

## ***Holodiscus discolor*, Ocean spray**

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### **General Botanical Characteristics**

*Holodiscus discolor* is a deciduous shrub up to 3m - 4m high. Its leaves are alternate, ovate, dull green, coarsely toothed to shallowly lobed, and slightly hairy on the upper surface. The flowers are attached to large terminal panicles that may reach up to 12 inches (30 cm) in length.



### **Seasonal Development**

Ocean spray's buds appear in early spring and it flowers in June or July. The flowers turn brown and remain drooping from the plant over winter. The seeds ripen in October. Flowers are scented and hermaphroditic (have both male and female organs) and are pollinated by insects.

### **Distribution/Habitat**

Ocean spray is native to the United States. It occurs from British Columbia south to California, from the west side of the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Coast, east to northeastern Oregon, in northern Idaho, and eastern and western Montana. It is dominant or subdominant throughout the Pacific Northwest. It grows in woodlands, sunny edges, dappled shade, and at low to middle elevations. It requires moist soil.

### **Interesting Facts**

- An infusion from the seeds has been used in the treatment of smallpox, black measles, and chicken pox.
- The inner bark can be made into eyewash.

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### **References**

Plants for a future database search, November 2002,  
[http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/D\\_search.html](http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/D_search.html)

USDA Forest service shrub index, November 2002,  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/>

*Holodiscus discolor*, November 2002,[http://www.ups.edu/faculty/kirkpatrick/fieldbotany/family\\_pages/Rosaceae/holodiscus\\_discolor.htm](http://www.ups.edu/faculty/kirkpatrick/fieldbotany/family_pages/Rosaceae/holodiscus_discolor.htm)

Photo from funet database, November 2002,  
<http://www.funet.fi/pub/sci/bio/life/plants/magnoliophyta/magnoliophytina/magnoliopsida/rosaceae/holodiscus/index.html>