

Botanical Name: Cercocarpus betuloides

Common Name: Mountain mahogany, California hardtack

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub-tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, mostly multi-trunked plant, with stiff erect or spreading branches forming an open, irregular or rounded canopy; the bark is gray and smooth

Height 10' - 20' (30') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun sites; tolerates some shade inland

Soil tolerates most; best in loose, well-draining sites

Hardiness hardy (zones 6-24); thrives in warm dry habitats

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, broadly elliptical-oval to obovate; to 1" long with a serrate margins along the upper half; medium to dark green above, paler beneath, with prominent veins

Flowers inconspicuous, small, yellowish-green, in clusters of 2-3; March - May

Fruit an achene: small, but with a very distinctive elongated twisted, soft-hairy featherlike style attached

Propagation:

Usage: with pruning, can be developed into a small accent tree

valued for its attractive white bark, dark green foliage and distinctive

feathery fruit; very good for screens, loose background plantings; excellent for dry slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; the plant is very drought-tolerant once established

Fertilizing none is required

Pruning for accent tree, head high & develop wide-spreading framework; or leave alone, or selectively head back for fuller canopy

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions extensive root system makes it good for slope stabilizing

Origin: Ore.-Baja Family: Rosaceae