

Symphorine blanche

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus*)

Symphorine blanche

<https://www.coastsalishplantnursery.org/product/snowberry-symphoricarpus-albus-/156>



Description

skw̥wú7mesh sníchim: ts'ex^wts'x^wáy'

Snowberry's thin, wiry twigs are hollow and hold light green, oval leaves with toothed margins; the leaves may have hair on their undersides. The shrub is often used in landscape gardens for its globe shape and ornamental quality.

Uses by People & Cultural Significance

The roots and twigs can be steeped into a tea to treat stomach problems and fever, and the berries can be crushed and used topically on the skin to treat warts, burns, and sores, or can be rubbed into hair and used as shampoo. However, it's important to note the berries are high in saponins, a chemical toxic to humans and some animals, and therefore are not consumed.

Blooms & fruits

Tiny, bell-shaped, pinkish-white flowers bloom from July to September, followed by clusters of small, white berries appearing in late summer and lasting until late winter. Snowberry's seeds ripen from September to November.

Wildlife value

The flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds; the berries are an important food for bears, grouse, deer, and antelope, as well as a number of species of birds, including robins, thrushes, and grosbeaks. The foliage acts as cover for small mammals. Snowberry is a larval host for a number of butterfly and moth species, including variable checkerspot and snowberry checkerspot butterflies, as well as elegant sphinx, Vashti sphinx, and orange tortrix moths.