UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF A SELECTION OF COMMON SNOWBERRY (*Symphoricarpos albus* L. Blake) FROM OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the release of a selected ecotype of common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*).

As a "selected" release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as "the Okanogan selection" of common snowberry to document its original collection location.

Species: *Symphoricarpos albus*
Common Name: common snowberry
Plant Symbol: SYAL
Accession Numbers: T20475, 9020475

Origin: From native plants near Tonasket, Okanogan County, Washington, at 2200 feet, Major Land Resource Area B-8.

Description: 9020475 is a deciduous shrub up to 4.5 feet in height and 4 feet in width. It produces numerous stems, leaves and fruit. New shoots are produced from rhizomes in the year following planting under favorable conditions. Plants are upright and stems tend to be stiff rather than lax and drooping.

9020475 is a single clone chosen from 20 original plants.

It was selected from a Pullman Plant Materials Center study of 40 common snowberry accessions, 38 of which survived beyond the establishment year. The common snowberry study was evaluated from 1977 to 1990. 9020475 was rated excellent in vigor and rhizome production, and very good in fruit production, foliage and stem abundance.

Propagation: 9020475 has been propagated by leafy softwood cuttings and hardwood cuttings. Seed propagation has not been evaluated with this selection. Softwood propagation is the preferred method of plant increase. Root cuttings are not recommended.

Common snowberry produces seed during the second year of growth. The fruit is a white drupe, up to 1.5 cm in diameter. Seed is scarified and sown in spring or early summer, and will germinate in one year.

Areas of Adaptation: Common snowberry's natural habitat is at elevations from sea level to 8000 feet on sites with at least 16 inches of annual precipitation. Its native range is 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-montane areas, but not in extreme shade. Deep loamy soils are preferred but it has been found on moderately shallow and gravelly soils, and also on sandy soils in coastal areas of Washington.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of 9020475 are for wildlife habitat, erosion control along roadways and hillsides and for plant diversity in natural landscapes. It is low-growing and rhizomatous, making it an excellent shrub for site stabilization and diversity when used as an understory plant with other shrubs and trees. Conservation practices that may use common snowberry plantings include Critical Area Planting, Filter Strip, Upland Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Forest Buffer.

Maintenance of 9020475: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington will maintain the genetic material and provide to nurseries and plant researchers limited stock of rooted parent plants for further softwood increase.

Signature page for Release of a selection of common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) from Okanogan County, Washington.

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