



GARDENING WITH OREGON NATIVE PLANTS WEST OF THE CASCADES



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GARDENING WITH OREGON NATIVE PLANTS WEST OF THE CASCADES

By Linda R. McMahan

This publication provides an introduction and guide for those who are interested in Pacific Northwest native plants and would like to incorporate natives into their home gardens. Included are:

- Basic information about selection, establishment, and care
- A list of recommended Pacific Northwest native plants; the plant list focuses on plants that are relatively easy to acquire, establish, and grow. Exceptions or special requirements are noted.
- A list of other resources

A wide variety of native plants, from trees to flowering shrubs, herbaceous perennials, ferns, annuals, and groundcovers, are available for home gardens. In this publication, “native plants” are considered to be those found naturally at the time of European settlement (Cullina 2002) in western Oregon, from the Cascade Mountains to the coast.

Some native plants have natural ranges that extend south into California or north to Washington and Canada. A very few, e.g., yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), have ranges that extend across the U.S. or even to Europe.

Although this publication provides some basic plant choices, the “Resources” section includes many outstanding references, including Kruckeberg (1996), Pettinger and Costanzo (2002), and Cullina (2000, 2002). These books provide specific information about appropriate garden conditions and care for each kind of plant.

More experienced native plant gardeners might wish to seek additional information in other books and references available from



libraries or booksellers, as well as websites. To see photos of regional gardens featuring native plants, refer to Johnson (1998).

BENEFITS OF GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

Pacific Northwest native plants grow under a wide range of gardening conditions. Some are good accent plants; others are groundcovers. Many native plants tolerate summer drought (Kruckeberg 1996, Bell et al. 2001, and Pettinger and Costanzo 2002). All are adapted to local garden soils in their places of origin (Pettinger and Costanzo 2002).

Adapted to local soils and weather

Native plants have grown in our region for thousands of years. They are adapted to our regional climate—wet winters and dry summers (Kruckeberg 1996). However, most native plants benefit from regular irrigation, especially during establishment. Keep in mind that some native

plants are from moist woodland or wetland habitats where drought tolerance has not developed.

Some native plants are well adapted to the soils often found in gardens west of the Cascades (Kruckeberg 1996). Do not assume, however, that all Pacific Northwest soils are alike, even in nature. Furthermore, garden soil often is not “native” soil, since it may have been altered during construction and by gardening (Pettinger and Costanzo 2002).

In short, garden soil types and climates vary greatly, so a particular native plant may or may not be appropriate for the conditions or microclimates in your garden. As is the case in gardening in general, choosing the right plant for the right place is very important for success.

Wildlife value

Native plants provide habitat for birds, small animals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. This habitat is important for feeding, reproduction, and protection from the sun, wind, and predators.

Flowering shrubs, trees, and herbaceous plants provide nectar for many types of insects and for hummingbirds. Seeds and berries nurture birds and other wildlife. Shrubs and trees provide nesting sites for birds, squirrels, and other creatures. Other plants serve as hosts (food sources) for the caterpillar stages of native butterflies, or as nectar sources for adult butterflies or other insects. For more information, refer to the plant list and consult the references listed



under “Gardening for Wildlife” and “Butterfly Host Plants” in “Resources.”

Noninvasive in wild habitats

Finally, Pacific Northwest native plants are already established in balanced, local ecosystems, so they have little or no potential to become invasive pests in our wild and natural areas.

However, some natives can be aggressive in garden settings. Some native plants spread underground, such as Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*), red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), or wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*). Others readily self seed, e.g., California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and Douglas aster (*Aster subspicatus*). Keep these characteristics in mind when planting these species.

PLANT SELECTION

Selecting native plants for your home landscape is essentially the same process you would use for selecting any garden plant. Matching your desired plant list with the conditions already existing or easily created in your own garden will help ensure success (Pettinger and Costanzo 2002).

1. Determine the kinds of plants you are looking for. Consider your wishes and needs for trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and groundcovers. List your favorite garden colors. Decide whether you want deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs. Consider whether you are creating a new garden, such as a woodland garden, or adding native plants to an established garden. If one of your goals is to attract wildlife, choose plants to support this goal. Consider whether drought tolerance is important.
2. Examine your garden conditions. Determine whether your site is sunny, has part sun or shade, or is shady. Check the condition of the soil. Within your garden, you may have many different kinds of conditions; try to match your desired plants to individual places in your landscape.

3. Determine appropriate plants. Look through the list of plants in this publication to find those that might suit your purposes. To learn more about individual plants or to find additional choices, use the references and websites listed under “Resources.” Make sure each plant’s requirements match your garden conditions.



Find pictures of the plants to help you understand how they fit into your garden preferences. An excellent source of photographs for most of the trees and shrubs listed in this publication is a website developed for horticulture students at Oregon State University (<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants>). Pojar and Mackinnon (1994) and Brenzel (2001) are excellent references with photographs.

Plant breeders have developed cultivars (varieties) of many Pacific Northwest native plants. Cultivars offer specific plant characteristics, such as flower color or plant size. A note in the plant descriptions will identify species for which cultivars might be available. However, new cultivars continue to be developed, so the notes will not be complete. If you want specific cultivars or varied color forms, consult the references.

In some cases, species native to Oregon are widespread in other areas as well. Different forms of these species are native in different areas, so a particular form might not be native to Oregon. For example, kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) is native to many regions of the United States. Other widespread species include red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

If you wish to use local forms, you will need to know the origin of cultivars or plants you choose. Plant sellers often have this information. In the case of ponderosa pine, it is particularly important to use locally adapted plants, such as the Willamette Valley form. These

forms will perform better in the wetter soils found west of the Cascade Mountains than will forms native to the east side.

4. Look for sources. Many nurseries stock native plants. Once you know what plants you are looking for, make a list and carry it with you when you visit nurseries. Some retail nurseries have native plant sections; others intermix native plants with those of other origins. A few nurseries specialize in native plants.

Find sources for native plants through directories provided by the Oregon Association of Nurseries (listed in “Finding Plants” in “Resources,” through web searches, or by contacting your local OSU Extension office for recommendations).

You may wish to propagate your own plants. Many native plants can be propagated from either seeds or cuttings. For more information, consult resources such as Rose et al. (1998) and Cullina (2000, 2002).

ESTABLISHMENT AND CARE

Gardeners sometimes make the mistake of thinking that native plants can fend for themselves in the garden; this is not true (Kruckeberg 1996). Once these plants are part of a tended garden, they are no longer in a natural setting and require some care to perform their best. Establishing native plants in a garden requires

the same care as establishing other garden plants.

1. Good soil promotes plant growth. Soil containing adequate organic matter and nutrients will promote better growth of all garden plants. Soil qualities can change dramatically, even within short distances, from clay-like, to wet soils, to sandy types (USDA Soil Surveys for Oregon). If your soil has not been improved, particularly if you are working on a new construction site, add organic matter (Pettinger and Costanzo 2002, Bell et al. 2003). If your soil is clay-like or sandy, working 1 to 4 inches of organic matter into the soil will increase soil fertility (Bell et al. 2003).
2. Water plants during establishment. Even native plants require water to become established. A good guideline is to water the natives at the same time as the rest of your plants for the first year. After the plants are established, water perhaps once or twice a month. It may take a year for perennials and 2 to 3 (or more) years for shrubs and trees to become established in your garden (Kruckeberg 1996).
3. Be sparing with fertilizer. The amount of fertilizer you supply for other perennials and woody plants may be too much for native plants. For most native plants, fertilizer is not needed after the first year (Kruckeberg 1996). If fertilizer is needed, Cullina (2002)



recommends using organic fertilizers such as composted manure and bone meal.

4. Be patient. Some native plants take longer to establish than more traditional garden plants, as they have not been bred for garden conditions (Pettinger and Costanzo 2002).
5. Woodland plants may require rich, moist soil. Plants that naturally grow in woodlands, especially in the foothills or mountains of the Coast Range or Cascade Mountains, may require moist soil with high organic matter content. An example is *Heuchera micrantha*, a kind of alumroot. The popular variety known as 'Palace Purple,' for example, does best in moist, rich, well-drained soil. This is also true of native trillium (*Trillium ovatum*).
6. Native alpine plants from mountain areas or plants from coastal areas may need special garden conditions. Native plants from mountainous or seashore regions often require good drainage to survive in a garden (Kruckeberg 1996). Examples are the stonecrops (*Sedum* sp.) and golden iris (*Iris innominata*).

To increase soil drainage, use sandy or rocky soil, or add pumice. You might have more success with these plants by constructing a rock garden, growing them in containers with drainage holes, or using raised beds. If you are interested in growing native alpine plants, many excellent resources on their culture and care are available. See, for example, Foster (1968) under "Rock Gardening" in "Resources."

7. Wetland plants need special conditions. Many wetland plants need wet soil, such as a water garden, to survive in cultivation. Others, especially those that grow in seasonal wetlands, such as camas (*Camassia* sp.), yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), and flowering crabapple (*Malus fusca*), can grow under a wide variety of garden conditions, so long as they do not dry out during the winter and spring.

PLANT COMBINATIONS

The plant list on pages 8–29 contains information about some of the native plants appropriate for home gardens and landscapes. This list contains plants that are relatively easy to grow and available locally. Review the comments for problem solvers of various types. Wildlife value, when known, is indicated. Following are a few possible combinations suitable for the novice gardener.

Woodland garden

A shady spot can be enhanced with one or more vine maples, an early-flowering large shrub such as Indian plum, six to nine sword ferns, a tall summer perennial such as goat's beard, some self-seeding fringe-cup, a swath of Pacific bleeding heart, a few trillium, and a groundcover of native violets.

Sunny native mixed border

Mix brightly flowering shrubs such as blue-blossom, red flowering currant, oceanspray, and mock orange, and add more color with native iris, blue-eyed grass, camas bulbs, and Oregon sunshine. Use a groundcover of wild strawberry or kinnikinnick.

Butterfly garden

Provide both nectar and host plants by growing a sunny area featuring mock orange, western azalea, and Nootka rose under a bitter cherry tree. For added color, try Cascade penstemon, stream violet, Douglas aster, goldenrod, and a groundcover of coastal strawberry.

Streamside landscape

Plant some trees such as alder or western crabapple and some large shrubs such as red-twig dogwood. Complement them with Douglas spirea, sword fern, inside-out flower, and native violets and iris.

RESOURCES

General information and plant identification

Elias, T.S. 1980. *Trees of North America* (Times Mirror Magazines, Inc., New York). 948 pp. ISBN 0-442-23862-2.

Gard, B.J. 2003. *Wetland plants of Oregon and Washington* (Lone Pine Publishing, Redland, WA). 240 pp. ISBN 1-551-5-060-9.

Hightshoe, G.L. 1988. *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York). 819 pp. ISBN 0-471-28879-9.

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* (University of Washington Press, Seattle). 730 pp. ISBN 0-295-95273-3.

*Jensen, E.C. and C.R. Ross. 2005. *Trees to Know in Oregon*. EC 1450 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 152 pp. ISBN 1-931979-04-09.

Lyons, C.P. 1999. *Trees and Shrubs of Washington* (Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada). 159 pp. ISBN 1-55105-094-3.

Pojar, J. and A. Mackinnon, eds. 1994. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* (British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Lone Star Publishing, Redmond, WA). 527 pp. ISBN 1-55105-040-4.

Vitt, D.H., J.E. Marsh, and R.R. Bovey. 1998. *Mosses, Lichens and Ferns of Northwest North America* (Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada). 196 pp. ISBN 0-295-96666-1.

***OSU Extension publications.** Many OSU Extension Service publications may be viewed or downloaded from the Web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu>. Copies also are available from OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications. For prices and ordering information, visit our online catalog or contact us by fax (541-737-0817), e-mail (puborders@oregonstate.edu), or phone (541-737-2513).

Gardening with native plants

- Brenzel, K.N., ed. 2001. *Sunset Western Gardening Book* (7th ed., Sunset Publishing Corporation, Menlo Park, CA). 768 pp. ISBN 0-376-03874-8.
- Cullina, W. 2002. *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston). 354 pp. ISBN 0-618-09858-5.
- Cullina, W. 2000. *Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers in the United States and Canada* (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston). 322 pp. ISBN 0-395-96609-4.
- Johnson, L. 1998. *Grow Wild!* (Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO) 154 pp. ISBN 1-55591-396-2.
- Kruckeberg, A.R. 1996. *Landscaping with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, 2nd ed. (University of Washington Press, Seattle). 282 pp. ISBN 0-295-96853-2.
- Pettinger, A. and B. Costanzo. 2002. *Native Plants in the Coastal Garden: A Guide for Gardeners in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest*, rev. ed. (Whitecap Books, Vancouver, BC). 232 pp. ISBN 1-55285-331-4.

Gardening for wildlife

- *Cates, D., J. Olson, and N. Allen. 2002. *Attract Reptiles and Amphibians to Your Yard*. EC 1542 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 12 pp.
- *Lamb, S. and N. Allen. 2002. *Create a Garden Pond for Wildlife*, EC 1548 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 8 pp.
- *Lamb, S., S. Chambers, and N. Allen. 2002. *Create a Butterfly Garden*, EC 1549 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 8 pp.
- Link, R. 1999. *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of Washington Press, Seattle). 320 pp. ISBN 0-295-97820-1.
- *Olsen, J. and N. Allen. 2002. *Attract Hummingbirds to Your Garden*, EC 1541 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 8 pp.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2001. *Naturescaping: A Landscape Partnership with Nature* (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland, OR). 204 pp. ISBN 0-9635088-5-7.

Rock gardening

Foster, H.L. 1968. *Rock Gardening* (Timber Press, Portland, OR). 466 pp. ISBN 0-917304-29-2.

Propagation

Rose, R., C.E.C. Chachulski, and D.L. Haase. 1998. *Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants* (Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR). 256 pp. ISBN 0-87071-428-7.

Butterfly host plants

- Neill, W. 2001. *The Guide to Butterflies of Oregon and Washington* (Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, CO). 160 pp. ISBN 1-56579-392-7.
- Pyle, R.M. 2002. *The Butterflies of Cascadia* (Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, WA). 420 pp. ISBN 0-914516-13-2.

Water-efficient gardening

*Bell, N., A.M. VanderZanden, and L. McMahan. 2001. *Water-efficient Landscape Plants*, EC 1546 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 40 pp.

Soil and soil amendments

- *Bell, N., D.M. Sullivan, L.J. Brewer, and J. Hart. 2003. *Improving Garden Soils with Organic Matter*, EC 1561 (Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis). 16 pp.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation Service. Soil Survey series by county in Oregon. Available in libraries, some available online through county-based Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Finding plants

Oregon Association of Nurseries. *Directory & Buyers Guide*, updated annually. Offices in Wilsonville, OR. Directory is available on the web at <http://www.nurseryguide.com>

Web sources

Oregon State University Department of Horticulture. Landscape Plants: Images, Identification, and Information at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension. Information on Gardening in Western Washington at <http://gardening.wsu.edu/nwnative/>

King County Washington, Department of Resources and Parks. Yard and Garden Topics. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/yard-and-garden/>

Elizabeth C. Miller Horticulture Library, Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington. http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/dir_hort_websites.shtml

City of Portland, Oregon. Website on natives, with plant information and sources listed. <http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/TreesPlants/NativePlants/NativePlants.htm>

Native Plant Society of Oregon. How to contact native plant enthusiasts and learn more about native plants. <http://www.npsoregon.org/>

RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME GARDENS IN WESTERN OREGON

NOTES

- Common names are those most used in Kruckeberg (1996), Link (1999), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001).
- Scientific names and authors courtesy of Scott Sundberg, Oregon Flora Project, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU (<http://www.oregonflora.org/OFP>)
- Description, characteristics, and comments from Elias (1980), Kruckeberg (1996), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and Cullina (2000, 2002). Size categories for trees (tall to small) according to Elias; categories for shrubs (large to very small) according to Hightshoe (1988) scale.
- Drought tolerance assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), Bell et al. (2001), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Drought-tolerant

- Light requirements assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Sun



= Part shade/sun



= Shade

- Wildlife value assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001), Cates et al. (2002), Lamb and Allen (2002), Lamb et al. (2002), Olsen and Allen (2002), Neill (2001), and Pyle (2002).



Food source for native butterfly caterpillars



Nectar source for butterflies



Food source, shelter, or nesting sites for birds



Nectar source for hummingbirds



Shelter for native amphibians or reptiles



Food source for native wildlife or rodents



Among species considered to be the most valuable wildlife plants by ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001) reference



Recommended for wildlife meadow garden by ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001) reference

TREES

ALDER, RED (OREGON ALDER)

Alnus rubra Bong.

Tall to medium-tall deciduous tree, 40–80'. Small, woody, conelike fruit.

Beware of power lines overhead. Pioneer tree that grows well in poor or wet soils. Fast-growing, adds nitrogen to the soil. Bark looks white due to growth of lichens. Cultivars available.



CASCARA, BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus purshiana DC.

Small deciduous tree or large shrub to 30'. Silver bark. Black, berrylike fruit.

Forest understory tree, prefers moist soil. Bark harvested for medicinal use. Leaves not as attractive when grown in cultivation as in wild habitats.



CEDAR, WESTERN RED

Thuja plicata D. Don

Tall evergreen conifer to 165' or more. Yellowish-green to deep green, frondlike foliage. Soft, reddish-brown bark, small cones.

Beware of power lines overhead. Requires good drainage. Can be sheared for hedges. Crushed foliage has sweet odor. Casts a dense shade, but graceful and elegant tree. Many cultivars available.





CHERRY, WILD (BITTER CHERRY)
Prunus emarginata (Douglas
 ex Hook.) Walp.

Medium deciduous tree to 50'. Shiny, reddish-brown, peeling bark. Fragrant clusters of greenish-white flowers in spring. Bright red fall fruits, bright yellow fall color.

Beware of power lines overhead. Fast-growing tree. Shrubbier forms native to east of Cascade Mountains also available.



**CRABAPPLE, WESTERN (PACIFIC CRABAPPLE,
 OREGON CRABAPPLE)**
Malus fusca (Raf.) C.K. Schneid.

Small deciduous tree or large shrub to 40'. Fragrant, white to pinkish-white flower clusters in spring. Yellow to reddish-purple fruits ripen late summer.

Tolerates and requires wetter conditions, but can survive in most gardens. Can form thickets, slow-growing.



© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College

DOUGLAS-FIR
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Mirb.) Franco

Tall evergreen conifer 75–150' in cultivation. Deeply furrowed reddish-brown bark. Dark green to blue-green foliage with new growth in lighter shades. 2–4" hanging cones.

Beware of power lines overhead. Suitable for home landscapes in spacious gardens when planted away from buildings. Cultivars available. Tree has become symbolic of the Pacific Northwest.



MADRONE, PACIFIC

Arbutus menziesii Pursh.

Medium broadleaf evergreen tree, 30–75'. Smooth, thin, reddish-brown, peeling bark. Clusters of white to pink urn-shape flowers. Small, bright orange-red berries.

Beware of power lines overhead. A bold tree, but may be difficult to establish. Slow-growing and long-lived. Tolerates dry soil, requires well-drained soil. Drops litter year-round, which can be messy.



OAK, GARRY (OREGON WHITE OAK)

Quercus garryana Douglas ex Hook.

Medium to tall deciduous tree to 100' or more. Deeply lobed, leathery, dark green, shiny leaves. Acorn fruit.

Beware of power lines overhead. To prevent root diseases, requires well-drained soil with little or no summer moisture. Slow-growing and very long-lived.



PINE, PONDEROSA (YELLOW PINE)

Pinus ponderosa Douglas ex C. Lawson

Tall evergreen conifer to 100' or more. Buff-colored bark textured like jigsaw puzzle pieces. 5" long, yellowish-green to dark green needles in bundles of three. Large cones.

Beware of power lines overhead. Look for Willamette Valley or other forms from west of Cascades that tolerate soil moisture. Plant in well-drained soil. Do not plant close to buildings because of large size. Fast-growing and long-lived. Cultivars available.





VINE MAPLE *Acer circinatum* Pursh.

Small deciduous tree or large shrub with graceful arching form, 15–30'. Bright reddish-green bark. Leaves nearly circular in outline, bright yellow-green, some with reddish fall color. Fruits are samaras with widely spread wings.

Arches nicely (twines) if grown in shade. Tiered branches resemble those of Japanese maple. Best grown in shaded setting; otherwise needs additional water. Not a plant for hot, sunny, dry sites. Slow-growing. Cultivars available.



SHRUBS

AZALEA, WESTERN *Rhododendron occidentale* (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub, 6–8' or more. Flowers in summer, white to pale rose with yellow spots, fragrant with musky scent.

From Oregon's southern coast. Selected color forms available. Species often used in azalea breeding programs.



BLUEBLOSSOM (CALIFORNIA LILAC, MOUNTAIN LILAC) *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* Eschsch.

Large shrub or small tree, 6–20'; evergreen. Fine, lustrous foliage. Numerous clusters of pale blue to deep lilac-blue flowers in summer.

Hardest of the wild lilacs, fast-growing. If planted in wet spots, can be subject to disease. Cultivars available.



CURRENT, RED-FLOWERING (BLOOD CURRENT)

Ribes sanguineum Pursh

Mid-height deciduous shrub, 8–10' or more. Many upright stems from the base. Gray-green leaves. Pendant, red flower clusters in late winter. Black fruit with powdery bloom.

Blooms emerge before foliage. Rapid grower. Selected color forms and varieties available in shades of red, pink, and white.



DOGWOOD, CREEK (RED-OSIER DOGWOOD)

Cornus sericea L. (*C. stolonifera*)

Mid-height, deciduous, multitrunked shrub or small tree, 6–16'. Reddish bark, flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers, followed by white or bluish berries.

Great for winter interest. Control size by cutting tallest trunks at base every 2–4 years. Vigorous colonizer. Look for native forms of this widespread species.



ELDERBERRY, BLUE

Sambucus mexicana (*S. cerulea*) C Presl ex DC.

Large, deciduous multistemmed shrub or small tree to 15' or more. Flat-topped clusters of yellowish-white flowers, followed by gray-blue, waxy, berrylike fruit with bloom.

Tolerates dry sites. Fast-growing, will colonize. Edible fruits.





ELDERBERRY, RED
Sambucus racemosa L.

Large, deciduous, multistemmed shrub or small tree to 20'. Bushier than blue elderberry. Compound leaves. Pyramidlike, elongated clusters of creamy-white flowers followed by bright red berrylike fruit.

Prefers moist sites. Vigorous colonizer.



HUCKLEBERRY, EVERGREEN
Vaccinium ovatum Pursh

Mid-height evergreen shrub to 15'. Glossy, dark green leaves, bronze new growth. Profusely flowering; small, pinkish-white, bell-like flowers in clusters, followed by shiny purplish-black fruit.

Slow-growing, may require additional moisture during establishment. Good foliage for cut flower arrangements, edible fruits. Cultivars available.



HUCKLEBERRY, RED (RED BILBERRY, RED BLUEBERRY)
Vaccinium parvifolium Sm.

Mid-height deciduous shrub, 3–12'. Thin, light, bluish-green foliage. Inconspicuous greenish flowers followed by salmon-egg to bright red berries in early summer.

Plant in soil rich in organic matter such as composted fir bark; in nature, often found rooted in old stumps. Edible berries.





INDIAN PLUM (OSOBERRY)

Oemleria cerasiformis (Torr. & A. Gray ex Hook. & Arn.)

J.W. Landon

Small deciduous tree or large multibranched shrub, 15–20'. Pendulous clusters of green and white flowers emerge in late winter. Pendulous purple fruits by early summer.

Can sucker from the base. Best used in informal or woodland gardens.



MANZANITA, BRISTLY OR HAIRY

Arctostaphylos columbiana Piper

Large evergreen shrub 10–15'. Gray-green, hairy leaves. Reddish-brown, flaking bark. White, bell-like flowers followed by red fruits in summer.

Good for south- or west-facing sites. Best in sandy, well-drained soils. Cultivars available.



MOCK ORANGE, WESTERN

Philadelphus lewisii Pursh

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 10'. Masses of fragrant, bright white flowers in long clusters in late spring.

To control size and keep flowers low on the shrub, prune oldest individual canes to the base after flowering. Highly recommended for the shrub border; considered to be best ornamental mock orange in U.S. Cultivars available.



NINEBARK, PACIFIC OR WESTERN *Physocarpus capitatus* (Pursh) Kuntze

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 8' or more. Leaves resemble maple. Small, white flowers in dense 2–3" clusters in late spring. Rose-brown fall color.

Older stems have shredding bark. Best used in moist locations.



OCEANSPRAY, CREAMBUSH *Holodiscus discolor* (Pursh) Maxim.

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub, 4–15'. Tiny, creamy white flowers in large, pendant clusters in June. Deeply lobed pleasing foliage with golden fall color.

Slow-growing when young, can be difficult to establish. To control size, prune largest stems at the base. Requires well-drained soil. Spent fruit remains on shrub until following season.



OREGON GRAPE, CASCADE (LONGLEAF MAHONIA) *Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa* Pursh

Very small, spreading, broadleaf evergreen shrub to 2'. Dull green compound leaves. Bright yellow flowers on long stalks, followed by blue fruit.

Can be slow to establish. Slowly spreads, making an elegant tall groundcover for part to full shade. Edible berries.

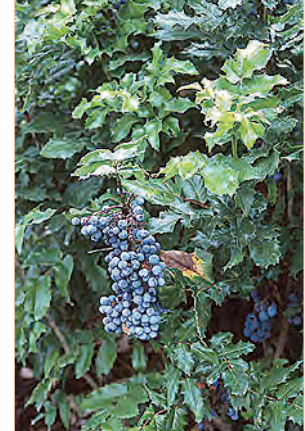


OREGON GRAPE, TALL (GRAPE HOLLY)

Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium Pursh

Mid-height, broadleaf evergreen shrub, 8–10' or more. Spiny, glossy compound leaves with bronze-copper new foliage. Clusters of golden-yellow, urn-shape flowers. Blue fruit with bloom.

State flower of Oregon. Edible berries. Many cultivars available, including dwarf forms.



RHODODENDRON, PACIFIC (COAST RHODODENDRON)

Rhododendron macrophyllum D. Don ex G. Don

Large evergreen shrub or small tree to 25', usually shorter in cultivation. Reddish-brown, scaly bark. Leathery, shiny gray-green foliage. Showy white to pink flowers.

Has classic look of rhododendron. May require additional water because of mountain or coastal origin. Cultivars available.



ROSE, NOOTKA

Rosa nutkana C. Presl.

Mid-height, deciduous thorny shrub to 10'. Large, solitary soft-pink flowers to 2–3". Purplish, pear-shape or round hips.

Best native wild rose for gardens. Vigorous colonizer.





SALAL
Gaultheria shallon Pursh

Small evergreen shrub, 3–5'. Lustrous, dark green leaves. Pinkish showy flowers, purplish berries.

Spreads underground to form thick colonies; often used as high groundcover. Edible berries. Good for dry shade.



SERVICEBERRY, WESTERN
(SERVICEBERRY)
Amelanchier alnifolia (Nutt.) Nutt.
Ex M. Roem.

Large deciduous shrub or small tree, multitrunked, 10–25'. Attractive silver bark. Small leaves with yellow to orange fall color. Compact clusters of small, white flowers. Reddish-purple to black fruit.

Slow-growing, can form thickets.



SILK-TASSEL, WAVY-LEAVED
Garrya elliptica Douglas ex Lindl.

Large evergreen shrub or small tree to 20'. Grayish-green, leathery leaves with wavy margins. 6–12" pendulous catkins in late winter.

Native to southern Oregon coastal areas. Male plants considered to be more highly ornamental. Many cultivars available.





SPIREA, DOUGLAS' (HARDBACK, STEEPLEBUSH) *Spiraea douglasii* Hook.

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 11' or more. Gray-green leaves with silvery white undersides. 3" pyramid-shape clusters of purplish-pink to deep rose flowers fading to pink, then turning brown after seed production.

Although will survive in dry areas, does best in moist soil. Vigorous spreader.



SPIREA, SUBALPINE OR MOUNTAIN *Spiraea splendens* (*S. densiflora*) Baumann ex K. Koch

Very small, multistemmed, deciduous shrub to 2' or more. Small, dark green leaves. Vivid pink to purple flowers in cauliflower-shape clusters.

Requires moist, cool soil conditions.



GROUNDCOVERS

KINNIKINNICK (BEARBERRY) *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (L.) Spreng.

Prostrate, evergreen woody plant with long, trailing branches, 6–8" tall. Leathery leaves. White or pink urn-shape flowers. Reddish-brown berries.

One of our finest groundcovers for full sun; forms creeping mats. Best in well-drained soil, tolerates sterile soils. Too much moisture and shade can foster fungal disease. Cultivars available; look for West Coast-named cultivars or native wild types of this widespread species.



INSIDE-OUT FLOWER, WHITE

Vancouveria hexandra (Hook.) C. Morren & Decne.

Deciduous herbaceous groundcover to 2'. Delicate foliage. Small, white, starlike flowers on stiff stalks in spring. Bright yellow color in late fall.

Spreads underground; valuable as a groundcover for shade. Somewhat resembles Epimedium.



STRAWBERRY, COASTAL

Fragaria chiloensis (L.) Duchesne

Spreading evergreen groundcover to 9". Thick, leathery, cloverlike leaves. White flowers, red fruits.

Vigorous groundcover for sun; spreads by short, hairy runners. Very easy to grow. Edible but bland berries.



STRAWBERRY, WILD

Fragaria virginiana Duchesne

Spreading deciduous groundcover, 2–5". Gray-green or bluish-green, cloverlike foliage. White flowers, red fruit.

Freely spreads by runners, very easy to grow. Edible, tasty fruit.



STRAWBERRY, WOODS (WOODLAND STRAWBERRY) *Fragaria vesca* L.

Herbaceous groundcover to 8". Cloverlike leaves. White flowers, red fruit.

Best wild strawberry for shade. Spreads by runners. Variegated form available. Prolific berry producer; edible, tasty fruit.



Variegated form

WOOD-SORREL, OREGON *Oxalis oregana* Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray

Rapidly spreading groundcover, 6–8". Cloverlike leaves. White or pink flowers, depending on the variety.

Aggressive groundcover for areas where no other herbaceous plants are present. Prefers moist shade.



HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND FERNS

ALUMROOT, SMALL-FLOWERED *Heuchera micrantha* Douglas ex Lindl.

Herbaceous perennial 1–2'. Small, white flowers on stalk in late spring. Large basal rosette of leaves.

Grows in moist shade. Selected color forms or cultivars available, such as 'Palace Purple.'



Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple'

ASTER, DOUGLAS'
Aster subspicatus Nees

Herbaceous perennial to 3'. Blue to purple flowers in late summer.

Readily reseeds and spreads underground; can be aggressive.



BLEEDING HEART, PACIFIC (WESTERN BLEEDING HEART)
Dicentra formosa (Andrews) Walp.

Herbaceous perennial to 2'. Delicate, deeply cut foliage. Pendant, jewel-like, pale to dark pink flowers in spring. Dormant in fall and winter.

Valuable garden plant. Best for moist shade. Can be aggressive in a garden setting. Seed disseminated by ants. Selected color forms and varieties available.



BLUE-EYED GRASS
Sisyrinchium bellum S. Watson

Herbaceous perennial to 16". Grasslike leaves. Dainty blue to violet flowers with yellow eye in summer.

Although resembles a grass, is actually in iris family. Considered to be the most ornamental of U.S. blue-eyed grasses. Reseeds readily; can be weedy in well-watered areas.



CAMAS

Camassia leichtlinii (Baker) Watson, *C. quamash* (Pursh) Greene, *C. cusickii* S. Watson

Stately bulb, 1–3' daffodil-like foliage. Blue-violet flowers in spring. Goes dormant by end of summer.

Needs site with spring moisture and summer dryness. Does well in heavy soils. Self-seeds.



CHECKER-MALLOW

Sidalcea species, several are available

Herbaceous perennial, 3–5'. Basal rosette of leaves with tall flowering stems. Attractive 1"-wide, pink, hollyhocklike flowers.

Good for dry areas. Reseeds freely, easy to grow from seed.



COLUMBINE, WESTERN RED (RED COLUMBINE, SITKA COLUMBINE)

Aquilegia formosa Fisch. ex DC.

Herbaceous perennial, 2–3'. Strongly resembling garden columbines, but has smaller red and yellow nodding flowers in summer.

Self-seeds.



DEER FERN

Blechnum spicant (L.) Sm.

Delicate fern, 1–3'. Finely divided, deep green fronds from basal tuft, with spore-bearing fronds in center.

Exquisite ornamental. Best in moist shade.



FRINGECUP

Tellima grandiflora (Pursh) Douglas ex Lindl.

Woodland herbaceous or semievergreen perennial to 3'. Leaves in basal rosette. Delicate flowering stalks of small, filigreed, pale cream or pinkish-white flowers, sometimes fragrant.

Self-seeds prolifically; very easy to grow.



GOAT'S BEARD, SYLVAN

Aruncus dioicus (Walter) Fernald

Herbaceous perennial, 5–6'. Attractive fernlike foliage. Plumes of tiny white flowers in summer.

Resembles astilbe. Spreads slowly underground. Male plants have showier flowers; female plants self-seed prolifically.





GOLDENROD

Solidago species, many native kinds available

Herbaceous perennial, 1–2'. Bright orange-yellow flowers in plumes.

Reseeds freely and spreads underground. Can be too prolific in moist soils; can become weedy.



IRIS, DOUGLAS

Iris douglasiana Herb.

Statuesque semievergreen perennial to 2'. Broader leaves than other native iris. Cream to deep purple flowers in spring.

Considered to be one of the best native irises for home gardens. Needs spring moisture and summer dryness.



IRIS, GOLDEN

Iris innominata L.F. Hend.

Short iris, 8–12". Narrow, grasslike, tough, shiny dark green leaves. Flower color deep golden yellow to clear yellow or purple.

Best in rock gardens or other well-drained soils, or grow in pots. Needs dry summer soil.





IRIS, OREGON
Iris tenax Douglas ex Lindl.

Herbaceous perennial, 10–14". Violet to purple flowers, occasionally white or yellow.

Requires dry summer soil.



MONKEYFLOWER, YELLOW
Mimulus guttatus DC.

Herbaceous perennial. 2–3'. Rounded, smooth leaves. Yellow trumpet flowers, often with crimson or brownish-red spots.

Does best in wet or watered areas in sun. Spreads rapidly underground.



OREGON SUNSHINE (WOOLY SUNFLOWER,
GOLDEN YARROW)
Eriophyllum lanatum (Pursh) J. Forbes

Low-growing herbaceous perennial to 2'. Green or silvery foliage and stems, small leaves in rosettes. Bright yellow, daisylike flowers in summer, each on single stalk.

Needs good drainage. Growth form varies depending on origin; lowland forms taller and greener than mountain or Columbia Gorge forms, which are shorter and grayer.



PEARLY EVERLASTING, COMMON
Anaphalis margaritacea (L.) Benth. & Hook. f.

Herbaceous perennial to 2'. Gray-green leaves. Heads of tiny yellow flowers, each with white bracts.

Slow or rapid spreader. Everlasting flowers can be dried for flower arranging. Widespread species; cultivars available.



PENSTEMON, CASCADE OR COAST
Penstemon serrulatus Menzies ex Sm.

Herbaceous perennial with woody base to 4'. Glossy, serrated leaves. Deep blue to dark purple or violet flowers in early summer.

Good for perennial borders in full sun. Considered best native penstemon for gardens west of Cascades. May be short lived, but self-seeds. Although drought tolerant, looks best in moist spot.



STONECROP, BROADLEAF (SPOONLEAF STONECROP)
Sedum spathulifolium Hook.

Short, evergreen perennial to 6". Thick, succulent leaves, flattened or paddle-shape, in rosettes. Leaves bluish with red highlights. Short clusters of bright yellow flowers in late spring or early summer.

Requires good drainage; suitable for containers. Easy to propagate by cuttings. Sometimes recommended as groundcover for sunny, dry areas.



SWORD FERN

Polystichum munitum (Kaulf.) C. Presl.

Statuesque, evergreen fern, 3–5'. New foliage in March; retains older foliage through the winter.

A favorite fern for landscaping. Tolerates dry shade. Can be kept smaller by trimming back older foliage each spring. Transplants easily.



TRILLIUM, WESTERN WHITE (WAKE ROBIN)

Trillium ovatum Pursh

Herbaceous perennial to 2'. Large, white flowers, fading to pink, perched above a trio of wide leaves in spring.

Propagated forms relatively expensive. Requires moist soil.



VIOLET, STREAM (YELLOW WOOD VIOLET)

Viola glabella Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray

Herbaceous, spreading perennial, 3–5". Yellow flowers in early spring.

Delicate, slowly spreading plant that can be used as a groundcover, providing colorful spots in the shaded garden. Largest of native violets.





YARROW

Achillea millefolium L.

Herbaceous perennial to 3'. Finely divided fernlike foliage. Creamy white or sometimes pinkish, flat-topped flower clusters in summer.

Good for dry areas. Sometimes used in herb lawn or ecolawn mixes and kept short by mowing. Look for native forms of this widespread species.



ANNUALS

FAREWELL-TO-SPRING

Clarkia amoena (Lehm.) A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr.

Annual to 3'. Gracefully nodding buds opening to showy pink to rose-purple flowers in midsummer. Each four-petaled flower has dark spotted areas.

Self-seeds.



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GILIA, GLOBE (BLUEFIELD GILIA)

Gilia capitata Sims

Annual to 3'. Delicate compound leaves. Pale lavender, small, ball-shape flower clusters in early summer.

Has taproot, grows easily from seed.





POPPY, CALIFORNIA
Eschscholzia californica Cham.

Annual, sometimes a perennial in our area. To 2'. Grayish foliage, golden-yellow flowers.

Self-seeds readily.



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Published October 2005. Reprinted March 2008.

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