



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232

Phone (360) 757-1094 • Fax (360) 757-3923 • e-mail: pmcsales@clearwire.net

Blue Huckleberry
Vaccinium ovalifolium

Distribution:

Blue Huckleberry found in coniferous forest in Western Washington at low elevations in some regions and subalpine elevations in others.

Growth Habit:

Blue Huckleberry is a deciduous shrub with small oval leaves and pinkish flowers. Fruits appear bluish black berries that are plump and edible. This specie of huckleberry grows well in moist coniferous forests and bogs. This shrub can grow to be 6-8 feet tall and readily spreads.



Uses:

Elders used leaves for healing skin sores. This plant can be an important winter food source for deer, elk and bear.



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DEER FERN

Blechnum spicant

Distribution:

Deer Ferns are native west of the Cascades at low to mid elevations sometimes found in subalpine elevations and/or bogs.

Growth Habit:

This evergreen resembles a small sword fern with the same growth habits. They enjoy moist to wet forest growing under alder and on stream banks. They do well with consistent moisture, light sunlight and prefer cool weather.

Uses:

Elders used leaves for healing skin sores. They can be an important winter food source for deer and elk in some areas.





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EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY

Vaccinium ovatum

Distribution:

Evergreen Huckleberry can be found growing from Alaska through to California.

Growth Habit:

Evergreen Huckleberry grows in both full sun to shade and is tolerant of salt spray. It can reach 2-3 feet in sun, up to 12 feet in shade with a spread of up to 10 feet. This plant prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Flowers appear in March through May and give rise to blackish purple edible berries. This evergreen shrub has glossy, dark green leaves with new growth showing red in the spring.



Uses:

This remarkable evergreen native shrub is valuable in the landscape. *Vacovatum* can grow in either sun or shade and is tolerant of salt spray. It is surprising we do not grow this shrub more often in the Pacific Northwest. As a natural or trimmed hedge, hedgerow, or in a thicket as wildlife habitat, it makes a choice plant for gardens. It also grows well as a containerized plant.

Comments:

The small, ovate, evergreen foliage looks good year round, has little urn-shaped flowers, along side blackish-purple berries. Indigenous Northwest tribes relished the berries of this shrub and would travel long distances to harvest them. They used the berries in many different ways—eaten fresh, with oil, or dried into cakes. People and wildlife both enjoy the berries. Note the berries are sweeter after first frost. Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies flock to the flowers.



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KINNIKINNICK

- Common Name:** Kinnikinnick, Common Bearberry
- Scientific Name:** *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Distribution:** Kinnikinnick grows natively throughout the western U.S. at low to mid-elevations.
- Growth Habit:** Kinnikinnick is a low growing broad-leaf evergreen shrub. It grows only about 6 inches high, but its trailing, prostrate stems spread up to 15 feet wide.
- Adaptability:** Kinnikinnick will grow in many different sites proving that they are well drained with ample exposure to sun light. It is particularly well suited to dry areas. It is also tolerant of salt spray, making it a good ground cover for seaside locations.
- Comments:** Kinnikinnick has long been a favored ground cover in this region. In fact, in sunny, dry locations there are none better. True, there are a few that establish easily and grow just as well or better, such as English Ivy or Saint John's Wort, but they can be invasive. Kinnikinnick on the other hand is easily maintained within its bounds, but still spreads out to create an attractive low-growing carpet of shiny green leaves, showy red stems and eye-catching scarlet berries. It is also functional. Its roots are strong providing good soil stabilization, and the berries provide forage for wildlife.



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SALAL *Gaultheria shallon*

Distribution: Salal is native west of the Cascades at low to mid elevations.

Growth Habit: Salal is spreading, low-growing broad-leaved evergreen shrub. Its height can vary from 6" to 3 feet tall. It spreads by underground runners.

Adaptability: Salal is adapted to grow in a wide variety of sites. It grows in sun or shade, and in soils that range from damp to dry. It does better in rich, moist soils.

Comments: Salal is one of the better ground covers for this region. Few are adapted to grow in such a wide variety of sites as this one. Its only draw back as an ornamental ground cover is that it can grow too tall and rangy. This can be handled however by cutting established plantings back to the ground every 2 to 3 years, preferably in the spring. It has many uses as a conservation species. Its roots and underground stems are good for soil stabilization. The purple berries it produces in late summer are a favored food source for wildlife. Those same berries were also an important food source for native peoples historically. In fact they are still used today for jams and preserves, and are prized for their flavor and juiciness.





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SWORD FERN
Polystichum munitum

Distribution: Sword Ferns are native west of the Cascades at low to mid elevations.

Growth Habit:

- Sword fern prefer the understory of moist coniferous forest at low elevations.
- They do well with consistent moisture, light sunlight and prefer cool weather.

Uses:

- A favorable landscape specie as well as restoration addition.

