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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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