

## Rocky Mountain Juniper *Juniperus scopulorum*

**Distribution:** The native range of Rocky Mountain Juniper generally follows the Rocky Mountains. There are isolated pockets of native stands dispersed through the eastern half of Washington.

**Growth:** Rocky Mountain Juniper is considered a *tree-like* Juniper species. It is quite bushy in its growth habit. Some of the largest specimens known have grown over 30' tall and spread 6 to 8' wide.

**Adaptability:** Rocky Mountain Juniper is one of the hardier, drought-tolerant conifers around. They generally grow best in areas that receive at least 12" of precipitation annually. They need sun and well-drained soils to thrive

**Comments:** Rocky Mountain Juniper is used in a variety of conservation practices. It is favored for upland soil stabilization on harsh sites due to its hardiness and extensive, fibrous root system. The berries that Rocky Mountain Juniper produces in late summer and fall are an important food source for many species of birds and mammals. The wood is very attractive and decay resistant. It is also a fine ornamental species and is often used as a specimen plant or planted in groupings to provide screening.

