

Plant Data Sheet

Alaskan Blueberry, *Vaccinium alaskaense*



Range
Common in the Cascade and coastal mountains from Alaska to northwest Oregon.
Common in the Pacific Northwest.
Occurs from low to subalpine elevations. Often in moister sites.
Local occurrence
Often one of the dominant shrubs in Alaskan and BC coastal forests, often growing together with *Vaccinium ovalifolium*.
Habitat preferences
Moist coniferous forests and forest openings.
Plant strategy type: successional stage.
Vaccinium *oblongifolium* can tolerate shade and can be found in late successional undisturbed forests.
Associated species

Thuja plicata, *Rosa heterophylla*, *Trapa maritima*, *Alnus crisoloba*, *Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Polystichum munitum*, *Vaccinium ovalifolium*, *Larix glauca*, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Opuntia basilaris*

May be collected as:

Seed

Collection restrictions or guidelines

Barriers open in seed to late winter

Seed germination

No information, however for *Vaccinium ovalifolium* (great leaf huckleberry) commonly associated species that hybridizes with *V. alaskaense*, "Seeds of ovalifolium huckleberry have a short dormant period and exhibit good germination when exposed to 15 days of warm temperatures followed by 15 days of chilling. Properly stored seeds exhibit good germination under a regime of 14 hours of light at 62 degrees F (28 degrees C) followed by 10 hours of darkness at temperatures averaging 55 degrees F (13 degrees C). Fresh seeds also germinate successfully under these conditions." <http://www.ars-grin.gov/hortipos/vac/alaska.html>

Seed life

Seed life of up to 12 years.

Recommended seed storage conditions

Not found

Propagation recommendations

Seed

Soil or medium requirements

Most huckleberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) require acidic conditions and can grow on infertile soils which have relatively small amounts of many essential elements.

Installation form

Seeds would be cheapest, germination rates are high and annual growth rate in good conditions is up to 10 inches per year. However for a 1 gallon 56 (source 5)

Recommended planting density

Not found

Care requirements after installed

Keep soil moist, pH low

Normal rate of growth or spread: lifespan

In good conditions annual growth can be up to 10 inches per year. Lifespan not found.

Source cited

1. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/hortipos/vac/alaska.html>

2. Blackstock, C. Lee Compton, Arthur *Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Manual*, University of Washington Press, 1987.

3. MacKenzie, Andy; Pique, Ivo *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska*, Lone Pine Publishing, 1994.

4. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/hortipos/vac/alaska.html>

5. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/hortipos/vac/alaska.html>

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