Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany

Cercocarpus betuloides



Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Western Mountain Mahogany

Description:

An evergreen shrub or small tree that is great as an accent plant or screen; birch-like dark green leaves with rounded, toothed tips contrast the silvery gray bark; an excellent, attractive choice for summer dry areas

Ornamental Features

Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany has attractive dark green evergreen foliage on a tree with a round habit of growth. The small serrated oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features subtle clusters of creamy white tubular flowers with buttery yellow overtones at the ends of the branches in mid spring. The creamy white fruits are carried on plumes from early to mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany is a multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 400 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.



Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder