

2024 Plant Sale Pictures & Descriptions



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Please use caution when preparing or eating any parts of a plant. Identification of the species and knowledge of a plant's toxicity are both essential before using any plant species medicinally or otherwise.

Douglas Fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii var. *menziesii*



Description

This massive (100-250 feet tall), fast-growing conifer is a common and familiar tree in Western Washington. It can be identified by its tall, straight trunk and corky, brown bark which becomes deeply furrowed on older trees. The three to four inch cones consist of woody, brown scales with protruding, papery, three-pointed seed bracts. It's wood is used for fuel or for the manufacturing of veneers used in construction..

Habitat

Throughout the Pacific Northwest in all but the wettest and driest sites, often growing in mixed stands with hemlock and red cedar. Does best in deep, moist, sandy loams; poorest on gravelly soils. Prefers full sun.

Beneficial Uses

Grosbeaks, finches, chickadees, chipmunks and deer devour the seeds. Deer, rabbits, mountain beaver, elk and grouse eat new shoots. The small roots can be used to make baskets. Resin from the trunk is used as a caulking material on boats, and in the manufacture of glues and candles. Wood is used for heavy construction.

Grand Fir

Abies grandis



Description

This stately (100-230 feet), straight, evergreen tree can be identified by its flat, shiny, dark-green needles; its green to yellow-green or greenish-purple cones; and its bark, which is grayish with light-colored mottling. Needles are 1-1½ inches long, have two white lines on their undersides, and look like they are on opposite sides of each branch. Cones are cylindrical, two to four inches long, held upright, and are found only on higher branches, where they remain through autumn as they gradually fall apart. The foliage has an attractive citrus like scent.

Habitat

Dry to moist coniferous or mixed forests, from dry mountain slopes to river valleys. Prefers deep, well-drained, alluvial soils. Full sun to partial shade: although seedlings are shade-tolerant, older trees require full sun.

Beneficial Uses

Provides cover and nesting sites for wildlife. Seeds are eaten by numerous birds and small mammals. Resin can be used on insect bites and cuts to prevent infection. The soft white wood is a valued source of pulpwood.

Noble Fir

Abies procera



Description

This beautiful conifer tree can reach mature heights of 90 to 200 feet tall. It has reddish pollen cones and reddish seed cones are produced upright on the tree branches. Its needles curve upward, and are roughly 4-sided, and are typically a bluish-green color but can appear silvery. Bark is smooth with resin blisters, but breaks to brownish-gray plates as the tree ages.

Habitat

Grow in middle to upper elevation forests, and is often a pioneer tree in disturbed areas. It does not tolerate shade, and does well in higher elevation areas where Douglas fir doesn't grow as well. It is able to grow well in areas with deep snowpack. It does best in full sun to partial shade in moist but well-drained soils.

Beneficial Uses

Very popular Christmas tree and the lumber can be used for light construction. Noble firs provide good nesting sites and cover for animals, as well as food for many species. Grouse eat the needles, deer and elk eat the foliage and twigs in the winter, and squirrels, chipmunks, and birds eat the seeds.

Sitka Spruce

Picea sitchensis



Description

The largest of the world's spruces and one of the most prominent forest trees in stands along the northwest coast of North America. Easily recognized for its stiff, sharp pointed, pale green needles, papery cones up to four inches long, and branches that tend to droop down.

Habitat

This coastal species is seldom found far from tidewater, where moist maritime air and summer fogs help to maintain humid conditions necessary for growth. Throughout most of its range from northern California to Alaska, Sitka spruce is associated with western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) in dense stands where growth rates are among the highest in North America. Sitka spruce is more tolerant of shade than Douglas-fir but less tolerant than hemlock. It is a valuable commercial timber species for lumber, pulp, and many special uses.

Beneficial Uses

In addition to the benefits to wildlife, Sitka Spruce wood is valuable as sounding boards for high quality pianos and guitar faces; ladders, experimental light aircraft; water craft oars, planking, masts & spars; custom-made or traditional boats; and turbine blades for wind energy.

Western Hemlock

Tsuga heterophylla



Description

Growth from 164-213 feet tall with a narrow drooping crown, graceful down sweeping branches and feathery foliage. Straight trunk with a diameter from 3-4 feet. Bark is reddish brown, scaly, thick and furrowed in older trees. Needles are glossy green, short, flat and irregularly spaced producing feathery flat sprays. Oblong, light brown cones are small and numerous with thin papery scales.

Habitat

Prefers fairly dry to wet sites, seedlings have adapted to grow on decaying wood. Grows well in shade. Prefers cool and acidic soil but tolerates mineral rich soil. Used along streams to prevent erosion.

Beneficial Uses

Provides cover for small animals, nesting for birds and food for deer, elk, squirrels and rabbits. Wood is used to make paper and paperboard. Tannin from the bark was used by native peoples for tanning hides and as a soak in the making of spruce root baskets to make them water tight. Red dye from the bark was used to color wool and basket material. The bark steeped in water was used to color fish nets to make them invisible to fish. The wood was used to carve implements and boughs were used as bedding, to build huts and as skirts, headdresses and head-bands for dancing rituals. Pitch of the tree was used as a topical medicine for colds and to prevent sunburn or the bark as a tea for internal injuries.

Western Red Cedar

Thuja plicata



Description

This evergreen conifer can grow to over 200 feet, with a massive (three to ten feet in diameter), tapering trunk that flares at the base to form buttresses. Bark is thin, shaggy, reddish, and easily peels off into long strips. Needles are flat, overlapping like scales, and are shiny bright-green above, and paler on the underside with white markings. The needles form flattened sprays on drooping branches that turn up at the tips. Cones are clustered near the ends of branches, and are bluish-green when young, becoming brown, half-inch, tulip-shaped cones with woody scales.

Habitat

Prefers moist to swampy soils. Full sun to full shade, though seedlings require some shade. Tolerates seasonal flooding and perennially-saturated soils.

Beneficial Uses

Seeds are eaten by birds. Deer and elk browse seedlings. Host to butterfly caterpillars. The wood is used for shingles, shakes & exterior finishing on buildings. Also used for utility poles, fence posts, piling, paper pulp, and various types of containers. Cedar leaf oil is used in the production of perfumes, insecticides, medicinal preparations, veterinary soaps, shoe polishes, and deodorants. Bark, branches and needles are traditionally used for decorations and/or basket making by native cultures.

Western White Pine

Pinus monticola



Description

This evergreen conifer can grow from 150 to 200 feet in height. The needles are a light bluish-green in color and in bundles 5. Pollen cones of the tree are yellow, and seed cones are reddish brown when mature. The cones are described to have a banana shape to them.

Habitat

Can grow in moist valleys to dry slopes, from near sea level to subalpine areas.

Beneficial Uses

The bark of the pine has been used to make baskets and canoes as well as medicinal purposes by Indigenous people. It is also a valued timber tree used for window and door frames. The seeds of the trees are eaten by many birds such as crossbills, grosbeaks, nuthatches, Clark's Nutcracker, chickadees, jays, and woodpeckers. The seeds are also a food source for small mammals like squirrels and chipmunks. Foliage is eaten by deer and grouse and rodents eat the bark and wood. The tree also provides good nesting and roosting habitat and cover for animals.

Big Leaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum



Description

This broad-leaved, deciduous tree grows 50-110 feet tall (the largest of all maple trees), with a single trunk 36-48 inches in diameter, and can have a branch spread of up to 50 feet. The leaves are dark green and 12-24 inches wide. Greenish-yellow flowers are scented, appear in the spring before the leaves, and hang in cylindrical clusters. Fruits are winged, and disperse by flying "helicopter style".

Habitat

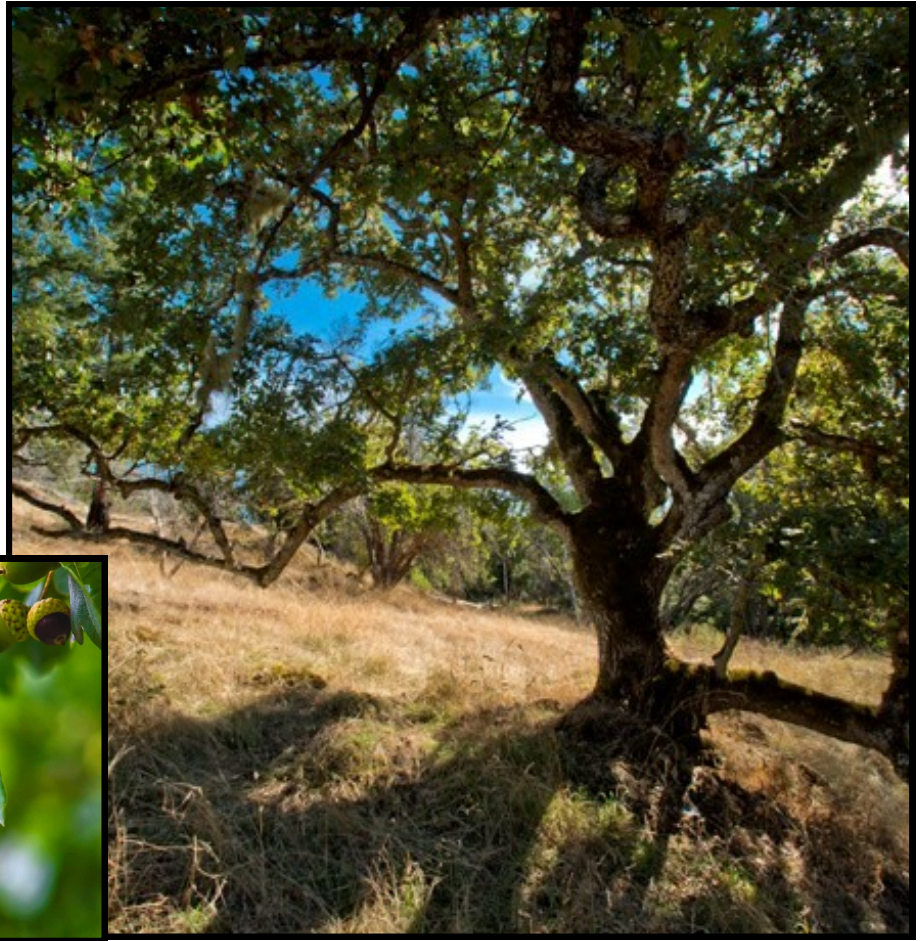
Lowland areas, usually in moist, well-drained soils with shade, but also on dry sites. Almost never in saturated soils. In mixed stands with conifers, along stream banks, and in the open. Full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant.

Beneficial Uses

Wildlife eat seeds, leaves, and new sprouts. Flowers are an early nectar source for bees and other insects. Deer and elk feed off the twigs and foliage. Also provides cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. Wood is commonly used in making piano frames, decorative veneers, flooring, paneling and furniture and some times for wood fuel. Sap can be tapped for sweet maple syrup.

Oregon White Oak (Garry Oak)

Quercus garryana



Description

Can grow up to around 80 feet, but is very slow growing. The bark is a light gray with thick furrows. Leaves are alternate, deciduous, deeply round lobed, and a dark green from above. Fruit is acorns.

Habitat

Washington's only native oak. Grows in low elevations, on dry rocky slopes, bluffs, and savannahs, and is sometimes found in rich, well-drained soils. Requires full sun and well drained soils.

Beneficial Uses

Native people consumed the acorns as a food source. Oak is used for furniture, flooring and other items. The Oregon white oak provides shade, cover and food for multiple species. Many mammals consume the acorns of the trees, including deer, bear, western gray squirrels, and raccoons, as well as birds such as the band-tailed pigeons, jays, woodpeckers and turkey.

Pacific Crabapple

Malus fusca



Description

AKA: Oregon Crab, Western Crabapple, Wild Crabapple. Deciduous thicket-forming shrub or small tree, often with several trunks to 30 feet, sometimes more. Spur shoots abundant on older branches. Flowers in small upright clusters, each two centimeters wide, five rounded white or rarely pink petals. Fruit 12-19 millimeters long, usually longer than wide, yellow-green to red, edible but sour.

Habitat

Sun or partial shade. Apparently not fussy about soil, a "wet lander" plant. Native range along the Pacific Coast, from southern Alaska south to northern California, up to 1,000 ft. (305 m) elevation. Usually found on moist sites near streams and other wet places.

Beneficial Uses

Provides shelter for birds and animals. Used as a sweet jelly or mashed for immediate consumption. Traditional medicinal uses include concoctions derived from the bark mixed with water for the treatment of intestinal disorders, as an eye wash, for lung ailments, treatment for cuts and abrasions or as a tea for stomach problems. Traditionally the wood was used for tools for fishing and for tent stakes.

Red Alder

Alnus rubra



Description

This familiar tree has thin, smooth, gray bark and grows 30-120 feet tall. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, three to six inches long, broad and elliptic, with pointed ends. Male and female flowers appear on the same tree, and the small, winged seeds are shed August to October from small, brown cones that remain on the tree for several years. This tree is greatly under-valued, although it is a quick grower and fixes nitrogen, which make it particularly useful for stabilizing disturbed soils and re-vegetating nutrient-poor soils.

Habitat

Grows in various types of disturbed soils; tolerates drought, flooding, or brackish conditions. Full sun to partial shade. Typically mixed with other trees, but can form pure stands in nutrient-poor soils or on logged-over or otherwise disturbed lands.

Beneficial Uses

Deer and elk browse the leaves, as do large numbers of invertebrates (which in turn feed many insect-eating bird species). Beaver use the branches. Larger trees provide habitat for numerous cavity-nesting birds and small mammals.

Rocky Mountain Maple

Acer glabrum



Description

This deciduous tree often grows to 30 feet tall, taking the form of a shrub or small tree. The trunk grows to 7-10 inches wide. Also known as the Douglas Maple it produces multiple stems that grow as suckers from the base of the tree. Leaves are one to three inches in diameter, three to five lobed, smooth and hairless. Flowers are produced in corymbs of five to ten, yellowish to green. In the fall, leaves turn gold or bright red before falling. Like other maples, it has "helicopter" seeds (fruit).

Habitat

Dry to somewhat moist sites—prefers moist protected sites or in the shade of other trees. Otherwise, full sun to partial shade but becomes leggy in deep shade.

Beneficial Uses

Provides valuable forage for deer and elk, and cover for deer, elk, birds, and small mammals. Flowers attract butterflies. Several species of birds and mammals eat the seeds. Traditionally used by various Native American tribes as a treatment for diarrhea, against swelling or as a general panacea.

Vine Maple

Acer circinatum



Description

This deciduous native often grows to 25 feet tall but is generally 10-20 feet in height, taking the form of an erect tree (often with multiple stems) or a tangle of branches creeping vine-like along the ground before turning upward. Branches are usually green or slightly reddish. Leaves are two to four inches in diameter, opposite, pointed and double toothed. In the fall, leaves turn gold or bright red before falling. Like other maples, it has "helicopter" seeds. Flowers are white petals in small loose clusters emerging with the leaves.

Habitat

Common understory plant in coniferous forests, and in clear-cut or burnt-over areas. Dry to moist sites. Full sun to full shade; prefers some shade, but becomes leggy in deep shade. Useful as a riparian buffer to reduce erosion and enhance water quality.

Beneficial Uses

Provides valuable forage for deer and elk, and cover for deer, elk, birds, and small mammals. Flowers attract butterflies. Seeds and buds provide food for squirrels, chipmunks and birds. Straight long, stems traditionally used to make baskets while the wood was used to carve household utensils such as spoons, bowls and platters. The sap contains some sugar which can be made into a drink or boiled down for syr-

Blue Elderberry

Sambucus cerulea var. *cerulea*



Description

This leggy deciduous shrub grows from 6-20 feet tall with brittle, pith-filled branches and grayish brown bark. Leaves are composed of long, narrow leaflets divided into 5-9 lance shaped leaflets 3-6 inches long. Small creamy-white flowers are arranged in dense, flat-topped clusters and mature into waxy, blue to dark-blue berries covered with a whitish bloom when mature. Stems, leaves and bark are **Toxic** to humans

Habitat

Grows mostly in clearings, in moist to dry soils. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers low to middle elevations in coniferous forests.

Beneficial Uses

Twigs and leaves are preferred by deer and elk and flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Berries are eaten by numerous small mammals and birds. Berries can cause severe intestinal upset if consumed raw by humans but can be used to make juice, jams, syrups and wine. Traditional medicines from the blue elderberry include: poultice for sprains, bruises and arthritis; as a tincture for tooth ache; as a soothing tea for colds, sore throats; fever and diarrhea. Branches can be used to make flutes and branches and berries were used to make dyes for basketry.

Deer Fern

Blechnum spicant



Description

A graceful fern that has two types of fronds, drooping evergreen on the outside and upright deciduous fronds in the center of the plant. It's mature height ranges from 4 to 24 inches in height.

Habitat

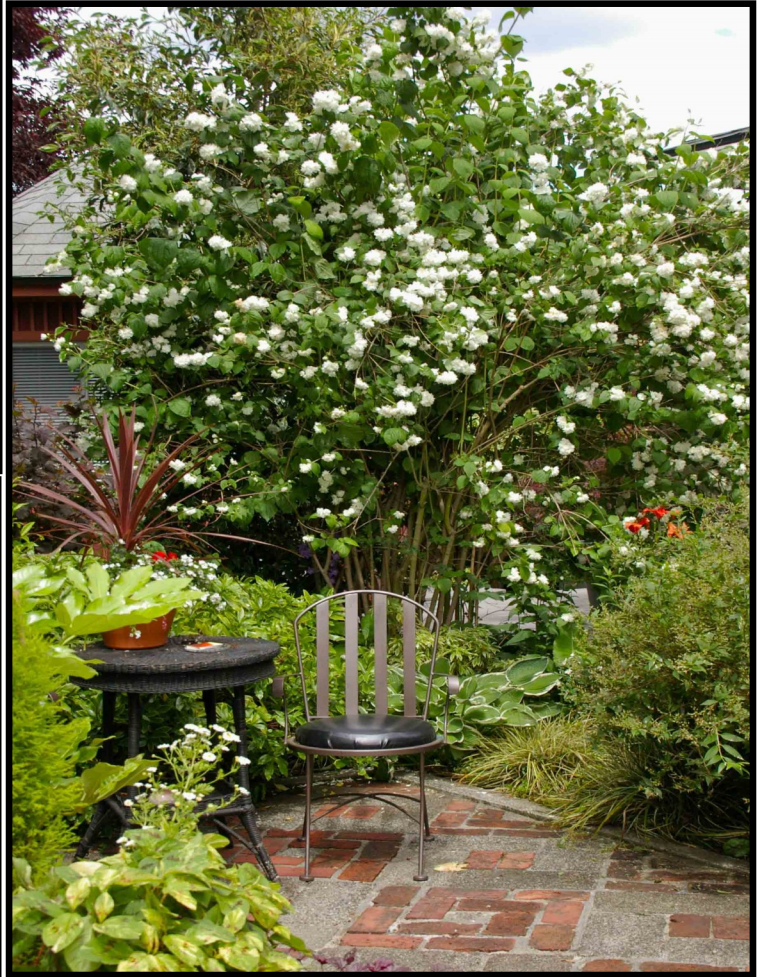
Grows in moist and wet forests, along streambanks, under alders, and in bogs, but Require part shade to full shade and moist to wet conditions.

Beneficial Uses

Nice plant to use as native groundcover, and can be a beautiful feature in a woodland garden, along a wooded path or in a shaded raingarden.

Mock Orange

Philadelphus lewisii var. *gordonianus*



Description

This multiple-stemmed, loosely-branched shrub grows 5-10 feet tall, with showy, fragrant, white flowers. Flowers appear May through July in clusters of 3-15 flowers at the ends of branches. Leaves are opposite, deciduous, oval, 1-3 inches long, with short stems. Fruits are oval, woody capsules about ¼ inch long. Wood is strong and hard.

Habitat

Full sun to partial shade. Somewhat drought tolerant but prefers moist, well-drained soils. Makes a showy hedgerow or ornamental showpiece in the garden.

Beneficial Uses

Flowers attract butterflies and bees. The strong, hard, woody parts were traditionally used to make bows, arrows, implements and combs, and more recently, knitting needles. The flowers and leaves were rubbed together to make a lather as a cleanser for the skin.

Nootka Rose

Rosa nutkana



Description

This spindly, thorny rose grows 2-8 feet high and has a pair of large prickles at the base of each leaf or bud. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, and contain five or seven toothed leaflets. Flowers are large, ~3 inches across, pink to purplish, and are usually borne singly or in pairs at the tips of branches. Fruits are large ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across), round, and when ripe, purplish-red. Rose hips are dry and contain tiny hairs that are not palatable.

Habitat

Fairly dry to wet areas. Grows in bogs, wet meadows, grasslands, forests, and mountain slopes, sandy, loamy and clay soils. Full sun to partial to no shade. Tolerates saturated soils or inundation for much of the growing season. Can grow near salt water. Prefers moist soil.

Beneficial Uses

Flowers are a nectar source for butterflies and other insects. Fruits are important winter food source for birds and small mammals. Thickets also provide excellent cover for birds and small mammals. Rose hip juice makes good jelly and rose hip tea is rich in vitamin C. An infusion of bark and rose hips has historically been used as a common cure for arthritis, colds, fevers diarrhea and stomachaches. Used externally to sooth skin and treat infections. Rose leaves were scattered in moccasins to treat foot fungus.

Oceanspray

Holodiscus discolor



Description

Erect with arching stems growing to 13 feet. Older stems have brownish, peeling bark. Leaves are alternate, dull green, hairy, egg to triangular shaped. Flowers are white to cream, fragrant, small and dense in pyramidal lilac like clusters blooming from May to July. Clusters turn brown and remain through winter. Fruits are tiny (2mm), light brown and hairy.

Habitat

Dry to moist soil. Grows best in open, sunny areas but tolerates some shade. Plentiful along ravine edges and coastal bluffs. Tolerates clay and gravelly soils.

Beneficial Uses

The flowers are edible to humans. Provides nectar for hummingbirds, cover and shelter for birds, butterflies, insects and small animals. Deer and elk browse the foliage. Provides food for seed and insect eating birds in the winter months. Wood from the plant was hardened over fire, (thus the name ironwood), polished and used to make digging sticks, spears, bows and arrow shafts, salmon-barbequing sticks, halibut hooks and mat needles by native American coastal groups. Pegs, made from the wood were used as nails. The fruit clusters were steeped to make a tea for diarrhea, measles, chickenpox and as a blood tonic.

Oregon Grape (Low)

Mahonia nervosa



Description

Evergreen shrub with multiple erect, unbranched stems growing to about 2 feet, but sometimes taller if growing in deep shade. It forms clumps, spreading by underground rhizomes. Alternate, compound, prickly, holly-like leaflets and yellow bark, wood, and roots. Flowers are yellow, clustered, and appear March through May. Fruits are waxy blue berries that appear in grape-like clusters in mid-summer. Leaves may turn red in winter.

Habitat

Grows in dry to fairly moist, well-drained soils, in sun or shade and in open or closed forests low to middle elevations.

Beneficial Uses

Flowers attract butterflies. Fruits are coveted by birds and mammals. Berries are used domestically to make jelly and wine. The shredded bark of the stems and roots was used by native Americans to make a bright-yellow dye for basket materials. Bark and berries were used as medicine by native peoples for liver, gall bladder and eye problems. Caution is urged against consuming too many berries due to their potency.

Osoberry (Indian Plum)

Oemleria cerasiformis



Description

This deciduous shrub grows 6-13 feet tall and is one of the first natives to put on leaves and flower in early spring. Leaves are alternate and bright yellow-green. Flowers appear before the leaves in early February through March, and hang in elongated, greenish-white clusters. Only female plants produce the small (about ½ inch long) plum-like fruit, which ripen from peach to orange to dark purple by early June. This plant's flowers have a pungent odor.

Habitat

Moist to dry sites; along stream banks, rivers, and wetlands (but never in saturated soils), and in open woodlands at low elevations. Full sun to partial shade, but prefers shade.

Beneficial Uses

Flowers are an early nectar source for bees and other insects. Fruit is best for human consumption when fruit color is just turning from red to purple. Historically Native Americans made a tea from the bark for use as a tonic, laxative, and as a remedy for tuberculosis.

Pacific Ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus



Description

Deciduous shrub, 5-13 feet tall with open, straggly, angled branches, and bark that exfoliates in long irregular strips. Leaves are alternate, simple, 3-10 centimeters long, 3-5 lobed and veined. Produces pink to red pompoms about 30 to a cluster, flowering May through June. Good fall color.

Habitat

Stream banks, swamps, moist woods, and occasionally on drier shrubby sites. Sun to shade, best in acidic soil, requires some watering. Common along stream banks, lake margins, swampy areas and in moist woods.

Beneficial Uses

Has excellent soil-binding qualities as well as providing cover and nesting sites. Deer and elk graze on the twigs, bear eat the berries. Children's bows made from the wood. Native peoples considered the shrub highly poisonous and made a tea from the wood to be used as an emetic or purgative. Also used as a laxative.

Pacific Rhododendron

Rhododendron macrophyllum



Description

The Pacific rhododendron is well known for being the state flower of Washington. Its leaves are alternate, evergreen, thick, leathery, and not hairy. Leaves can be 3-8 inches long. Flowers are pink to rose-purple, bell-shaped, 5-lobed. Can be between 7-30 ft tall. Fruits are woody capsules.

Habitat

Moist to dry coniferous or mixed forests. Can be found on the coasts to middle elevations in the mountains. They form extensive shrub layer in forests. Also can be found growing along roadsides and forest edges. Favors moist, acidic soil and partial to full shade.

Beneficial Uses

Produces a beautiful flower display in the spring. Can be useful for erosion control on steep watersheds. This shrub provides all year cover for wildlife such as birds.

Red Elderberry

Sambucus racemosa



Description

Leggy deciduous shrub grows up to 20 feet tall, with soft, pithy stems. Leaves are composed of long, narrow leaflets divided into 5-7 leaves. The creamy-white flowers are arranged in dense, pyramidal clusters with a strong unpleasant odor. Fruits are bright-red, berry-like drupes. **Caution: Roots, leaves and stems are toxic if ingested. Berries may cause nausea if eaten raw.**

Habitat

Grows mostly in clearings, in moist to dry soils or near stream banks and swampy thickets. Full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant.

Beneficial Uses

Twigs and leaves are preferred by deer and elk and flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. The tree provides shelter and nesting and perching habitat for many species of birds. Berries are food for rabbits, squirrel foxes, woodchucks, chipmunks, wood rats, and mice. Unless cooked, fruit is harmful to humans. However, when boiled berries make a tasty tangy jelly, when sweetened can be used to make sauce and wine. The wood is hard and has been used to make combs, spindles, and pegs. The hollow stems have been fashioned into flutes and blowguns.

Red Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum var. *sanguineum*



Description

This erect, thorn-less, deciduous plant grows three to twelve feet tall, with reddish- brown bark. Leaves are alternate, rounded, 1-3 inches wide (occasionally larger), and lighter in color. Flowers are white to light-pink to deep-red, tubular, and held in upright to drooping clusters of 10-20 flowers. Dark-blue to black round berries with glandular hairs and a waxy bloom..

Habitat

Dry to somewhat moist, wooded or open sites, from the coast to the Cascades. Best in rocky, well drained soil, Intolerant of saturated soils. Full sun to partial shade, but may get leggy in shade.

Beneficial Uses

Most beneficial as an early spring garden ornamental attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. Berries are persistent and do not ripen all at once, providing a longer term food source for numerous birds, small mammals, deer, and elk. Edible to humans but lacking in flavor. Not highly regarded by native tribes for consumption or medicinal uses.

Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea spp. *Occidentalis*



Description

This many-stemmed, deciduous shrub grows up to 15 feet tall. Leaves are opposite, two to six inches long, elliptical and pointed. In autumn, leaves turn a deep red before falling off. Twigs and stems are often reddish or purple turning to bright red following a frost. Small, greenish-white flowers grow in dense, flat topped clusters at the ends of branches, and produce bluish-white berries in fall.

Habitat

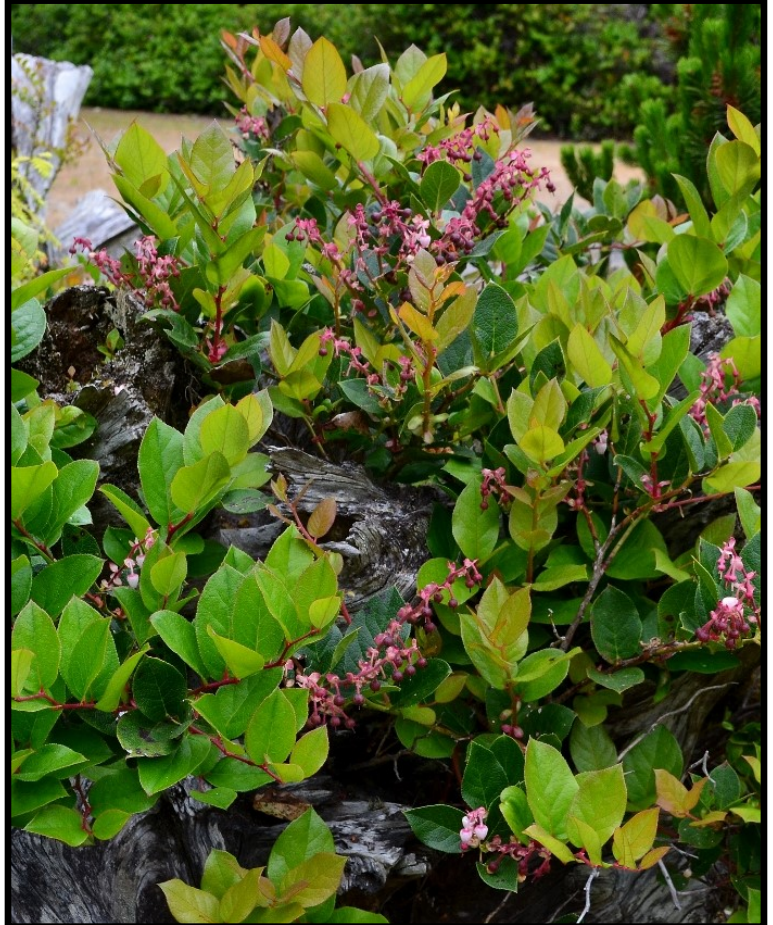
Moist soil, especially along stream banks and in swamps but also in open upland forests, thickets and disturbed sites. Full to partial shade. Tolerates seasonal flooding.

Beneficial Uses

Possess excellent soil building qualities. Red stems make it attractive with or without foliage. Provides excellent wildlife cover, and is very important as a winter browse for deer, and elk. Hosts butterfly caterpillars. Buds and fruit provide food for numerous birds, small mammals, and black bear. Berries are very bitter. The branches have been used as salmon spreaders and basket rims by native tribes and bark and twigs were brewed as a tea for use as a tonic.

Salal

Gaultheria shallon



Description

Creeping to erect, spreads by layering, suckering and sprouting. Height can range from around 2 to 5 feet tall. Leaves are alternate, evergreen, leathery, thick, shiny, and egg-shaped. The leaves are also finely toothed. Flowers are whitish or pinkish, fruit is reddish-blue to dark-purple.

Habitat

Salal is a very common understory shrub in Western Washington, and can be found in both coniferous forests or rocky bluffs, at low to medium elevations. It can form impenetrable thickets. Grows best in full to partial shade, but can be grown in a more sunny location if it has good drainage and adequate moisture. It is slow growing, but can spread by sprouting from underground stems.

Beneficial Uses

Berries can be made into jams or jellies, often in combination with other berries. The fruits are eaten by many kinds of birds and mammals, such as Douglas squirrels. Hummingbirds will visit the flowers as well. Deer and elk eat salal foliage mostly in the winter.

Serviceberry

Amelanchier alnifolia



Description

A member of the rose family, also known as Saskatoon, this multi-stemmed, deciduous native usually grows 10-12 feet tall, and has smooth, dark gray to reddish bark. Leaves are alternate, thin, oval, and one to two inches long. Flowers are white with five long, thin petals, and form showy, erect or droopy clusters. Fruits are small ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter) and initially dull-red, becoming dark purple when ripe, and look somewhat like small blueberries.

Habitat

In moist to dry areas, on well-drained soils; often in open conifer forests, meadows and thickets. Full sun to partial shade. Common throughout the Northwest, frequently in thickets. Very drought-tolerant.

Beneficial Uses

Foliage and twigs are prized by deer and elk in the spring and provides important winter browse for deer and elk. Fruits are eaten by many birds and mammals. Highly regarded by all native groups, the berries were dried into cakes for storage. Saskatoon wood was used for arrows, digging sticks, and drying racks. Berries taste much like blueberries with a grainy texture and can be used in multiple ways: Baked into pies, puddings or muffins; preserved as a jam or used as a flavor for ice cream; dehydrated and eaten like raisins; processed as a syrup, juice, mead or wine or as a mix with vodka and soda.

Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum



Description

Large evergreen fern that is the most commonly found fern in Pacific Northwest forests. Grows to 3-5 feet in height with beautiful lance shaped leaves.

Habitat

Grows in moist forests at low to middle elevations. Requires full to partial shade, but can tolerate dry to moist soil conditions.

Beneficial Uses

Excellent native groundcover that looks very nice incorporated into backyard or woodland landscapes. Mammals such as deer, elk, black bears, mountain beavers, consume the leaves, and some birds and small mammals use sword ferns for nesting and cover.

Thimbleberry

Rubus parviflorus



Description

This is the only member of its species (including blackberries and raspberries) in Western Washington that does not have thorns. Grows 2-10 feet tall, with cane-like stems and shredding, brown bark. Twigs are greenish and finely hairy. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, and shaped like maple leaves. Flowers are large (1-2 inches across) and white with petals that look like crumpled tissue paper. Berries are red, slightly fuzzy, and look and detach like raspberries. Spreads by a vigorous underground stem system.

Habitat:

Open areas such as roadsides, clearings, and shorelines, or under a light forest canopy. An excellent choice for steep slopes, due to its good soil-binding abilities. Favors dry, rocky soil and deep well-drained loam. Intolerant of saturated soils. Full sun to partial shade.

Beneficial Uses

Thickets provide good wildlife cover. Foliage is browsed by deer and elk. Flowers attract butterflies. Fruits are eaten by birds (a favorite of Cedar Waxwing) and mammals, including humans. Young shoots were eaten raw by native peoples and the berries were dried with smoked clams or dried and mixed with other berries to disguise the inferior taste of thimbleberries. The broad maple-like leaves were made into make shift berry containers.

Twinberry

Lonicera involucrata var. *involucrata*



Description

This deciduous, fast-growing shrub grows 2-7 feet high and has elliptical, pointy, bright green leaves. The paired flowers are small, yellow, and tubular. They mature into small, glossy, black berries framed by burgundy colored bracts.

Habitat

Moist, open sites usually near streams or other bodies of water. Grows in partial to full shade, rarely in full sun. Tolerant of shallow flooding early in growing season, prefers loamy soils.

Beneficial Uses

Flowers provide a nectar source for hummingbirds. Birds and other wildlife eat berries and twigs. Leaves are browsed by deer. The berries are bitter and not considered edible for humans. The bark and twigs were used for medicinal purposes by native peoples for indigestion and contraception. Some tribes used the black berries as a dye, including a hair dye for gray hair.