

Airelle à petites feuilles

Huckleberry – red (*Vaccinium parviflorum*)

Airelle à petites feuilles

<https://www.coastsalishplantnursery.org/product/huckleberry-red-vaccinium-parviflorum-/189>



Description



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Red huckleberry has delicate foliage with attractive branching patterns; in fall, the leaves turn reddish-orange, standing out from their bright green branches. The plant is often found growing from rotting stumps alongside salal.

Uses by People & Cultural Significance

The berries are edible and tasty, though less prolific than other huckleberries. Though commonly eaten—either fresh, dried, cooked into jams, or baked into cakes—the berries are also used as fish bait in streams, since they resemble salmon eggs.

Blooms & fruits

Small, urn-shaped flowers of white to pink bloom from March through June, followed by bright red berries ripening from July to August.

Wildlife value

The flowers attract native bees, and the fruit is eaten by various birds, including pigeons, towhees, and grouse, as well as a wide range of mammals, including mountain beavers, bears, skunks, and racoons. Deer, elk, and mountain goats browse the twigs and foliage. Red huckleberry is a suspected larval host for sierra sulphur and green comma butterflies, as well as white-lined sphinx and polyphemus moths.

