Plant Data Sheet

Dull Oregon Grape ***Mahonia nervosa/ Berberis nervosa***

Range
Southern British Columbia to south through Washington and Oregon to central California, west of Cascade Ranges and Sierra Nevada (1)

Climate
Dry to fairly moist (2)

Elevation
Low to middle elevations, below 2000 meters (1)

Local occurrence
Common in second growth, closed canopies of Douglas Fir forests (1)

Habitat preferences
Understory dominant in montane to submontane coniferous and mixed evergreen forests in the PNW (1)

Plant strategy type/successional stage
Shade tolerant, late successional, yet, can grow in open meadows and recent clearcuts (3)

Associated species
Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), Alaska huckleberry (*Vaccinium alaskaense*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), pachistima (*Pachistima myrsinites*), western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*), Sadler oak (*Quercus sadleriana*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), deerfoot vanillaleaf (*Achyls triphylla*), Oregon oxalis (*Oxalis oregana*), and vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) (1)

May be collected as:
Seed, rhizome or stem cuttings (1) or moderate success with root cuttings (3)

Collection restrictions or guidelines
Fruit ripens during July and August, collect fruit in August to September (3)

Seed germination
Cold stratify for six weeks at 4ⁱC (3)

Vegetative regeneration

Rhizomatous and gradually expands laterally (3). Layering has also been reported (1). Plants generally sprout from rhizomes or "creeping rootstocks" after aboveground portions of the plant are destroyed (1). Vegetative regeneration appears to be the dominant mode of regeneration after fire or other disturbances (3).

Seed life
Sow immediately or medium storage time (4)

Recommended seed storage conditions
Seeds should be dried and stored in sealed containers slightly above freezing (4)

Propagation recommendations
Propagated by taking heeled, nodal and basal cuttings (3) and by seed and grafting (4)

Soil or medium requirements
Put cuttings in a 2:1 vermiculite:sand mixture in a cold frame (3)

Installation form
Container plants grown from seed or cuttings, outplant after two years (3)

Recommended planting density

Care requirements after installed

Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan
Can grow 12 in (30cm) or more in a year (5)

Sources cited

1) USDA Forest Service. http:www.fs.fed.us
2) Pojar, J. and MacKinnon, A. 1994. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Lone Pine Publishing, Redmond, WA.
3) Rose, R.; Chachulski, C. and Haase, D. 1998. Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.
4) Young, J. 1992. Seeds of Woody Plants in North America. Dioscorides Press, Portland, OR.
5) Toogood, A. 1999. Plant Propagation. American Horticultural Society. D.K. Pulblishing Inc., New York, NY.

Data compiled by: Lizbeth Seebacher, April 14, 2003

Plant Data Sheet

Species *Berberis nervosa*, Oregon grape

Range

Dwarf Oregon-grape occurs west of the Cascade Ranges and the Sierra Nevada from southern British Columbia through Washington and Oregon to central California.

Climate, elevation

Oregon-grape grows at low to mid elevations in maritime to climates with fairly long growing seasons. Some sites may experience summer drought.

Local occurrence (where, how common)

Oregon grape is a common understory dominant throughout Washington State. This shade-tolerant species can grow in a closed canopy as well as an open meadow or clearcut.

Habitat preferences

Oregon-grape occurs across a wide range of habitats in sub-montane to montane forests.

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

Facultative seral species.

Associated species

Mixed coniferous forest species such as salal (Gaultheria shallon), pachistima (Pachistima myrsinites), western swordfern (Polystichum munitum), Pacific rhododendron (Rhododendron macrophyllum).

Other common names include: None found.

May be collected as:

Seeds or vegetative parts.

Collection restrictions or guidelines
Collect the fruit in August to September and clean by macerating with water to get the flesh off.

Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)
Seed requires cold stratification for 6 weeks.

Seed life (can be stored, short shelf-life, long shelf-life)
Not specified.

Recommended seed storage conditions
Dry seeds and store in sealed containers at temperatures just above freezing.

Propagation recommendations (plant seeds, vegetative parts, cuttings, etc.)
Seed and bare root.

Soil or medium requirements (inoculum necessary?)
None specified.

Installation form (form, potential for successful outcomes, cost)
Bare root.

Recommended planting density
1200-2700/ acre.

Care requirements after installed (water weekly, water once etc.)
None specified.

Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan
Growth rate slow, vegetative spread rate moderate.

Sources cited
Drake Deanne, Kern Ewing, and Patrick Dunn, 1998. Techniques to Promote Germination of Seed from Puget Sound Prairies. Restoration & Management Notes 16:1 Summer.

http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/berner/distribution_and_occurrence.html

Pojar, Jim and Andrew MacKinnon. 1994. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast Washington, Oregon British Columbia & Alaska. BC Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 527 p.

http://plants.usda.gov/

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