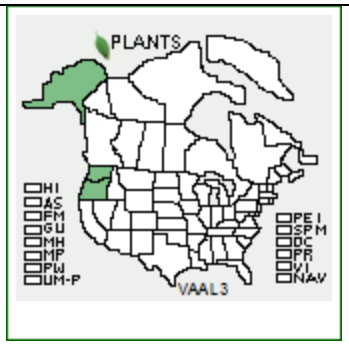
Plant Propagation Protocol for *Vaccinium alaskaense*
ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production
Protocol URL: https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/*[VAAL.pdf]*

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	*Ericaceae*
Common Name	Heath Family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	*Vaccinium alaksaense* Howell
Varieties	None
Sub-species	None
Cultivar	None
Common Synonym(s)	*Vaccinium ovalifolium*
Common Name(s)	Oval-leaf Huckleberry
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	VAAL3
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	 Courtesy of the USDA Plants Database
Ecological distribution	Naturally occurs in lowland to sub-alpine ecosystems that are fairly moist.
Climate and elevation range	Occurs from subalpine elevations down to sea-level.
Local habitat and abundance	This shrub is very dominant in Alaskan coastal forests and is commonly associated with species like *Thuja Plicata, Tsuga heterophylla, Tsuga mertensiana, Polystichum munitum* and a variety of *Abies* and *Vaccinium* species.
Plant strategy type / successional stage	This species is commonly found in late successional and old growth forests and its strategy is one of shade tolerance.
Plant characteristics	*Vaccinium alaskaense* is a deciduous shrub that is relatively long lived and is identified by the alternating, large, oval shaped leaves.

PROPAGATION DETAILS	
Ecotype	The seeds that are used in propagation usually come from the coastal moist forests of Alaska, Washington, and Northern Oregon.
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container (plug) and then outplanted to permanent position.
Stock Type	Container
Time to Grow	Grow until seedlings reach a height of 5 cm and then move to a shadier spot in the greenhouse and outplant once they have wintered in the greenhouse. This usually takes 6 to 7 weeks but must winter before being outplanted.
Target Specifications	Relatively large shrubs that are heavily fruit bearing
Propagule Collection Instructions	Collect fruits once ripened for mature seeds in early to late summer to harvest seeds.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Each fruit can contain up to 100 seeds and the seeds have a "shelf-life" of about 12 years.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Cleaning requires seed removal from fruit but apart from that not a lot of other plant material should be present after seed harvest. The seeds should be sealed and put into cold storage until ready for use. There is no extra dormancy treatments required.
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	This species should be grown in soil that has a pH between 4.5 and 6 and a soil that drains well. The pots used can be standard 4" square pots but when transplanting target size should be assessed.
Establishment Phase Details	For a healthy fruiting plant seeding should be discouraged by pruning and plucking flowers as soon as they form to allow the plants energy to be focused on growth rather than reproduction for the first year at least.
Length of Establishment Phase	A minimum of 1 year but up to 3 years for increased fruiting success.
Active Growth Phase	Not found
Length of Active Growth Phase	Not found
Hardening Phase	Unknown but it must be noted that this species needs to experience temperatures below 36 degrees Fahrenheit for at least six weeks out of the year.
Length of Hardening Phase	Not Found
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Not Found
Length of Storage	Specific length not found but the first growing season that the seedlings

	participate in must be in the greenhouse.
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Not Found
Other Comments	This species is fast growing in the wild and in regards to timber harvest a potential competitor for new timber seedlings that are introduced after a harvest occurs. It also provides food for man wildlife species and humans.
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	"Alaska Web Design." *Planting & Caring for Alaska Blueberries*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2015. <http://www.nwds-ak.com/About/Other/AlaskaBlueberryPlanting.aspx>. "Pfaf Plant Search." *Pfaf Plant Search*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2015. <http://www.pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Vaccinium%2Balaskaense>. Pojar, Jim, A. MacKinnon, and Paul B. Alaback. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska*. Redmond, WA: Lone Pine Pub., 1994. Print. "Vaccinium Alaskaense Howell." *USDA Plants Database*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2015. <http%3A%2F%2Fplants.usda.gov%2Fcore%2Fprofile%3Fsymbol%3DVAAL3>. "Vaccinium Alaskensis." *Vaccinium Alaskensis*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2015. <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/vacala/all.html>.
Other Sources	"Shrubs." *Vaccinium*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2015. <http://portlandnursery.com/plants/shrubs-vines/vaccinium.shtml>.
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