



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

**PLANT MATERIAL CENTER**

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232

Phone (360) 757-1094 • Fax (360) 757-3923 • e-mail: pmcsales@clearwire.net

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**PONDEROSA PINE**

*Pinus ponderosa*

**Distribution:**

The native range of Ponderosa Pine extends from southern Canada to Mexico. In this region it is found primarily in forested areas of central and eastern Washington up to elevations of 4,000 feet, with a few isolated packets west of the Cascades.

**Growth Habit:**

Ponderosa Pine can grow to over 100 feet tall and the trunk can reach 3 feet in diameter.

**Adaptability:**

Ponderosa Pine is adapted to grow throughout the region. It grows in a wide range of soils, where adequate moisture and drainage is available. It is usually found in areas that receive from 14 to 30 inches of precipitation annually, with much of coming in the form of snow in the winter. It is tolerant of minimal precipitation in the summer months, although it typically survives seasonal droughts better in medium and coarser textured soils, where moisture is less tightly bound in the soil. It is generally considered intolerant of shade. Ample sunlight is important for good vigor.

**Comments:**

Ponderosa Pine is one of the most widely distributed pines in western North America. Ponderosa Pine forests provide a valuable source of timber, as well as providing important wildlife habitat. Young seedlings and saplings are at risk to damage from rodents, deer and elk, as well as trampling from livestock, therefore seedlings may require protection.

