



Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley

Cnidium cnidiifolium

Selected Class Release “Natural”

Uses: Revegetation
in Southcentral, Interior, and Northern Alaska

Growth

Jakutsk snowparsley is a colonizer. In Alaska it is found in meadows and fields, in both wet and dry areas. It grows on soil and gravel.

It blooms from late June to mid-August. The flower is an umbel. This means that it looks somewhat like an umbrella. *Cnidium cnidiifolium* has finely divided leaves which, in outline, look triangular (Hultén, 1968).

Cnidium is in the parsley family—the Apiaceae. Other plants in the parsley family are carrots and queen anne’s lace.



Map from Hultén, 1968.
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.

Distribution

Cnidium cnidiifolium is found wild in Alaska in meadows, on hillsides, and along riverbanks. “Broadleaf woodlands on steep river bluffs” identifies its special niche (Murphy, 2004). It is found in the Yukon and Russia.

What’s in a name?

Jakutsk (Yakutsk) is located in Siberia. As the capital of Sakha Republic, Russia, it is one of the coldest cities in the world. Jakutsk is built entirely on permafrost (Wikipedia, 2005).

The reason this plant is called “Jakutsk snowparsley” is that the first botanist described its distribution as being between Jakutsk and the Aldan River in Siberia (Hultén, 1968).

The “snow” and the “parsley” describes its growth in the summer in places that have lots of snow and that it is in the parsley family of plants.

**Tok Germplasm
Jakutsk snowparsley seed
is maintained by the
Alaska Plant Materials Center
for commercial production.**

Tok Germplasm

Jakutsk snowparsley

Plant Identification Number: 9097725

Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley was collected by Stoney Wright near Tok, Alaska, in 1995 (Wright, 2005).

This native herb is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC and continues to preserve its excellent performance.

This herb is recommended for use in revegetation because it adds beauty and variety to the revegetation project.



July 17, 2007



Alaska Plant Materials Center
Serving Alaska’s needs in production of Alaska native plants

Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley

Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Jakutsk snowparsley is designated a prime species for restoration (Seeds of Success, 2005). Tok Germplasm breeds true from Alaskan-collected seed. In the wild it is a colonizer and thus, for revegetation projects, it is a good candidate for a portion of the seed mixes for most soil types.

It grows well on gravel and is highly adapted to tundra, taiga, and arctic conditions (USDA, 2000).

Including this plant in the mix for revegetation projects is a step towards adding wildlife habitat—especially for the swallowtail butterfly. The Alaskan swallowtail butterfly uses *Cnidium cnidiifolium* as a host plant (Murphy, 2004). This means that the butterfly will selectively lay its eggs on snowparsley. Animals that eat swallowtail caterpillars will then be attracted to this revegetation project for food.



Cnidium cnidiifolium seed.
~291,142 seeds per pound

To Produce Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding for a depth of ~1/2 inch is recommended.

Seedling vigor is variable, depending on the conditions. It may also be grown from transplants. It grows best with irrigation, cultivation of weeds, and fertilization.



Tok Germplasm Jakutsk snowparsley
in production at the
Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.



References

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