



Skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton americanum*

Range

- Ø Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska (3)

Climate, elevation

- Ø Moist, mild climate; Low to middle elevations (2)

Local occurrence (where, how common)

- Ø Wooded wetlands, swamps, marshes, and wet meadows (1)

Habitat preferences

- Ø Freshwater wetlands (1)

Plant strategy type/successional stage (stress-tolerator, competitor, weedy/colonizer, seral, late successional)

- Ø Remains fairly small in exposed, high-light areas, but can grow to be quite large under canopy cover where light intensity is lower (3, 4)
- Ø Can be found everywhere from seral, wet meadow habitats, or in late-successional forest wetlands; requires soil with high water holding capacity (1, 3)
- Ø Can tolerate fluctuating water levels

Associated species

- Ø Sedges (*Carex* spp.), small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) (1)

May be collected as: (seed, layered, divisions, etc.)

- Ø Crowns (stems emerge from this central body that persists underground; this serves as a vegetative propagule that can be harvested)
- Ø Seed (4)

Collection restrictions or guidelines

- Ø Collect corms after plant has senesced for the season
- Ø Collect seeds from spadix in early fall (4)

Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)

- Ø Cold stratification (4)

Seed life (can be stored, short shelf-life, long shelf-life)

- Ø Best if planted immediately after collection

Recommended seed storage conditions

- Ø Best if planted immediately after collection

Propagation recommendations (plant seeds, vegetative parts, cuttings, etc.)

- Ø Establish crowns in containers, and divide to vegetatively propagate
- Ø Plant seeds in containers mid-winter and keep in coldframe (4)

Soil or medium requirements (inoculum necessary?)

- Ø Organic soil with high water holding capacity (4)

Installation form (form, potential for successful outcomes, cost)

- Ø Established potted crowns
- Ø Established potted seeds
- Ø Direct seeding

Recommended planting density

- Ø 36-48 in. (90-120 cm) (4)

Care requirements after installed (water weekly, water once etc.)

- Ø Soil must be kept consistently moist, do not allow soil to dry out (4)

Sources cited

1. Guard, B. Jennifer. Wetland Plants of Oregon and Washington. Lone Pine Publishing. Vancouver, B.C. 1995.
2. Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast-Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. B.C. Minisrty of Forest and Lone Pine Publishing. 1994.
3. USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). **National Plant Data Center**, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
4. <http://plantsdatabase.com/go/54099>. Dave's Garden, Inc. 2003.

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