



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts
PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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CHOKE CHERRY
Prunus virginiana

Distribution: Choke Cherry is widespread throughout the region at low to mid elevations. It is more commonly found east of the Cascades.

Growth Habit: Choke Cherry grows as a large heavy deciduous shrub or small tree. It can grow from 10 to 20 feet tall. It is often found growing in groups that grow together to form large irregular sprawling masses.



Adaptability: Choke Cherry grows in a wide range of habitats, from riparian areas to dry upland sites. It is most commonly found in sites that are moist and rich however. East of the Cascades, where it occurs more frequently, it is found growing in sagebrush, bunchgrass, and Ponderosa Pine ecosystems.

Comments: Choke Cherry is a good restoration and wildlife species. It grows in a wide range of sites, and its dark red *cherries* are an important food for many species of birds and mammals. The berries are also used for jams and jellies, but are considered too tart for fresh eating. Large groupings of mature plants provide a fine display of masses of white flowers in spring.



* Photos courtesy of Lincoln County Conservation District.