



Cascara Sagrada

Frangula purshiana

Buckthorn Family (*Rhamnaceae*)

General Description: Small to medium-sized tree to 30ft tall. The crown is oval.

Key Characteristics: Young bark is burgundy sometimes partially lime-green. Alternately arranged leaf buds are naked, resembling reddish-brown pairs of angel wings. Buds are folded, velvety and deeply veined. Leaves will remain deep green throughout the winter.

Confused With: Red alder, but note the alder cones and catkins versus cascara fruits. Up close, note the distinctive naked cascara buds.

Photo: Joe Bettis