



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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ARCTOSTAPHYLOS PATULA
GREEN-LEAF MANZANITA

Green-leaf Manzanita is a shrub with reddish brown, spreading stems that are 0.3-1 m high and which can root when in contact with the ground. The alternate, yellow-green leaves have broadly elliptic blades that are 2-5 cm long with entire margins and petioles less than 1/2 as long. Foliage is sparsely covered with short hairs and yellow glands. Short-stalked, pink flowers are clustered in branched inflorescences on the stem tips. The urn-shaped corolla, which is ca. 6 mm long, has 5 short lobes, and the calyx has 5 nearly separate sepals. There are 10 stamens. The brownish glabrous berry is 7-10 mm across. Flowering in late May-early June, fruiting in August.

This is the only *ARCTOSTAPHYLOS* with a bush-stature in our area; distinguished from other bush-forming genera in the Heath Family by the fruit which is free of and not enclosed by the calyx, alternate leaves, 5-part flowers, and corolla length less than 1 cm. *A. UVA-URSI* has trailing stems that rarely are over 0.2 m tall. Hybrids between these two species are known elsewhere in their range but not from Montana.