Family Scientific Name: Polygonaceae
Family Common Name: Knotweed
   Scientific Name: Eriogonum marifolium Torr. & Gray
   Common Name: wild buckwheat; marumleaf buckwheat
   Species Code: ERMA4
   Ecotype: Crater Lake National Park, open dry meadows, 6,500 to 7,000 ft elevation.
   General Distribution: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada; gravelly flats in lodgepole and ponderosa forest to alpine talus and ridges up to 9,000 ft elevation.

Propagation Goal: Plants
Propagation Method: Seed
   Product Type: Container (plug)
   Stock Type: 10
   Time To Grow: 5 Months

Target Specifications: Well-branched fibrous roots should fill the “cone-container”; sturdy, well-branched crown growth.

Propagule Collection: Seed easily collected and fairly abundant in most years; hand-collected into paper sacks by pinching off the dry seed heads.

Propagule Processing: Relatively large seed is easily screened by hand or office clipper (air screen machine) to remove chaff with 1/16th screen, medium-low air flow.

Pre-Planting Treatments: 16 weeks of cold-moist stratification in a walk-in cooler.

Growing Area Preparation/ Seeds were sown into standard 10 inch “cone-
Annual Practices for Perennial Crops: containers” filled with Fisons' Sunshine #3 seedling starter; surface-sown seed covered with a fine layer of vermiculite; watered in and then covered with polyethylene sheeting and placed in a walk-in cooler at about 36°F for 16 weeks. We used 47 grams of seed for 1800 cones; these later had to be thinned and we would recommend about half that amount of seed in future seedings.

Establishment Phase: Cones with stratified seed were moved to a warm sunny greenhouse at 70°F + degrees day / 55°F night in April and watered lightly with mist nozzle until established.

Length of Establishment Phase: Robust seedlings emerged fairly quickly; germination was complete within a month.

Active Growth Phase: Plants watered early in the morning to minimize dampness overnight; fertilized lightly every other week with half-strength Peters’ Triple-20 NPK.

Length of Active Growth Phase: May to July

Hardening Phase: Cones moved outdoors in June; fertilization discontinued in July; watering intervals gradually lengthened as roots developed.

Length of Hardening Phase: 4 weeks

Harvesting, Storage and Shipping: Plants were shipped in August of the same year by refrigerated van to Crater Lake for outplanting in September.

Length of Storage: unknown

Outplanting performance on typical sites: Roots could be pruned in areas where soil depth is a problem; crowns must be carefully placed at soil level.

Other Comments: Shorter "stubby" cones could probably be used to produce these seedlings also and would make planting easier in shallow soil areas.

The use of manufacturer and trade names in this document is for clarification only. No discrimination is intended and no endorsement is given by the USDA NRCS.


Citation: