

Airelle ovale

Huckleberry – evergreen (*Vaccinium ovatum*)

Airelle ovale

<https://www.coastsalishplantnursery.org/product/huckleberry-evergreen-vaccinium-ovatum-/155>



Description

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Evergreen huckleberry is graceful and multi-branched with a neat habit. The leaves are irregularly toothed, oval, and shiny with a pale underside, and new foliage is bronze-coloured. Evergreen huckleberry is typical of second growth forests, especially near edges and openings.

Uses by People & Cultural Significance

The berries are sweet and edible; a staple food eaten fresh, often with oil, though they can also be sun or smoke dried before being added into cakes. The fruits are sweeter if harvested after the first frost.



Blooms & fruits

White to pink urn-shaped flowers bloom from April to May. The blue-black berries, which look similar to blueberries, are most commonly found from August to September, but may stay on the branch until December.

Wildlife value

This evergreen shrub provides year-round food and shelter for smaller wildlife, including mice and chipmunks. The flowers attract pollinators, especially native bees, and the berries are eaten by wildlife such as bears, deer, and grouse. Evergreen huckleberry is a larval host for orange tortrix, *Cameraria nemoris*, and *Lotisma trigonana* moths.

