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# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Bi-Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)



## SPECIAL WINTER ISSUE



Published by The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database

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(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

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# About this Web Magazine

This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' Our goals are:

- A** — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.
- B** — To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.
- C** — To help you propagate and “grow on” those species that interest you the most.
- D** — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.
- E** — To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.–use by Native Americans, Pioneers, Early Botanists, etc.).



Sub-Alpine Fir  
(*Abies lasiocarpa*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# On the Cover

## Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroides*)

Stretching back into the mysterious past, this tree grew widely in the area now known 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!



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# Rare plant puzzle



Photo © Donald C. Eastman

## Name this plant!

A clue to help you on your quest for the correct answer:

"I am not a "flat-lander." I like clean, cool air. I like boggy meadows and stream banks - Mt Hood is very special."

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant . A small prize to those who correctly identify by December 21, 2005

Good luck!  
*Wally*

## Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

**Gentiana newberryi**  
**(Newberry's Gentian)**

**Congratulations to all who correctly answered!**



# To Do List

## Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden



### 1 – Winter Protection

NW Native plants are usually hardy for NW winter weather. If you leave any in containers, you should provide some extra protection. Bunch pots together and use poly over tops of the containers and plants for cold spells. If you are in the northern end of the NW, provide some extra protection for plants native to Southern Oregon, even if the plants are in the ground. Get 4 mil. clear or white poly and lay over the tops of plants to be protected. At higher, cold areas you can make a “sandwich” of two layers of poly with straw between.. Low temperatures can be tolerated but strong winds and cold temps are a deadly combination.

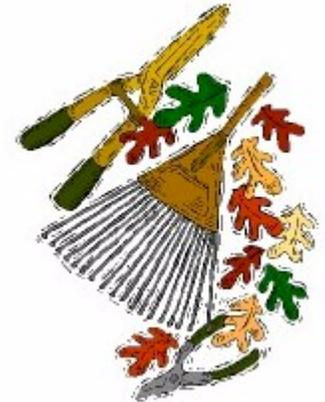


Save some of those prunings for decorating and craft projects. Holiday arrangements don't have to be just conifers!

Decorate window boxes or hanging baskets or your porch or patio with trimmings from trees and shrubs. Tuck in a few cones or shiny baubles or weatherproof ribbon. You'll have a lovely winter decoration for free! Put them in the compost pile later.

### 2 – Bordeaux and Lime-Sulfur

If you have Native Plants in the genus Malus (apple), Prunus (Cherry) or Pyrus (Pear) I suggest you make one or two applications of Bordeaux or Lime-Sulfur. Bordeaux is a mixture of copper sulfate and hydrated lime. It is rain-fast when sprayed on plants. Both are broad spectrum fungicides and give protection against bacteria. Lime sulfur gives dormant season protection against insects and mites. You might apply early in the winter and later before bud break. This is an old fashion treatment, going back centuries in France, etc, long before modern chemicals. In my opinion, you can be opposed to modern chemical for plants and have a clear conscience in using these ancient, natural methods!



### 3 – Move and Prune In The Winter!

Winter is the time to move and to prune plants on your property – both evergreen and deciduous. If moving plants, prune back first, upper growth and possibly roots. Dig new holes, water well if not already saturated and add amendments (compost, etc.). Stake if appropriate.

**This article first appeared in Wally's Newsletter in December 2002.**



# Sparky's Corner

## A special message from our frisky contributor



What a life! This year has been the best one ever in my whole lifetime. Great friends and a great place to live. The nursery is better than anything I could have dreamed up on my own. There are lots of things to eat growing right here-- Sugar Pine and Garry Oaks and Huckleberries---I'm living in a squirrel's paradise!

I tasted some Blue Elderberries this year for the first time. They're good but I like Huckleberries better. It's hard to keep the berries though. When you bury them they get sort of all mushy and then they disappear. The nuts work way better.

Sometimes I bury a few nuts in the pots that Wally puts the plants in. I keep forgetting those go away when the big two-leggers (gardeners) buy them. It's OK though, I think. I have plenty more buried in lots of other places. I wonder what the two-leggers think when they plant a Nootka Rose and a Sadler's Oak appears beside it. You never know what kind of surprise you'll get!

We squirrels put our food caches just about everywhere. The guys that study squirrels call this "scatter hoarding." We squirrels call it "putting food all over the place." That way if something happens to some of the caches we still have enough left to get through the winter. Squirrels are just naturally smart about stuff like that.

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# Sparky's Corner, continued



I heard some interesting news last week. My family are Western Gray Squirrels which is what those wildlife expert guys call "Sciurus griseus." In Washington (that's the state just above Oregon where I live) we are now considered a threatened species. But in the whole country we are a "species of concern."

The way they decide if we're threatened or concerned or whatever is a really big deal. They trap a bunch of us and put tags on us and then every year they go to the same spot and catch a bunch of us again. If they find the same ones they tagged before they can compare how each squirrel is doing with how it was last year. They can see if we're getting enough to eat and whether the girls had babies. They look at our fur to see if we're healthy or have mange (that's a disease that makes your fur fall out Yuck!). You can tell a lot about animals and people too just by looking at their fur and skin.

These guys count us too to see if there are as many squirrels as there were last year. They look over the area for signs of problems like pollution or if somebody has been around making a mess or destroying the forest.



In Washington they're going to do this study again in January. I'll see if I can find out what they discover and let you know. I'm glad they are watching over us. Some animals and plants have been completely destroyed when nobody cares about them and they will never ever be back. Scary!

I'm very thankful we have these wildlife experts that pay attention. I'm thankful lots of just ordinary people pay attention also. Two-leggers are almost as smart as squirrels!

Well, so long for now. See you next time.

*Sparky*



# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees

## NW Native Conifers: Staples of the winter garden to enjoy indoors before planting out.

Using a potted plant as a holiday tree is not a new idea but one that is gaining in popularity every year. It's one way you can do something good for the environment as well as give your budget a boost. Here are some reasons why this is true:

- ✦ A living tree costs the same or less than a cut tree.
- ✦ A living tree requires no disposal fee.
- ✦ A living tree is an addition to your garden after the holidays.
- ✦ A living tree is far less messy than a cut tree.
- ✦ A living tree requires no gas or electricity to cut and deliver to a tree lot.
- ✦ Some living trees are reusable as holiday trees year after year.

So you don't need or want another tree in your yard (or you don't have a yard)? No problem. Buy a living tree and then give it away after the holidays!

- ✦ Give it to a friend who needs a tree.
- ✦ Give it to a park.
- ✦ Give it to a donation center.
- ✦ Give it to a reclamation project.
- ✦ Give it to a school.

Wonder what kind of tree to pick? We'll let you decide that but on the following pages are some beautiful Northwest Native Trees to consider.



Noble Fir  
(*Abies procera*)  
Au naturel and  
decorated.

⇒More⇒



# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

The “grand old damme” of Northwest Native Conifers, the Grand Fir is, well, grand!

The scented needles are thick and luscious. The branches are plentiful. A beautiful tree to decorate for the holidays. It's old-fashioned charm can take as much ornamentation as you have the energy to apply. Truly, this is the tree for abundant decorations.

After the holidays, plant this tree where it has room to grow. It can grow as much as 3 feet in a year! Tolerant of shade and moisture. Has unique citrus-like scent, very pleasant.

## Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*)



Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

## Sub-Alpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)



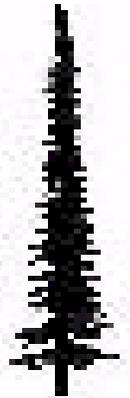
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

The Sub-Alpine Fir is whimsical in its shape. No two are ever alike. It is naturally slim and conical.

As a holiday tree, it is a great choice for smaller spaces.

One of its common names is Balsam Fir, so named because of its stately aroma--another reason we love it as a holiday tree for a smaller space: The better to smell you, my dear.

This is a slow growing tree.



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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* is quite a mouthful but this is quite a tree. The foliage has a blue tint with bright green tips when it has new growth.

Unlike the firs and pines, the cedar does not have needles so is much tidier as a holiday tree.

If you're up for something a bit unusual, this may be a good choice. Wonderful aroma and a graceful shape. It likes good drainage, makes a nice hedge.



## Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

## Leland Cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Leland Cypress is a great choice for a holiday tree. It has the graceful cedar shape, the blueish tinge to the foliage and a scent somewhat like the Port Orford Cedar.

After the holidays, plant the Leland Cypress in full sun.

Often trimmed in topiary shapes. It's the stuff those famous English hedgerows are made of, growing quickly to fill in a living fence.

Birds gravitate to this tree for shelter and nesting.



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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

A tree juniper, this is quite a different kind of holiday tree

but if you have a cat who thinks a tree in the house is his special toy, this is your dream tree. Those sticky needles are naturally repellent to cats.

You'll want to use unbreakable ornamentation

at the bottom of course.

Dangling baubles will always be considered

fair game by your little "lion."

Likes dry, rocky or sandy soils. Excellent bonsai.



## Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

## Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)



Some First Nation peoples consider this Northwest Native tree to have magical powers. Those of us who feel the holidays are a rather magical time will especially like this tree.

Plant out where it will have room to grow. It will be about 90 feet tall and is among those who grow quickly. It is the largest spruce.

Naturally occurring in coastal regions, good maritime tree.

Very versatile. This painting by Heidi Hansen shows some of the uses found for Sitka Spruce in the last century.

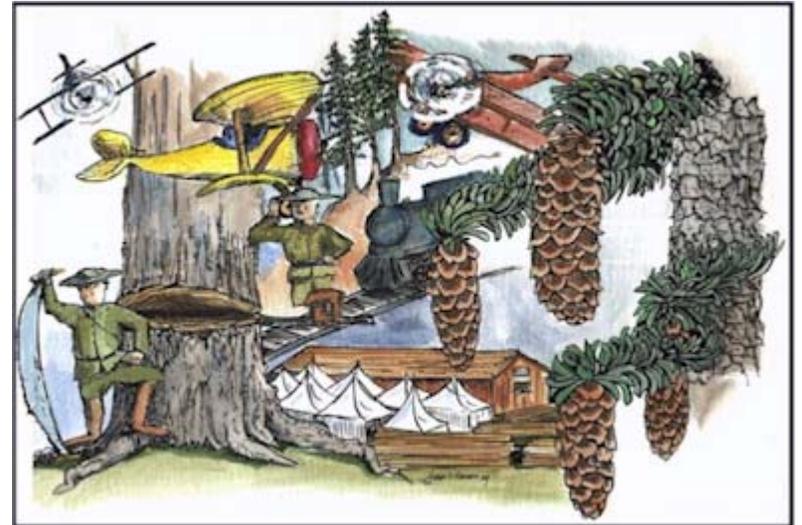


Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

Digger Pine makes me think of cowboy country. It has long needles (but not as long as the Ponderosa) and an open growth habit.

As a holiday tree, it's just the ticket for a western theme. It makes a good showcase for those ornaments the kids and grandkids create. Add some raffia as a garland, maybe some chilis or little cowboy hats, tie a few red bandanas here and there and your tree is fit for the ranch. Of course, traditional ornamentation is good, too!

Edible nuts, plant Digger Pine in sandy soil in full sun.



Digger Pine (*Pinus sabiniana*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

## Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

It doesn't get any more traditional than the Doug Fir. This tree has it all.

It has the great perfume we all love, especially during the holidays.

It has lots of branches, generously covered with needles.

It is strong and straight. The lower branches droop gracefully from the trunk.

An altogether perfect holiday tree.

After the holidays, plant it in the sun and give it a good mulch.



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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

Here's a tree that you can use indoors and decorate for the holidays, then plant outside and your children's children's children's children can say, "Once great great grandpa had that big old sequoia in a pot inside for a holiday tree!"

Those kids will be amazed that anything that big could have ever been small enough to have in a house.



Some trees don't live a long time, only 50 or 60 years. But the Giant Sequoia will live for many centuries and its trunk can reach 30 feet in diameter.

Named for Cherokee Nation Chief Sequoia, this is the largest tree known to inhabit the earth. Plant where it won't run out of room when it gets big.

This is a legacy you can leave for many future generations.

Oh, and did we say it makes a lovely holiday tree? It does!

## Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

## Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*)



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Mountain Hemlock is such a beautiful tree. It does not adhere to any particular standard shape, endearing it to bonsai artists. Its small needles are distinctly placed along the branches. It's so pretty and a very lovely choice for a holiday tree.

It grows so slowly you can probably use it as such for 2-3 years if you keep it in a pot. It's nice on a patio or porch, too. It would look well decorated in almost any style except formal where you want perfect symmetry.



**NOTE:** This tree is not poison! Poison hemlock is a perennial plant, not a tree.



# NW Natives for Living Holiday Trees, cont'd

Trees  
we  
suggest  
for  
living  
holidays

## For a traditional full look:

Pacific Silver Fir (*Abies amabilis*)  
White Fir (*Abies concolor*)  
Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*)  
Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

## For a southwestern or high desert look:

Sub-Alpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)  
Noble Fir (*Abies procura*)  
Giant Sequoia (*Sequoia giganteum*)  
Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

## For a more unusual and striking tree:

Western or Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*)  
Baker's or Modoc Cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*—rare and very choice)  
Leland Cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*)  
Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)  
Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)  
Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*—divine fragrance)  
Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)  
Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)

## If you're cramped for space, try these fragrant beauties:

Western Red Cedar aka Giant Arborvitae (*Thuja plicata*)  
Englemann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)

## Have a more Oriental look with:

Brewer's or Weeping Spruce (*Picea breweriana*)  
Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga martensiana*)



Box is not traditional holiday fodder but this conical topiary is a great choice for a living holiday tree. The pot is neat-looking and the tree, pot and all, will be moved to the front porch after the holidays.



# Caring for your Living Holiday Tree

Now that you're going 'green' this season, here's what to do.



--Buy just the right size of a tree for the space it will occupy in your home, but remember how the tree will look when it grows up.

--If you are newly married or have a new baby or some other major change in your life that you want to remember, think about buying a tree especially to commemorate the occasion.

--A tree in a container or one with its roots wrapped in burlap will both work well for your living tree.

--Store your new tree in a cool area outdoors where it will have wind protection until you are ready to bring it inside.

--A couple of days before you bring it in, move it to an unheated garage or other enclosure.

--You must limit the time spent in the home to 10 days, so plan on a place for it to rest until it's time to bring indoors.

--This is the most important factor in the survival of your new tree—don't keep it inside too long! If you do, it may think it's springtime and when you plant it outdoors where it is still winter, the tree will suffer a shock. Don't confuse your tree!

--How about starting a new tradition: bring your tree indoors on Christmas eve and plant it outside on New Year's.

--Check your tree each week to make sure it has enough water. You want it to be as healthy as possible when it makes its debut as a living Christmas tree.

*So lovely! You'd never guess this tree sits in a pot full of dirt. Next time visitors see it, it will be planted outdoors.*

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# Caring for your Living Holiday Tree, cont'd



--As soon as possible after purchasing your tree, decide where you will plant your tree and dig the hole. Make sure to dig a large enough hole for the root ball to relax. Place a board or other cover over the hole until planting time.

--It's a good idea to put some mulch either in the hole or over the board so it will be handy when you plant your tree.

--Be sure to save the dirt from the hole, you'll need it for planting.

--If your tree is large or the area is windy, drive some support stakes where they'll be needed.

--Put the burlap root ball or nursery pot in a big plastic bag or other waterproof solution so you can water your tree while it's inside.

--Water carefully! Not too much, not too little! Allow it to just barely dry out and then water well but don't let it stand in water. As soon as the tree gets a good drink, take out any excess water (a turkey baster is a good tool for this).

--Display your tree in a large pot or cover the waterproofed nursery pot with a nice tree skirt or other covering. A quilt makes a lovely country style cover. Use satin or velvet for an elegant appearance. Cotton or polyester batting looks like snow. Some clean burlap will go nicely in a homespun setting. Make a very unusual cover by weaving old ribbons through chicken wire or hardware cloth—sturdy and beautiful.

--Place your living Christmas tree carefully indoors. Avoid direct sunlight. Keep away from any heat source such as furnace vents or fireplaces and try to keep the temperature inside a little on the cool side, especially at night.

--You can decorate your tree with all the usual things—lights (cool style please!), colorful ornaments, garland.

*A big basket has room for the nursery pot with a tray underneath. The generous size gives ample access for watering if needed. Note this tree sits before a window that does not get direct sunlight and there is no heat source nearby— the perfect position.*



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# Caring for your Living Holiday Tree, cont'd

A great plant dolly can be made at low cost (or even free!).



Use a discarded cabinet drawer. These are readily available and nobody wants them. Most kitchen cabinets have sturdy drawers and they are often quite attractive. You can use it upside down or right-side up depending on the dimensions of the drawer.

If you use the drawer right-side up you can tuck smaller pots in the corners for a sweet arrangement.

For the wheels, look for old roller skates, skateboards, wagons, etc. These have dandy wheels and can be affixed to the dolly with screws or brackets.



--After the holidays, if you are planting your tree in the garden, do so as soon as possible but don't take it immediately outside. Trees don't usually move around much on their own so it's best to take it outside in stages.

--Move to a garage or unheated area of the home for several days, then outside in a protected space for several more days, then finally to it's new home.

--If you get a cold snap in the weather on planting day, wait until the temperatures are in the 30's before planting.

--If your tree's root ball is wrapped in burlap, place it in the hole and then cut and remove any strings or wire. The burlap will compost right in the hole so there's no need to take it out.

--Fill in the hole with the dirt you reserved, mulch well and water thoroughly.

--Check your new tree often during it's first year to make sure it has enough water.

--A nice thing to do is place a permanent marker beside the tree that tells what year you planted it and any special family events that happened during the holidays.

--If your tree came in a nursery pot, return the pot to the nursery. Most nurseries appreciate this very much and nothing is wasted.

--An alternative to planting out in the landscape is to keep the tree in a container. You can use it as a living Christmas tree for many years if you've selected one that does not grow too large too quickly. If you choose this route, it's nice to have a plant dolly (just a frame with wheels) to make it easier to move around. Big potted plants are heavy! See tips at left for making your own dolly.

--Also, plant a nice Northwest Native groundcover such as Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) as a living mulch to help prevent drying out.



# Native Plants with Red Berries



**You can have red berries in your garden all year long!**

There's something about red berries in the landscape that almost everyone finds attractive. Maybe it's the bright color or the fact that birds seem to love them. There are some plants that are just plain shrubs or trees or perennials but when their red berries appear they are the focal point of the whole garden. Most berries come after a flower of some sort but not all. The Pacific Yew, for instance, has a very insignificant bloom (on the underside of the leaves) but it has very red berries. Most berries have a seed within and the beauty of the fruit is nature's way to ensure the plant will spread. Wildlife eat them, travel on their way and when the seeds are passed in their droppings a new plant has a chance of growing. Nature is so tricky!

According to psychological resources, red is the color of fire and blood, so it is associated with energy, strength, power, determination as well as passion, desire, and love.

Red is a very emotionally intense color. It enhances human metabolism, increases respiration rate, and raises blood pressure. It has very high visibility, which is why stop signs, stoplights, and fire equipment are usually painted red. In heraldry, red is used to indicate courage. It is a color found in many national flags.

In the landscape red berries are as pleasing as flowers and often last into winter when color is less common than in spring, summer and fall.

The plants we feature in this study are all Northwest natives. Very few are fit for human consumption but most are great wildlife browse.

We begin with a Northwest Native Perennial groundcover, a member of the dogwood family. It has the lovely dogwood bloom and brilliant red berries.



Bunchberry  
(*Cornus canadensis*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



Bitter Cherry, (*Prunus emarginata*), Photo by Rory

This Northwest Native Tree is absolutely covered with red fruit which is a bird magnet. Though inedible for humans, wildlife find them quite tasty.

In fact, if you want to keep birds away from your huckleberries or other fruit, plant a Bitter Cherry in close proximity. The birds will go for the Bitter Cherry and leave more of the edible fruit for you!

The flowers are white and are beautiful in May. The fruit reaches maturity in summer.

Plant Bitter Cherry in loamy soil in sun or part shade. It's sure to please.

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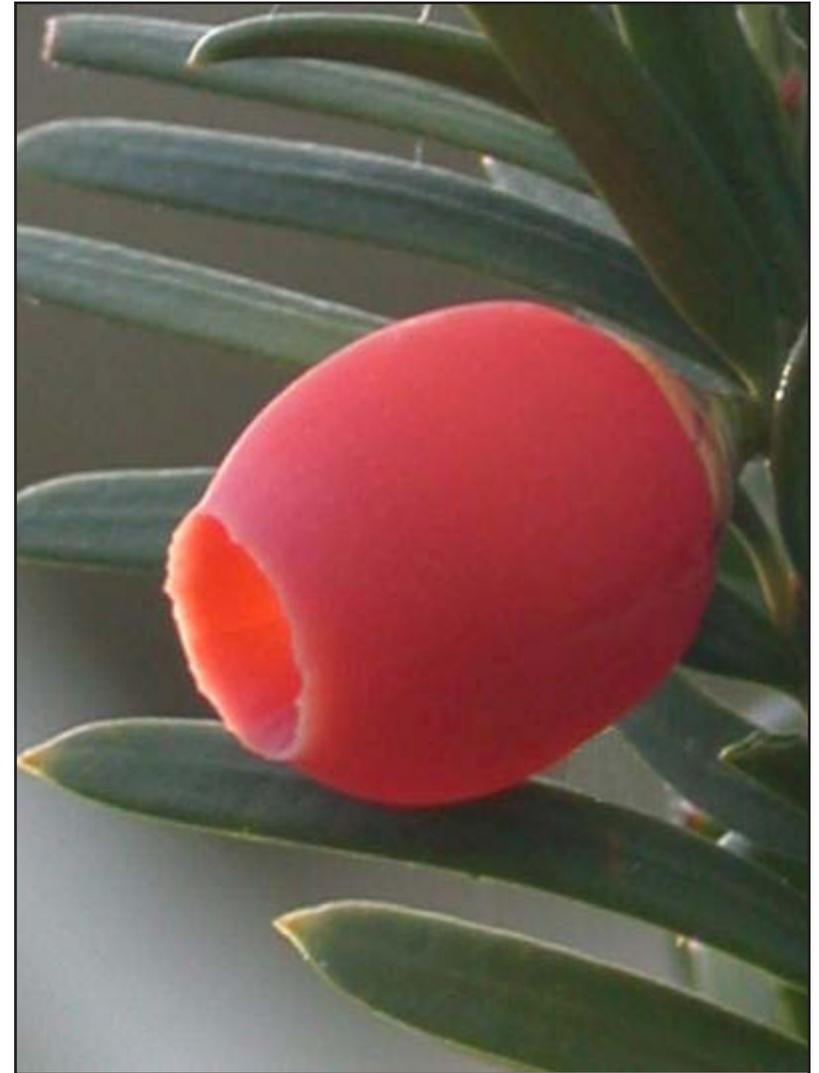
# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



Expect this red fruit to appear around September. They will be scattered among the branches providing a highlight rather than a big show. They are poisonous to people but enjoyed by wildlife. The bloom is sort of a cone affair, very small, on the underside of the leaves. Afterward, the seeds mature and are surrounded by this red fleshy berry which is open at the end. Interesting and pleasant to look at.

The Pacific Yew is on the small side, found as an understory plant in the wild. It is not particular, doing well in sun or shade, moist or dry soils.

A byproduct of this tree is Taxol, found to be useful in treating cancer.



Pacific Yew  
(*Taxus brevifolia*)

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



A formidable barrier plant, the Devil's Club has the meanest spiky thorns of any plant we know. Put it under a window and no intruder will dare to encounter it, a perfectly natural deterrent.

The leaves are big, about 10 inches across. Flowers are tiny greenish-white and the red berry clusters are striking in late summer. It has something to say year-round.

This plant likes shade and moisture. It's of the same family as ginseng. Much use has been made of Devil's Club for medicinal purposes.

It is unusual, almost prehistoric in appearance but strangely attractive, a true Northwest Native beauty.

Devil's Club  
(*Oplopanax horridum*)  
Photo by Wally at the nursery

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# Native Plants with Red Winter Berries, cont'd



Sitka Mountain Ash is a Northwest Native Shrub, growing from 3 to 10 feet. It has multiple stems. Springtime brings many creamy white flowers that are followed by much red fruit, loved by birds.

It prefers moist, rich soil and full sun.

The fruit is edible but not tasty. However, it does get sweeter after a frost.

This shrub is best grown as an ornamental rather than a food source for people. It does have great value in a wildlife habitat.



Sitka Mountain Ash  
(*Sorbus sitchensis*)  
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



Smooth Sumac is a Northwest Native Shrub that really shines in autumn and winter. It has a very nice growth habit, airy and open, reaching 9 to 12 feet.

It's leaves are alternate, compound, with many long toothed leaflets. Smooth Sumac blooms in June and July with yellow flower clusters. In fall, the leaves turn yellow and then orange and then fiery red. The branches are topped with erect, fuzzy looking clusters of tiny berries. They are edible but not often used as people food. But the birds find them devastatingly adorable.

The plant prefers dry soil and a sunny site. It depends on birds and other wildlife to spread it's seed, a common scenario in nature.

This is a wonderful landscape plant.

Smooth Sumac  
(*Rhus glabra*)  
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd

Wild roses are a beloved plant to almost everyone. Who can resist those carefree flowers decorating fences and roadsides without any attention from gardeners. The blooms fade, leaving in their place bright red or orange hips. Some are large, some small. All are full of vitamin C. All are treasured by birds and other wildlife. If you've never had rose hip tea you're missing a treat.

Wild roses will ramble along a fence and share their beauty with all who pass by. And even the hips have a delightful fragrance.



Wild Rose Hips Photo by Jennifer Rehm

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



You don't have to wait for winter to enjoy rose hips. This Nootka Rose is flaunting clusters of bright red hips while the leaves are still green! Notice how fat and full of juice those hips are. If you're going to harvest some for making tea or rose hip jelly, this is a good time to do it while the hips are fresh and full of flavor.

The Nootka Rose tolerates full sun, part sun, sand, clay, no drainage, and seasonal flooding. It is a fast grower, good for covering a fence.

Excellent bird and butterfly plant.

Nootka Rose  
(*Rosa nutkana*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd

Red Elderberry, like it's sister the Blue Elderberry, has clusters of white flowers followed by a profusion of berries. However, unlike the Blue, Red Elderberry is not accepted widely as an edible fruit. It was used as such by Original Peoples but nowadays we are leary of it unless it is cooked first. We recommend leaving the fruit for wildlife.



First Nation women have a special relationship with Elderberries, a very private communion.

Red Elderberry is not large, usually less than 20 feet. Likes moist clearings and open woods. Ornamentsally a delight.



Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)

[⇒More⇒](#)

## Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd



This viburnum is a fine, deciduous Northwest Native Shrub. The leaves turn bright red in autumn and when they fall the reddish bark is very attractive.

Pale yellow flowers bloom in little bouquets, followed by the tart and juicy bright red berries which remain on the bush throughout the winter. Very edible berries!

Prefers moist woods.

Squashberry,  
Moosewood Viburnum  
(*Viburnum edule*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Native Plants with Red Berries, cont'd

Huckleberries are as diverse as people! There are several varieties available, each with it's own characteristics.

The Red Huckleberry bears a sparse crop of berries but they are delicious. First Nation peoples harvested them by shaking the bush and catching the berries in baskets.

This member of the huckleberry family prefers partial shade--a good neighbor for Rhodies.



Red Huckleberry  
(*Vaccinium parviflorum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# The Transformation of a Garden

By Jennifer Rehm

Nearing completion--won't be long now!



We've been slightly delayed in finishing the makeover project, so in the meantime here are a few gardens around the Willamette Valley who have 'gone native' with landscaping. Some were designed with wildlife specifically in mind and there are a couple of containers that I think are especially lovely. (You don't have to have a yard to plant natives!) I was lucky enough to participate in some garden tours and snapped these photos with the homeowner's permission, of course.

The spot at left is in an urban front yard. The home is craftsman style facing to the north with some large trees providing shade all day after morning sunshine.

The Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) and Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) have grown to cover the area with lushness. The mossy rock blends beautifully and awaits a butterfly to stop by for a rest. No room for weeds in this living groundcover. With nothing to prune and requiring little, if any, watering, this is a spot of beauty year-round.

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# The Transformation of a Garden, continued



Fairy Bells are an effective understory planting beneath this deciduous tree. Unfortunately I did not note which Fairy Bell these are, nor did I jot down the species of tree. Too busy oohing and aahing over the plants! Some day I'll be able to identify them just by looking as my botanical knowledge grows.

The home that belongs to this landscape is on an irregularly shaped lot that slopes upward towards the north. The gardeners left the uppermost area cleared of overhead vegetation so the space receives sunshine about 6 hours a day. The sunny space actually lights up the whole yard. Nicely done.

⇒More⇒

# The Transformation of a Garden, continued

This beautiful little garden is not in a home, but in Wally's nursery. Julie planted the ferns and Oxalis in the hollow of this old log. What a wonderful way to use a stump!

Eventually the stump will compost itself but until that day arrives it makes a perfect container.

Ever so much nicer than blasting the remains of a aged tree or employing one of those stump rotting chemicals. Cheaper, too.



⇒More⇒

# The Transformation of a Garden, continued



A large suburban lot on a dead-end street hosts one of the most beautiful private gardens I've ever seen. A labor of love for many years, the homeowner now reaps the rewards of all her creativity. The little sample at left is typical of the garden.

The landscape design utilizes many large trees and a hilly terrain to optimum effect. The home sits in the approximate middle of the property which has been built up at the back and slopes gently in front down to the street. The trees are at the perimeter, allowing sun to filter through to the home which faces west.

A stream meanders from the back, trickling over rocks, down some small waterfalls and finally ends in a large pool beside a deck which is shaded in the evening. A perfect spot to enjoy a glass of lemonade on a summer afternoon.



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# The Transformation of a Garden, continued



At left, Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra formosa*) are among the young plants working to establish themselves in this year-old shade garden. The designers have used bark to mark paths through the plantings and large rocks well-grounded here and there punctuate the line between path and planting beds.



Here's another of Julie's container plantings utilizing old logs. This one is laid horizontally with another piece upright at one end. She uses Bleeding Hearts and Ferns around the log container to give the appearance of age. Though she had planted this only a few weeks prior to when the photo was taken, it looks like nature herself provided this beautiful little garden.

⇒ More ⇒

# The Transformation of a Garden, continued

This wildlife habitat garden is the epitome of using everyday items in new ways. Who would have imagined that an old fireplace grate would make such an attractive fence beside the path?

As we toured this urban site we were often surprised by just such a scene as this one.

Across the street, another wildlife habitat in an earlier state of development already shows promise as an arriving spot of beauty. The homeowner confided that she has learned a lot from her neighbors in the “use what you have” school of garden decor. This birdbath was originally the bowl of a holiday tree stand. The utensils are old serving pieces and the “napkin” was once part of a screen door. Charming!



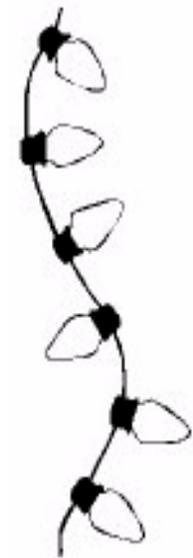
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# The Transformation of a Garden, continued

A little spot of sun surrounded by shade, the Lewisia is a colorful siren attracting butterflies. After they fill up with nectar, the mossy rocks offer a soft cushion for a good sunning.

The use of gravel as a ground cover is a great idea in this instance. It promotes drainage which the Lewisias require and is very natural-looking.

One might decide to remove the spent blossoms when they've gone by but no other maintenance is necessary save an occasional watering if a drought visits.



⇒More⇒

# The Transformation of a Garden, continued

Next issue we sincerely hope to have some photos of our finished landscape makeover project. I've asked Santa to bring some assistance in the removal of the old crabapple tree and in the last of the planting. My fingers are crossed that he'll remember how good I've been this year!



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web

Here is a good collection of web data bases that will be useful to professional growers and all native plant gardeners. This list is from a larger list compiled by Lawyer Nursery in 2002 and published in one of their flyers. I wish to thank them for this public service.

*Wally*

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## **American Bonsai Society**

[http://www.absbonsai.org/abs\\_home.html](http://www.absbonsai.org/abs_home.html)

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **CalPhotos**

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/>

Over 33,000 plant images from the University of California, Berkley

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html>

## **Fire effects on plant species**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

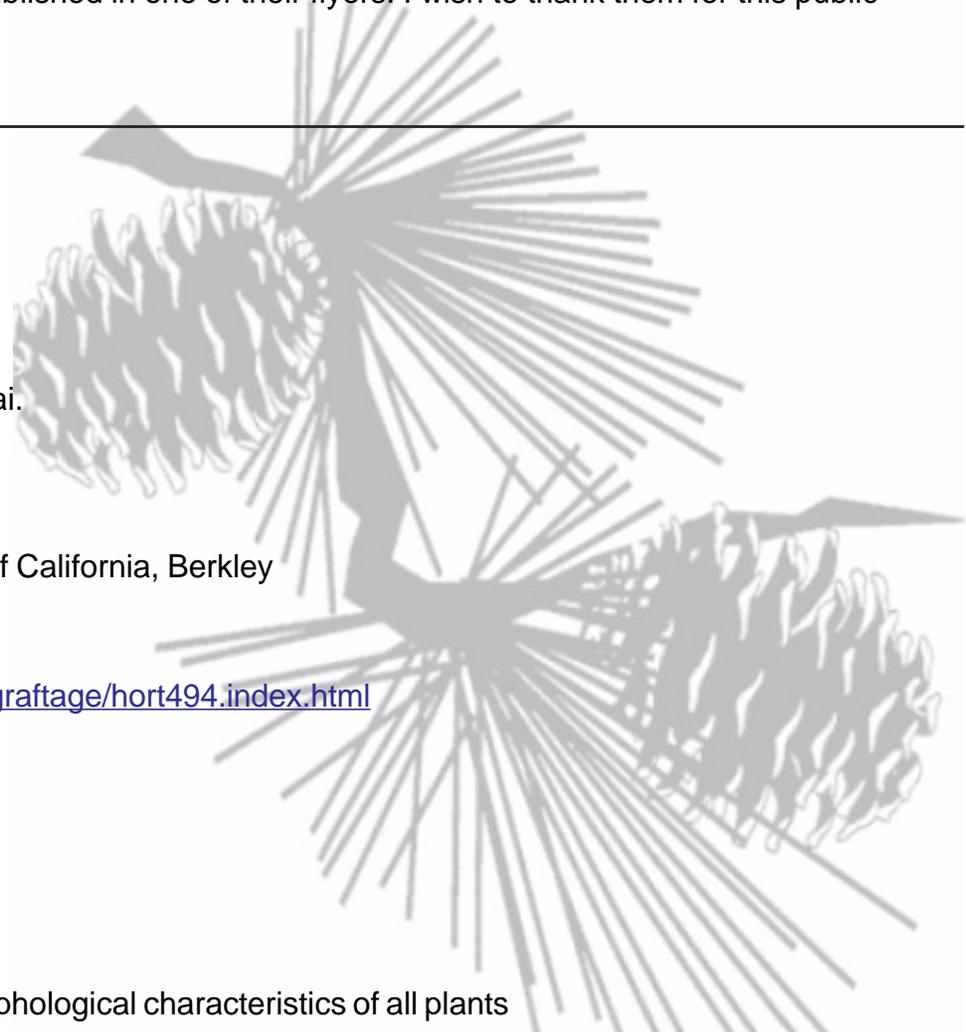
USDA, Forest Service site.

## **Flora of North America Web Site**

<http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/>

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, and morphological characteristics of all plants native and naturalized found in North America.

⇒ More ⇒



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **Fire effects on plant species**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

USDA, Forest Service site.

## **Forest Types of the United States**

<http://forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm>

Maps of the most common forest types.

## **Forestry index**

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html>

## **Growit.com Rooting Database**

<http://www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm>

“Extensive information on rooting cuttings of woody plants, organized by botanical name. Developed for commercial growers.”

## **The Native Plant Network**

<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/>

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.



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# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

## **Woody Plant Seed Manual**

<http://www.wpsm.net/>

Manual by the US Forest Service covering seed biology, genetic Improvement of forest trees, seed testing, certification of tree seeds and other woody plant materials, and nursery practices.

## **River Corridor and Wetland Restoration**

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

## **Soils**

<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>

A website about soil fertility, chemistry, and pH with many interesting links.

## **Soil Science Society of America**

<http://www.soils.org/>

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.



# Personal notes from Wally



## Winter musings ...

**“Lord what fools these mortals be!”**

(Puck – A Midsummer’s Nights Dream)

In the midst of turmoil around the world –

Wars, disease, job loss – We all need a

Healthy escape – We need a peaceful Garden –

A personal garden – Please, plan for a nice

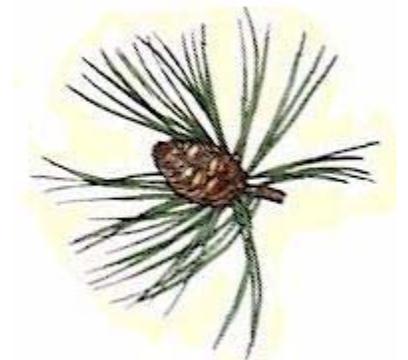
Garden in 2006! A native plant garden is superb

-

Even a small vegetable garden is a start!

**Good luck!**

**Wally**



**NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED**

**In November 2010,  
Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants  
Native Plant Nursery and Gardens  
closed permanently.**

**Many thanks to all our gardening friends for your interest in the native plants of the Pacific northwest. It has been our pleasure to serve you.**

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

**Our website, [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com),  
is no longer commercial. Our  
goal is to continue Wally's legacy  
of generating interest, even  
passion, in the magnificent  
native plants of the Pacific  
Northwest through information  
and illustration.**

**Good luck!  
Good gardening!**

