

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232

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Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)

Distribution

Pacific Dogwood occurs throughout western Washington from sea level to 1,500 feet.

Growth Habit

It is an upright deciduous tree that can grow over 60 feet tall (although rarely). Its beautiful flowers have six soft white petals that produce bright red seed clusters.

Adaptability

Pacific Dogwood is best adapted for growing on sites with moist, well-drained soils, and areas that range from sunny to shady. It will grow on a variety of soil-types, from silts to gravel's, and even upland clay, providing adequate soil moisture is present. It will tolerate some seasonal flooding.

Comments

- Pacific Dogwood has been in decline in this region in recent years. Significant reductions in habitat for the species have been compounded by the introduction of a fungal disease (anthracnose) that has decimated some populations. Failure to reestablish this species would be a significant loss for this region. Attempting to reestablish it will require significant care however, and failure to follow through with appropriate care will most likely result in a high mortality rate and lost time and resources.
- Its presence in the riparian zone offers a source of food (berries) and shelter for many species of birds and mammals.
- It is considered the most attractive flowering tree in western Washington. From April until June, it produces large showy white bracts (flowers).

