Apache Plume in the Landscape

Heidi Kratsch
Utah State University

Graham Hunter

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cwel_extension

Part of the Horticulture Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cwel_extension/15
Apache Plume in the Landscape

Heidi Kratsch, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist
Graham Hunter, Research Associate, Center for Water Efficient Landscaping

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit (achene)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td>Fine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Size</td>
<td>5-6 feet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Growth</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Community</td>
<td>Pinyon-juniper, cool desert shrub, semi-riparian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>Utah’s Choice selection (visit <a href="http://www.utahschoice.org/natives/where">http://www.utahschoice.org/natives/where</a> to buy for more information)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivars</td>
<td>None of ornamental value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:


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’.

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran’s status. USU’s policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions.

Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities.

This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University