



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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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. *Vaccinium ovatum* 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.