



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

High Bush Cranberry
Cornuta cornuta califonica

Distribution: Native High Bush Cranberry can be found growing across North America.

Growth Habit: Part of the honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae) they are an upright growing shrub that can reach up to 12 feet in height. They are deciduous with pale white flowers transforming into lush edible red berries. The berries tend to hang on the branches well into the winter providing late food to wildlife when other resources are diminished. This hardy shrub has a growth rate of up to 3 feet per year.



Adaptability: This specie can be found in riparian zones to deep wooded sites. It can be frost tolerant and prefers moist well drained soils but can with stand small bouts of drought. Established plants produce more berries in full sun but tolerate shaded areas as well.



Comments: With its fast growth rate, bright red berries, and adaptability, high bush cranberry is an appealing shrub for both landscaping and restoration. It provides bank stability and wildlife food source. It produces a thick hedge that can be a favorable windbreak or screen for any homeowner.





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BLUE ELDERBERRY
Sambucus caerulea

Distribution: Blue Elderberry grows throughout Washington, from sea level to 5,000 feet. It is far more predominant in eastern Washington however.

Growth Habit: Blue Elderberry grows throughout Washington, from sea level to 5,000 feet. It is far more predominant in eastern Washington however.

Adaptability: Blue Elderberry can be found growing in a wide range of sites that ranges from wet to dry and sunny to shady. It grows best with ample sun however.

Comments: Blue Elderberry has a variety of uses as a conservation species including riparian habitat restoration, erosion control, shelter belts, and wildlife habitat improvement. It is quick to establish, and fast growing once established. Its dark blue berries have been favored for generations for use in preserves, pies and wine.



**Photos courtesy of Lincoln County Conservation District.*



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DOUGLAS SPIREA
Spiraea douglasii

Distribution:

Douglas Spirea also known as Hardhack is widely distributed throughout western Washington at low to mid-elevations.

Growth Habit:

Douglas Spirea is a deciduous shrub with an upright growth habit. It can grow from 3 to 8 feet tall, with an approximately equal spread. It can spread by underground runners, creating large thickets.



Adaptability:

Douglas Spirea is adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions. It grows in sun or shade, in damp, marshy sites, or rocky open upland areas. It is found growing from sea level to mid elevation forests. It is not well suited to dense shade or very arid sites.

Comments:

Douglas Spirea is readily identified by its spiky pink flower clusters in summer and stalks of brown seed clusters that persist through winter. It is an outstanding conservation species and is adapted to a wide range of sites. Its rhizomatous root system help make it a good soil stabilizer. It also provides wildlife habitat, and is a common riparian species.



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INDIAN PLUM
Oemleria cerasiformis

Distribution: Indian Plum also known as Oso berry is found growing west of the Cascades from British Columbia south to northern California at low to mid-elevations.

Growth Habit: Indian Plum grows as a shrub or small tree to 18 feet tall, spreading to 15 feet wide.

Adaptability: Indian plum can be found growing in variety of sites that range from dry upland sites to moist riparian areas. It grows in either open, fully exposed sites, or as an under-story species growing in full shade

Comments: Indian Plum is one of the first flowering native shrubs to herald the approach of spring. Its white, fragrant, drooping flowers, appear in March, before many species leaf out. The flowers give rise to berries that ripen and turn purple in June, which provide a favorite source of food for many bird species.





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PACIFIC NINEBARK
Physocarpus capitatus

Distribution: Pacific Ninebark is found at low to mid elevations throughout western Washington. It has also been found in northern Idaho, and the Blue Mountains.

Growth Habit: Pacific Ninebark is a large deciduous shrub that can grow to 15 feet tall, and spread up to 15 feet wide.

Adaptability: Pacific Ninebark prefers moist soils. It is often found growing along streams, lakes, bogs, and other moist sites.

Comments: Pacific Ninebark has long been used as a restoration species. Its dense, matting root system make it useful in stream-side stabilization. It provides forage and habitat for many species of birds and animals. It also has ornamental value. Its long, arching branches are covered with clusters of small, white flowers in late spring. The peeling layers of cinnamon bark provide attractive winter interest.





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NOOTKA ROSE
Rosa nutkana

Distribution: Nootka Rose is found at low to mid elevations throughout western Washington. Another sub-species of Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana hispida*) is found primarily in eastern Washington.

Growth Habit: Nootka Rose grows as a spindly, deciduous shrub, reaching 15 feet tall, and spreading 10 to 12 feet wide.

Adaptability: Nootka Rose is found in a wide variety of sites throughout its range. It typically grows in open sites, but can be found occasionally as an understory species. It is used along streams, lakes and bogs, as well as upland and rocky sites.

Comments: Nootka Rose has long been used as a restoration species. Their dense, matting root systems make it useful in stream-side stabilization. It provides forage and habitat for many species of birds and animals. It is noted to have the showiest of flowers among the native roses of this region. The pink flowers often reach 2 inches in diameter, and are usually born singly, although at times occur in pairs or triplets.





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RED ELDERBERRY
Sambucus racemosa

Distribution: Red Elderberry is generally found growing west of the Cascades in Washington.

Growth Habit: Red Elderberry is a large, sprawling, upright deciduous shrub. It grows from 15 to 30 feet tall, and spreads from 7 to 15 feet wide.

Adaptability: Red Elderberry can be found growing in a wide range of sites that range from wet to dry and sunny to shady, and tolerates a variety of soils.

Comments: Red Elderberry has a variety of uses as a conservation species, including riparian habitat restoration, erosion control, shelter belts, and wildlife habitat improvement. It is quick to establish, and fast growing once established. Its red berries are considered inedible, though aboriginal peoples once ate them upon occasion, but only when cooked. The raw berries cause nausea. The most common form of Red Elderberry in the region is *Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens var. arborescens*. Other varieties found include Black Elderberry, *S. racemosa ssp. pubens var. melanocarpa*, which has black berries, and the rare white berried form, *S. racemosa ssp. pubens var. leucocarpa*.





WACD Plant Materials Center

RED FLOWERING CURRANT

Ribes sanguineum

Distribution: Red Flowering Currant can be found growing throughout our region at low to mid-elevations

Growth Habit: It is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall and spread approximately 10 feet wide.

Adaptability: Red Flowering Currant is found predominantly on exposed, well-drained sites, where it grows very well. It can be found in shadier, damp sites



Comments: Red Flowering Currant is a prized species for many reasons. It has not always been that way though. Considerable effort was given to eradicating this plant in the mid 20th century. It is an alternate host for the fungal disease *White Pine Blister Rust* which was devastating Western White Pine in the intermountain region. The rationale for this was that eliminating the alternate hosts could prevent the disease from affecting these valuable timber trees. It became apparent however that breeding disease resistance into White Pines was a much better long-term solution for both species. Now Western White Pine is returning to the region in a big way and Red Flowering Currant can be used as both a conservation species and an attractive ornamental. It is an important species for upland soil stabilization in restoration projects. Its rose-pink flowers in February brighten any late-winter garden.



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RED OSIER DOGWOOD

Cornus stolonifera
(syn. *Cornus sericea*)

Distribution:

Red Osier Dogwood also known as Red Twig Dogwood is found throughout Washington and the Western U.S. It grows from low valley-bottoms up to timberline.



Growth Habit:

Red Osier Dogwood is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 feet tall, and spread to 20 feet wide. Its lower branches that grow along the ground can root into the ground, often resulting in large thickets.

Adaptability:

Red Osier is usually found growing in moist soils, often along streams, lakes and swamps. It is occasionally found growing on open, upland forested sites. It tolerates shade, but prefers sun.

Comments:

Red Osier Dogwood has long been used as a restoration species, as well as an ornamental. Its dense, matting root system makes it useful in stream-side stabilization. It is also an important species for providing forage for deer, elk and moose in the winter. Certain species of birds use its berries as food, while others use the plant for nesting. It has become a popular ornamental species. The red stems provide striking winter interest, and its clusters of small white flowers are showy in spring. The clusters of white berries provide color in late summer, and the leaves turn reddish in the fall.





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SALMONBERRY
Rubus spectabilis

Distribution: Salmonberry grows from southeast Alaska to California, extending from the Pacific coast eastward into Idaho and Montana.

Growth Habit: Salmonberry is an upright deciduous shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall. It can spread by rhizomes, creating large, dense thickets.

Adaptability: Salmonberry is found growing in sites that range from wet riparian areas to dry upland sites. It grows in fully exposed, open areas, or as a shaded under-story species

Comments: Salmonberry is a good species for use as a colonizing species in highly disturbed sites. It is also a good species to use for controlling soil erosion. Its berries provide an important food source for animals ranging from small birds to bears.





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SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier alnifolia

Distribution: Serviceberry is known as a variety of common names such as Saskatoon, Shadbush and Juneberry. This is a widespread species, occurring abundantly throughout western North America at low to mid elevations.



Growth Habit: Serviceberry grows as a small deciduous tree or upright shrub. The size to which it grows varies, but typically ranges from 6 to 15 feet tall with an approximately equal spread. It often spreads by underground runners, creating large thickets.

Adaptability: Serviceberry grows in a wide range of conditions. It tolerates soils that range from moist to dry and coarse to fine. It grows on sites that vary from full sun to shade, on terrain from level to steep. It often grows best in areas with over 12 inches of annual precipitation, good drainage, and moderate exposure.

Comments: Serviceberry has many uses as a conservation species. It establishes well in disturbed sites with coarse soils. Its dense, spreading, rhizomatous root system provides good soil stabilization. It is also an excellent plant for enhancing wildlife habitat. The berries produced in late summer are a favorite food of animals including birds, rodents and bears. It also provides winter forage for many mammals, which can place young seedlings and saplings at risk. New plantings may require protection from livestock, deer, mice, voles, etc. Serviceberry is also used as an ornamental. It produces masses of fragrant white flowers in late spring. Its foliage is also quite attractive in the fall. It has historically been cultivated for berry production.





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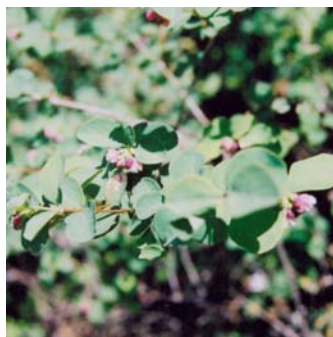
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SNOWBERRY

Symphoricarpos albus

- Distribution:** Snowberry is widely distributed throughout the state at low to mid elevations.
- Growth Habit:** Snowberry is a deciduous shrub with an upright growth habit. It can grow anywhere from 3' to 8' tall, with an approximately equal spread. They are rhizomatous and can spread by underground runners, creating thickets that can be quite large.
- Adaptability:** Snowberry is adaptable to a wide range of conditions. It grows in sun or shade, in damp, marshy sites, or rocky open upland areas. It is found growing at sea level to mid elevation forests.
- Comments:** Snowberry is readily identified by its white berries that develop in late summer and persist through winter. It is an outstanding conservation species and is adaptable to a wide range of sites, its rhizomatous root system make it a good soil stabilizer, provides wildlife habitat, and is a common riparian species. **It is important to note that the berries are considered to be poisonous.**





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Tall OREGON GRAPE

Mahania aquifolium

(syn. Berberis aquifolium)

Distribution:

Oregon Grape grows throughout Washington from sea level to the sub-alpine Cascades.

Growth Habit:

Tall Oregon Grape is a broad-leaf evergreen shrub. Its growth habit can range from 3 to 15 (occasionally) feet tall, and spreading from 4 to 12 feet wide.

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, or as a pioneering species in disturbed areas

Comments:

Oregon Grape has numerous uses as a conservation species in the state. Its berries are a favored food of many species of birds and rodents, and the young stems and leaves can serve as forage (reluctantly) for deer and elk. It is well adapted to growing in drier, exposed sites, making it suitable for many restoration projects. It develops an extensive root system in time, making it a good soil stabilizer. It should be noted however, that Oregon Grape can be slow to establish, and may require supplemental irrigation and weed control during the first growing season. Tall Oregon Grape has been used as an ornamental species for decades. It is favored for its bright yellow flower clusters in spring, the dark purple berries in late summer, and the reddish green leaf color in fall and winter. The berries have been used (when absolutely ripe) for preserves.

