Native Plant of the Month

Evergreen Huckleberry
Vaccinium ovatum

• All huckleberries and blueberries are *Vaccinium* species, along with cranberries. Over a dozen species of huckleberries and blueberries are native to this region.
• Its common name describes its evergreen leaves and fruit.
• Evergreen huckleberry produces clusters of deep blue berries late in the summer that persist well into winter, providing important food for small birds and other animals.
• Native people consider these berries worth traveling far to gather and still value them today as “winter berries.”

Landscape Value

This valued landscape plant is widely used for its tidy evergreen compact form, and year-round attraction. Evergreen huckleberry performs best in partial shade where it will reach 5-6’ in height, though it will tolerate a sunny location where it grows more slowly to 4-5’ tall.

Plant as a hedge or low border, or mix with other woodland or perennial border plants to provide evergreen form.

In spring, this plant will send out new, coppery red growth, and clusters of pink bell-shaped flowers. In fall it will be covered with attractive, blue fruit. Evergreen huckleberry is a must-have in the native plant garden.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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