

'Montane' mountain mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus Raf.



'Montane' mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*)

'Montane' mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus* Raf.) was released in 1978 by the New Mexico State University Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center, the Colorado State University, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

Description

This small tree or shrub may attain a height of 12 feet or more under favorable conditions. The branches are usually upright. They are gray to brown in color and round but roughened by leaf scars.

The upper surface of leaves is green to grayish-green. The lower surface is lighter in color and sometimes covered with short hairs. The plants are semi-evergreen at some locations.

The flowering period is May into July. Flowers are non-showy. The slender round seeds are up to ½-inch in length and have a silvery, featherlike tail up to 2½-inches long attached to one end

Source

'Montane' mountain mahogany seed, accession number NM-715, was collected in October 1964 in the Santa Fe National Forest near Coyote, New Mexico. Additional seed was collected from the same area during 1965 and 1966.

Conservation Uses

'Montane' mountain mahogany is useful as a component in windbreaks, for planting on mine spoils or other disturbed areas, for use in various kinds of landscaping, and as a browse plant.

Area of Adaptation and Use

This variety is adapted to the mountainous portions of Colorado and New Mexico between elevations of 3,500 to 9,500 feet within the natural range of the species. Its area of adaptation can be enlarged through the use of supplemental water. The species most frequently found growing in somewhat dry rocky areas.

Seed and Plant Production

This variety is seed propagated. Stratification of the seed is recommended to help obtain good stands. The easiest method is to plant the seed prior to February and keep the soil moist until the seedlings emerge during May.

Seedlings grow slowly. Most plants need to be at least two years old before they are large enough to dig and use for potting or bare-root material. About 300 pounds of available nitrogen per acre, per year, must be applied to potted plants.

Seedlings tolerate reasonably large amounts of soil salts. However, water containing a ton of soluble salts per acre-foot of water will cause salt burn on leaves if applied through sprinklers on hot spring and summer days.

Irrigated plants are about eight years old before they produce seed. Seed held in good storage conditions has maintained relatively good viability for ten years.

Availability

For conservation use: 'Montane' mountain mahogany is available commercially as bare-root stock or as containerized stock. No special planting techniques are necessary for this variety other than normal procedures for any transplanted material.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder seed will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Limited numbers of live plants are available to commercial growers for establishing seed source nurseries. Seed for initial commercial nursery production can be obtained from the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center through Resource Conservation District, the New Mexico Seed Certification Laboratory, or from seed growers' associations.

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District [<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/), and visit the PLANTS Web site [<http://plants.usda.gov/>](http://plants.usda.gov/) or the Plant Materials Program Web site [<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>](http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/)



This is a joint release among New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center, the Colorado State University, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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