

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232

(360) 757-1094

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)

Distribution

Vine Maple occurs primarily west of the Cascades in 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

It grows as a large shrub or small deciduous tree. It has a highly variable growth habit 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..

Comments

- 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.
- Its seeds are an important food source for many species of birds, squirrels, and rodents. Deer and elk browse on its leaves and stems.
- Vine Maple is also used as an ornamental species. The autumn leaf color can be quite vivid, particularly when grown in the sun.

