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48. © Propagation of *Vaccinium membranaceum* and *V. myrtilloides* by seeds, hardwood stem, and rhizome cutting methods. McKechnie, I. M., Burton, P. J., and Massicotte, H. B. *Native Plants Journal* 13(3):223-234. 2012.



Figure 1. Fruit of *Vaccinium myrtilloides*. Photo by Tara Luna

ABSTRACT

Propagation trials were completed using seeds, hardwood stem cuttings, and rhizome cuttings from black huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum* Douglas ex Torr. [Ericaceae]) and velvet-leaf blueberry (*V. myrtilloides* Michx. [Ericaceae]) growing in central British Columbia, Canada. Seed germination success rates for *V. membranaceum* were 26.0% in 2006, 4.7% in 2007, and 66.0% in 2008, compared with 14.7% in 2006, 13.0% in 2007, and 28.5% in 2008 for *V. myrtilloides*. Germination rates for seeds sown directly after extraction from fresh berries were similar to those that had been air-dried for 48 h, and those stored for 1 y. Germination rates did vary significantly between *Vaccinium* species and among different years. Hardwood stem cuttings of both *V. membranaceum* and *V. myrtilloides*, taken in February, had low rooting rates (2.5%). Rooting hormone formulation, rooting substrate, and bottom heat failed to influence rooting success. Rhizome cuttings of *V. myrtilloides* had an 85% success rate, compared to 70% for *V. membranaceum*. Bottom heat significantly reduced the success rate of rhizome cuttings, whereas rooting substrate had no significant influ-

PROPAGATION OF *Vaccinium membranaceum* and *V. myrtilloides*

BY SEEDS, HARDWOOD STEM,
AND RHIZOME CUTTING METHODS

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ence. Mass production of either *V. membranaceum* or *V. myrtilloides* plants was easiest by using seedlings grown from seeds; however, if clonal plants are desired (or a short production time required), rhizome cuttings might be the best option, rather than hardwood stem cuttings.

McKechnie IM, Burton PJ, Massicotte HB. 2012. Propagation of *Vaccinium membranaceum* and *V. myrtilloides* by seeds, hardwood stem, and rhizome cutting methods. *Native Plants Journal* 13(3):223–234.

KEY WORDS

velvet-leaf blueberry, black huckleberry, seed storage, growth substrate, rooting hormones, Ericaceae

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2012)

CONVERSIONS

1 cm = 0.4 in

°F = (°C × (9/5)) + 32