

# NATIVE PLANT FIELD GUIDE

Revised March 2012

the wild garden

Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)

## Foreword

Once upon a time, there was a very kind older gentleman who loved native plants. He lived in the Pacific northwest, so plants from this area were his focus.

As a young lad, his grandfather showed him flowers and bushes and trees, the sweet taste of huckleberries and strawberries, the smell of Giant Sequoias, Incense Cedars, Junipers, pines and fir trees. He saw hummingbirds poking Honeysuckles and Columbines. He wandered the woods and discovered trillium.



When he grew up, he still loved native plants--they were his passion. He built a garden of natives and then built a nursery so he could grow lots of plants and teach gardeners about them. He knew that alien plants and hybrids did not usually live peacefully with natives. In fact, most of them are fierce enemies, not well behaved, indeed, they crowd out and overtake natives.

He wanted to share his information so he built a website. It had a front page, a page of plants on sale, and a page on how to plant natives. But he wanted more, lots more.

So he asked for help. I volunteered and he began describing what he wanted his website to do, what it should look like, what it should say. He shared with me his dream of making his website so full of information, so inspiring, so educational that it would be the most important source of native plant lore on the internet, serving the entire world.

Some years ago, this amazing man, Wally Hansen, passed on to the heavenly garden. Working with Diana Hansen-Young, Wally's daughter, we picked up the pieces. The nursery closed in 2010. Diana bequeathed the website and the huge library of photos to me, and I gladly took on the mantle of keeping Wally's dream alive. I hope to fulfill that dream some day.

This field guide of plants native to the northwest came from a request by one of our readers. He sent me an email asking if the printable catalog was still around--it was no longer on the website. The way he described how useful the catalog was convinced me to make an up to date field guide that can be printed.

This is the first edition. It will be revised periodically as needed.

My sincere thanks to Doris Svendsen and Jim Roush for requesting this guide. See their booth at Vancouver Farmers Market. It's open Saturday and Sunday now through October. <http://www.vancouverfarmersmarket.com/markets.php>

**Jennifer Rehm**

Webmaster for

**The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database**

[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)

contact: [star@chillirose.com](mailto:star@chillirose.com)

# The Oak and the Rose

by Shel Silverstein

*An oak tree and a rosebush grew,  
Young and green together,  
Talking the talk of growing things-  
Wind and water and weather.  
And while the rosebush sweetly bloomed  
The oak tree grew so high  
That now it spoke of newer things-  
Eagles, mountain peaks and sky.  
I guess you think you're pretty great,  
The rose was heard to cry,  
Screaming as loud as it possibly could  
To the treetop in the sky.  
And now you have no time for flower talk,  
Now that you've grown so tall.  
It's not so much that I've grown, said the tree,  
It's just that you've stayed so small.*





**Western Redbud**

--Susan Taylor Brown

spring unleashed, it blooms  
pink kisses flirt with the sun  
Kool-Aid explosion



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A garden near Salem, Oregon, belongs to a vibrant, active 90 year old woman. Over the years, she has planted hundreds of natives and transformed a common ordinary landscape to a wonderful woodland paradise. This is just one tiny piece of her garden. Yellow trillium, wild flag, meadow rue, sweet



woodruff, all in this small space. In other areas of her yard, she has ferns, bleeding heart, native berries, an oak tree, some maples. She began by planting just three plants and added to

them each year. Some plants came unannounced, the work of local wildlife, I assume. The lady of this garden is unflappable. She knows her garden is a joint effort--she's in cahoots with nature. It does take a village after all.

## PERENNIALS

### [Achillea millefolium \(Milfoil, Yarrow\)](#)

Yarrow is an aromatic perennial herb known to most of us for its medicinal qualities. Present day uses are centered more on external injuries. Known as a styptic to stop bleeding, an astringent and anti-inflammatory to soothe, and antiseptic to cleanse, it is no wonder it is a staple of the herb garden. It is also known for its ability to repel insects, which is beneficial to surrounding plants. The tall 1-3' flowers are white, rounded to flat umbels that may be tinged with pink or yellow and appear from Spring through Fall. The name millefolium means a thousand leaves and refers to the numerous small leaves, which give this plant its ferny appearance. Yarrow has naturalized throughout the Northern Hemisphere but has Eurasian origins. It grows favorably in USDA zones 1-11 and most situations except deep shade and in areas containing standing water. Yarrow spreads quickly by rhizomes and forms dense mattes making it a good choice for reducing soil erosion on slopes and hillsides



### [Achlys triphylla \(Vanilla Leaf\)](#)

A beautiful plant that spreads quickly by rhizomes to carpet the shady understory. The large, clover like leaves have fluttering scallops along the edges. Tiny white flowers form on the thin, erect stalks. Dried leaves smell heavenly, like vanilla, and are said to repel insects. They remain on the plant as “skeletons” throughout the winter and are as delicate as fairy wings. Vanilla Leaf is found from BC to northern California and is hardy from USDA zones 7-9. It prefers shaded, moist sites with some shade. It is an excellent companion to the delicate Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), and fits perfectly in the understory of Thimbleberry or Salmonberry (*Rubus parvifloris* or *spectabilis*) or even the Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*).



### [Allium acuminatum \(Hooker's Onion, Taper Tip Onion\)](#)

A wild onion found mainly in the Western states from British Columbia to California as well as regions of Idaho and Utah. At first glance, this allium looks much like other wild onions; but there are some differences. It is found in clusters and the grass-like leaves wither before it blooms. The flowers of Hooker's Onion are usually bright pink but can be white on occasion and have tepals that are turned upward. All parts of the plant have a classic onion odor and were occasionally used as a food source for coastal Indians. Taper tip onion bulbs can be planted in either Spring or Fall in a dry open sunny location. They will tolerate some moisture, providing the soil is well drained; but are happiest in a dry habitat. They are important in habitat restoration and for aesthetic purposes in USDA zones 3-9.



### Allium cernuum (Nodding Onion)

As the name implies, the pink to rose flower clusters of this onion nod downward like little lanterns. Very widely distributed, growing across United States. In Pacific Northwest, may be found at lower elevations in dry open woodlands and along sandy coastal bluffs. The grassy leaves of this onion remain green throughout flowering. The onion odor is so strong that Native Americans once thought them to be unpalatable, but once roasted, they found them perfect for flavoring wild fish and game and soon became a treat at harvest time. To assure that they are an edible onion, always check for the onion odor; if it is not there, do not eat them. Considered a meadow onion, they do best with moisture in USDA zones 3-10. They are generally planted for their ornamental nodding heads and in habitat restoration.



### Anaphalis margaritacea (Pearly Everlasting)

Beautiful member of Aster family, an excellent choice for reclaiming bare land as it tolerates all types of abuse and neglect! Survives drought, pollution and weak soils. Besides these attributes, it is a beautiful wildflower that attracts butterflies. Foliage is distinct, with soft, downy wool on stems and undersides of leaves. The stems are 8-24" and end with a cluster of yellow flowers, surrounded by many white, papery bracts. These are used for dried flower bouquets. Pearly everlasting is found in open forest meadows, rocky slopes and disturbed areas across North America from USDA zones 4-10.



### Aquilegia formosa (Red Columbine)

An elegant perennial, Nodding red flowers distinguish this elegant plant from the Blue Columbine, above, whose flowers are held erect. Hummingbirds and butterflies thrive on columbine nectar. This is a beautiful, delightful flower reaching to about 2' tall. A fine native for every garden, Red Columbine is native along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Baja, California and east into Utah (USDA 7-10). This columbine needs regular water but is otherwise very adaptable. Natives groups used Red Columbine medicinally.



### Aruncus dioicus [sylvester] var. acuminatus (Goatsbeard)

Graceful woodland perennial, grows from 3-6' tall and quickly spreads to fill a site. In the native garden, provides an elegant backdrop for smaller wildflowers - a bouquet that never fades! Forms several erect stems to support the long plumes of tiny white flowers that droop like strings of pearls to adorn the fern-like foliage (similar to astilbe). The medicinal properties of Goatsbeard were celebrated among Native groups. Native to the Pacific Northwest, in both the coastal and interior regions, Goatsbeard is hardy between USDA zones 3-7. It is found along the edges of forests and streams, needing some shade and moisture.



### [Asarum caudatum \(Wild Ginger\)](#)

One of the finest native ground covers. Tucked among beautiful heart-shaped, fragrant, evergreen leaves are small, brownish purple flowers like tiny bells. Develops colonies by spreading rhizomes. The hairy stems will also root readily if they stay in contact with the moist ground. Although not a close relative of the tropical ginger plant, the roots and rubbed foliage of Wild Ginger have a similar fragrance. Found along the Pacific coast, east into Montana (USDA 8-10), Needs shade and moisture. NOTE: The FDA recommends Wild Ginger is unsafe for internal use. Enjoy the fragrance but do not use this plant for internal consumption in any way.



### [Calochortus uniflorus \(Cat's Ear, Short Stemmed Mariposa Lily\)](#)

Coming across a Mariposa Lily anywhere at any time is always a treat. This short lily is a bit easier to grow than some taller ones. Does best in moist meadows and open woodland in USDA zones 8-9. Found naturally at lower elevations of Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains in Oregon and also around Monterey California. The solid bright lavender to pink petals have small hairs, therefore dubbed Cat's Ears. The pronounced stamens are quite attractive and the tepals peeking through the petals give these lilies their characteristic look. Cat's Ear needs Spring moisture but loves a dry sunny position in Summer with good drainage, a great rock garden lily.



### [Camassia leichtlinii ssp. suksdorfii \(Leichtlin's Camas, Great Camas\)](#)

Beautiful perennial with star-like, slender petaled blossoms of creamy blue or white. Handsome clusters of flowers form on tall, 2-4' spikes in late spring, about three weeks after Common Camas. Found only on west side of Cascades, hardy from USDA zones 6-10. Camas will do well in sun or filtered shade and succeeds in heavy soils. A true meadow plant, Camas likes moisture in the Winter and Spring followed by a dry period in the Summer.



### [Camassia quamash \(Common Camas, Indian Hyacinth\)](#)

Common Camas has several leaves, similar to daffodil. Beautiful blue violet flowers are shaped like stars and grow along 12-18" stem. Found along Pacific coast and east into Idaho. Hardy USDA zones 6-10. Native Americans relied on Camas for sustenance and traveled great distances to attain it. Steamed bulbs are very sweet and were sometimes combined with Soapberry (Shepherdia canadensis) to sweeten. Do take extreme care in tasting Camas as its deadly look-alike, Death Camas (Zigadenus Venenosus), often grows alongside it. Bareroot bulbs sometimes available.



[Chamerion \[Epilobium\] angustifolium var. canescens \(Fireweed\)](#)

Fireweed is known as a pioneer plant because it is one of the first flowers to move in after a fire or clear cut that would render the ground bare, and dies out once conifers and other forest species fill in. It is common to see large patches reaching up to 10' among brambles. Fireweed is found across North America and is extremely hardy, USDA zones 1-9. The flower spikes open from the bottom up and can be subtle rose pink to vibrant magenta in color. This is not a difficult flower to grow given adequate sunlight and plenty of space to grow. Fireweed is a great source for honey.



[Clematis ligusticifolia \(Western Clematis, Virgin's Bower\)](#)

This fine climbing vine grows vigorously to 40,' although it is significantly shorter in its northernmost ranges. Delicate clusters of showy white flowers bloom from June to mid-August and are followed by equally decorative fluffy seed heads. Hardy between USDA zones 5-10, Western Clematis grows on dry, weak soils from BC through the eastern ranges of the Cascades. Game birds favor this plant.



[Cornus unalaschensis \[canadensis\] \(Bunchberry, Pigeonberry\)](#)

Delightful low deciduous dogwood ground cover growing only 2-8" tall and spreading rapidly (as much as 2-3' per year). Leaves form whorls and are glossy green with whitish undersides. Flowers are true dogwood flowers - four white bracts surrounding a pincushion of tiny flowerets. Often blooms a second time in the fall. Red berries form a cluster in fall and were used as a food source by Natives. Bunchberry is being investigated as a treatment for cancer. Found across North America and Northeast Asia, hardy between USDA zones 2-9. Bunchberry likes shade and acidic, moist soil, doing well in rotted log material.



[Cynoglossum grande \(Grand Hounds-Tongue\)](#)

West Coast perennial wildflower commonly found in woodland areas. The unusual name was given because the large rough textured leaves are said to resemble an actual hounds tongue. Flowers are blue to purple with white markings in center and are displayed in clusters on 12 to 30" stems from February through April. Prefers a shady moist site at lower elevations and is common from British Columbia to the California coast, USDA zones 7-9.



### [Dicentra formosa ssp. formosa \(Bleeding Heart\)](#)

This beautiful perennial is native to the Pacific Northwest (USDA 7-10). It is very similar to the cultivated varieties but has a substantially longer bloom time. In fact, it remains in flower all through the spring and summer. Fleshy textured, deeply cut leaves are as delicate as lace, and pendant, pink to purple flowers have gentle fragrance. Bleeding Heart likes shady, moist areas and makes an excellent understory plant. A must for every garden.



### [Dichelostemma \[Brodiaea\] congestum \(Field Cluster Lily, Harvest Lily\)](#)

Native lily found on Vancouver Island in Washington, in large quantities in Oregon's Willamette Valley, and south to Northern California. The flower clusters have a short stem or peduncle, causing them to look crowded or congested as the name implies. Flowers are pale lavender to blue with tepals that are rounded at ends. Found in dry grassy areas, low rocky elevations and requires little or no additional water once planted. Brodiaeas are a wonderful addition to a natural wildflower prairie setting. USDA zones 5-8.



### [Dodecatheon hendersonii \(Shooting Star, Mosquito Bill\)](#)

Among the most loved wild flowers. This one has some distinguishing features that set it apart. Visually noticeable are the broader leaves and dark red to purple stems, and the other feature is their limited habitat. Found between the coast and Cascade Mountains from Vancouver Island to Southern California with a strong concentration found in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. The 6-7" stems hold a cluster of rose purple nodding blooms. Peacocks prefer to grow in areas with adequate Spring moisture that will dry out in Summer, USDA zones 8-9.



### [Erythronium grandiflorum var. grandiflorum \(Glacier Lily, Dogtooth Violet\)](#)

Beautiful lily native to Western states and parts of British Columbia. Adapts well in USDA zones 3-9, will form colonies over time. Found on slopes and in high elevation areas blooming as early as March just after snow melts and as late as August. Tepals are yellow, recurved with white or brown anthers depending on location. Leaves and stem are solid green without decorative markings and overall size depends on where they are found. In the Cascade Region it is not uncommon to find diminutive 6" Glacier Lilies, but east of the Cascade Mountains they can reach 1-2'. They definitely prefer areas that receive a Winter chill and good drainage. What a cheery site these early lilies are after a long Winter.



### [Erythronium oregonum \(Fawn Lily\)](#)

Beautiful lily-like plant, with interesting mottled leaves and tall stalks to 1.' Exquisite pale yellow flowers bow timidly. Self-seed generously to ensure future blooms but be patient. Like so many of our wildflowers, they take many years to mature from seedlings to flowering plants - all the more reason to marvel at and respect our native flowers. Likes moisture and a well-drained soil and does well in gardens. It is found from Vancouver Island to northern Oregon (USDA 7-9).



### [Fragaria chiloensis \(Coastal Strawberry\)](#)

Superb evergreen ground cover, Does well in sun or partial shade. True to its name, this strawberry is native to beach areas and other inhospitable growing sites from Alaska to Chile and in Hawaii as well (USDA 7-10). It spreads by runners to form low, compact mats, 6 - 12" high. Leaves are leathery with red tints in winter. Large white flowers in spring are followed by delectable berries that put store-bought to shame!



### [Fragaria vesca \(Wood's Strawberry, Woodland Strawberry\)](#)

This fine, deciduous strawberry has small, delicious fruit. Light green, sharply toothed, clover-like leaves distinguish this plant. With long runners, it spreads easily to make a nice ground cover. Found in the wild in shaded sites from southern BC to California (USDA 5-9), it is more common on the West side of the Cascades than the East side.



### [Fragaria virginiana var. platypetala \(Wild Strawberry\)](#)

Similar to Wood's Strawberry, bluish green top leaves distinguish this species. Bright white flowers and delicious fruit, this deciduous, low-growing plant, reaches only 2-5" in height. Tucked among larger plants, they cover ground to hold soil, retain moisture and keep youngsters entertained treasure hunting for delicious berries on warm summer days. More common on East side of Cascades, but is also found on Western side at higher elevations than other Fragaria species, Grows on rocky slopes in full sun and often follows rainwater runoff. USDA zones 4-10.



### [Fritillaria affinis \[lanceolata\] \(Chocolate Lily\)](#)

Whorled leaves and unusual flowers, dark purple, mottled with green-yellow. Patterns on bell-shaped, nodding flowers are intriguing. Underground, scaly bulb has many rice-like bulblets that Natives ate as we eat rice today. Do not sample in wild – incredibly rare, both in wild and commercially. Spectacular display of beauty comes only after many years of maturation. From BC to California and East to Idaho (USDA 5-10), this meadow species favors dry, sunny site, excellent drainage. Needs water in Winter and Spring, tolerates drought in summer. Good in rock gardens.



### [Fritillaria pudica \(Yellow Bells\)](#)

A short version of the beloved Fritillaria topping out at only 6" tall in most situations. Because the nodding blooms are more open and often found one per stem, they resemble a small tulip. Flowers are deep yellow with a tinge of brown around the base. Little erect leaves give an animated appearance. Found growing from British Columbia to N California east of the Cascades, USDA zones 3-9. Known to be very hardy and draught tolerant although they look very delicate. Yellow Bells will grow happily in the grassy meadow or woodland setting as well as being a welcome addition to the rock garden.



### [Geum macrophyllum var. macrophyllum \(Large-Leaf Avens\)](#)

Most interesting characteristic of this wetland plant is the leaf variation, which appears as if two plants were combined to make one. At base are rounded compound leaves of different sizes on long petioles, and hugging main stem are three lobed leaves, deeply serrated. Yellow 5 petaled flowers are born at the end of the stems in May. Native Americans found that chewing the leaves of Large Leaf Avens was useful during childbirth and that the roots were good for producing tea to cure stomachaches. This plant can be found from Alaska to California and east to Idaho and Montana; it is especially concentrated in USDA zones 1-9.



### [Goodyera oblongifolia \(Rattlesnake Plantain\)](#)

A delightful evergreen ground orchid of the Northwest. Distinctive criss-cross mottling on the rosette of leaves is like the skin of a "rattlesnake." Delicate flowers bloom on a 6" stem. Found scattered in dry to moist forests across North America and south to Mexico, Rattlesnake Plantain is prevalent in both Washington and Oregon (USDA 6-10). The easiest of the Northwest native orchids to grow.



### [Heracleum lanatum \(Cow Parsnip\)](#)

Massive native perennial, towering at 8-10.' Central stem forms an umbrella of smaller stems adorned with huge, coarsely toothed leaves. Flower head is similarly an umbrella of tiny, white flowers. Butterflies love flowers, as do beneficial insects like ladybugs. Rich, moist soil and room to grow. Native along Pacific and Atlantic coasts (USDA 3-9). Sometimes referred to as "Indian Celery" or "Indian Rhubarb," Widely used by Natives as a vegetable, oiled and eaten raw. It is not a good idea to sample this plant, as it closely resembles Water Hemlock, Poison Hemlock and Giant Cow Parsnip, all of which are extremely dangerous! Although plants may last only a few years, they will reseed themselves generously before they pass.



### [Hydrophyllum tenuipes \(Pacific Waterleaf, Slender Waterleaf\)](#)

This woodland plant has tall 1-2' stems and noticeable large palmate leaves. The flower clusters contain many small greenish white blooms with an occasional touch of lavender. The stamens are very pronounced and stand well above the blossoms, in typical waterleaf fashion. This is a coastal woodland plant that is found most frequently in moister areas. This Pacific Waterleaf is found west of the Cascade Mountains from British Columbia to Northern California, USDA zones 8-9. This is a known food for grazing wildlife.



### [Iris chrysophylla \(Yellow Leaf Iris, Slender Tubed Iris\)](#)

Known as a Northwest Grass Iris, this wildflower is found in concentrations throughout Oregon and Northern California in USDA zone 6-9 areas. The grassy leaves and stem are long but are often bent over giving the plant an overall shorter appearance. The flower is cream colored with a yellow strip down the center, which is surrounded by dark purplish veins. These irises will spread by rhizomes, eventually forming clumps. Grow them in an open area receiving moderate water and sunshine. These flowers are especially appropriate for the grassy meadow and open woodland.



### [Iris douglasiana \(Douglas Iris\)](#)

A fine evergreen Iris, this plant reaches 1-2' tall with a 3" flower. In Spring, the flowers range from lavender to violet and are framed by broad leaves. Douglas Iris is found on dry, grassy slopes and brush lands only between southern Oregon and central California. However, it is hardy from USDA zones 5-10. It grows well in either sun or shade and with little care will spread to form a 2-4' clump. Being easy to grow and extremely long-lived (clumps have been found in the wild that are over 100 years old), the Douglas Iris should be in every native plant garden. Some sources describe this iris as an aggressive weed as livestock will not graze it— should we be so lucky to have this gorgeous native assert itself in our meadows!!



### [Iris missouriensis \(Western Iris\)](#)

This rare and beautiful blue iris is found on the West side of the Cascades only in the Islands of Puget Sound. It can be grown far beyond its native habitat, however, as it is hardy between USDA zones 5-10. This iris likes regular watering and a generous helping of compost in its planting hole. "Iris" is the Greek word for rainbow, a reference to the variegated flowers.



### [Iris purdyi \(Purdy's Iris\)](#)

While many irises are common and widespread, purdyi has limited natural habitat. Primarily found along coastal region of N California and lowest coastal regions of S Oregon. A grass iris, prefers good drainage and part to full sun situations. Prefers warmer USDA hardiness zones 8-9, not recommended for colder climates. Flower structure is very open and flat and blooms are white with yellow stripe and small touches of lavender. Darker purplish veins are generally fine and not as pronounced as some of the others. It is a good iris for the sunny rock garden or the warm grassy meadow.



Iris purdyi  
Purdy's Iris

### [Iris setosa \(Wild Flag\)](#)

Beautiful blue iris reaching 24" at low elevations along West Coast of Alaska and Canada (and also in China and Japan). Likes wet areas and does very well in a moist garden. Bear in mind the plant will spread considerably. Benefits greatly from dividing every few years. USDA zones 2-8. (Note-this plant is poisonous, especially rhizome.)



### [Iris tenax \(Oregon Iris\)](#)

Native grass iris, growing 1-2' tall. At home in Willamette Valley, Oregon. Also found scattered across W Washington and N California. Can be successfully grown outside of this range, hardy between USDA zones 5-9. Low growing with narrow grass-like blades and showy dark blue, short tube flowers on thin stems. Grows in open, sunny sites, sometimes in dry areas such as meadows, pastures and woodland openings, with acidic soil. "Tenax" means tenacious. Leaves were used for rope.



### [Lewisia columbiana, var. columbiana \(Lewisia\)](#)

A showy succulent plant, this Lewisia is ideal for the rock garden. Rosettes grow to 8" wide. Flowers appear on the ends of the many 2-12" stems and are candy-striped pink. Very hardy and easy to grow, Lewisia grows in sand and gravel in full sun at mid- to high elevations along the Pacific Northwest, doing especially well on the drier, eastern side of the Cascades, USDA 4-8.



### [Lewisia columbiana, var. rupicola \(Columbian Lewisia\)](#)

Tiny Lewisia grows to only 8" tall. Multiple rosettes of dark, evergreen leaves arise as many as eight sprays of striped or entirely rose-colored flowers. Can live for an exceptionally long time, given excellent drainage and acidic, gravelly soil. Grows on rocky slopes and sends a large taproot between crevices in the rock to anchor itself. Native west of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon, Columbian Lewisia is hardy only between USDA zones 6-8.



### Lewisia cotyledon (Siskiyou Lewisia, Cliff Maids)

Striking in bloom and indeed its bloom cycle is long – from May to July. Clusters of striped flowers, from magenta and red to orange and yellow, rise above rosette of leaves. After blooming, tiny fruits form. edible but not tasty, better left for future seed, as this species self-sows abundantly. Considered endangered, found scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest, from BC to California and east through the Rocky Mountains, in USDA zones 3-8. It cannot withstand excessive watering and will rot if not given excellent drainage. In intense summer heat it will often die back but will rejuvenate in the fall.



### Lewisia leeana (Lee's Lewisia, Quill-Leafed Lewisia)

The Quill-leafed Lewisia brings cheer to the rocky slopes it inhabits from the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon and the Sierra Nevada range in California (USDA 4-8). The small leaves are thick, fleshy and slightly waxy. They curl downwards like a hand grasping the rocks while the flower stalks extend upwards, the tiny, bright pink flowers held high. It requires excellent drainage and acidic soil. All Lewisias are ideal species for outdoor terracotta pots where they can be moved under an awning or roof overhang in the fall and winter when excessive rains can cause them to rot. Do not bring them indoors though – they need the cold weather in order to bloom. This plant is considered to be very rare and efforts are being made to protect it.



### Lilium columbianum (Tiger Lily)

This beautiful perennial native lily grows from 2-4' tall. From the whorls of 6-9 lime green leaves, stretch the flowering stalks. Each stalk is laden with clusters of 2," bell-like, orange flowers with red spots. They hang pendant, the petals curling backwards to the stem. Very hard to find commercially, Tiger lily is equally rare in the wild due to people harvesting them. If you were blessed to see one, you would find them along the Pacific Coast and inland to Nevada and north to Idaho (USDA 5-10). They frequent open woodlands, steep slopes, roadsides and favor rich, well-drained soil. In the garden they do remarkably well, preferring their heads in the sun but their bases in the shade of other plants. Bare root bulbs often available Sept - Nov. Ask.



### Lilium pardalinum (Leopard Lily)

A beautiful lily with early summer flowers of red and orange, spotted with purple. Leopard lily forms clumps and can reach 6.' Often as many as ten pendant flowers grace each stem. This lily is native to wet meadows and the edges of streams along the coastal regions of the northwest, USDA 5-9. In the garden it needs regular water. Leopard lilies are extremely resilient to diseases and pests. This lily does not appreciate being transplanted, so choose your site carefully.



### [Lilium parryi \(Lemon Lily\)](#)

This lily is one to plant simply to assure its existence, but you will want it for its beauty and fragrance. Its limited native range is in the mid to upper elevations of Southern California and Arizona along streams and riparian areas, USDA zones 6-10. Do not confuse Lemon Lily with the Daylily that shares the same common name but is not a true lily. The yellow trumpet shaped flowers have vivid brown anthers and often have maroon speckles inside. The tall flower stems can reach up to 6 feet tall and will produce several flowers per stem. Lemon Lily grows best in moist rich soil in partial sun.



### [Lilium washingtonianum \(Washington Lily, Cascade Lily\)](#)

As the name implies, this lily is common to regions of Washington and Oregon along Columbia River and Cascades, also Sierra Nevadas of California. Hardy to USDA zones 8-9, and happiest in dry well drained sunny situations. This is a tall lily reaching 3-6' tall. Stalks are covered with fragrant trumpet shaped flowers that are white with dark purple speckles. The flowers will change from white to a purple pink color with age. This is a must have incredible flower for temperate climates.



### [Linnaea borealis var. longiflora \(Twinflower\)](#)

Evergreen groundcover has a truly unique form. Growing to only 6" tall, this semi-woody vine spreads by long runners and has many small shiny leaves close to the ground. Come summer a multitude of delicate flower stalks pop up, each adorned with beautiful pink, trumpet-shaped flowers hanging upside-down in pairs (or twins). They are pink and have wonderful fragrance which some say is as sweet and tentative as almond. Native from Alaska to Oregon, hardy between USDA zones 2-8. It prefers partial to full shade and moist, acidic soil. It is sublime under a planting of Western Azalea (Rhododendron occidentale).



### [Lysichiton americanus \(Skunk Cabbage, Swamp Lantern\)](#)

Unusual and beautiful perennial arum. Large, oval leaves are a vibrant green, can reach 1-4' long and 2' wide. Bright yellow "flower" in March is really a spathe consisting of many tiny flowers sheltered by a large, yellow bract. From flowers comes a smell reminiscent of skunk spray, but mild in comparison to the real thing! Utilizes its scent to attract pollinating insects. Likes boggy, wet conditions, in fact adventurers learn to steer clear of it, lest they lose their boots in peat muck. Can be irritating (even toxic) Native groups used flat leaves to line baskets and pits for steaming food. Found from Alaska to California and inland to Montana, Skunk Cabbage is hardy between USDA 4-7.



### [Maianthemum dilatatum \(False Lily-of-The Valley\)](#)

Glossy green heart-shaped leaves and small flower spikes. The fruit are tiny berries turning from green to brown and eventually red as they mature. An excellent ground cover, this plant barely reaches 1' tall and spreads rapidly. Native from Alaska to northern California, USDA 4-9, False Lily-of-the-Valley is found in moist, shaded forests and boggy areas. It saw wide use medicinally among Native groups.



### [Maianthemum \[Smilacina\] racemosum \(False](#)

#### [Solomon's Seal\)](#)

A showy perennial native to Pacific Northwest. Very hardy, surviving between USDA zones 3-8. Reaching heights of up to 3,' forms clumps in very little time. Exceptionally easy plant to establish in moist, shaded spot in the garden and asserts itself in the gentlest of ways. Arching stems bear many alternate, 2½ – 6" glossy green leaves, a tasty addition to salads and soups. Gorgeous, creamy white flowers develop in clusters at tip of stems, followed by dense clusters of berries. Flowers emit a lovely scent. Native groups respected medicinal qualities.



### [Maianthemum \[Smilacina\] stellatum \(Star-Flowered](#)

Fine and delicate ground cover, native to watercourses in mid- to high elevations from BC to California (USDA 5-9). Full to partial shade and rich, loamy soil. A dainty plant, reaching only 10" in height, leaves are at near right angles to unbranched stems. Star-shaped, white blossoms appear between April and June, followed by pea-sized berries that are green with purple stripes, turning dark purple at maturity.



### [Mimulus guttatus \(Monkey Flower\)](#)

Perennial wildflower to 2,' with large, yellow flowers, like a roaring dragon, in late Fall. Delightful patterns are sprinkled on petal lips. Hummingbirds find trumpet shape alluring. Native groups used stems and leaves as source of salt. Found throughout Pacific NW (USDA 5-10), a riparian species. It cannot tolerate drought and while it grows at high elevations, it follows watersheds and mountain streams.



### [Myosotis alpestris \(Alpine Forget-Me-Not\)](#)

Native version of well known state flower of Alaska, and the same as Myosotis sylvatica, a native of Europe. Found in high alpine meadows and moist areas, stream banks. Prefers part shade, will grow in USDA zones 1-8. May act as biennial or annual, will reseed and create groundcover. Sky blue flowers, yellow centers circled in white. Flowers mid-Summer and continues for a long of time. The foliage is a cluster of fuzzy basal leaves.



### [Oenothera elata \[hookerii\] ssp. hirsutissima](#)

#### (Hooker's Evening Primrose, Sun Drops)

This flower may act as a biennial or perennial depending on the conditions but will reseed and spread like an annual. It is mainly seen as a full sun prairie plant but is also found in other low elevation areas. The golden yellow flower is cup shaped and turns a darker reddish color as it fades. True to its name it will bloom in the evening and then wither but more buds are always waiting to open throughout the long bloom period throughout Summer and Fall. Hooker's Evening Primrose can be found throughout the Western United States and will grow in USDA zones 3-10. This plant is very tolerant of wet situations and will become a fairly good-sized plant. Plant Sun Drops where they will have ample space to grow.



### [Oxalis oregana \(Oxalis, Wood Sorrel\)](#)

A superb, forest ground cover perennial. The delicate leaves are similar to clover leaves and grow 2-6" tall. They will fold in on themselves when the sun goes down or on very dark days. Pink flowers are tucked amid the foliage and bloom between February and August. Found between BC and California, West of the Cascades (hardy between USDA zones 7-10), Wood sorrel needs the shade of larger plants. With regular watering it can completely fill in an area.



### [Penstemon serrulatus \(Cascade Penstemon, Coast Penstemon\)](#)

Found in moist low elevations along coastal regions of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Medium to tall penstemon; and true to the name, thin medium green leaves are serrated along margins. Will develop into cold hardy sub-shrub in USDA zones 5-8. Trumpet shaped flowers tend to be clustered atop long stems and are blue to lavender sometimes with a yellow beard. This penstemon thrives near the waters edge and the moist woodland setting so it will do well in a sunny garden situation that is given water.



### [Prosartes \[Disporum\] hookeri \(Hooker's Fairybells\)](#)

A beautiful, delicate plant to 3' tall with an open form of few branches and thin leaves, both covered with soft hairs. Creamy white flowers are bell-shaped and hang in pairs or triplets, followed by orange berries. Found in moist, shady forest areas from southern BC to northwestern Oregon (USDA 7-9) often along with False Solomon's Seal (Smilacina racemosa) and Wood Sorrel (Oxalis oregana).



### [Prosartes \[Disporum\] smithii \(Smith's Fairybells or Fairy Lantern\)](#)

Similar to Hooker's Fairybells, this species has smooth stem and leaves and reaches only 15." Delightful white flowers hang pendant from upright stems and are followed by red berries. Spreads quickly by rhizomes to fill in a moist, shaded opening in your garden.



### [Prunella vulgaris var. lanceolata \(Self-Heal, Heal-All\)](#)

Common name for this plant tells the story. Has been made into a drink to use as tonic, leaves tea for heart ailments, juice and leaves ointments and poultices for injuries and bruises, the list goes on. Native origin is Europe but has naturalized over much of continent. Foot high stems bear purple to pink hooded flowers throughout Summer. Deep-rooted, will form dense mattes. Use in areas needing tough groundcover free of delicate plants that it might compete with. Open disturbed sites as well as moist areas in USDA zones 1-11.



### [Sagittaria latifolia \(Wapato, Arrowhead\)](#)

Starchy edible tubers were noted food source for Native Americans and Lewis and Clark and are currently enjoyed by ducks and other waterfowl. Commonly found in wet swampy areas across continental United States but is less abundant today in Pacific NW due to habitat destruction. Leaves grow above ground, strongly arrow shaped. In mid Summer, flower stems appear bearing white flowers with yellow centers. USDA zones 3-10 along stream banks and lake or pond edges. Important plant in restoration of riparian zones in sun or part shade areas.



### [Sedum oregonum \(Oregon Stonecrop\)](#)

Found along coast from Alaska to N California, USDA zones 5-10. Requires regular water and good drainage, usually found growing in gravel or on rocky outcroppings. Will develop into mat of rosette shaped green fleshy leaves with bronze overtones. Yellow star shaped flowers appear in clusters in summer and later wither but the leaves will remain evergreen. This sedum is a great choice for rock garden.



### [Sedum spathulifolium ssp. spathulifolium \(Broadleaf Stonecrop\)](#)

Broad-leafed sedum decorates rock face from NW Washington State to California. Numerous tight rosettes of waxy, blue-green leaves give rise to erect stems, sport cluster of charming yellow flowers. Sunny rock gardens and other places where watering hose will not reach! Grows fast, demands nothing in return except bright sunshine. Remarkably adaptable, surviving from USDA 4-10.



[Sidalcea cusickii \(Cusick's Sidalcea, Cusick's Checkermallow\)](#)

Delightful, hollyhock-like perennial rarely found outside its native Oregon. Reaching full 5,' stout stems to support one to five densely flowered racemes. Rose-pink petals age to deep purple and are indeed regal. Thrives in full sun to partial shade and is a riparian species, so it needs consistently moist soil in the garden. It is considered to be rare or threatened in its natural habitat. Butterflies find it irresistible.



[Sidalcea virgata \(Rose Checker Mallow, Wild Hollyhock\)](#)

Native to Washington and Oregon's Willamette Valley along roadsides, moist meadows, and hillsides, USDA zone 8. Loose racemes of rose pink to magenta flowers in Springtime. Spreads by rhizomes, which develop into clumps over time. Will reach 1-2' tall with palmate lower leaves and deeply cut foliage along the stem. This is a wonderful wildflower for mild moist areas and will create an inviting habitat for butterflies.



[Sisyrinchium californicum \(Golden-Eyed Grass\)](#)

Grass-like perennial in the Iris family. From clumps of grass-like foliage sprout bright yellow flowers with six petals and noteworthy veins. Bloom throughout the entire summer, opening wide in the morning but tucking in for a siesta during the hot afternoon sun. Likes moisture in the early Spring and cannot survive drought conditions. Found in wetlands at low elevations from southern Vancouver Island to California, USDA 8-10.



[Sisyrinchium idahoense var. idahoense \(Idaho Blue-Eyed-Grass\)](#)

What a treat it is to have the grass sprout attractive blue to purple blooms. Star shaped flowers with yellow centers that appear from early Spring to mid-Summer. Native to the Pacific Northwest and coastal California but can be found throughout the Western states in moist marshy meadows and grasslands, USDA zones 3-9. The flower stems can be from 4" to 16" tall with the linear leaf blades being slightly shorter in stature. Blue-Eyed-Grass requires a moist situation in part to full sun.



[Solidago canadensis var. salebrosa \(Canada Goldenrod\)](#)

A very widespread perennial covering much of North America, USDA zones 1-11. Originally brought to America as a tea substitute during the revolutionary war. Does not cause allergic reactions as once thought. Found growing in sunny open areas, roadsides, and hillsides. Can grow to 4' with linear leaves along the stem. Flowers are in plume like clusters of tiny yellow flowers in early Fall. It is a good plant for the wildflower meadow.



## [Symphyotrichum chilense \(Pacific Aster, Wetland Aster\)](#)

Wetland flower found primarily along stream banks, moist grasslands, and forested wetlands from Alaska to California. A favorite for native bees and butterflies carving out an important niche for this species. Hardy on West Coast and spreads by rhizomes. In colder climates, it may act like an annual spreading by seed. Meet this aster's need for moisture and sunshine, and it will do well. Stalks are tall and airy with sparse foliage, flowers are quite nice. Dainty flower heads have blue violet outer rays, and small tubular central flowers may be white on occasion but generally yellow. Valuable for wetland habitat. USDA 5-9.



## [Symphyotrichum subspicatum \(Douglas Aster\)](#)

A handsome perennial to about 2' tall, the Douglas Aster is found throughout the northwest and is most prevalent west of the Cascades (USDA zones 5-9). It is very common in coastal Alaska and northern BC. It grows in meadows, forest clearings, on beaches and in both salt- and freshwater wetlands. Nice purple flowers are ½" from multiple, hairy stems and bloom in late summer. They attract butterflies and bees.



## [Synthyris reniformis \(Spring Queen, Kitten Tails\)](#)

Certainly one of the harbingers of Spring in the Pacific Northwest, revealing its blue bell shaped flowers just as the snow is retreating. A quaint little plant with round scalloped leaves in basal rosette with flowers held above foliage. It prefers a moist forest environment in partial shade or morning sun. Spring Queen can be found along the coast from Washington to California, USDA zones 8-9. This is a must have plant for the woodland garden.



## [Tellima grandiflora \(Fringecup\)](#)

Nice woodlander, likes damp, open ground. From scalloped leaves emerge 2' wands, each bearing 50 or more ½" delightful, pale cream or greenish flowers. As fragrant flowers mature, fringe turns rosy pink. Excellent ground cover spreads easily and looks fabulous en masse. Hummingbirds will thank-you for the sweet nectar. Found between Alaska and California, in coastal and interior ranges, into Idaho as well. USDA zones 5-10. Mature plants can be divided.



## [Tolmiea menziesii \(Piggyback Plant, Youth-on-Age\)](#)

Fine perennial sometimes used as a houseplant. Common names allude to odd habit of growth: new, young leaves grow from the bases of the older leaves. They, in turn, eventually wither away and the newer leaves continue the cycle. Chocolate-colored, wand-like flowers bloom in the Spring. Piggyback plant is native from Alaska to California, in USDA zones 7-10. It requires moisture and some shade to thrive.



### Trillium kurabayashii (Giant Purple Trillium)

We are currently in propagation stages with this rare and exotic trillium. We hope to offer it for sale in the near future. Meantime, may we suggest Trillium Ovatum (Western Trillium) or Trillium Parviflorum (Sessile Trillium). You might establish a bed of these trilliums now and add Trillium Kurbayashi when it becomes available.



### Trillium ovatum ssp. ovatum (Western Trillium)

Trilliums are the most beautiful of all native flowers and this is common trillium of Northwest. Single stalks bear three large leaves. Close to Easter, large white flower with three petals opens from small stem above leaves. As it ages, flower becomes pleasing purple. Flowers are small miracles of nature, requiring seven years to grow from seed to flower. Found along Pacific coast and inland throughout Rocky Mountains (USDA 5-8), grows at low elevations and often along streams or seasonal waterways. It needs shade and rich soil.



### Trillium parviflorum (Sessile Trillium)

A beautiful 12" trillium found in Marion and Polk counties in Oregon - close to a rare status. Occurring in the understory of hardwoods (usually Oregon Ash and sometimes Red Alder or Garry oak), this trillium needs shade and moist soil. It will even tolerate seasonal flooding. The leaves are somewhat mottled and often larger than those of Western Trillium. The flowers sit directly on the three leaves. Their white color fades to purple with age - spectacular. The seed pods are plump with a purple dye.



### Triteleia hyacinthina (Hyacinth Brodiaea, Fool's Onion)

Formerly known as Triteleia hyacinthina, this lily has papery white flowers with green veins that often have purple cast to them. Although not hyacinths, they are thought to resemble the beloved flower. Neither is this brodiaea an onion, but I think it much more resembles allium family and is why it is given common name Fool's Onion. West Coast native is frequently found from S British Columbia to N California West of Cascade Mountains. Not uncommon to find it growing among grasses or sagebrush. USDA zones 4-9 in well-drained sunny spot.



### Vancouveria hexandra (Inside-Out Flower)

An excellent, vigorous groundcover that likes the shade. Dull, green deciduous leaves are delicate and grow 8-16" tall. Tucked amid the foliage are the large, white flowers folded backwards on themselves, like those of the shooting star species. Found at low elevations from Tacoma to California (USDA 8-10), Inside-out flower needs shade and moisture. It does exceptionally well under the canopy of alders or maples, where the fallen leaves keep the soil cool and moist. A good companion to Salal and Rhododendrons.



### Veratrum viride (Corn Lily, False Hellebore)

It is easy to see why this perennial plant would be called Corn Lily, the wide leaves grow in a similar fashion and the yellow flowers hang in tassels looking much like the silk hanging from a ripe cob of corn. But it is not related to corn and is not edible; in fact the roots contain a strong poison that is used as an insecticide. This full sun plant prefers moist meadows, swamps and bogs. It is a widespread plant found across much of Canada as well as most of the United States with the exception of the Deep South, USDA zones 1-11.



### Viola adunca (Early blue Violet, Western Long Spurred Violet)

Adunca refers to the two lower petals of this flower; it means hooked, which describes the way they protrude outward. The petals are purple and streaked with dark veins and may vary in color by region. This violet is possibly the most common one found from Alaska across the Western United States as well as the upper portion of the East Coast, USDA zones 1-9. Violets have become more and more popular in salads and candied for desserts, the purple color make these a nice addition to any meal. The round leaves are in a basal rosette, and the seed capsules explode allowing the plants to spread. They grow well in moist to average soil and sun to part shade.



### Viola glabella (Yellow Violet)

The largest native violet, with cheerful little blooms. Pointed, toothed leaves form on the ends of the stems and delightful yellow flowers with purple striations reach upwards on fragile-looking stalks. Yellow violets like moisture and spread quite eagerly. They are native from Alaska to the Sierra Nevada and east to Montana, USDA zones 5-8. They are also found in northeast Asia. Usually available late April.



### [Viola sempervirens \(Evergreen Violet, Trailing Yellow Violet\)](#)

Evergreen habit of these delicate looking leaves is indeed a plus, and they will look very nice scaling a rock wall or gracing forest floor. Spreading stolons will assure that a nice woodland groundcover will result. Spring flowers are yellow and are marked with purple veins. Truly a woodland violet that prefers moist humus rich conditions such as those found in coniferous forests. Routinely found along coast of Alaska, BC and Pacific NW as well as California and Idaho, USDA zones 1- 9. Edible flowers.



### [Xerophyllum tenax \(Bear Grass, Indian Basket Grass\)](#)

Unusual perennial, grows to a towering 3-6.' A lily with grass-like leaves and stunning, tall wands of white flowers. The roots are a favorite food of bears, especially as they emerge from hibernation (hence the name "Bear grass"). Once called "squaw grass" because Natives used the leaves for basket weaving and weaving was considered to be women's work. Bear grass occurs in open mountain slopes on the eastern side of the Cascades from BC through Washington and Oregon and into Idaho and Montana (USDA 4-8).



## **FERNS**

### [Adiantum aleuticum \[pedatum\] \(Maidenhair Fern\)](#)

Deciduous, delicate, dainty fern, 1 – 2' tall. Strong, shiny purple-black stems grow erect and split in two, from which fan horizontal fronds of tiny leaflets, spreading like fingers of a hand. Grows in moist shaded crevices in rocks, especially near falling or rushing water, benefits from constant mist. Native both east and west of Cascades and is found scattered along eastern seaboard, being hardy from USDA zones 3-8. Many stories explain the common name, liveliest relating a practice of testing a girl's virtue: if she could handle the stem without causing the leaves to tremble, then she was chaste.



### [Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum \(Lady Fern\)](#)

Excellent deciduous native may reach 6' tall. Spreading fan-like from base, fronds form diamond of feathery foliage. Select a sheltered spot to protect delicate, yellow-green herbage from wind damage. Likes moist, even boggy, soil and shade. Grows across N America, considered threatened in New York and Florida. Hardy from USDA zones 4-8. Natives ate "fiddleheads" of this species.



### [Blechnum spicant \(Deer Fern or Hard Fern\)](#)

Fine evergreen reaching heights of only 12-24." Low-growing sterile fronds spread horizontally from basal tuft, while fertile fronds are thin and deciduous and grow erect, directly from center of clump. Found from Alaska to California and inland to Idaho, USDA zones 4-8. It likes moist, acidic soil. The common name may reflect the fact that this plant is an important browse for deer and elk. It may also be traced to a Native belief that Deer fern has medicinal properties, knowledge gleaned from observing deer rub their heads against the plant after they lose their antlers.



### [Dryopteris arguta \(Coastal Shield Fern, Coastal Wood Fern, Wood Fern\)](#)

A beautiful evergreen fern. Tolerating more sun than other Northwest ferns, this species is found growing on steep wooded slopes or on sunny riverbanks along the Pacific Coast, west of the Cascades, and into Arizona. Its hardiness ranges from USDA zones 7-10. It is classified as an endangered species in Canada. The "pineapple-like" root was reportedly an important food for Native Americans.



### [Polypodium glycyrrhiza \(Licorice Fern\)](#)

Highly unusual, eye-catching fern to 2' tall, grows directly out of moss on rocks and tree limbs. Found mostly on Big Leaf Maples and Garry Oaks. Having an opposite dormant season, will dry up in summer drought, only to green up immediately with first fall rains and stay green all winter. Rootstocks have licorice flavor and reportedly have been chewed for flavor as well as medicinal purposes. Also mixed with foul-tasting medicinal plants to improve their flavor. Found between Alaska and Arizona and east into Idaho, hardy between USDA zones 5-8. Sold in winter by square foot sections, each with several plants.



### [Polystichum munitum \(Sword Fern, Christmas Fern, Sword Holly Fern\)](#)

Magnificent evergreen fern, the centerpiece of the native garden. Sword fern forms massive clumps with fronds 2-5' in length. These perfectly symmetrical fronds grow erect or arch slightly. These large clumps can have up to 100 fronds and are stunning. Sword fern is found in shaded locations from Alaska to California and east through the Rocky Mountain ranges (USDA 7-10). It is a long-lived fern and is not susceptible to damage by deer. Natives used the fronds as bedding or to line berry baskets and steaming pits. The rhizome was eaten in emergencies. (Note—often bareroot sword fern are available stored in sand beds, you dig.)



## SHRUBS

### [Amelanchier alnifolia \(Serviceberry, Saskatoon Berry\)](#)

Choice deciduous shrub, 6 – 10.' Extremely hardy, ranging from Pacific coast to prairies, USDA zones, 3-10. Found on rocky, dry slopes and well-drained thickets, full sun and, aside from generous layer of mulch, will require minimal attention. Outstanding blue-green foliage, delicate 2" flower clusters and brilliant red/yellow fall color. Pea size, purple fruits make fantastic pies and preserves. Highly esteemed by Native groups and used to improve flavor of less desirable berries. Not only humans love these fruit - wildlife of all varieties will come for a taste! I strongly recommend this plant for all native plant gardens.



### [Andromeda polifolia var. polifolia \(Bog Rosemary\)](#)

Outstanding evergreen native for wet sites, Found across North America, hardy from USDA zones 2-9. Low-growing, has soft pink flowers that hang like fairy bells from narrow, leathery, ½ - 1" leaves. Spreads by rhizomes, contains dangerous toxic compounds so must not be eaten. Sun and moisture and acidity, add mixture of wet peat moss and compost to planting hole. Beauty interrupts the vast swamplands in which it grows, much as the beauty of its namesake, the Greek heroine, stood out against the ocean when her parents ruthlessly tied her to the rocks as a sacrifice to the sea-monster.



### [Arctostaphylos columbiana \(Hairy Manzanita\)](#)

Finest and most widespread of tall manzanitas, evergreen shrub grows quickly to 8 – 10.' Found in rocky areas and steep slopes, from California coast to BC, Hardy from USDA zones 7-10. Likes full sun, well-drained, acidic soil, and southern or western exposure. Highly drought tolerant. Hairy green leaves form at end of twigs, followed by delightful clusters of fragrant, white/light pink flowers. Later dark, rust-colored edible fruits form. Reddish brown bark peels. My plants are larger select "specimens."



### [Arctostaphylos uva-ursi \(Kinnikinnick\)](#)

Evergreen ground cover, long, trailing branches, thickly clothed with dark green, leathery leaves. In winter leaves often become regal burgundy. White/ pink, urn-shaped flowers followed by vibrant red berries (birds love). Fast-growing USDA zones 5-10, Alaska to New Mexico to Virginia in dry, sunny locations. Native groups smoked leaves. Berries still used medicinally to treat bladder and kidney disorders. Landscaping steep banks, rockeries and open spaces in urban settings, anchors soil by rooting at intervals along stems.



### [Baccharis pilularis \(Coyote Bush\)](#)

Tough evergreen with thick shiny triangular leaves. Native primarily California and Oregon Coast, USDA zones 8-9. Little can deter this plant from growing, not heat, wind or lack of water; it is even fire and deer resistant. 1-2 foot tall will make great ground or bank cover, or when grown singly will develop into small rounded shrub. Flowers are yellow and female plants produce fuzzy seed heads. Native Americans used this plant for tea which relieved poison oak rash.



### [Ceanothus cuneatus var. cuneatus \(Buck Brush\)](#)

Taller form of ceanothus. Small rounded leaves are grayish green and deeply veined. Found in dry USDA zone 8-10 regions of Oregon and on down through Baja California. Main requirements are full sun, dry soil with perfect drainage, and no additional water once established. Will be covered in white fragrant flower clusters in early Spring. Flowers are later followed by 3 horned fruit capsules. Great ceanothus for naturalizing dry slopes in mild climate areas. Known for its nitrogen fixing abilities, valuable in areas needing regeneration.



### [Ceanothus integerrimus \(Deerbrush, Mountain Lilac\)](#)

A most beautiful 6-15' shrub for large groupings. Late Spring lilac like flower clusters in shades of white, blue, lavender, and occasionally pink. Truly drought tolerant, requires very little water once established but demands good drainage and part to full sun exposure. Found growing in S. Washington, Oregon, West of Cascade Mountains in California and even desert regions of New Mexico and Arizona. Cold hardy to USDA zones 5-9 but will handle temperatures as low as -10F in a perfect cultural environment. Semi-deciduous with large glossy leaves that can act as an evergreen at lower elevations and completely deciduous in high elevations. Wonderful for mass planting on dry banks, and though the deer will nibble, planting several will likely assure survival.



### [Ceanothus prostratus \(Mahala Mat\)](#)

It is unusual for a ceanothus to be found growing at subalpine levels, but Mahala Mat is most comfortable there providing it receives an insulating layer of snow in winter. High winds and high temperatures are not favorable for this low growing evergreen groundcover; it needs a partial sun situation with good drainage. When content will form dense mat of glossy serrated leaves and produce pale blue flower clusters and bright red horned fruit. Native to dry mountainous regions of Washington, Oregon and California and can be occasionally found in Idaho and Nevada, USDA zones 5-8. This is a very attractive plant given the proper growing conditions.



### [Ceanothus sanguineus \(Red Stem Ceanothus\)](#)

Attractive little shrub is excellent in a site that has been burned, disturbed or suffers very low fertility, where other shrubs would fail. In fact, all members of Ceanothus genus are symbiotic with nitrogen-fixing bacteria and improve soil for future and neighbouring plants. Growing in an erect and loosely branched form, reaches 5 – 10.' Thin, dark green leaves fall, revealing slender, purple-red stems. In spring, small, white flowers in dense 4" clusters erupt in glorious scent at ends of branches. Highly adaptable, tolerating sun or shade, dry or moist sites, as long as drainage is good. It is found along the Pacific Coast and is hardy between USDA zones 6-10.



### [Ceanothus thrysiiflorus \(Blueblossom, California Lilac\)](#)

The queen of wild evergreen lilacs, reigns with grace and majesty from southwestern Oregon to southern California (USDA zones 8-10). Flowers resemble the top of the “thyrsus” - the staff of Dionysus, that unruly Greek God of wine. This particular variety is a selected compact form which grows rapidly to about 6' tall and 5' wide - ideal for gardens close to buildings. Covered with bright, evergreen leaves and beautiful, deep lilac blue flowers in spring which are intense—vibrant! Blueblossom does well in sun or shade and requires minimum care or water. Blueblossom is a must for west side gardens.



### [Ceanothus velutinus \(Snowbrush\)](#)

Evergreen shrub will greet you with intoxicating, spicy fragrance when you brush against it or on hot summer days. 2-8' tall with dark green, sticky leaves and small white flowers in tidy 5" 'pom poms.' Found widely in the West, from British Columbia down through the Western United States in USDA zones 7-10. A pioneer following fire as fire stimulates seed germination: another example of Nature's supreme sagacity, “fixes” nitrogen and nitrogen is much in demand after devastation of fire!



### [Cercis occidentalis \(Western Redbud\)](#)

Deciduous shrub favors dry, sunny areas. True native beauty graces landscapes from Pacific Coast to Utah, in USDA 6-10. It usually develops multiple stems with an open form, to 8.' In spring, brilliant magenta flowers like sweet peas burst forth even before blue-green leaves open! Absolutely fabulous! Reddish brown seed pods persist through winter months. Flowers, buds, seed pods and seeds are all edible – just picture those glorious blossoms tossed in salad or strewn across chocolate cake! Also symbiotic with nitrogen fixing bacteria, and improves the soil for its neighbours.



### [Cornus sericea ssp. occidentalis \(Creek Dogwood\)](#)

This handsome, deciduous shrub is very similar to Red Osier Dogwood. The only real difference between the two is that this variety does not spread by underground runners (stolons). Its range is limited to the west side of the Cascades and it is hardy from USDA zones 7-10.



### [Cornus sericea ssp. stolonifera \(Red-Osier Dogwood\)](#)

An ideal deciduous shrub, Red-Osier Dogwood is both attractive and useful. Forming many stems, it grows rapidly in sun or shade to 15,' (it can be sheared). The leaves are opposite and have deep, distinct veins, turning a spectacular crimson in fall. When the leaves fall, they reveal the red, showy twigs, stunning against a backdrop of snow. Flat topped clusters white flowers form in spring followed by blue-white berries. Red Osier Dogwood is found across North America, in USDA zones 5-10. This plant is invaluable in rehabilitation as it spreads by runners to hold soil, slow water flow and increase sedimentation. Wildlife and pollinating insects rely on this shrub for food.



### [Cornus sessilis \(Blackfruit Dogwood\)](#)

A most desirable variety, the Blackfruit Dogwood is extremely rare and is native only to California and Southern Oregon. It is hardy from USDA zones 7-10 and thrives in shaded, moist, acidic locations as an understory plant or companion to larger, well-established trees or shrubs. It would be ideal with mature Rhododendrons. This deciduous "woodlander" grows quickly to 15' and attains widths of 3-9.' It has lovely fall foliage and indiscreet butter-yellow to white flowers. The fruit or berries change from white to orange to black as they age.



### [Garrya elliptica \(Silk-Tassel\)](#)

This regal evergreen shrub reaches 8,' remaining dense and shrubby as it grows. The leaves are glossy green with gray undersides. The late winter months see the branches adorned with long, pendant male catkins to 10" - a unique and airy display. Purple gray flowers follow. Silk-Tassel is an excellent choice for coastal gardens as it favors moderate temperatures, full sun and tolerates mild summer drought and salt spray. It is found growing between western Washington and southern California, USDA zones 7-10.



### Garrya fremontii (Fremont Silk Tassel or Fever Bush)

This delightful evergreen shrub is somewhat similar to *Garrya elliptica*, but has smaller winter catkins. Found in Washington, Oregon and California, on steep, rocky slopes, it is hardy in USDA zones 7-10. At maturity, Fremont Silk-Tassel will reach heights of 3 - 9' and widths of 8-10.' Bright green foliage with light undersides contrasts with the decorative, yellow flowers and the subsequent purple berries. Fremont Silk-Tassel is a critical browse plant for many wildlife species. Specimen from southwestern Oregon. Male and female plants (random).



### Gaultheria shallon (Salal)

Sturdy evergreen shrub found widely along Pacific Coast and is hardy in USDA zones 8-10. Salal grows from 3 - 6,' mostly under evergreens where it spreads quickly to form dense thickets. Dark green, lustrous leaves are popular among commercial florists. White or pink flowers in late spring attract hummingbirds. The fruits are plentiful and delicious, prized by hikers, small children, Native groups and bears. Use under evergreens & deciduous trees where most shrubs will not survive or as a low-maintenance ground cover. Extremely adaptable, thriving in sun, shade, humus, infertile, dry or moist soils. Requires little care once established.



### Holodiscus discolor (Oceanspray, Creambush)

A beautiful deciduous shrub grows to 20' in the wild - can be kept to 10' in the garden by pruning (the trimmings add character to bouquets). Pendants of creamy white flowers, whose fragrance improves with age, form in early summer and persist through fall and winter. This plant is sometimes referred to as "Ironwood," a reference to the incredible strength of the wood. Indeed the wood was carved into spikes and used as nails are now. Oceanspray prefers full sun and is found on dry, rocky slopes from southern BC to California and east to Montana (USDA zones 5-10).



### Ledum glandulosum (Labrador or Trapper's Tea)

Delightful evergreen shrub, reminiscent of a Rhododendron--both members of acid-loving heather family. At home in bog lands with low nutrients from Pacific Coast to Rocky Mountains, in USDA zones 4-9. Forms many branches and grows to 3.' Characteristic rust-colored "fur" on undersides of 2 ½" long, drooping leaves. Emits lovely, spicy odor and rewards its keepers with clusters of decorative, white flowers in late summer. Natives and early settlers made tea from leaves but great care must be taken in identification!



### [Lonicera ciliosa \(Orange Honeysuckle\)](#)

Beautiful honeysuckle often found scrambling up forest shrubs such as Red Osier Dogwood or Oceanspray. Leaves are opposite and oval, last pair being joined together to form a circle from which spring spirals of large, orange, trumpet-shaped flowers attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and children young and old who savor sweet nectar at base. In late orange summer berries form, considered inedible to humans. Native to west side of Cascade Mountains, hardy from USDA zones 6-9.



### [Lonicera hispidula \(Pink Honeysuckle\)](#)

A delightful climbing or sprawling honeysuckle with small, 1" pink flowers, with a touch of purple, instead of the usual yellow. This honeysuckle is found on dry, rocky slopes in full sun from BC to California, USDA zones 6-10. It is extremely drought tolerant and wonderfully perfumed.



### [Lonicera involucrata \(Twinberry\)](#)

A fast-growing, handsome shrub, in the Honeysuckle family, Twinberry branches freely, reaching heights of 6 - 10.' The foliage is glossy and dark green. Small yellow flowers form in pairs. Two pairs of telltale burgundy bracts surround twin purple-black fruit. Twinberry likes sun or partial shade and moisture. It is found in freshwater and brackish wetlands alike across Canada and along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California (USDA zones 4-10).



### [Mahonia aquifolium \(Tall Oregon Grape\)](#)

Superb evergreen shrub, State flower of Oregon. Hardy USDA zones 5-10, at home along Pacific Coast from BC to N California. Can reach 10,' but is usually 5' in gardens. In spring, large clusters of small golden flowers unfurl from shiny green, holly-like foliage. New growth is copper color in spring. Blue fruits are tart and improve after frost, gather for jelly or wine. Used to treat a wide variety of ailments, species contains extremely potent alkaloid, berberine, (also found in goldenseal) which is antiseptic and stimulates liver and spleen. Use for hedges, borders and drifts. Flourishes in sun or shade, highly drought tolerant.



### [Mahonia nervosa \(Cascade Oregon Grape\)](#)

Excellent ground cover in partially shaded areas. Has same beautiful flowers and fruit as Tall Oregon Grape but has longer leaves and reaches heights of only 2.' Flowers are highly aromatic and, like all Mahonias, autumn display is spectacular, with burgundy, red, gold and bronze. This plant is widespread in open forest areas or in the understory from BC to California and in Idaho as well.



### [Mahonia \[Berberis\] repens \(Creeping Oregon Grape\)](#)

Superior ground cover of Oregon Grape species, recommended to cover large open areas not suitable for lawn. Growing a mere 12-18" tall and spreading by rhizomes, tolerates sun or shade and is drought resistant after established. In wild, flourishes in areas that have been recently logged as well as forested areas along Pacific Coast and throughout southwestern States, USDA zones 4-10. Dull green holly-like leaves, fragrant yellow flowers and blue-purple edible fruits. Considered endangered and is protected by the state of California.



### [Myrica californica \(Pacific Wax Myrtle, California Wax Myrtle\)](#)

Outstanding evergreen shrub, typical of dune landscapes but is perfect for most native gardens. Dense, bushy shrub to 15,' clean, glossy, green leaves throughout the year. Small flowers form before leaves followed by purple nutlet fruits that are attractive to birds and from which you can render wax. Hardy between USDA zones 7-10, found from Washington to southern California and in isolated places on Vancouver Island, in full sun or shade. It "fixes" nitrogen and therefore tolerates poor soil. Use as a specimen or hedging plant, as it survives high winds.



### [Myrica gale \(Sweet Gale, Pacific Bayberry\)](#)

Deciduous shrub found in moist situations such as swamps and bogs. Very abundant along West coast coastal Alaska, also in some parts of Midwestern and Eastern States in USDA zones 1-8. Flowers are catkins with female and male flowers on separate bushes. Leaves emerge after catkins and are long and leathery with strong serration and aromatic yellow glands. Small nutlets will form and remain on the bush. Branches are used to flavor what is called gale beer. Small to medium shrub that will grow from 2-6 feet tall and will spread by suckers to form colonies. Important as a wetland plant and for its nitrogen fixing abilities.



### [Oemleria cerasiformis \(Indian Plum, Oso Berry\)](#)

A harbinger of spring, with pendant, greenish-white clusters of flowers in early March, grows rapidly to 15 - 20.' Long, slender stems grow erect in full sun but in dappled shade they arch majestically. Foliage is cheerful lime green, turning yellow in autumn. In early summer, olive size, bittersweet, purple berries dot branches but are almost immediately eaten by birds Natives collected berries for eating. Found from BC to California, west of Cascade Mountains, USDA zones 8-9. Moist sites, full to partial shade but will do full sun.



### [Oplopanax horridus \(Devil's Club\)](#)

Truly unique addition to the garden, tall, wand-like naked stem with vicious spines, topped with huge palmate leaves surrounding spike of tiny flowers. In summer, flowers become a pyramid of brilliant, red berries. Grows from 3-9' tall and needs moist and shady spot. Closely related to ginseng, it has many medicinal properties and was one of the most important medicinal plants for coastal Natives. Consider planting as protector of rare specimens or along trails to keep hikers from exploring: few will venture past the sharp thorns. Native from Alaska to southern Oregon and east to the Great Lakes, this shrub is hardy in USDA zones 4-9.



### [Paxistima \[Pachistima\] myrsinites \(Oregon Boxleaf, Falsebox\)](#)

This low evergreen native is similar to Japanese holly and boxwood. It grows prostrate to 3' high, with dark, leathery leaves 1" across and tiny red flowers. Found on dry, rocky slopes from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, it is hardy in USDA zones 3-9. In the wild, Oregon Box provides valuable winter browse for wildlife. For the garden, select a sunny to partially shaded site and ensure excellent drainage. Used around conifers, borders and paths, Oregon Box provides year-round greenery with little to no watering and care.



### [Philadelphus lewisii \(Mock Orange, Syringa\)](#)

This open shrub branches freely and quickly to attain heights of 4-10.' It is extremely adaptable to soil and light conditions, very drought tolerant and requires minimal attention once established. In return for your small efforts, you will be richly rewarded in late June with full clusters of large, snow-white flowers whose scent is positively intoxicating. The name "philadelphus" means "brotherly love," and it is no surprise as one smell of the glorious fragrance and all traces of bitterness evaporate. Hardy from USDA zones 5-10, Mock Orange is native from BC to California and east to Montana. It is the state flower of Idaho.



### [Physocarpus capitatus \(Pacific Ninebark\)](#)

This large, spreading shrub grows rapidly to 12,' with small, maple-like leaves and thin, shreddy bark. Some say there are nine layers of bark, leading to the name. Small white flowers unfurl in a dense cluster of 3-5," like ready-made corsages for a summer gala. In fall the leaves turn vivid shaded of red and orange. Pacific Ninebark grows in sun or shade. It likes moist sites and will tolerate seasonal flooding, as well as summer droughts. It is at home from Alaska to California and is hardy between USDA zones 3-10. It is considered to be poisonous by Natives.



### [Physocarpus malvaceus \(Mallow Ninebark\)](#)

Mallow Ninebark grows among pine and fir on rocky hillsides and slopes. A tough draught tolerant medium sized shrub that resembles a currant. Frequents eastern portions of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon and parts of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. It is cold hardy and will endure hot dry conditions, USDA zones 4-8. It is a deciduous shrub with lobed leaves that turn brilliant red in the Fall. The flowers are white with 5 petals and yellow centers and appear in early Summer followed by brown seed husks in the Fall. As the shrubs mature, the gray bark becomes very stringy and peels. This shrub is a great choice for tough climates.



### [Potentilla fruticosa \(Shrubby Cinquefoil\)](#)

Beautiful ornamental to 3,' Small, downy leaves and masses of large, yellow blossoms that remain for a long season. Birds feed on the small berries that follow. This shrub is native to alpine meadows, northern bogs and disturbed sites across North America and in Europe and Asia at high elevations (USDA 3-9). It thrives in full sun and is a wonderful addition to the rock garden or an out of the way spot, as it requires minimal care.



### [Prunus americana \(American Plum, Wild Plum\)](#)

Found in the Rocky Mountains as well as the Midwest and Eastern portions of the United States. It is a thicket forming large shrub to small tree that will reach approximately 20 feet in height and will grow almost as wide. The flowers are white with red sepals and appear before the dark green leaves. Plums are always good for attracting and feeding birds and this one is no exception. The yellow to red fruit is a little sour out of hand but works fine for jam or jelly. This is a tough versatile draught tolerant native that will also thrive in moist soil in USDA zones 3-9.



### [Rhododendron albiflorum \(Cascade Azalea, White Flowered Rhododendron\)](#)

This shrub is more like the rhododendrons we know as azaleas. It has small deciduous leaves, reaches 3-6' and has an open branching habit. Has a limited range within British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana at subalpine to alpine elevations along moist forest slopes and stream banks. Creamy bell shaped flowers are replaced by brown fruit capsules that pair up with brightly colored Fall foliage. Not being a poisonous member of the rhododendron family, Native Americans utilized parts of this plant medicinally as a tea or gargle for stomach and throat issues and a dressing for skin injuries. Grow Cascade Azalea in USDA zones 6-8.



## Rhododendron macrophyllum (Pacific Rhododendron)

Large, evergreen shrub with thick, oblong leaves and rounded top. Grows compact and dense in the open, and incredibly tall and leggy in shade during their very long lives; expect heights of 7-8.' Shape makes menable to underplanting with ferns or smaller flowering plants. In early spring or summer flamboyant clusters of large, rose-purple/white flowers- every bit as spectacular as cultivated varieties. Need an acidic soil, add elemental sulfur and peat moss to planting hole and/or mulch with shredded oak leaves or pine needles. A welcome splash of colour under conifers. Native from southern BC to California (USDA zones 6-9), they are Washington State flower.



## Rhododendron occidentale (Western Azalea)

One of the most stunning, native flowering shrubs in Pacific Northwest, deciduous and grows in an open form with multiple stems to 10.' Showy, fragrant white to pink flower clusters open in June through July. Reminiscent of day lilies and emit a wonderful fragrance that travels for a considerable distance. Native only to southern Oregon and northern California but is hardy between USDA 5-10. It thrives in a consistently moist, acidic soil in sun or shade. Exceptional crop this year.



## Rhus glabra (Smooth Sumac)

Fine, deciduous shrub, grows 9-12.' Deep green leaves are alternate and compound with many long, sharply toothed leaflets and pale undersides, brilliant scarlet in autumn. Found across N America (USDA 2-10), an excellent pioneer species in a disturbed area. Exceptionally drought and heat tolerant and does not require fertile soil to become established. Birds love bright red, fuzzy seeds which grow in erect clusters of as many as 700 individual fruits and persist throughout winter. Fuits are edible and have medicinal properties. Perfect for native gardens.



## Rhus trilobata (Three Leaf Sumac, Skunkbush)

The name Skunkbush was given this shrub due to the odd odor emitted when the leaves are crushed. This sumac is a deciduous 3-8' shrub with a dense rounded habit. It is native to dry sunny regions across most of the Western US and as Far East as Texas USDA zones 3-9. Native Americans produced baskets from the branches, a black dye from the leaves and used the berries in ointments. The yellow flower clusters appear before the three lobed glossy leaves in Spring. The red berries are edible but not considered tasty, the birds like them and they persist into Winter as a food source. The Fall leaf color provides a vivid display of bright reds and yellows.



### [Ribes aureum var. aureum \(Golden Currant\)](#)

An attractive, deciduous shrub, Golden Currant grows vigorously from 3-10.' Spicy, golden-yellow flowers from February to April on tall, wand-like stems are sought by hummingbirds. Birds like the edible black fruits that ripen in mid-July, as do many jam connoisseurs. Fine for native gardens, this currant is at home in much of North America, except the extreme southern and eastern states. It is hardy in USDA zones 2-10 and is highly tolerant of drought.



### [Ribes cereum var. cereum \(Wax Currant\)](#)

This 6' deciduous shrub, with its many branches, is found on the east side of Cascade Mountains and south to New Mexico. It has small round leaves and fancy white to pink blooms. The red-orange berries are both decorative and edible.



### [Ribes divaricatum \(Black Gooseberry, Coast Black Gooseberry\)](#)

A common gooseberry found along the coast from British Columbia to California at lower elevations in USDA zones 7-8. This gooseberry was found in Lewis and Clark's collection of plants. It is not as shrub like as many gooseberries are; instead it produces arching canes that root as they touch the ground and eventually form thickets. The racemes of bell shaped flowers range from green to a reddish purple and the round edible berries are smooth and nearly black when ripe. This gooseberry has few thorns in clusters of three and has three lobed leaves. Coast Black Gooseberry grows best in moist open areas especially along stream banks.



### [Ribes menziesii \(Prickly Gooseberry, Menzie's Gooseberry\)](#)

This gooseberry is a 3-6' shrub with semi-deciduous lobed leaves. It has a limited native range along the California coast and the Southern coast of Oregon USDA zones 8-9. Prickly Gooseberry is grown more for its ornamental flowers than for its berries. The fuchsia-like blooms are white and purple and are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Larger birds are partial to the fruit, so this is a great plant for wildlife habitat. Prickly Gooseberry prefers part shade and is very draught tolerant making it quite compatible to the woodland setting.



### [Ribes sanguineum \(Red-Flowering Currant\)](#)

A beautiful, ornamental deciduous shrub, it grows rapidly to 8-10.' The many upright stems lack the sharp spines of other currants. Gorgeous red to pink flowers bloom in spring before the leaves unfurl. Hummingbirds flock to the flowers from their southern migrations. Black, glaucous fruits are edible but not tasty. Native to the Pacific Coast (USDA zones 6-10), Red-Flowering Currant prefers dry, sunny locations and is not hampered by drought. One of the best natives for your garden, it requires little care but is reliably beautiful. I highly recommend this shrub.



### [Rosa gymnocarpa \(Bald-Hip Rose, Little Wild Rose\)](#)

This beautiful native rose is slender and delicate. It grows rapidly to 3-5' and is adorned with tiny 1" pink flowers with single petals in attractive clusters. The foliage is fine, even lacy and the branches are bristled rather than thorned. The naked hips are a brilliant red and remain on stems throughout winter. This rose is native to the Pacific Coast in shady, moist locations. It will not, however, tolerate waterlogged soils. It is hardy from USDA zones 7-9.



### [Rosa nutkana \(Nootka Rose\)](#)

This delightful native rose has large, bright, orange hips and clusters of one to three 2" pink flowers with a sweet, almost cinnamon scent. Nootka Rose grows very fast, reaching 3-6' and spreading by suckers to form dense thickets, where birds seek shelter and build their nests. Found from Alaska to California and east to Utah and Colorado, Nootka Rose is hardy from USDA zones 4-9. It likes moisture, but not boggy conditions, and full sun. It is a border plant, found where the forest meets the field, road or seashore.



### [Rosa pisocarpa \(Clustered Rose, Peafruit Rose\)](#)

A beautiful native rose that has several clustered instead of solitary pink flowers. It blooms from May-July and often for a second time in fall. The leaflets are sharply pointed and have hints of blue, while the branches are long and arch gracefully. They are armed with vicious thorns, providing birds and small wildlife a safe haven from predators. A riparian species, the Clustered Rose loves moist, even waterlogged, soils and will grow well in a wet garden where other roses would fail. It is found along the Pacific Coast to the Cascade Mountains, USDA zones 7-8. This is a superior variety for crafters and lovers of rosehip jelly as the yield of rosehips are immense! Save some for the birds, though!



### Rosa woodsii (Wood's Rose)

A superb native rose, with rose-pink flowers in early June. The bright red hips persist throughout winter, and are used as food by birds. A fast grower, the Wood's Rose reaches 4.' It is the hardiest of the natives roses I carry, surviving in the harsh conditions from the Rocky Mountains through the Cascades, USDA zones 4-6. It is drought tolerant, needs little sun and can survive on steep, rocky slopes with little topsoil. An excellent choice for difficult sites.



### Rubus leucodermis (Blackcap, Whitebark

#### Raspberry)

Do not be confused by the black color of the ripe berries, they are actually classified as raspberries because the fruit comes off without the core. The growth habit is shrubby with arching whitish canes that will root and form into a thicket. Native berries will spread but are not as invasive as alien species; this one is native to Alaska and all of the Western States USDA zones 1-8. Blackcaps are frequently found growing in open sunny sites that have been disturbed or clear-cut. Native Americans used the berries for food and once used them to make dye. The shoots were also eaten and have medicinal properties. Black caps make good jams and jellies and are beneficial as food for wildlife.



### Rubus parviflorus (Thimbleberry)

An excellent native bramble shrub with thornless stems - a treat for berry lovers, but not as much of a treat as the taste! Thimbleberry grows rapidly and forms dense thickets of upright 4-6' stems. The large, downy maple-like leaves are 4-8" across and the blossoms are pure white and 2." The tart, red, edible fruits tumble into your hand when ripe. Birds love these berries and often it is a race to see who gets the first taste! Thimbleberries like moist soils but will tolerate drier sites. They are found between Alaska and California and east to the Great Lakes are hardy in USDA zones 3-9. Both the berries and the sprouts were prized by Native groups.



### Rubus spectabilis (Salmonberry)

This attractive native bramble shrub is the favourite of hummingbirds and was highly esteemed by Coastal Natives. Growing fast and erect, bushes reach 6' with a 6' spread. The large, reddish-purple flowers give way to yellow-rose tinted, edible berries. Their taste varies radically from bush to bush. Salmonberry is found in open forest areas, in sun or part shade, usually following a disturbance. Hardy from USDA zone 5-9, Salmonberry grows along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California.



### Rubus ursinus (Pacific Blackberry)

A small bramble shrub, this is the only native blackberry in the Pacific Northwest. It occurs from Baja, California to BC and east to Idaho, USDA zones 5-10. It does well with small amounts of irrigation and thrives everywhere from sun to full shade. Many claim that its small black berries are the tastiest blackberries - wonderful pies!



### Sambucus mexicana [cerulea] (Blue Elderberry)

Handsome, deciduous shrub with multiple stems, reaches 6-12' in little time. Bright green leaves grow from stems as pithy as raspberry canes and surround distinct flat-topped clusters of flowers. Shrubs yield an impressive amount of delectable, blue-black berries with high vitamin content that are used in pies, wines and preserves. Birds and other wildlife flock to the berries as they ripen. Do take care not to eat berries uncooked and remember that roots, leaves and bark contain cyanide and must be avoided. Blue elderberry is generally an interior rather than coastal plant found from Alberta to New Mexico and west to the Pacific Coast (USDA 5-10). It grows well in sun or shade and tolerates a moderately dry site.



### Sambucus racemosa var. arborescens (Red Elderberry)

This attractive coastal elderberry quickly reaches 5-8.' The many branches arch gracefully and are amenable to pruning. Red Elderberry has erect spikes of white flowers and bright red berries that are consumed voraciously by birds. Many sources suggest that they are inedible or at least disagreeable to humans, although Native peoples used them as a food source. This species is found from Alaska to San Francisco in USDA zones 6-9. It tolerates deep shade and poor soil and likes a consistently moist site. Use this native generously under cedars or along the north edge of a pond or stream.



### Sorbus scopulina (Dwarf Mountain Ash)

An attractive multi-stemmed deciduous shrub, this native is an excellent alternative to the European Mountain Ash (*S. aucuparia*), which can become invasive. Reaching 6-12,' this shrub has handsome foliage – the deep green leaflets are neatly arranged, and turn orange-red in the fall. Attractive orange berries that lure the birds, most notably the beautiful waxwings and grosbeaks, follow the clusters of creamy flowers. This species grows in the interior from Alaska to New Mexico and east to the Dakotas, being hardy from USDA zones 3-10. It is adaptable but prefers a moist site.



### [Sorbus sitchensis \(Sitka Mountain Ash\)](#)

A small shrub found across western North America and is more often seen on coast than *S. scopulina*. Growing only to 3-10,' it forms multiple stems. The fine foliage is composed of 7-11 leaflets along a leaf axis and they put on a spectacular display of orange and red in autumn. In spring, clusters of creamy white flowers form, followed by glossy red berry-like fruit, very attractive to birds. Found from Alaska to northern California and east into the Yukon and Montana (USDA 3-10), *S. sitchensis* prefers moist, rich soil and several hours of full sun.



### [Spiraea betulifolia var. lucida \(Birchleaf Spirea, Shiny-Leaf Spirea\)](#)

It is little wonder that elegant Spirea shrubs are also called “bridal wreath shrubs.” Flowers are petite and creamy white, in flat-topped “powder puffs.” They attract ladybugs and other beneficial insects. Foliage is fine and turns pleasing color in fall, where it persists throughout much of winter. This spirea has slow to moderate growth rate and does not spread quickly. Its mature height is only 3.' Found from eastern Cascades to Prairies (USDA 5-8) on dry sites and steep slopes, has a deep taproot to anchor it against erosion and wind. Choose a sunny site and enjoy.



### [Spiraea douglasii \(Douglas Spirea\)](#)

A fine, deciduous shrub, Douglas Spirea grows incredibly quickly to reach 3-4.' Beautiful pinkish-purple flower plumes crown the plant in July and often bloom a second time in the fall. The flowers grow in an erect spike, unlike the above Spireas. The leaves are a blue-green and their undersides flash silver in the breeze. This species is invaluable in wetland restoration projects as it spreads rapidly to prevent erosion and tolerates seasonal flooding. It favors moist, open sunny areas and is at home along the coast from BC to northern California (USDA 6-9). This plant was respected by Native groups for its many medicinal properties.



### [Spiraea splendens \[densiflora\] \(Subalpine Spirea\)](#)

Subalpine Spirea is similar to *Spiraea betulifolia* with its flat-topped flower clusters, however the flowers are a beautiful, dark pink and the shrub grows a mere 12-36" tall. Butterflies flock to the delicate flowers. Subalpine Spirea is at home along the Pacific Coast and east to Montana. It is hardy from USDA zones 5-9. While it tolerates shade, it is far happier in a sunny, moist site. Subalpine Spirea is rarely available commercially.



### [Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus \(Snowberry\)](#)

Deciduous shrub that grows 2-4' and spreads rapidly. Discreet, pink-white, bell shaped flowers adorn delicate, thin twigs. Hummingbirds feed on the nectar. Leaves grow in pairs and have lovely blue tint. Densely branched and often harbors many birds, notably the charming Rufous-Sided Towhee. Large, white berries last through winter and look wonderful both on the bush and added to Christmas wreaths and winter bouquets. Berries are inedible (indeed there are very few edible white berries in the Northwest). Will succeed in both sun and shade and needs very little care once established. Native to both Atlantic and Pacific coasts and is hardy between USDA zones 4-10.



### [Symphoricarpos occidentalis \(Western Snowberry, Wolfberry\)](#)

Named for its puffy white berries that turn somewhat reddish in Fall, and while clusters of berries are very ornamental they are not edible. This 3' deciduous shrub has stiff upright branches and gray green oblong leaves. Produces attractive pink to white urn shaped flowers at branch ends in early Summer. It has thicket forming habit making it a good choice for exposed sunny slopes and hillsides that are prone to soil erosion. Found across the upper portion of United States, USDA zone 3-9, but does not appear to do well in Southern States.



### [Vaccinium caespitosum \(Dwarf Huckleberry, Dwarf Blueberry\)](#)

Low, matted deciduous huckleberry grows to about 6" tall and suckers freely to fill in an empty spot in the garden. Flowers are tiny, white-pink urns and berries are blue with pale gray bloom — sweet and delicious! Found in bogs and alpine tundra from Alaska to California, hardy from USDA zones 2-10. Native groups cherished berries and practiced controlled burning to encourage their growth. Needs acidic soil, so add elemental sulfur and peat moss to planting hole and/or mulch with shredded oak leaves or pine needles. Consider growing in shade of Pacific Rhododendron or Western Azalea as it does well in shade and needs a similarly moist and acidic soil.



### [Vaccinium membranaceum \(Mountain Huckleberry\)](#)

Tall, deciduous shrub common at mid- to high elevations in open areas, especially after a forest fire. From Alaska to California and east to Great Lakes (USDA 3-10), versatile and does fine at lower elevations. Prefers moist sites, can survive seasonal drought. Has fine, oval leaves that turn vibrant shades of fire red or maroon in fall. The flowers are yellow-pink and small, while the purple to black, shiny fruit are delicious for pies and jam (that is if you manage to not eat them all when picking them – a definite challenge!).



### [Vaccinium ovalifolium \[alaskense\] \(Oval Leaf Huckleberry\)](#)

Deciduous huckleberry found from Alaska to Oregon and east across much of Canada and northern states. It is hardy from USDA zones 1-9. It requires an acidic, even extremely acidic soil. If you have a neutral or alkaline soil, be sure to add elemental sulfur and peat moss to the planting hole and/or mulch with shredded oak leaves or pine needles. The oval leaves grow on reddish twigs that bear delicious and plentiful berries. They are ¼" and blue-black with bluish bloom. This species is often found growing with Mountain Huckleberry. It spreads rapidly to form thickets.



### [Vaccinium ovatum \(Evergreen Huckleberry\)](#)

Superb shrub is happy in sun or shade. Delicious fruit for pies, jam and unique toppings is an added bonus. In forested areas, can reach 15' and spreads to form beautiful, dense stands. Glossy, dark green leaves are small and new shoots are bronzy red. In full sun, dwarfs to 3-5,' mature foliage often turns reddish purple. Hummingbirds love small, pink-white flowers like fairy bells. Late summer, black-purple fruits form. Native only to Pacific Coast (USDA 6-9), likes acidic soil, can tolerate salt spray and strong winds. Pamper with a layer of mulch, you will be richly rewarded. First class ornamental for native garden.



### [Vaccinium parvifolium \(Red Huckleberry\)](#)

“Parviflorum” means “small-leafed” and indeed the foliage and twigs are delicate. Tiny greenish to flesh-colored flowers tuck themselves along green twigs. Fruits are attractive salmon-egg red and very tasty, although maybe not as plentiful as other two species. They are relished by many wild animals and were held in high regard by Native groups. Growing from 3-12,' widespread in Northwest. Hardy from USDA 6-10. Prefers partial shade and rotted log material. An excellent neighbor for the Pacific Rhodie.



### [Vaccinium scoparium \(Grouseberry, Red Alpine Blueberry\)](#)

This plant could easily be considered a groundcover never reaching more than 1' in height. It grows well at sub alpine elevations in Canada and across the Western United States, USDA zones 3-9. Grouseberry does especially well in open forests like that of Lodge Pole Pine and on dry rocky slopes. The pointed leaves are small and borne on strongly angled stems. The small pink urn shaped flowers and tiny red berries are sometimes easy to miss among the dense foliage. This shrub can fill in difficult bare exposed areas well.



## [Viburnum edule \(Squashberry, Moosewood](#)

### [Viburnum\)](#)

Fine deciduous shrub grows rapidly to 4.' The leaves have three lobes with sharp serrations and turn bright red in autumn. When they fall, smooth reddish bark is visible. The flowers are small and gorgeous, in 1" bouquets. Bright red berries are tart and juicy and remain throughout the winter. They make wonderful cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving and can be picked throughout the fall and winter. In fact, a touch of frost will bring up their sugar and Vitamin C content. Occurring in moist woods and swamps throughout North America and in Eastern Asia, Squashberry is hardy from USDA zones 5-9. Limited quantity; this species is very hard to find commercially.



## [Viburnum ellipticum \(Oval Leaf Viburnum\)](#)

This fine, deciduous shrub has hairy stalks and deeply toothed, attractive foliage. The white flowers form dense clusters of 1-2." Fruit is red and clustered – very showy. It is at home in Pacific Northwest from southern Washington to northern California (USDA 7-9), where it occurs in thickets and open woods. It is somewhat drought tolerant and survives in drier sites than V. edule, above.



## [Viburnum opulus var. americanum \(American Cranberry Bush\)](#)

American variety of European Cranberry Bush, Viburnum opulus. Grows quickly to reach 8-12,' with many stems. Deeply lobed leaves are glossy and attractive. Flat clusters of lacy, white flowers unfurl in May. Red autumn foliage stands out, as do scarlet berries. Edible berries are rich in Vitamin C and sought out by many wildlife species. Does well in moist site with full to partial sun. It is native from Oregon north through Canada and very hardy (USDA 2-7).



## [Vitis californica \(Western Wild Grape\)](#)

Deciduous, climbing vine grows to 30' and can be allowed to sprawl as unique ground cover. Leaves are large with 3-5 lobes. Bees are attracted to flowers and birds to small purple edible grapes. In fall, the plant embraces Van Gogh's glorious palette – all shades of yellow, orange and red in dizzying combinations! This wild grape is native to riparian areas in Oregon and California, USDA zones 7-10. Useful in restoration projects as it is easy to establish. Prefers moist sites but will not survive in standing water. Interestingly, this species is resistant to phylloxera aphids that nearly destroyed wine industry in late 19th century. Presently, most commercially-grown grapes have been grafted on to V. Californica rootstock.

# TREES

## NORTHWEST CONIFERS - STATELY NATIVE FIRS

### [Abies amabilis \(Pacific Silver Fir\)](#)

Not surprisingly, this rare tree is known as “Lovely fir.” Leaves have silver undersides, giving them soft, feathery appearance. Bark is similarly silver and develops scales with age. Cones stand upright, deep, royal purple. Growing along coast between southern Alaska and N California at mid to high elevations (USDA zones 7a – 9a), found in shaded, wet forests. Does not occur in areas with summer droughts. Excellent for watershed plantings. Reaches 120’ in wild, it will generally peak at 50’ in the garden, growing about 20” per year. Wildlife species use as habitat: Northern Spotted owl, Olympic salamander and mountain goat depend on it. Unique and subtle holiday tree, offering calm amid holiday din.



### [Abies concolor \(White Fir\)](#)

Sweet-smelling coniferous tree found at high elevations (2,000’ to 10,000’) in Pacific Northwest, south to Baja, California and throughout Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Idaho (USDA zones 5a – 10a). Most commonly found in Oregon and California, where it can reach heights of 75 – 120.’ An exceptional ornamental in home garden, where it is prized for its bluish-silver, almost white, needles. It is an excellent soil stabilizer and valuable for disturbed sites. While it can tolerate shade, it far prefers full sun. Being a slow growing species, it is best to select a sunny spot and protect young trees from deer or rodent browsing that might slow growth. Very hardy and can tolerate heat and drought. It cannot, however, tolerate pollution and all forms of pest-, herb-, and fungicide should be avoided.



### [Abies grandis \(Grand Fir\)](#)

Stately, and beautiful it is every bit a grand species, prized for its use as an ornamental and timber tree. Found in two regions: Pacific coast from British Columbia to California, and in interior, from Alberta to Idaho. Hardy to USDA zone 6, this species is found most commonly at low elevations on North-facing slopes. It indicates and often dominates moist habitats and is shade tolerant. Being the fastest growing of all fir species, it can grow as much as 3’ in one year. At full maturity, may reach heights of 200.’ Branches are low and abundant, with dark green to bright green, glossy needles. Gives off a slight citrus scent. Has gained popularity as a holiday tree in recent years and makes a fine display before being planted out.



### [Abies lasiocarpa \(Sub-Alpine Fir\)](#)

Small evergreen with delightful forms, the most widespread of *Abies* genus. Yukon to New Mexico, west to Pacific coast, favors high elevations, cold climates and moist sites. Hardy USDA zones 2-9. Grows slowly, 80' at maturity, narrow, conical shape and spiky, cathedral spires. 1½" needles are stiffly upturned and blue gray-green. Perfect for small gardens and mitigation projects, natural pioneer in disturbed areas and prevents erosion. When heavily laden with snow (common winter occurrence in its range) low branches often touch the ground and grow roots!



### [Abies procera \(Noble Fir\)](#)

Highly prized ornamental, hardy (USDA zones 5 - 10) native to Pacific Northwest. Common at high, west side elevations. Can reach 200,' Straight, massive trunks remain clear of branches to 100.' 7" cones are deep purplish brown, erect above blue-green needles, disintegrate, rather than falling as whole cones. This distinguishes *Abies* ("true firs"). Likes sun and good drainage, dislikes alkaline soils and high winds. Easily transplanted but will be content to grace your verandah in a pot for many years.



### [Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii \(Douglas Fir\)](#)

Magnificent, hardy, fast-growing evergreen common in Pacific Northwest, from central British Columbia to California, hardy to USDA zone 4. Reaching 200,' develops majestic spires on top, lower branches droop gracefully. Dark green foliage in vivid contrast to 4" cones - a favorite food of wildlife. Reported to live 1000 years and develop huge trunks and thick, fire resistant bark. Better yet, they grow on most soils, often under conditions hostile to other conifers. Likes full sun and heavy layer of mulch in fall, if they are to be planted in a garden. Shear them back to form a large hedge and enjoy their sweet smell as you pass by.



## **NORTHWEST CONIFERS - GRACEFUL NATIVE CEDARS**

### [Calocedrus decurrens \(Incense Cedar\)](#)

Handsome evergreen with distinctive columnar form to heights of 90.' Grows at mid to high elevations throughout Oregon Cascades and south into Baja, California (hardy USDA 5-8), tolerates extremes of moisture and temperature, prefers areas with summer drought. Lustrous foliage densely massed and vivid green, right to the ground. Bark is scaled and reddish brown, cones are small, with six scales. Fast-growing, choice for hedges and screens, along driveways and borders, can be sheared to desirable shapes. Such a hedge will protect privacy, reduce heating bills and minimize noise, while attracting wildlife and filling the air with its distinct perfume.



### [Chamaecyparis lawsoniana \(Port Orford Cedar\)](#)

Every garden needs this romantic cedar. A rare find in the wild, grows at low elevations on moist, shaded sites in a narrow band just inland of the coast from southern Oregon to northwestern California (USDA zone 9). The graceful, blue-green foliage forms dense, fern-like sprays. Mature trees can reach 100,' forming wide, impressive trunks. This plant prefers good drainage and is one of the most shade-tolerant trees in the Pacific Northwest. Grown as a hedge, this species is amenable to shearing and the clippings make beautiful holiday wreaths. Many varieties and cultivars are available but this offering is the 'original.'



### [Chamaecyparis nootkatensis \(Alaska Cedar\)](#)

Handsome, medium size evergreen conifer, to 80' tall, 3' diameter in the wild, but usually 30-45' tall under cultivation. Growing from British Columbia to Northern California, hardy to USDA zone 4 and prefers higher elevations and deep, rich soils. Yellow-green, gray-green or blue-green needles hang from pendulous branches. The trunks are squared, with peeling bark, revealing a yellowish inner bark. The cones of this species are distinct: they form as blue-green "berries" with a waxy coating and eventually become small, brown cones. This species is extremely hard to find in nurseries.



### [Cupressus bakeri \(Baker's Cypress, Modoc Cypress\)](#)

Beautiful and rare tree from S Oregon, found on dry, usually north-facing slopes. Hardy USDA zones 7-9. Completely intolerant of shade and poor drainage. It will grow to 65' and 2' in diameter, although it is extremely slow-growing. Thin, gray brown bark peels from trunks, while branches reach upwards, like an exclamation of joy. Clusters of 15-30, tiny cones adorn branches and from leaves emanates an intoxicating aroma. Interestingly, the seed of this tree often depend on wildfire to open the tight cones and disperse the seed. This variety is exceptionally hard to find in nurseries!



### [Thuja plicata \(Western Red Cedar, Giant Arborvitae\)](#)

Magnificent cedar, much revered by NW Native peoples. Such was their respect and dependence on this tree it was called "tree of life." Found on coast from S. Alaska to N. California and also in Rocky mountains from Alberta to Idaho and Montana (USDA zones 3b-9). In north, restricted to lower elevations (under 1,000'). Grows rapidly, reaching 180' and develops massive, tapered boles and broad, triangular shape – highly ornamental. Branches droop down, turn up at ends. Wood and foliage highly fragrant. Prefers moist soil but is extremely adaptable. Can stand in some water in winter. Shearing can produce hedges which are particularly useful as windbreaks.



## NORTHWEST CONIFERS - HANDSOME NATIVE SPRUCE

### [Picea breweriana \(Brewer's Spruce, Weeping Spruce\)](#)

Stunning ornamental rare in wild and hard to find commercially. Native only to small areas in Southwestern Oregon, though good for USDA zones 6-7. Outstanding are its characteristic drooping branches. While it can reach 120,' it is very slow-growing. It prefers cold, moist sites but will not survive in saturated soils. It grows at high elevations and is often found on very steep, north-facing slopes. The scaling bark is whitish while the cones are 4 - 6" and the needles are a dark, blue-green. A rare garden treasure.



### [Picea engelmannii \(Engelmann Spruce\)](#)

Slender, spire-shaped evergreen grows slowly to reach 100.' Foliage is light blue, often silvery and 1-2" cones are deep purple. Branches spread at right angles to trunk and droop only slightly. Occurring at high elevations, found throughout much of western Canada and the US and is more common in the Rocky Mountains than on the Pacific Coast. It is hardy to USDA zone 3. Englemann spruce prefers rich, moist acidic soil and a sunny spot. However, providing transplants with shade, whether from other plants or from artificial means, is an excellent measure to ensure the plant becomes well established.



### [Picea sitchensis \(Sitka Spruce\)](#)

Fast-growing, giant evergreen, reaching 250' and 6' in diameter, favors both freshwater and saltwater wetland areas where it often dominates. It is found in a limited range along the Pacific coast from central Alaska to northern California and is very common in southern Alaska and northern British Columbia. Hardy USDA zones 6-7. It has found great popularity in Britain, where it has been introduced. The stiff, sharp-pointed, 1" long, green needles grow from all sides of the twigs. The 4" cones hang from the branches and have sharp scales. The bark is similarly noted for its scales. This species is valued for its light-weight timber, useful in making boats and musical instruments.



## OTHER OUTSTANDING NORTHWEST CONIFERS

### [Juniperus communis \(Common Juniper\)](#)

Found in regions of North America, Asia, and Europe. While junipers are mostly considered coniferous shrubs, this reaches from 6-20' and can be as wide with an upright habit. Expect it to grow larger in lower elevations. Sun and good drainage are all that is necessary to grow this draught tolerant plant once established. Berries appear at about 3 years of age and have long been used to flavor gin. Native Americans used bark and needles to make medicine for upper respiratory ailments. Grows in USDA zones 1-9 very adaptable.



### [Juniperous scopulorum \(Rocky Mountain Juniper\)](#)

This is a tree juniper, which is most commonly found in Rocky Mountain regions, but can sometimes be found lower in dryer areas of Puget Sound, USDA zones 1-10. Known for its reddish brown shredding bark and unusual size of up to 30-40', this juniper needs a little more space to reach its potential. The crown is more tight and rounded than most junipers and along with its divided trunk, can have a very sculptural appearance. The scale like needles are gray green and fragrant, and the berries are a bluish color. Plant Rocky Mountain Juniper in an open, sunny, well-drained site.



### [Larix lyallii \(Alpine Larch\)](#)

The deciduous nature of this conifer allows it to survive extreme weather conditions. The needles turn a wonderful yellow color in fall which is one of Alpine Larch's most outstanding features. The clusters of soft green needles that emerge in spring are also attractive. It is an open branched tree reaching from 15-to 60' depending on how difficult the conditions. In less harsh settings it will likely be a tall tree but never dense allowing sun to reach plants underneath. Tamarack is found in pure stands in limited areas at timberline levels in the eastern portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana as well as parts of Canada, USDA zones 3-8. Alpine Larch is a versatile tree capable of handling full sun and draught as well as wind and snow.



### [Metasequoia glyptostroboides \(Dawn Redwood\)](#)

(Reestablished Native Of The Pacific Northwest) Stretching back into the mysterious past, this tree grew widely in the area now know as the Pacific Northwest. About sixteen million years ago, the ice age descended on this area and killed all the Dawn Redwood, leaving only fossils behind.

Then in 1941 in Western China, botanists discovered a small stand of living Dawn Redwood! Subsequently, seed was brought to America and the plant is now available, nursery grown. What a wonderful true story – a survival miracle of Beauty and Grandeur!

This tree grows fast when young. Bright green leaves. Grows to 100 ft tall. In the fall, the Dawn Redwood leaves turn a beautiful gold color before falling! What an addition to the native plant garden – a mysterious link to an ancient heritage!



### [Sequoia sempervirens \(Coast Redwood\)](#)

A magnificent evergreen that barely gets into Oregon. Hardy west of the Cascades. Very rapid growth - 3 to 5 feet per year. Tallest of the world's trees - can reach 300 feet tall and 25 feet in diameter. Sun to partial shade.



### [Sequoiadendron giganteum \(Giant Sequoia\)](#)

A beautiful, huge evergreen from Northern California. Hardier than Coast Redwood, a bit slower growth. Eventually can get 30 ft trunk diameter.



### [Tsuga heterophylla \(Western Hemlock\)](#)

A graceful, rapidly growing, spire-like evergreen that can reach 200 ft. Short, uneven needles in flat arrays. Small cones, horizontal branches with droopy tips. Sun or shade. Best for the west side.



### [Tsuga mertensiana \(Mountain Hemlock\)](#)

An outstanding, slow growing, beautiful small evergreen, 10 - 80 ft, native to the high mountains. Gray green foliage, often glaucous. Ideal for small gardens, bonsai.



## **NORTHWEST NATIVE PINES**

### [Pinus aristata \(Bristle Cone Pine\)](#)

This magnificent pine is included with the Northwest natives, although it naturally occurs just outside the Northwest, high in the mountains of Colorado and Arizona. It is hardy to USDA zone 4, thriving in full sun and rocky soil where it is unaffected by drought or wind. This extremely slow-growing tree reaches 30' and often develops multiple stems and delightful, contorted shapes. Some speculate that these fine trees live "forever" and indeed some have reached 5,000 years. This white pine has five 1" needles, continually covered with white resin dots. The cones are 3½" long with purple hues and very sharp scales. This small tree lends itself well to small gardens and bonsai and, because it rarely loses its needles, it makes an excellent potted plant or Christmas tree.



### [Pinus contorta var. contorta \(Shore Pine\)](#)

This fast growing, two-needle yellow pine is closely related to Lodgepole pine. Native to the west coast, including the San Juan Islands and the Oregon coast, Shore pine is hardy in USDA zones 5 -10. Being highly tolerant of poor soils and saline conditions, it occurs in the wild on sandy bluffs along the seashore and also in peat bogs at higher elevations, where it becomes a natural bonsai. The short, dark green needles are 1-2½" long and curve slightly while the cones are ¾ - 2." Usually a small tree, it can reach heights of 50' with intricate branching forms. It is fantastic in a small garden or as a hedge. A quick way to establish a native garden framework from bare ground is to plant a variety of small to large Shore pines.



### [Pinus contorta var. latifolia \(Lodgepole Pine\)](#)

This graceful tree is a tall and slender, two-needle, yellow pine, with very little taper and grows quickly to reach heights of 75.' Native to the interior, this tree is found as far north as the Yukon, throughout the Rocky Mountains and west to the Cascades between USDA zones 5 - 10. In Oregon, this tree grows on recent volcanic deposits. The yellow-green needles grow in pairs and are 1-3." They contrast well with the reddish brown bark. Lodgepole pine is a great tree for group plantings, but equally valuable as a bonsai specimen or ornamental. Native Bands used the straight poles for their lodges, hence the name.



### [Pinus monticola \(Western White Pine\)](#)

A beautiful, tall pine, to 150,' the Western White Pine is the State tree of Idaho. It is found at mid to low elevations through the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia to Montana and at high elevations along the Pacific coast. It is tolerant of a wide variety of soils and moisture levels and is hardy to USDA zone 4. This highly ornamental tree has gray scaly bark and blue-green needles from 2-4" long. The cones are 5" to 12" long and collected for crafts as they are beautiful and smooth.



### [Pinus ponderosa \(Ponderosa Pine, Yellow Pine\)](#)

A magnificent, three-needle yellow pine, the Ponderosa pine grows rapidly, reaching 200' with widths of 30.' The deep green needles are 6 – 10." Large, brown bristly cones grow to 4," often in pairs, and persist on the tree for a long time. Found in USDA zones 5 – 10, this tree grows from British Columbia to southern California, east to North Dakota and southeast to Texas. Ponderosa pine likes plenty of room and deep, light, porous soil as it develops a long taproot. These trees are highly drought-resistant and can grow in full sun, where they exude a glorious vanilla scent! They are excellent specimens for coastal planting, being very tolerant of salt spray. I offer plants from two different seed sources as described below.



### [Pinus sabiniana \(California Foothill Pine, Grey Pine\)](#)

While not small, this pine is a little more manageable in the landscape. It will still reach up to 70' tall over time and 30' wide. Because it has a very open growth habit, it casts very little shade which may be a plus where sun is desired. The trunk is often forked and the reddish brown bark will become plated as it ages. Not all pines produce edible pine nuts but this one does. Native Americans knew this and used the nuts as a food source. This tree is found along the Pacific coast of California and in the Sierra Nevada region, and does well in USDA zones 5-9. An attractive smaller conifer where many larger conifers are prohibitive.



## NORTHWEST BROAD-LEAVED EVERGREEN TREES

### [Arbutus menziesii \(Pacific Madrone\)](#)

A beautiful, elegant broad-leaved evergreen, 30 - 70 ft. Famous for its smooth, reddish brown trunk, its large evergreen leaves and small red berries. Often grows on dry bluffs and poor soil. Sheds bark, berries and leaves. Tree trunks often bends at graceful angles. Superb as a single tree or in drifts. Does best in a south or west exposure, well drained. Do not over-water or fertilize. Salal does nicely below Madrone. A must for every garden. Nearly impossible to survive when dug in the wild.



### [Cercocarpus betuloides \[montanus\] \(Birch Leaf](#)

### [Mountain Mahogany, Alder Leaf Mahogany\)](#)

Leaves are rounded and deeply veined like Birch or Alder leaves. They are dark green and leathery with silky hairs underneath. Semi-evergreen in Rocky Mountain region, and evergreen when in its native S Oregon location. Does well in USDA 3-10. A tough, draught tolerant, sun-loving tree, which will reach 25' and become very sculptural. Birch Leaf Mahogany bears single cream cup shaped flowers followed in Fall by attractive upright twisted plume like seed heads. This tree is a welcome addition in a dry spot needing a touch of green.



### [Cercocarpus ledifolius \(Curl Leaf Mountain](#)

### [Mahogany\)](#)

Very unusual small evergreen for dry sunny sites. Mature trees can reach 45 feet, expect around 25 ft in landscape situations. Native to W North America often found along side pine trees in mountainous regions in rocky soils. Small glossy dark green leaves have rolled margins, hairy underneath. Small white flowers appear along leaf axles but more decorative are long fuzzy plumed fruit. Hardy USDA zones 5-9, and very draught tolerant once established. Gray bark becomes attractive and furrowed with age, new twigs are red. Native Americans used medicinally and made dye from red inner bark. Hard wood great for smoking meat and arrow shafts. Winter forage for big game animals.



### [Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. chrysophylla \(Giant](#)

### [Chinkapin, Golden Chinkapin\)](#)

Over time, can become quite large but is slow growing, so expect it to remain smaller making it a great under-story tree. Found at edge of forest where light is filtered. Long thin dark glossy leaves are golden underneath. After two years, will produce creamy catkin like flowers followed by a nut in spiny outer casing. Smooth young bark is replaced with rough reddish plated bark. Found at low to middle elevations between the coast and Cascade Mountains from Southern Washington down through Northern California USDA zones 8-9.



### [Lithocarpus densiflorus \[echinoides\] \(Shrub Tan Oak\)](#)

This shrubby form of Tan Oak, with its greenish gray leaves, grows only 3 - 5' tall. It is perfect for small gardens.

### [Quercus chrysolepis \(Canyon Live Oak\)](#)

Fine evergreen, broad-leaved tree, found from SW Oregon, throughout California and E to Nevada and Arizona. Hardy in USDA zones 5-10 and grows on dry, rocky slopes and in canyons. A mature tree will reach 30 - 80' and develop a wide, majestic crown. Yellow-green, 3" leaves are white underneath and can be either smooth or serrated. Plant this beauty in a dry, well-drained site, in sun or partial shade. Do not over-water, fertilize or use any insecticide or fungicide on it. Probably the most ancient of American oaks, hard wood of this tree was used extensively by early settlers for mauls (giving it one of its many names) and as wagon wheels.

### [Quercus sadleriana \(Sadler's Oak\)](#)

This shrubby evergreen oak is native to Oregon and California, but is hardy to USDA zone 5. It grows to 5 - 10' with a spread of 3.' Sadler's oak is best planted in partial sun and watered only moderately until established. Do not fertilize. This is an excellent variety for small gardens.

### [Quercus vaccinifolia \(Huckleberry Oak\)](#)

Delightful, shrubby evergreen oak, very similar in appearance to the tree, Canyon Live Oak, but reaching only 4 - 5.' Native to dry sites at high elevations in California, Nevada and Oregon, hardy in USDA zones 7-10. In the wild, bears, deer and a variety of birds feed on the acorns. This is an excellent choice for containers or small gardens. It is also an invaluable species for erosion control and is extremely resistant of drought and high winds. I have a very limited quantity of this rare plant.

### [Umbellularia californica \(Oregon Myrtle\)](#)

Outstanding broad-leaved evergreen, a treasure in landscape. Glossy green leaves, dark berries, aromatic foliage. Found only in California and Oregon, hardy to USDA zone 7. In interior of its range, it grows slowly, but on coast it grows quickly to reach heights of 60 - 100' and a width of 20,' with multiple stems and beautiful patterns in the wood. Quite stunted in full sun. Riparian species, superb for wetland restoration projects or as hedge in a moist, shaded site. Fragrant foliage has been used medicinally but is toxic to some people.



## NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES - MAPLE FAMILY

### [Acer circinatum \(Vine Maple\)](#)

Beautiful small, deciduous tree, essential for native gardens. Found as under story plant to tall evergreens, from S BC to N California and east to Cascades, hardy in USDA zones 7-8. Grows quickly to 10-15' with multiple trunks and spreads to 20' widths, much like a vine. Brilliant red and orange colors signal arrival of autumn, while showy white flowers appear in early spring. Every bit as decorative as Japanese maples, these trees have an added bonus of providing local wildlife with food. Like moisture and will tolerate summer drought once established. Will not thrive in intense heat.



### [Acer glabrum \[douglasii\] \(Douglas Maple\)](#)

Native to both sides of the Cascades, from southeastern Alaska to southwestern Alberta and south into New Mexico and California. It thrives at high elevations and is hardy to USDA zones 5-10. Similar to but hardier than Vine Maple, this tree is often multi-stemmed. It reaches its maximum height of 30' quickly. In autumn it puts on a splendid display of orange, red and yellow colors.



### [Acer grandidentatum \(Bigtooth Maple, Rocky Mountain Sugar Maple\)](#)

Western version of beloved Sugar Maple has sweet edible sap that runs in colder regions much like that of its Eastern cousin. While it can reach 50', it will most likely remain 20-30' tall at maturity and be nearly as wide. Dark green leaves have 3-5 lobes and very blunt teeth, giving it the name Bigtooth Maple. Grows at low desert elevations, along well-drained stream banks, and even in high mountain regions, proving its versatility. Can be grown most anywhere in USDA zones 3-10 with minimal care. As with many deciduous maples, this one is known for its vibrant yellow, orange, and red fall leaf color. Wonderful single or multi-stemmed tree for the smaller garden or mass plantings along banks and hillsides.



### [Acer macrophyllum \(Big-Leaf Maple\)](#)

Among the most handsome of maples, these impressive trees host a variety of moss, lichens and Licorice Ferns on their very bark, adding to their incredible beauty. These rapidly growing maples are hardy from USDA 7-10 and grow along the Pacific coast to the west side of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada mountains. At maturity, they can reach 100,' with a 50' spread. The leaves reach 1' in diameter and blanket the forest in brilliant yellows and golds when they fall. Come spring and the branches will be laden with creamy yellow flowers. Native plants such as Salal, Oregon Grape and Sword Fern work well for under story plantings.



## NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS OAKS

### [Quercus garryana var. garryana \(Garry Oak, Oregon White Oak\)](#)

Captures the charm of W Oregon. Centuries of cold winters, hot dry summers, winds and rain shape this nostalgic tree. Twisted and gnarled branches hold mysteries of time past - perfect for the NW, increasingly rare in the wild. Found on dry hillsides along coast from BC to California and inland to Sierra Nevada in USDA zones 6-9. Prefer full sun, tolerates drought and harsh winds. Growing slowly to 90,' can live 500 years. Leathery dark green leaves, 3 - 6," turn brown in fall. Leaves are very high in nutrients (especially phosphorous) and make exceptional mulch.



### [Quercus kelloggii \(California Black Oak\)](#)

Handsome oak has outstanding foliage - bristled leaves with pointed lobes that reach 4-10." Grows far faster than other oaks, matures to 30-75' with irregular trunks and majestic, broad canopy. Attractive and practical, providing excellent shade and fall show of brilliant reds, yellows and oranges. Native to SW Oregon and also found in Sierra Nevada ranges of California, in USDA zones 6-10. Will grow on dry benches but is less drought tolerant than Quercus garryana and will benefit from regular watering in the first year especially. Chose a sunny to partially shaded site with acidic, sandy or gravelly soil for this rare beauty.



## NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES - BIRCH FAMILY

### [Alnus rhombifolia \(White Alder\)](#)

Attractive grows rapidly to 50' and often forms clumps. Similar to Red alder but grows inland. Found from BC to California, in USDA zones 6-10. Smooth gray bark occasionally becomes rough, reminiscent of its cousin birch. In spring, male catkins release pollen to female flowers which persist until following autumn when they finally disintegrate. Riparian species grows in moist soils and even minimal standing water, an invaluable species for wetland restoration projects. Will tolerate wind and heat, but not drought.



### [Alnus rubra \(Red Alder\)](#)

Fast growing tree to 75.' Coastal, grows to 100 miles inland, from S Alaska to California in USDA zones 7-10. Found on poor, moist soils and steep slopes, prevent erosion. Bark is gray and leaves remain vibrant green until they drop. Many medicinal qualities and also used as dye plant. Most important commercial hardwood in Pacific NW. Roots fix nitrogen at rates of 40-300 lbs per acre, (compared to 105 lbs per acre for soybeans). Outstanding for reclaiming bare land. Tolerates some drought, thrives in brackish wetlands. It transplants well.



### [Alnus viridis ssp. sinuata \(Sitka Alder\)](#)

A beautiful shrubby tree, Sitka alder grows to 15' tall and 10' wide. It is found at high elevations along the coast from central Alaska to California and east across North America in USDA zones 2-8. In its native habitat this tree is invaluable. It grows quickly to form thickets that provide wildlife habitat. Furthermore, it improves the soil through nitrogen fixation and its rich leaf litter, it stabilizes steep slopes, avalanches rarely damage it and it slows the flow of water during spring snowmelt.



### [Betula glandulosa \(Bog Birch, Scrub Birch\)](#)

Similar to Paper birch tree, but develops multiple stems and reaches only 6 - 8.' Likes moisture and is found in boggy areas throughout central to northern United States, along entire Pacific Coast and north across Canada to the Arctic and into Greenland. Hardy to USDA zone 2. In northernmost stretches of its range, remains stunted at only 6-8." Here, in the muskegs of permafrost, provides critical habitat and browse for wildlife. Tiny, glossy, oval leaves from ¼ - 1" long and twigs with noticeable resin glands (hence the Latin, "glandulosa").



### [Betula neoalaskana \(Alaska Birch, Resin Birch\)](#)

Yukon White Birch bears great resemblance to our native Paper Birch but is a much smaller tree of only 20-40 feet at maturity. It is often multi-stemmed and has the same peeling white to tan bark so loved among the birch family. This as an extremely cold hardy tree that grows wild in Alaska and Western Canada, USDA zones 1-8. Expect the typical heart shaped strongly toothed leaves and dangling male and female catkins each spring followed later by a winged nutlet or seed. The characteristic that distinguish Yukon Birch from other birches is the resin dots that can be found on the under sides of the leaves and on the twigs. The resin contains a disinfectant zylitol and in ancient times was chewed like gum. Birch bark was used as paper for writing and for building canoes and making baskets. Light colored birch wood is used today for furniture and cabinetry. Birches can not be rivaled for their white bark and this one will fit into even the smallest landscape.



### [Betula occidentalis \(Red Birch Water Birch\)](#)

Similar to Paper birch, the Red birch occurs in the eastern ranges of the Pacific Northwest, east to Minnesota and south into New Mexico and California. This cold-hardy birch grows at high elevations and can survive in USDA zones 5-10. It favors moist but not waterlogged soils along mountain streams where it is browsed by Bighorn sheep. This tree forms clumps and often reaches 30.' The coppery-brown bark is highlighted by the deep green leaves and by the brilliant autumn color.



### [Betula papyrifera \(Paper Birch, Canoe Birch\)](#)

Beautiful, native birch, should grace every garden. Hardy to USDA zone 2, found throughout all of North America. Mature trees have white bark that peels off in thin layers. Heart-shaped leaves are larger than European birches, averaging 3"x2," and these natives hold their white bark color well. Especially attractive in clumps, which frequently occur in the wild, can attain heights of 100.' In fall, leaves of paper birch reliably turn cheerful yellow color. Grows well in moist, not soggy, soils in full sun. Gives that touch of class and elegance to the native garden.



### [Corylus cornuta var. californica \(Western Hazelnut\)](#)

Attractive, small tree reaching 20 – 30' tall and 6' wide, with multiple arching branches. Long, pendant male catkins form in late winter to give charm and ornamental value, first native blooms of spring. Leaves resemble large, crinkled birch or alder leaves, but far more decorative. Bark is smooth, twigs often crisscross beautifully. Squirrels like edible nuts, as do many people! Shade and moisture tolerant and prefers slightly alkaline soil. Native only to W coast, hardy USDA zones 4-8. Can be trained to form unique hedge, offering bounty of nutritious, gourmet snacks. Tough species survives attacks of civilization with grace, making an excellent tree for city planting. Not available for sale in Oregon unless approved by Dept. of Agriculture.



## **NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES - WILLOW FAMILY**

### [Populus tremuloides \(Quaking Aspen, Western](#)

#### [Trembling Aspen\)](#)

Small ornamental is of highest quality, growing rapidly to reach at least 30' and developing full, round crown. Triangular leaves quiver on long, flattened stalks. In fall, brilliant golden fall leaves underscore soft, greenish bark. Extremely adaptable and occurs across N America, to USDA zone 1. Along Pacific coast, it grows from Bering Strait to Mexico. Prefers moist but not soggy sites, often planted in groups. Forms dense root system, is excellent choice for soil reclamation projects or planting after fire. Old fashioned, gentle trembling leaves create a peaceful garden.



### [Populus trichocarpa \(Black Cottonwood\)](#)

Splendid poplar, largest in America. Astonishing growth rate (up to 5'/year) it reaches 180.' Found in Europe and along entire Pacific coast to Prairies, USDA zones 5-10. Bark is dark gray and 6" leaves are triangular, thick, and glossy. Male and female catkins occur on separate trees followed by masses of cottony seeds. Native groups used sticky, resinous buds, from which comes an intoxicating fragrance, as disinfectant and found in herbal products. Attracts birds and butterflies, helpful in wetland restoration as it takes up excess nitrogen and prevents erosion. Caution: root system can interfere with septic beds.



### Salix hookeriana (Hooker's Willow)

Petite willow is rounded and shrubby with stout, stiff branches. It remains small, reaching only 20' at maturity with a spread of up to 10.' Lovely, hairy oval leaves, soft to the touch, with grayish green hues. In spring, large, 4" catkins burst into halo of yellow anthers, celebrating the end of the dark days. This tree grows in eastern Siberia but in North America it is native only to the Pacific coast, from Alaska to northwestern California. It is hardy in USDA zones 6-10. Being highly tolerant of salt spray and brackish standing water, this willow is a wise choice for coastal plantings. It is even capable of growing in sand dunes as willows contain potent rooting hormones. In fact, their branches may be placed in water for several weeks and the steeping liquid used as a rooting stimulant for cuttings.



### Salix lasiolepis (Arrowyo Willow)

This upright willow will become a small tree to 30' tall. It is found in low, wet, full sun areas of California USDA zones 8-9. It has long narrow dark glossy leaves that are a bit curled. The flowers are catkins and appear before the leaves in the Spring. Native Americans obtained an aspirin substance from Arrowyo Willow much like the synthesized version on store shelves today. The long slender branches and twigs of the willow are woven into baskets and furniture because they are so pliable. This is a good wetland restoration plant.



### Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra (Pacific Willow)

Pacific willow is one of the larger native willows, reaching 50' tall with a slender, delicate form. It commonly develops several stems. The bark is cracked and yellow in mature trees while the leaves are 2-6" long, narrow, sharply pointed, much like the leaves of a peach tree. The Pacific willow likes moist, sand or gravelly soil but is tolerant of dry conditions. It is native to the west, from BC to Saskatchewan and south to California, in USDA zones 2-9.



### Salix scouleriana (Scouler's Willow)

Hardy, rapidly growing shrub that can attain 30' and wide spread of 10.' Found from Alaska to California and east to Manitoba, as well as South Dakota and New Mexico. It is extremely hardy and survives to USDA zone 5. In the wild it is found along streams and in dry, upland sites to 3000' elevation, often following fire (giving it the common name, Fire willow). It is successful at preventing erosion on steep slopes. This willow has red or yellow, velvety twigs and soft hairy dark green leaves. It is a charming "Pussy Willow," bearing subtle, furry catkins, relished by children of all ages. Cut a few for a flower arrangement and bring a smile inside. For large catkins, prune regularly and steep the clippings for a "rooting tea."



### [Salix sitchensis \(Sitka Willow\)](#)

Most common willow of Pacific NW but its range also extends into Rocky Mountains at low elevations and is hardy to USDA zone 4. Grows well on sand and gravel bars of rivers and in forest clearings. A distinctive shrub, Sitka willow grows only 2 - 10' tall and equally wide. Sitka willow has dark brown branches and dark, shiny, 2-4" leaves with velvety undersides. Native groups used this willow for smoking meat and fish, as it does not give off a strong or offensive odor when burned. They used the strong and flexible bark of all willows for making ropes.



## **NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES - ROSE FAMILY**

### [Crataegus columbiana \(Columbia Hawthorn\)](#)

Small deciduous tree grows slowly to of 20.' Found on eastern side of Cascades in Washington, Oregon and scattered throughout Prairies, hardy to at least USDA 5. Similar to *C. douglasii*, has longer thorns (2-2½" long), fruit is red instead of black and leaves are more rounded. Extremely adaptable and can be planted on dry, rocky slopes or moist riverbanks. Tolerates drought, high levels of pollution, will not tolerate salt-spray. Planted on borders of your property, hawthorns form a hedge that only the most intrepid will dare cross. Unpalatable to livestock and deer. Incredibly hard wood is reflected in name: the Greek word *kratos*, means strength.



### [Crataegus douglasii \(Douglas Hawthorn, Black Hawthorn\)](#)

Delightful tree grows slowly to 10,' sometimes reaching 20 - 30.' Hardy, indigenous along coast between Alaska and California and inland from New Mexico to Saskatchewan, USDA zones 3–9. Distinguished by pendulous branches with dark, shiny, deeply serrated leaves and sharp thorns ½ -1" long, and dense, clusters of intricate, rose-like flowers - simply spectacular. In restoration, deep roots stabilize soil. In garden, attracts birds, butterflies and most welcomed of garden visitors, ladybug. Prefers full sun, drought resistant while also tolerating brief periods of flooding. Berries are edible and make tasty pies, preserves.



### [Malus \[Pyrus\] fusca \(Western Crabapple\)](#)

Often growing in thickets, this small tree grows moderately fast to reach 40.' Native to low elevations from coastal Alaska to NW California, USDA zones 6 – 9. Leaves resemble cultivated apple tree leaves, turning red or orange in autumn. Branches have distinctly sharp spur-shoots. White, clustered flowers are smaller than those of cultivated apples but equally fragrant. Fruits are but 1/2" and hang in clusters on long stems. Tart fruits can be picked when immature and stored until ripe – a wise idea as birds may otherwise beat you to tasty fruit! Make flavorful juice (yielding as much as 2 cups of nutritious juice per lb. of fruit!) or jelly. Crabapples like moist areas and sun or shade.



### [Prunus emarginata \(Bitter Cherry\)](#)

Attractive tree is sure to bring birds to your yard! It is native from BC, south to California, east to New Mexico and Montana, in USDA zones 4-8. It is found in riparian areas at low to middle elevations and also an important species to pioneer after logging. Bitter cherry is a lovely tree, reaching 20-50,' with thin, dark reddish brown bark. Leaves are 1-2" oval with tiny serrations. Highly decorative flowers are in 4-6" posies of no more than ten. Red, juicy, fruit is too bitter for eating and seeds contain cyanide but birds devour them without affect! This species thrives in loamy soil in sun or partial shade. Native groups peeled the strong bark from trunks to use in basketry and tool making.



### [Prunus subcordata \(Klamath Plum\)](#)

Found only in Oregon and California, the Klamath plum tree is hardy only to USDA zone 7. It is a tall shrub or small tree, reaching 25.' It favors drier, slightly alkaline soils, full sun and will not tolerate heavy shade. Spreading by suckers, the Klamath plum quickly forms thickets and is often associated with Hawthorne. The edible fruit is relished by wildlife and makes flavorful preserves but do take care not to crush the seeds as they contain cyanide.



### [Prunus virginiana \(Chokecherry\)](#)

Decorative relative of plum grows quickly to heights of 25.' In wild, it is most common in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California at low elevations and often in riparian zones. Hardy in USDA zones 5-10. Left on its own, will sucker freely to form dense stands. Requires well-drained site, highly tolerant of drought and cold weather. In spring it is bedecked with showy sprays of flowers and later reddish-black, edible fruits used to make delightful juice, syrups or jellies but take care not to crush seeds as they contain cyanide. In autumn shiny, dark green leaves turn deep maroon and fall to reveal reddish twigs. Wildlife relish leaves and fruit.



## **OTHER NORTHWEST NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES**

### [Aesculus californica \(Buckeye\)](#)

Beautiful Chestnut tree native to SW Oregon and California. Hardy between USDA zones 6-10. A fast grower, reaches heights of 20' and forms a well-rounded crown. Provides perfect hideaway for summer naps as the broad, pale green leaves open like hands to protect against sun and rain. In May, the tree is covered with beautiful, fragrant flower spikes, attractive to hummingbirds. Come autumn telltale giant chestnut seeds fall to ground (those that squirrels and chipmunks leave behind, that is). Nuts are poisonous although many Native groups developed ways of detoxifying them as an emergency food. Buckeye prefers moist soils and will tolerate seasonal flooding.



### [Cornus nuttallii \(Pacific Dogwood\)](#)

Beautiful tree native along western coast from BC to California and in California mountains, in USDA zones 6-7. A moderate grower, will reach at least 20' and often develops multiple stems. Branches become laden with brilliant white flowers in spring and sometimes in late summer. Creamy-white flowers consist of four petal-like bracts, each 3" long. In fall, foliage is pleasing yellow or red. Excellent shade tree requires rich, well-drained soil and will thrive in partial shade. A little pampering in first few seasons will be rewarded. A specimen or grouping in the native garden gives bright flowers that serve as a beacon of white against dark conifers.



### [Fraxinus latifolia \(Oregon Ash\)](#)

Member of olive family found in riparian areas, often alongside Black cottonwood, willows and Red alder. It is an excellent species for reclamation projects. Native to coastal Washington and Oregon and the mountain ranges of California, it is hardy to USDA zones 6-9. At full maturity, Oregon Ash reaches 40 – 80,' with stiff branches and long axils of 5-9 small leaflets. In fall the leaves turn yellow. Oregon ash prefers full sun and a moist site but it will tolerate some shade and seasonal flooding.



### [Ginkgo biloba \(Maidenhair Tree\)](#)

Native to China, oldest known living tree; some live up to 1000 years. Once nearly extinct, numbers have increased and Ginkgos easily adapt to most cultural situations including pollution. Grows well in sun or part sun in USDA zones 1-10. Light green leaves resemble those of Maidenhair Fern, provide nice yellow fall color, and bark will become rough and attractive with age. Can reach 60-80 feet, open and airy with narrow crowns, not a good shade tree. Flowers and fruit emerge on female trees at around 20 years of age but only if a male tree is nearby to pollinate them. Fruit has reputation of exuding a foul smell but nut inside is considered a delicacy in its native land. Grown for delicate foliage and historical significance.



### [Rhamnus purshiana \(Cascara, Chittam\)](#)

Interesting deciduous tree makes novel addition to garden. Found along Pacific coast from BC to northern California, in USDA zones 7-9, Favors moist locations such as riverbanks. Often reaches 50' but sometimes grows as a shrub to only 15.' Dark green, glossy leaves are highly decorative and stand out against small, green-white flowers that form in loose clusters. Birds relish cherry-like fruit potentially toxic to humans and should be avoided. In late autumn, leaves turn delicate yellow and persist through many winter storms. Cured bark is used extensively as potent laxative. Can be cut down close to soil line and usually re-sprouts.



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*Many NW Native Shrubs and Trees are edible as well as beautiful. Native strawberries, huckleberries, plums and bramble type berries are delicious, nutritious and very attractive in the landscape.*

*Evergreen Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum) is a beautiful shrub, has small bell shaped flowers and very flavorful fruit.*



*Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia) is*

*another example. This deciduous shrub is covered with fluffy white flowers in spring. The generous bloom is followed by plentiful dark purple berries, delicious eaten out of hand or baked in a pie. Serviceberry jam is great on toast!*



*This native is grown commercially in Canada for the tasty fruit.*

*See our website for more info:  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)*

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Modoc Cypress	<i>Cupressus bakeri</i> .....	46
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Noble Fir	<i>Abies procera</i> .....	45
Oregon Ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> .....	60
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Oregon White Oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i> var. <i>garryana</i> .....	54
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Pacific Madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> .....	51
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Pacific Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i> ssp. <i>lasiandra</i> .....	57
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> .....	56
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Port Orford Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> .....	46
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*NW native water plants called Wapato or Duck Potato (Sagittaria latifolia).*

*Excellent for a water or bog garden.*

*See our website, [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com), for more info.*