



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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VINE MAPLE

Acer circinatum

Distribution:

Vine Maple occurs primarily west of the Cascades in Washington at elevations from sea level to 4,500 feet. It can also be found growing in pockets along the east slope of the Cascades.



Growth Habit:

Vine Maple grows as a large shrub or small deciduous tree. Its habit is highly variable, often depending upon exposure. It tends to grow long and rangy when in the shade, and more upright and compact in the sun. It can grow from 10 to 30 feet high with an equally variable spread.

Adaptability:

Vine Maple grows in a variety sites that range from sunny to shady, and wet to dry, from a moist bottom-land, to a dry rocky slope. It grows best in areas with moist soils and some shade, particularly along the east slope of the Cascades.



Comments:

Vine Maple is an important conservation species for a variety of reasons. It is adapted to a wide range of sites. It can be used as a pioneering species on open, disturbed sites, or as an understory species growing along pre-existing woodland. It is a common component of riparian zones throughout the region.



Once established, its roots are effective soil stabilizers. It has numerous uses in wildlife habitat restoration. Its seeds are an important food source for many species of birds, squirrels, and rodents. Deer and elk browse on its leaves and stems too. Vine Maple is also used as an ornamental species. The autumn leaf color can be quite vivid, particularly when grown in the sun.