

Vaccinium oxycoccus
(bog cranberry, small cranberry, wild cranberry, swamp cranberry)



This species can be found from Alaska east to Labrador, Greenland, and Newfoundland. It can also south through New England, the northern portions of the Great Lakes States, and western Washington and Oregon.

Found in cool temperate climates. It is found in cocciferous swamps.

May be found in a bog garden, woodland, sunny edge, dappled shade, or as a ground cover.

It thrives in moist coastal and boreal forests, and requires a moist or wet soil. The soil is usually very poorly drained. In the boggy areas the soil pH is very acidic, 2.9-4.7. Where as in the fen areas the soil pH is more alkaline, 6.0-7.5.

It can be an early colonizer of secondary succession. Fire is a very important aspect. It is the first to colonize a burned bog area. The abundance increases with frequent fires. This species is shade intolerant, so mostly is related to having a coniferous overstory establish.

Associated species

Taxus canadensis, *Dryas heterophylla*, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Thuja plicata*, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides*, *Populus tremuloides*, *Populus balsamifera*, *Betula pumila*, *Betula glandulosa*, *Betula populifolia*, *Betula alleghaniensis*, *Fraxinus nigra*, *Hamamelis virginica*, *Astragalus flexuosus*, *Sorbus domestica*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, *Cornus rugelii*, *Lonicera caerulea*, *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Malus baccata*, *Malus domestica*, *Prunella americana*, *Juniperus communis*, *Pinus strobus*, *Pinus resinosa*, *Pinus rigida*, *Pinus taeda*, *Pinus milleriana*.

May be collected as: (seed, layered, divisions, etc.)
Seeds, cuttings, layering, or the division of suckers may be collected.

Fruits ripen from August to October, and may persist through the winter.

Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)
Cold stratification is necessary to break dormancy. The suggested period of cold stratification is 2-3 months. Then store seeds at 32 degrees F for 6-7 months, allowing germination to take place at 77 degrees F.

Seed life (can be stored)
No information found

Recommended seed storage conditions
No information found

Vegetative propagation is recommended.

If seeds are sown, it is recommended to have a lime-free soil mix. Mature plants like highly acidic soil, pH 2.9 - 4.7.

Seeds are the cheapest, but are very rare. Vegetative cuttings are common but are slow and difficult. Layering can take up to 18 months. Division of suckers is the easiest and best chance of success.

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The like very soggy, wet conditions, so water until established continuing to keep a boggy type soil.

Very fast establishment. It regenerates quickly from sprouts of the rhizomes. 0.1 – 1 meter in full

1.) http://www.wca-leads.ac.uk/cpi-him/cpiaf/ser_html2Vaccinium-corymbosum&CAN-LATIND

4.) <http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/shrubs/vacciniumoxy.html>

Data compiled by: Kevin Klein, 26 May 2003.