

St. Maries Germplasm Mockorange

Scientific Name: *Philadelphus lewisii* Pursh.

Common Name: Mockorange

Selected by: Pullman Plant Materials Center

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): E-43, E-44 and B-9

St. Maries Germplasm mockorange is a deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing at a site near St. Maries, ID 4.4 mi. south of the Hwy 5 junction on Hwy 3. The site was flat, with 32 inches average annual precipitation at 2670 ft. elevation. Mature plant height is 6.6 feet at Pullman, WA. Leaves are opposite, light green, toothed with a distinctive arrangement of three main veins. Fruit is a capsule which dries and opens to disperse small seeds ranging from 3.5 to 8 million per pound. Flowers are white, showy and fragrant.

St. Maries Germplasm achieved a height of 4.9 ft. in 6 years and reached its eventual mature height of 6.6 ft. in 8 years at Pullman, WA. Mockorange grows throughout Washington, Oregon and Idaho at a variety of elevations from near sea level to 7000 ft. in the eastern Cascade mountains of Washington and Oregon. It is the Idaho state flower and grows throughout Idaho except the extreme eastern part, the Snake River plains and the southern edge of the state. It grows on a variety of sites but principally occurs on or near canyon bottoms or in other moist moderately shaded or open situations. It grows also in clefts on dry, rocky hillsides.

Mean effective precipitation: 14 inches

Its intended uses include riparian area restoration in the capillary and upland areas, wildlife habitat improvement, and native landscaping. Other uses include shelterbelts and roadside beautification. Its primary intended area of use includes MLRA E-43 with secondary use areas in MLRA E-44 and B-9.

St. Maries Germplasm can be propagated via seed and softwood cuttings rooted in mist with bottom heat. Hardwood cuttings are also reported to be another propagation method.

For additional information, contact: Plant Materials Center, NRCS, 104 Hulbert Hall, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164 or Plant Resource Specialist, NRCS, 127 Johnson Hall, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164; or your local NRCS field office.

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