



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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Red Huckleberry
Vaccinium parvifolium

Distribution:

Red Huckleberry is a species native to the Pacific Northwest and is also common in forests in southern Alaska to British Columbia all the way down the coast to California.



Growth Habit:

This deciduous shrub grows mostly at low elevations, from sea level up to roughly 5000 feet. Often found growing on tops of old stumps or down rotting wood. Red Huckleberry can grow to 12 feet high in or around rotting wood or soils with high organic matter. Leaves are oval to oblong and flowers are bell shaped yellowish-white to pinkish-white. Flowers produce a small edible red berry.

Uses:

Indigenous peoples found the plant and its fruit very useful. The bright red berries were often used for fish bait as they resemble salmon eggs. They also used the berries as a reliable food source throughout the year. Berries are easily dried, made into stews and jams. Leaves were smoked and branches were woven into baskets.