



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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SHORE PINE

Pinus contorta "contorta"

Distribution:

Shore Pine occurs from Alaska south, to northern California, where it is predominantly found at lower elevation and coastal environments.



Adaptability:

Shore Pine has a wide range of adaptability. It can be found from wet, low, poorly drained sites, to steep upland, rocky, dry sites. It is adapted to sites with low soil fertility. It is often the only tree species on very difficult sites. Growth and vigor improve with proper site preparation and maintenance however.

Restoration:

Shore Pine has proven to be a valuable riparian species. Its high tolerance to heavy, wet soils makes it a good species for the riparian zone. More important, it has exhibited an ability to compete with reed canary grass and other riparian invaders, particularly when planted on a close spacing. Its high level of drought tolerance also makes it a good restoration species for drier and more upland sites. It can survive the rigors of re-establishing hot, open sites, allowing more suitable conditions for other species to naturalize and establish. It often grows where Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, Willows, and Cottonwoods fall prey to field mice and voles, as well as larger foragers. Once a site is under control, in 8 to 10 years, the planting could be thinned and interplanted with Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, and other species.



Comments:

It should be noted that Shore Pine and Lodgepole Pine are closely related. They are subspecies of *Pinus contorta*. Lodgepole Pine is *Pinus contorta latifolia*, while Shore Pine is *Pinus contorta contorta*. Distribution and growth habit are the most notable differences. Shore Pine is primarily located on the coast while Lodgepole Pine located inland. Lodgepole Pine has a more symmetrical and straight growth habit than does Shore Pine. They do however share similar adaptability.

