

# ST. MARIES GERMPLASM LEWIS MOCKORANGE

**Scientific Name:** *Philadelphus lewisii Pursh.*

**Common Name:** Lewis mockorange

**Release Name:** St. Maries Germplasm

**Selected By:** Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

**Release Cooperators:** USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Release Date:** 2002, Public Release

**COLD HARDINESS ZONE (USDA, 1990):** 5a,5b,6a and 6b.

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**ORIGIN:** St. Maries Germplasm mockorange is a deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing at a site near St. Maries, ID 4.4 miles south of the Highway 5 junction on Highway 3. The site was flat, with 32 inches average annual precipitation at 2670 feet elevation.

**DESCRIPTION:** 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, reaching its eventual mature height of 6.6 feet 8 years at Pullman, WA. It produced seed in the third growing season.

**DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS:** No particular problems were noted with disease or pests during evaluations at Pullman, WA.

**SEED PRODUCTION:** St. Maries Germplasm mockorange can be propagated via seed and softwood cuttings rooted in mist with bottom heat. Hardwood cuttings are also reported to be another propagation method. Seed will be available in limited quantities for increase to growers and nurseries from the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

**SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:** 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. Minimum recommended precipitation is 14 inches.

**CONSERVATION USES:** 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 Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) E-43 (Northern Rocky Mountains) with secondary use areas in MLRA E-44 (Northern Rocky Mountain Valleys) and MLRA B-9 (Palouse and Nez Perce Prairies).

**AVAILABILITY:** For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email [crowder@wsu.edu](mailto:crowder@wsu.edu).