



Cercocarpus breviflorus Hairy Mountain Mahogany

This upright, slow-growing, evergreen shrub or small tree is native to the Southwestern U.S., occurring on arid, rocky slopes from 4000 to 7,000 feet. Mature plants grow to 10-15 feet, developing twisting branches, with interesting fissures in the smooth grey bark. This plant is a favorite host for lichens, and they can often be found growing along the trunks. Small leathery leaves are dark green and the leaf edges curl under. The foliage is resinous and aromatic. Masses of creamy white flowers in the spring are followed by reddish corkscrews in the fall. Each seed is attached to one of these fuzzy tails, and the bush glows when backlit by the sun. It provides good shelter and food for birds and other wildlife. Plant in full sun and well drained soils. It is extremely drought tolerant. Hardy to -20° F. USDA Zone 5.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	10-15 feet x 10-15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Creamy white
FLOWERING	Spring
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderately slow
HARDINESS	-20° F, USDA Zone 5
PRUNING	Prune only if needed to control size



SHRUB