

## Plant Data Sheet



Species (common name, Latin name)  
Cascara buckthorn, *Rhamnus purshiana*

Range  
From southern B.C. to western Montana and down to central California (Rose)

Climate, elevation  
Generally a moist-site indicator, 0 to 900m (Timmenstein) (Rose)

Local occurrence (where, how common)  
Southern Puget Sound region down to southern Washington (Pojar)

Habitat preferences  
Canyons, bottomlands, and lower mountain slopes, Prefers moist, well drained soils and quite tolerant of shade (Rose) (Leigh)

Plant strategy type/successional stage (stress-tolerator, competitor, weedy/colonizer, seral, late successional)  
Long lived invader species (Timmenstein)

Associated species  
*Abies concolor*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Acer* spp., *Gaultheria shallon*, *Berberis* spp., *Rubus nivalis* (Timmenstein)

May be collected as: (seed, layered, divisions, etc.)  
Seed and vegetative (Rose)

Collection restrictions or guidelines  
Fruit ripens from July through September. Collect fruit two weeks before it fully ripens, Separate seed by macerating with water and floating off pulp. Hardwood cuttings can be taken in September and October (Rose)

Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)  
Cold stratify at 1-5 °C for 90-115 days if planted in spring (Rose)

Recommended seed storage conditions  
Store in sealed containers at 5 °C; longevity unknown (Rose)

Propagation recommendations (plant seeds, vegetative parts, cuttings, etc.)  
Sow seed outdoors in fall; layering can be done in the early spring (Rose)

Soil or medium requirements (inoculum necessary?)  
Moist soil (Timmenstein)

Installation form (form, potential for successful outcomes, cost)  
Nursery grown seedlings work best. Seedlings under four feet tall may be salvaged (Leigh)

Recommended planting density  
Sow 2.5 cm deep with shading. Minimum density per acre=300; maximum density per acre=700 (Rose) (Vegspec)

Care requirements after installed (water weekly, water once etc.)  
Plant in full shade and in moist soil conditions; supplemental watering may be required (Timmenstein)

Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan  
Slow rate of growth, mature height=35 ft (Vegspec)

## Sources cited

Leigh, Michael. Grow Your Own Native Landscape. Native Plant Salvage Project, WSU Cooperative Extension-Thurston County. Revised ed. June 1999.

Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast-Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. B.C. Ministry of Forest and Lone Pine Publishing. 1994.

Rose, Robin, Caryn Chachulski, and Diane Haase. Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR. 1998.

Timmenstein, D. 1991. *Rhamnus purshiana*. In: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (2003, May). Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>. May 14, 2003.

VegSpec. Phil Smith, Project Manager. <http://ironwood.itc.nrcs.usda.gov/Netdynamics/Vegspec/pages/HomeVegspec.htm>, USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service. May 14, 2003.

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