

Common Name: Cascara

Scientific Name: *Rhamnus purchiana*

Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade (prefers part shade)

Average Size: Deciduous tree to 50 ft tall, or an erect shrub 15 ft tall

Moisture: Prefers moist soils though it can be grown in dry sites.

Elevation: Low to mid elevations, common on the west side of the Cascades

Soils: Adapts to a wide range of conditions, best in moist, well-drained soils.

Shape: Can be grown as either a shrub or a small tree.

Foliage: Deciduous (though older leaves may persist through winter); alternate leaves, oblong, dark glossy green about 6-12 cm long.

Flower: Greenish-yellow, small (3-4 mm), form umbrella shaped clusters in the axils of the leaves.

Fruit: Blue-black to purplish-black berries, 5-8 mm across, edible, but not great tasting.

Notes:

- Bark used as a laxative by natives and the pharmaceutical industry
- Birds love its berries
- Stems are often browsed by deer and elk.

