



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

LOW OREGON GRAPE

Mahania nervosa

Distribution:

Low Oregon Grape also known as Barberry, Dull Oregon Grape or Short Oregon Grape, grows throughout Washington from sea level to the sub-alpine Cascades.

Growth Habit:

Low Oregon Grape is a broad-leaf evergreen shrub and can grow to 2-3 feet in height. It has dull green leaves with a purplish tinge contrasted by bright yellow flowers that transform into edible blue berries.



Adaptability:

Oregon Grape is adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions throughout Washington. It can be found growing in soils that range from dry to moist, and sites that vary from exposed to shady. It is commonly found growing equally well as an understory species in mixed species woodland, commonly growing along side salal (*Gaultheria shallon*).

Comments:

This is the short cousin to Tall Oregon Grape and is better used as a ground cover planted either singly or in masses. It looks great combined with native snowberry above and through the glossy green massed leaves. Tolerant of many conditions, it will do its best in some shade and can tolerate full shade. This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds





WACD Plant Materials Center

MADRONE

Common Name: Madrone, Pacific Madrone

Scientific Name: *Arbutus menziesii*

Distribution: Madrone is found in low elevation western Washington.

Growth Habit: Madrone is an upright broadleaved evergreen tree. Its growth habit and size can be quite variable. Larger specimens have been known to grow to 80 feet tall, but that is rare. They are usually much shorter.

Adaptability: Madrone requires an open, well-drained site. They do not tolerate wet, heavy soils.

Comments: Madrone is one of the more striking broad-leaved trees native to this region. Its smooth, peeling cinnamon-colored bark is unmistakable, as are the broad, glossy-green leaves. In the spring it produces clusters of small white urn-shaped flowers which develop into orange berries by late summer. These small fruits are not edible for human consumption, but are an important food-source for many birds of the region.





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

RHODODENDRON

Rhododendron macrophyllum

Distribution:

Pacific rhododendron is found along the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to Monterey County in California. It is widely distributed in the Coast and Cascade Mountain Ranges.

Growth Habit:

Pacific rhododendron is a medium to large size shrub growing 2-9 m tall. The leaves are 7-23 cm long and 3-7 cm broad. The flowers are 2.8-4 cm long; with five lobes varying in color, but usually pink.



Adaptability:

This species, like many rhododendrons, thrives in disturbed habitats such as roadside embankments and recently deforested wildlands. Pacific rhododendron offers erosion protection on steep watersheds. It is propagated by cuttings, by layering, and from seed. Air-dried seeds will remain viable for 30 months when stored at 20 degrees F (-7 deg C). Germination and early growth are good in shaded, moist mineral soil.

Comments:

Pacific rhododendron is the state flower of Washington. Wild plants are legally protected from digging. It is often used as an ornamental in landscape design. Pacific rhododendron may provide good thermal and hiding cover for big game animals. However, thickets can be difficult for the animals to enter. Presumably, Pacific rhododendron provides cover for smaller animals also. Pacific rhododendron often indicates low soil nitrogen content. On sites where it is dominant, care should be taken to protect the soil from damage from heavy equipment or fire during logging. Conifer planting can be difficult on sites that had dense Pacific rhododendron cover before treatment because of the residual roots. Removing the overstory may stimulate the growth of Pacific rhododendron and other shrubs. If the soil is undisturbed during treatment, it resprouts rapidly.