shaded areas in the garden; is valued for its glossy foliage and fairly showy fruit; use in woodlands, oriental, and Mediterranean-theme gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering tolerates regular if drainage is good; best if soaked occasionally during the summer (once every 10/14 days at inland sites)

Fertilizing little needed unless if watered often

Pruning selectively head back as needed to control size; do not shear

Pests/Diseases relatively free; gets chlorosis when drainage is poor

Other _____

Origin: Chaparral habitats in Southern - Central California