

OKANOGAN SELECTION COMMON SNOWBERRY

Scientific Name: *Symphoricarpos albus* (L.) Blake

Common Name: Common Snowberry

Release Name: Okanogan selection

Release Type: selected

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Release Date: 1997, Public Release

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

ORIGIN: Okanogan selection is a rhizomatous deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing near Tonasket, Okanogan County, Washington.

DESCRIPTION: Okanogan is a shrub up to 4.5 feet tall and 4 feet in canopy width. Plants are upright and stems tend to be stiff rather than lax and drooping. New shoots are produced from rhizomes in the year following planting under favorable conditions. The flowers are bell-shaped and pinkish-white, the fruit is a white drupe. Leaves are opposite. This selection is from a single clone chosen from 40 original accessions assembled and tested at the Pullman Plant Materials Center. It exhibits a very dense canopy and stem abundance compared to other plants evaluated.

SEED PRODUCTION: The preferred method of propagation is by leafy softwood cuttings, although hardwood cuttings and rhizome divisions will provide fair numbers of plants. The Okanogan selection has not been propagated with seed. Okanogan selection will be made available to growers and researchers in limited quantities as supplies are available.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Common snowberry requires at least 16 inches of annual precipitation. It occurs from sea level to 8000 feet in elevation on deep loamy soils but also grows in moderately shallow, sandy and gravelly soils. It has a widespread native range from the Alaska panhandle to Quebec, south to California, central Idaho, Nebraska and Virginia. It occurs in thickets, woodlands, and open slopes from lowlands to mid-mountain areas, but not in extreme shade.

CONSERVATION USES: Potential uses are for wildlife habitat plantings, erosion control along roadways and hillsides and for plant diversity when used as an understory plant with other shrubs and trees.

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.