



WACD Plant Materials Center

KINNIKINNICK

- Common Name:** Kinnikinnick, Common Bearberry
- Scientific Name:** *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Distribution:** Kinnikinnick grows natively throughout the western U.S. at low to mid-elevations.
- Growth Habit:** Kinnikinnick is a low growing broad-leaf evergreen shrub. It grows only about 6 inches high, but its trailing, prostrate stems spread up to 15 feet wide.
- Adaptability:** Kinnikinnick will grow in many different sites proving that they are well drained with ample exposure to sun light. It is particularly well suited to dry areas. It is also tolerant of salt spray, making it a good ground cover for seaside locations.
- Comments:** Kinnikinnick has long been a favored ground cover in this region. In fact, in sunny, dry locations there are none better. True, there are a few that establish easily and grow just as well or better, such as English Ivy or Saint John's Wort, but they can be invasive. Kinnikinnick on the other hand is easily maintained within its bounds, but still spreads out to create an attractive low-growing carpet of shiny green leaves, showy red stems and eye-catching scarlet berries. It is also functional. Its roots are strong providing good soil stabilization, and the berries provide forage for wildlife.