

THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF "TESTED" RELEASE OF Blanchard origin ^{CV}
BLUE ELDERBERRY, *Sambucus cerulea* Raf.

Blanchard blue elderberry, *Sambucus cerulea* Raf. is a seed propagated native shrub recommended for riparian zone revegetation and erosion control. Secondary uses include wildlife upland habitat and food, north slope vegetation (eyebrows) in the Palouse region and native revegetation of disturbed areas.

Blanchard is being released as a "tested" class native shrub under the guidelines of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA), Blanchard is not a cultivar name but rather a designation indicating the origin of the genetic material.

Origin: Blanchard originated as seed collected in 1981 from native plants near Blanchard, Idaho. The collection site was on Bonner gravelly silt loam, 0% slope, at an elevation of 2560 ft. (780 m). Precipitation for the site is 30 in. (762 mm) annually. USDA plant hardiness zone is 5 b.

Description: Blanchard is a large perennial, multi-stemmed shrub, growing to 15 ft. (4.5 m) and a 15 ft. canopy width after 10 growing seasons at Pullman, Washington. Stems exhibit a large pith area. Leaves are opposite, pinnately compound with usually 5 - 9 serrate leaflets.

Flowers are perfect, regular, white to whitish-yellow and 5/32 - 1/4 in. (4 - 6 mm) across with parts in fives. Flowers occur as compound, flat-topped cymes, 1.5 - 8.0 in. (4-20 cm.) wide at anthesis.

Fruit is 5/32 - 1/4 in. (4 - 6 mm) in diameter, bluish-black with a waxy bloom, thus appearing pale powdery blue. Fruit is berrylike, juicy with 3 - 5 small stone-like seeds.

Plants coppice freely, with numerous canes growing from the plant base. Canes of well-established plants may achieve a height of 8 - 10 ft. (2.4 - 3 m) in a single growing season.

performance: Blanchard has been evaluated since 1983 at Pullman, Washington. The 1983 initial evaluation planting contained 141 accessions. Blanchard was selected for excellent survival, vigor, stem abundance, foliage abundance, cold and drought resistance and overall consistent excellent performance.

Blanchard consistently ranked #1 or #2 and #1 overall in 3 years of data in an advanced replicated planting for height, canopy width, stem abundance, fruit abundance and foliage abundance, when compared to 2 other top accessions at Pullman, Washington.

Average spring recovery for Blanchard begins April 3, bloom date is June 15, fruit matures August 26 and plants are dormant October 22 at Pullman Washington.

Areas of Adaptation: The species Blue elderberry is adapted to soils ranging from clay to sand. It can be found at elevations below 1000 ft. (300 m) and at higher elevations above 5000 ft. (1500 m). Precipitation of adapted sites ranges from 10 - 30 in. (25 - 75 cm) or more. Its geographic range includes the northern intermountain region and northern Rocky Mountains.

Blanchard is potentially adapted to the above areas.

Materials Distribution: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington, will provide limited amounts of breeder seed to interested parties for increase purposes.

The NRCS has given due consideration the National Environmental Policy Act in the release of this plant for commercial use.

Individuals who have concerns for native plant restoration in a particular environment/ecosystem may need to address those concerns on a case by case basis. NRCS makes no claims concerning the suitability of this plant in native plant restoration efforts.

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