



## Oval-leaved Blueberry



### Identification

*Vaccinium ovalifolium* (Oval-leaved Blueberry) grows up to six feet tall with pink, urn-shaped pendant flowers appearing before or with oval shaped leaves. Young twigs are reddish brown and angled. Berries are bluish-black with a bluish, powdery coating (bloom) and ripen in mid-summer, generally before other *Vaccinium* species (Pojar 1994).

### Habitat

Oval-leaved Blueberry grows in the coniferous forests and bogs along the British Columbia coast and throughout Alaska (Pojar 1994).



### Uses

The berries traditionally are eaten fresh, cooked, canned, frozen, dried into cakes or preserved with grease or fish oil (Moerman 1999).

### Propagation

Twenty-seven softwood cuttings with flexible stems were locally taken in June 2005 and re-cut to six-inch lengths with leaves on the lower halves removed. Cuttings were treated with Hormodin 2 IBA (0.3% indole-3-butyric acid) powder, stuck in a media of two parts peat moss to one part sand, covered with plastic film and placed in a hotbed for 12 weeks. Roots developed slowly but 24 cuttings (89%) survived the growing season.



Berries were collected locally in late summer 2004 and the seeds extracted and cleaned. Seeds were placed in a stratification media of two parts peat moss and one part sand and treated to 15 days of warm moist conditions followed by 15 days of cool moist conditions. One teaspoon of the stratified seed/media mix was placed on a germination media of two parts peat moss to one part sand. Trays were covered with plastic film until germination and then placed in a hotbed until seedlings emerged.

- 128 seedlings were transplanted into 1-inch plugs and 110 seedlings (86%) survived.
- 144 seedlings were transplanted into 2-inch plugs and 142 seedlings (99%) survived.

Based on these results propagation using either softwood cuttings or seeds are recommended.

## 2005 Trials (Macdonald 2002;Wei)

**Plant Material:** 27 cuttings of current year's growth were collected on 6/7/05 from Gavin Hill subdivision, Sitka, when stems were still slightly flexible.

**Preparation:** recut to 6 inches with angled base just below a node. Removed lower leaves halfway up stems.

**Rooting unit:** plastic bin 21- x 16.75- x 6-inches deep with drainage holes and plastic covering.

**Rooting Hormone:** Hormodin 2 IBA (0.3% indole-3-butyric acid) powder.

**Media:** 2:1 peat: sand.

**Maintenance:** hotbed eight weeks with plastic film covering. After roots began to form, removed film and treated cuttings with transplant solution to encourage rooting.

**Potting Unit:** cuttings remain in rooting bin due to slow root development.

**Survival:** 24 cuttings had live buds.

## 2005 Trials (Crossley 1974;Tirmentein 1990)

**Plant Material:** Seed. **Collection Date/ Location:** 2004, Sitka, Gavin Hill subdivision, Sitka.

**Stratification:** warm moist 15 days/cold moist 15 days in 2:1 peat:sand media.

**Unit/number:** 2-inch square cells.

**Sowing Date:** 3/22/05.

**Media:** 2:1 peat: sand.

**Fertilizer:** none.

**Sowing method:** 1 tsp stratified media/seed mix per cell. Tray covered with plastic film until seeds broke surface.

**Maintenance:** maintained in hotbed until seeds established.

**Transplant media:** 2:1 peat: sand. Transplant unit: 128 seedlings in 1-inch plugs; 144 in 2-inch plugs. Transplant solution applied at time of transplanting, plus 1 application Peters' 10-15-10 after one month

**Survival:** 1-inch plugs, 110; 2-inch plugs, 142.

## References:

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