Oemleria
a.k.a. osoberry or skunk bush
Deciduous shrub. Native.

Plants of the Month: April

Indian Plum

Leaves come out early in spring. Bright lime green, darken in summer, turn yellow in fall. If you crush, they smell like cucumber or watermelon rind.


Uses: Birds, rodents, deer, bear, foxes and coyotes, all eat the small, bittersweet fruits. (Birds usually eat them before humans can get to them!) Bees enjoy the nectar from the flowers. Fruit is edible. Native Americans ate berries fresh or dried, and made tea from the bark. They chewed twigs then mixed with oil to use as an anesthetic salve. The wood can be used for arrows, spoons, combs, carvings.