



*Myrica gale*- Sweet gale

**Range:** Circumpolar distribution. Alaska to Newfoundland, south to northwest Oregon, British Columbia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia; and in the Appalachians to Tennessee and North Carolina. (Spear Cooke 1997)

**Climate, elevation:** Mostly at low elevations. (Pojar 1994)

**Local occurrence:** Not specified.

**Habitat preferences:** Wetlands (bogs, fens, swamps, upper fringes of salt marshes, lake margins). (Pojar 1994) Full sun and wet moderately nitrogen-rich soils. It is symbiotic with a nitrogen-fixing bacterium. (Spear Cooke 1997)

**Plant strategy type/successional stage:** Small deciduous shrub, male and female flowers are born on separate plants. (Spear Cooke 1997)

**Associated species:** *Spirea douglasii*, *Carex obnupta*, and *Carex aquatilis*.

**May be collected as:** Ripe fruit (drupe). (USDA 1974)

**Collection restrictions or guidelines:** Not specified.

**Seed germination:** Remove waxy coating prior to stratification or sowing. Light is essential for the germination of this species. (USDA 1974) Germination is accelerated by 30-90 days of pre-chilling. Dewaxed fruits show some germination enhancement from gibberellin enrichment. (Young & Young 1992).

**Seed life:** Seeds may be initially viable for 9 months with waxy coating intact, or 6 months if removed. (USDA 1974)

**Recommended seed storage conditions:** Store with waxy coating intact, in dry storage at

room temperature. (USDA 1974)

Propagation recommendations: Seed germination requires cold stratification . (USDA 2004)

Soil or medium requirements: Not specified.

Installation form: Not specified.

Recommended planting density: 3500-7000 per acre. (USDA 2004)

Care requirements after installed: Not specified.

Normal rate of growth or spread: Moderate growth rate (USDA 2004)

#### Sources cited:

Pojar, J., MacKinnon, A. 1994. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Lone Pine Publishing Vancouver British Columbia.

Spear Cooke, S. 1997. *A Field Guide to the Common Wetland Plants of Western Washington & Northern Oregon*. Seattle Audubon Society. Seattle, WA.

USDA, Forest Service. 1974. *Seeds of woody plants in the United States*. U.S. Dep. Agric., Agric. Handb. 450

USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). [National Plant Data Center](#), Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Young, C., Young, J. 1992. *Seeds of woody plants in North America*. Dioscorides Press, Portland, OR.

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