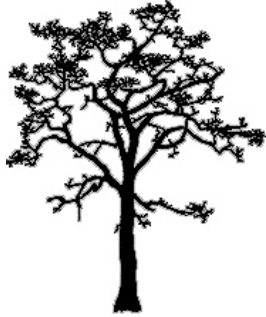


Pacific dogwood (Gp) - *Cornus nuttallii*

Tree Species > Pacific dogwood



Page Index

Distribution
Range and Amplitudes
Tolerances and Damaging
Agents
Silvical Characteristics
Genetics and Notes

BC Distribution of Pacific dogwood (Gp)

Range of Pacific dogwood



A stylized dogwood flower is BC's emblem

Geographic Range and Ecological Amplitudes

Description

Pacific dogwood is a small- to medium-sized (<25 m tall), deciduous broad-leaved tree, at maturity with a narrow short crown, many horizontally spreading branches, straight, slightly tapered stem, and thin, light gray bark, becoming finely ridged with age. Pacific dogwood is not grown for timber production; its wood collection is prohibited by law in B.C.

Geographic Range

Geographic element:

Western North American/mainly Pacific and less Cordilleran

Distribution in Western North America:

central and south in the Pacific region; central and south in the Cordilleran region

Ecological Amplitudes

Climatic amplitude:

cool and warm temperate - cool and warm mesothermal

Orographic amplitude:

submontane - (montane)

Occurrence in biogeoclimatic zones:

(subcontinental IDF), CDF, (southern CWH)

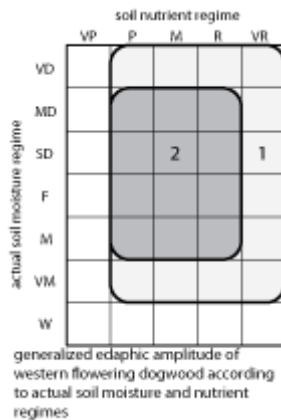
Edaphic Amplitude

Range of soil moisture regimes:

(very dry) - moderately dry - slightly dry - fresh - moist - (very moist)

Range of soil nutrient regimes:

poor - medium - rich - (very rich)



Tolerance and Damaging Agents

Root System Characteristics

Pacific dogwood has a deep root system, occasionally with a taproot.

Tolerances

tolerance to	tolerance class	comments
low light	M	seedlings and saplings are frequent in semi-open canopy stands
frost	L	not a concern in cool mesothermal climates
heat	M	frequent on insolated colluvial slopes
water deficit	M	frequent water-deficient sites
water surplus	M	tolerates short-term flooding
nutrient (mainly N) deficiency	M	absent in acid, very poor soils

Associated tree species and successional role

In British Columbia, Pacific dogwood grows scattered in early and intermediate stages of secondary succession, usually mixed with softwoods or hardwoods on disturbed, colluvial sites. It may be a pioneer species in primary succession on fragmental and skeletal slopes, and is often present but never abundant in second-growth stands.

Silvical Characteristics

characteristic	interpretive class	comments
reproduction capacity	H	seed-producing after an age of 15 years
seed dissemination capacity	H	mainly by birds and animals
potential for natural	L	higher, providing the presence of

regeneration in low light		exposed mineral soil
Potential for natural regeneration in the open	H	providing the presence of exposed mineral soil
potential initial growth rate (<5 years)	M	varies with site quality
response of advance regeneration to release	na	advance regeneration does not develop in the absence of adequate light and seedbeds
self-pruning capacity in dense stands	na	dense stands are non-existent
crown spatial requirements	H	wide crowns
light conditions beneath closed-canopy, mature stands	na	closed canopy stands are non-existent
potential productivity	na	non-crop species
longevity	L	occasionally >100 years

Genetics and Notes

Notes

Pacific dogwood has a high aesthetic value because of its floral bracts. The blossom of Pacific dogwood is the floral emblem of British Columbia, though officially it is depicted with five bracts, which it very rarely has! Occasionally, it will bloom twice a year, in spring and early fall, the latter never coming to fruit.