



Indian Plum

Oemleria cerasiformis

Characteristics

Fast-growing deciduous shrub or small tree ranging in height from 6-20 feet and in width to 12 feet. Upright growth habit. Alternate, lance-shaped 2-5 inch leaves with small edges rolled under somewhat; pale green, paler below, and give off a cucumber-like scent when crushed. Twigs are smooth and purplish brown.

Flowers/Fruit

Fragrant 1/2 inch greenish white flowers appear in late winter in loose-hanging clusters. Half-inch plum-like fruit start in early spring; begin tan to pale orange, transition through pink to reddish purple, then ripen to bluish black with thin waxy coat.

Habitat Value

Important early season nectar source for Rufous Hummingbirds, moths, butterflies, and bees. Coyotes, Black Bear, Mule Deer, and Douglas Squirrels eat fruit. Fruit also eaten by American Robins, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Cedar Waxwings.

Home Garden Applications

Good for forest edge and understory. Rabbit and deer tolerant. Spreads by suckers so can take over other plants in the landscape. Must plant both male and female plants to produce berries.