

January 2018 Plant of the Month

Coffeeberry

Frangula californica (*Rhamnus californica*)

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub

Water Use: Low

Mature Size: 5-12 ft. tall & wide

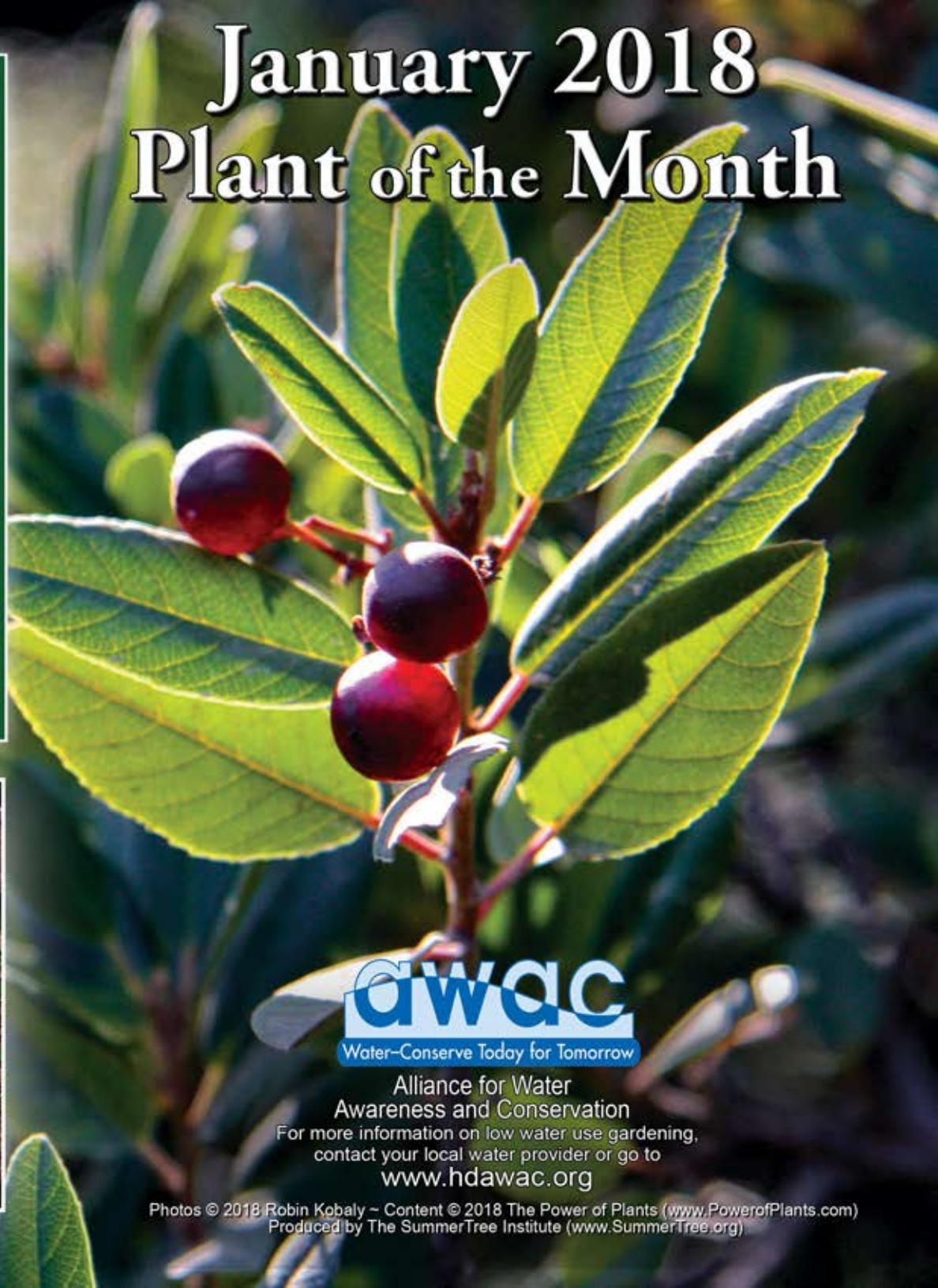
Exposure: Full Sun, Part Sun

Bloom Time: Spring (May), Summer (June-July)

Native to: California, southwest Oregon, Nevada, Arizona,
northern Baja (below 7000 feet)

Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 10°F

Coffeeberry is touted as looking "trimmed without trimming", although this tidy evergreen does take pruning well. This long-lived California native, also known as California Buckthorn, grows naturally in a wide range of habitats, with many available varieties, so check with your local nursery to find the one that best fits your climate. While commonly growing in chaparral and woodland habitats just above our deserts, it performs well in high deserts if given filtered or afternoon shade, and water once a week for its first year. Coffeeberry's fruits contain seeds that resemble coffee beans. Its light-green, 2 to 4-inch-long leaves mature to a leathery dark green. Inconspicuous greenish-yellow flowers in spring produce showy berries that are green, then red, and finally ripen to black, when they are relished by birds. Coffeeberry is fire resistant, resists browsing by rabbits and deer, and makes a great hedge, screen, border, ground cover, or bank stabilizer, and performs well in large containers.



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