



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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BIG LEAF MAPLE

Acer macrophyllum

Distribution:

Big Leaf Maple is generally found growing west of the Cascades in Washington at elevations from sea level to 1,500 feet.

Growth Habit:

Big Leaf Maple is a large deciduous tree, growing to over 80 feet tall, with a crown that can spread over 60 feet in diameter

Adaptability:

Big Leaf Maple can be found growing in a wide range of sites that range from wet to dry and sunny to shady. It grows better in full sun however. It grows well on wet, bottom-lands, or on steep, rocky slopes

Comments:

Big Leaf Maple has many uses as a conservation species. It is favored as a riparian restoration tree due to its adaptability, vigor and growth rate, and size and stature. It quickly grows above weed competition and provides shade for streams. Once established on a site, it provides diverse wildlife habitat, including forage for deer and elk, nesting for birds, and its seeds are used as food by many species of birds and animals. A mature specimen provides considerable leaf litter for the soil, and is therefore considered a '*soil-building*' species. It also has commercial value. Its wood is used in furniture and cabinet building, veneer, musical instruments and as fuel.

