**Leaf:** Opposite, simple, elliptical, 2 1/2 to 4 inches long, finely serrated, long pointed, green above, paler and may be pubescent below.  
**Flower:** Perfect, inconspicuous (1/3 inch across), 4 dark purple petals with whitish anthers, appearing in late spring in multiple branched clusters.  
**Fruit:** 4-lobed capsule, 1/2 inch across, pink to purple in color, splits open to reveal dark red seeds, ripens in fall.  
**Twig:** Slender, green turning brown with age, maybe 4-sided, leaf scars are light brown (nearly white) and obvious against green twig; buds are green and sharp pointed.  
**Bark:** Thin, greenish-brown to reddish brown, shallow longitudinal splits.  
**Form:** A low branching shrub that reaches 20 feet in height.