



Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany in the Landscape

Heidi Kratsch, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist

Graham Hunter, Research Associate, Center for Water Efficient Landscaping

Scientific Name: Cercocarpus ledifolius

Common name: Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany

Description:

Shrub that can get 8'-12' tall. Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany is the only Utah Native broadleaf evergreen tree. Flowers are small and appear from June-August. The fruit is a hairy achene that persists to winter and provide interest. Leaves are leathery, small, and fragrant. High drought tolerance. It can tolerate pruning.



Native habitat:

Cultural Requirements:

Soil	Coarse to rocky, sandy loam, pH 6.0-7.0, deep to shallow, dry, well-drained, low organic matter
Moisture tolerance	Low water requirement. High drought tolerance. 10-20"
Sun/Shade preference	Full and afternoon sun
Transplanting	Easy when young
Propagation	Can be done by seed. Must soak in hydrogen peroxide for 24 hours, rinse and cold treat for 1-2 months.
Maintenance (Pruning, fertilization, deadheading, division, irrigation, etc.)	Infrequent irrigation and good drainage. Doesn't require pruning, but can tolerate it.
Insect, disease, or other problems	Deer browsing

Landscape Value:

Use in the Landscape

Can be used as a hedge or screen

Foliage

½"-1", linear, leathery, fragrant, resinous, hairy-white on the underside, green. Leaves are evergreen.

Flower

Small, Yellowish.

- Timing
- Color

Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct

Fruit

Seeds have long, cork-screw, feathery plumes that cover the plant

Form

Shrub. Multi-stemmed unless trained to be a tree

Texture

Fine

Ultimate size

8-12' tall and just as wide

Rate of growth

Slow

Suggested plant partners

Juniper; pinyon, sagebrush

Availability

Routinely available; "Utah's Choice" selection

Additional Pictures:



Fruit of *Cercocarpus ledifolius*



Flowers of *Cercocarpus ledifolius*



Compiled by Becca Buckley

References:

http://www.hort.usu.edu/PlantGuide/html/Shrubs_and_Trees/Cercocarpus_ledifolius.htm

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/charProfile?symbol=CELE3>

<http://www.timberlinelandscaping.com/Rev'dPlants-FRCC-TL/Rev'dShrubsPDFs/Cercocarpus%20ledifolius-CurlleafMtnMahogany.pdf>

Mee W., Barnes J., Kjelgren R., Sutton R., Cerny T., Johnson C. 2003. Waterwise: Native Plants for Intermountain Landscapes. Utah State University Press, Logan, UT