

**Plant Propagation Protocol for *Sophora leachiana***

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: <https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2025/SOLE3>

<b>TAXONOMY</b>	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Fabaceae
Common Name	Legume family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Sophora leachiana</i> M. Peck
Varieties	n.a.
Sub-species	n.a.
Cultivar	n.a.
Common Synonym	<i>Vexibia leachiana</i> (M. Peck) W.A. Weber
Common Names	western necklacepod, western sophora
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	SOLE3
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Geographical range	<p>Source: (“USDA Plants Database”) Very small range in Oregon</p>
Ecological distribution	Only found on roadsides and woodlands of the Siskiyou Mountains. (“OregonFlora”) The Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest has many streams, rivers, and meadows.

Climate and elevation range	Temperate rainforest. (“Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest”) Elevation of 330 to 2,600 feet (“Sophora Leachiana”)
Local habitat and abundance	Dry, open areas and woodlands. Commonly associated plants include Doug-fir, ponderosa pine, Pacific madrones, violets, and nightshade (“Sophora Leachiana”)
Plant strategy type / successional stage	It has stong asexual reproduction via its rhizomes. It colonizes open areas and dies once shaded out (early successional) (“FNA: Sophora Leachiana”)
Plant characteristics	Perennial herb (“Sophora Leachiana M.E.Peck   Plants of the World Online   Kew Science”), rhizomatous. Has silvery fruits, white flowers and up to 30 compound leaflets. (“FNA: Sophora Leachiana”)
<b>PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE</b>	
Ecotype	n.a.
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Vegetative
Product Type	Cuttings from parent plant (propagules)
Stock Type	Container
Time to Grow	Not stated in scientific literature
Target Specifications	Grow in the container until roots are established, but no specifics listed
Propagule Collection Instructions	Based on other species in this genus, late spring to early summer is the best time to harvest cuttings (Prop Master 2K), by cutting the plant directly or digging up some of the roots.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	This is a rare plant, occurring in very limited locations. Any disturbance of the population could be problematic. Take only minimal plant material.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Use sterilized tools to cut the plant material
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	For another species in the genus, it is suggested to use a well-draining media with fungicide covered in compost, but that pertains to propagation via seed. (“Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - the University of Texas at Austin”) The container size should be slightly larger than the roots collected or diameter of the cutting
Establishment Phase Details	Plant cutting will be established
Length of Establishment Phase	n.a.
Active Growth Phase	Not stated in scientific literature
Length of Active Growth Phase	Grows actively during the summer

Hardening Phase	Not stated in scientific literature
Length of Hardening Phase	Not stated in scientific literature
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Limit harvest to not harm the population
Length of Storage	Seed viability duration is not listed in the literature
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Allow plants to over winter in a greenhouse and expose to climate elements before planting.
Other Comments	Because this is such a small population, the most detailed information to date about propagating this species is found in a 1978 thesis, where it is mentioned that fruit set is extremely low (Crowder). In addition, seed development is low even in patches with lots of light ("OregonFlora"). Therefore, vegetative propagation may provide the most likely success.
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>	
References	See below
Other Sources Consulted	<p style="text-align: center;">"Native Plant Network — Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Resources." Rngr.net, 2025, npn.rngr.net/renderNPNProtocolDetails?s electedProtocolIds=fabaceae-sophora-241 4.</p>
Protocol Author	Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/26/25

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