



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

**PLANT MATERIAL CENTER**

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**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.