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Apache Plume in the Landscape

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Fallugia paradoxa

Apache plume

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, red-turning-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.
• 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

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
• Color							

- 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: Utah's Choice selection (visit http://www.utahschoice.org/natives/wheretobuy for more information)
- 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:

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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/htm/publications, then clicking on 'Horticulture' and 'Native Plants'.

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