

Plant Data Sheet: Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)



Range

Indian plum is found west of the Cascades. It ranges from coastal southern British Columbia through northern California ⁽¹⁾.

Climate, elevation

Indian plum is found at low elevations ⁽¹⁾. It prefers the climate typical of the Pacific Northwest coast: Mild temperatures and moderate to high rainfall during winter months, although it is drought tolerant during summer months.

Local occurrence (where, how common)

Indian plum is common west of the Cascades. Due to a preference for open areas, it is often found along roadsides and does well in disturbed areas ⁽¹⁾.

Habitat preferences

Indian plum prefers dry to moist, open woods. It is often found on stream banks and in open areas, such as roadsides ^(1,7).

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

Indian plum is a late seral, understory, forest shrub.

Associated species

Indian plum is often found growing near elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*), foamflower (*Tiarella* spp.) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) ⁽³⁾.

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

Seeds can be collected. Hardwood cuttings are also successful. This plant produces numerous suckers, which can be removed from the parent plant during the winter months and will survive on their own in favorable conditions ⁽³⁾. Plants less than 5' also salvage well ⁽⁷⁾.

Collection restrictions or guidelines

Due to its popularity with birds, seed should be collected in June as soon as it ripens. It can then be dried whole and sown in the fall ⁽⁶⁾. There are variable results from hardwood cuttings. For best results, use vigorous 1-yr old wood and take the cuttings early in winter prior to bud swell ⁽⁴⁾.

Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)

Germination of spring-sown seed is more successful if the seeds are cold stratified for four months ^(3,7). During this process, seed germination may occur. The seeds should be monitored bi-weekly and sprouted seeds removed ⁽⁷⁾.

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

Seeds can be stored and should be cleaned before storage ⁽⁷⁾. Information on seed shelf- life is not readily available.

Recommended seed storage conditions

Information on recommended seed storage conditions is not readily available.

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

Propagation from seed is successful. Vegetative propagation from cuttings and suckers is moderately successful ^(4,7).

Soil or medium requirements (inoculum necessary?)

Indian plum does not appear to have any specific soil or inoculum requirements.

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

Indian plum can be installed as container or bare root material. Rooted suckers and seeds can also be used with success.

Recommended planting density

4-6' apart ⁽²⁾.

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

Although indian plum is drought tolerant, periodic watering during establishment is necessary. Deep watering may not be necessary due to its shallow, spreading root growth ⁽⁵⁾.

Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan

Indian plum has a short longevity ⁽⁵⁾. It is fairly fast growing and may eventually may reach a height of 5-16' ⁽⁷⁾.

Sources cited

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- (4) Crowder, W. & Darris, D. Producing Pacific Northwest Native Trees and Shrubs in Hardwood Cutting Blocks or Stooling Beds. http://www.wsu.edu/pmc_nr cs/technotes/plant_materials/tntpm38.htm. Retrieved April 4, 2003.
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Data compiled by (student name and date)

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