

Apache Plume in the Landscape



January 2009

Fallugia paradoxa

Description

Apache plume is an evergreen shrub that can reach five feet tall and wide in a landscape setting. This plant's most distinguishing and attractive feature is the feathery, redturning-pink seedhead that emerges after the white rose-like, five-petaled flower fades. In the same family as Mexican cliffrose, both species produce similar deeply lobed small leaves; Apache plume's leaves are lighter green and more finely textured. The bark becomes red and exfoliating with age. Apache plume is a dioecious species, requiring both male and female plants to produce viable seed.

Cultural Requirements:

Native habitat	Occurs on dry slopes and in washes throughout the Southwest. Elevation: 3,500 - 8,000 feet.
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Soil	Well-drained, prefers gravelly low fertility soils.
Cold Tolerance	Zones 4-10
Drought Tolerance	High; can survive in most conditions with no supplemental water once established.
Salt Tolerance	Low
Sun/Shade Preference	Full sun
Transplanting	Transplant seedlings. Mature plants are more difficult, due to branching tap root.
Propagation	From seed or stem cuttings
Maintenance	Prune in late spring after bloom; tolerates shearing
Pest problems	Browsed by deer

Landscape Value:

Use in the Landscape	Specimen, background, soil stabilization, wildlife protection												
Foliage	Fine-textured, 3-5 lobed, one-half inch in length; evergreen												
Inflorescence	Rose-like, white with yellow centers												
Color	Apr		May		June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct
	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		
Fruit (achene)	Each seedhead consists of many achenes, each attached to a feathery tail.												
Form	Broad, spreading; tighter with regular shearing.												
Texture	Fine												
Ultimate Size	5-6 feet												
Rate of Growth	Fast												
Plant Community	Pinyon-juniper, cool desert shrub, semi-riparian												
Availability													
Cultivars	None of ornamental value												

Propagation:

Sow dry or pre-soaked seed directly into container. No cold-stratification is required. Seeds should be covered lightly with perlite or vermiculite to ensure contact with soil. Seed germinates in 10 to 20 days. Seedlings are very susceptible to root rot. Once they have their true leaves, water thoroughly only when the surface of the soil has started to dry out. Transplant as soon as they are well rooted.

Additional Photo:

Photo credits: Heidi Kratsch



References

- Mee, W., J. Barnes, R. Kjelgren, R. Sutton, T. Cerny, and C. Johnson. 2003. *Waterwise: Native Plants for Intermountain Landscapes*. Utah State University Press, Logan, UT.
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2008. Plants database. URL: <http://plants.usda.gov>
- Dreesen, D. 2003. Propagation protocol for production of container *Fallugia paradoxa* plants; USDA NRCS - Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, New Mexico. In: Native Plant Network. URL: <http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 2 January 2009). Moscow (ID): University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Forest Research Nursery.
- This fact sheet belongs to a series of fact sheets about Intermountain West native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses called "Native Plants in the Landscape." Look for others in the series by visiting <http://extension.usu.edu/hm/publications>, then clicking on 'Horticulture' and 'Native Plants'.

Authors

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(function() { document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', function() { // Query all images within
the fourColumnCarousel inside embed-feed const images = document.querySelectorAll('.embed-
feed .fourColumnCarousel .img-fluid'); images.forEach(img => { // If the image alt attribute is empty or missing if (!
img.getAttribute('alt') || img.getAttribute('alt').trim() === "") { // Find the closest parent div.col-lg-3 which contains both
the image and the h3 const parentDiv = img.closest('.col-lg-3'); if (parentDiv) { // Query for the h3 within this parent
const h3 = parentDiv.querySelector('h3'); if (h3) { // Set the image's alt attribute to the h3's text img.setAttribute('alt',
h3.textContent.trim()); } } }); }); // Closes the IIFE
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