

Ranunculus occidentalis Nutt. Western Buttercup



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Range: South-western North America - British Columbia to California and Nevada.

Climate, elevation: Sea level to 1800 m, Hardy to 0°C, 10-50 inches of rain, Shade tolerant, Moderate salinity tolerance, Fire adapted

Local occurrence (where, how common): Common



Habitat preferences: Vernal moist ground and grassy slopes in Wetlands, Meadows, Foothill Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest, Coastal Prairie, Red Fir Forest and Lodgepole Pine Forest

Plant strategy type/successional stage: Perennial, Mid successional until canopies close

Associated species: *Festuca romeri*, *Eriophyllum lanatum*, *Lomatium utriculatum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Agrostis capillaries*, *Viola adunca* var. *adunca*, *Luzula comosa*

May be collected as: Seed in late summer

Collection restrictions or guidelines: Unlisted

Seed germination: Sow at 18-22°C (64-71°F) for 2-4 wks, move to 5°C (23°F) for 4-6 wks, move to 5-12°C (41-53°F) for germination

Seed life: Short Viability

Recommended seed storage conditions: Cool and dry, does not store long.

Propagation recommendations: Seed - sow spring in a cold frame. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and plant them out in the summer.

Soil or medium requirements: Excellent drainage is necessary in cultivation. Need dry summers in cultivation.

Installation form: Success has been had plugging in prairies on the San Juan Islands.

Recommended planting density: Naturally not in dense patches, but does not spread colonially or rapidly from seed. Good survivorship from plugs. Dense planting is not necessary.

Care requirements after installed: Plants respond well to controlled burning. Supplemental irrigation may be necessary.

Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan: Non-rhizomatous, slowly spreads by seeds

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