

Volume 1, Issue 2, 2003

November 2003

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

Rare Native Lilies of the Northwest

Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady

Fall Color

Landscaping with Native Plants

Native Plant Photographer Donald C. Eastman

Free Native Plant Seeds! See page 26

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

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# About this Monthly 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.).

## On the Cover:

This photo was taken for me in the nursery by Rory, a very talented budding photographer.

*Wally*



*Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple) with Yellow Warbler  
Original watercolor © Heidi D. Hansen





# To Do list for native plants



Red Columbine

I walked in early morn  
Along an overgrown country road.  
The thistles and grass smothered all  
Except I caught a glimpse of red,  
A tiny signal of some hidden prize!  
Carefully I parted the grassy shield  
And found to my delight,  
A wondrous Red Columbine,  
Hiding behind a shield of thorn and grass.  
Carefully I cleared a space and left,  
Assured that some wandering Hummingbird  
Would soon find in Slender Nectar Tubes,  
The food of the Gods, the wondrous Ambrosia  
Which only Hummingbirds can know!

Original watercolor © Heidi D. Hansen

A – Check all your perennials while there are still some leaves. Many native perennials can be divided and Fall is a good time. If you can find separate stems with roots, you can divide off a new plant. Certainly plants such as Oxalis, False Lily-of-the-Valley, False Solomon Seal, Wild Strawberries. Red Columbine, etc, can be easily divided.

B – Mulch new plants now for root protection. Don't be caught by an early, hard freeze.

C – If some native deciduous shrubs grew too fast and are a bit leggy, you can prune back when the leaves are off. Shrubs should be pruned to force bushiness. If you are going to take winter cuttings from the trim, wait until December. (Be very cautious in pruning young native trees – only to correct some improper shape – never cut the leader!)

D – Get your native bulbs and rhizomes in now. It's not too late. Sometimes it is tricky to hold bulbs in refrigeration. This may break winter dormancy too early and the bulbs and rhizomes will "think" the winter is over and start sprouting!

E – For native plant gardens that are dense and newly planted, be safe from some diseases by raking leaves, pruning off dead branches and burning this trash. Diseases can winter over in damaged plant material. Better use sawdust (hardwood), bark dust, etc. as mulch.

F – Plant trees this fall and winter. You do not have to wait until Spring. Fall plants are great – plantings of bareroot native plans in Jan, Feb and March are OK as long as you can work the soil. Native Plant Gardening is a 12 month "hobby" (obsession??)



# Beautiful Native Lilies of the Northwest!

**By Wallace W. Hansen**

(Parts of this article so indicated were written by Donald C. Eastman.  
Photos are by Donald C. Eastman, except where noted)

Ten exquisite Jewels are the heritage of the Northwest – shared by everyone who recognizes true beauty – nine species of Beautiful Native Lilies. Most are on various lists – endangered list, watch list, etc. Most of the photos of these wonderful plants are through the courtesy of Donald Eastman and those are acknowledged below as his copyright and used with his permission. Several species are grown commercially as noted below. I encourage you to grow these species from seed that is obtained legally and ethically if you have the opportunity. Remember the story of Dawn Redwood – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. This beautiful tree was around over 20 million years ago and considered as extinct (fossils only). Then a few trees were found alive in China in 1940, and now this beautiful tree is available to everyone! The passion and focus of one dedicated botanist might open a gleaming treasure chest of “native lily jewels.”

## ***Lilium bolanderi* (BOLANDER’S LILY)**

This very attractive lily, found only on rocky serpentine slopes in the Siskiyou Mountains of Josephine and Curry counties, Oregon, and Del Norte County, California, is rare and threatened throughout its range by collectors. *Lilium bolanderi* grows twelve to thirty inches tall, has three to four whorls of rather wavy leaves with a few small ones between whorls. The nodding flowers, two to seven per flowering head, have broadly

*Lilium bolanderi* (Bolander’s Lily) © Donald C. Eastman



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# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued



*Lilium bolanderi* (Bolander's Lily)

© Donald C. Eastman

## ***Lilium columbiana***

### **(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-inch bell-like, orange flowers with red spots. They hang pendant, the petals curling backwards to the stem. Found 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. They are grown commercially and bulbs are sometimes available. You can grow from seed, which is usually available. Plan on at least five years from seed germination to blooming size.

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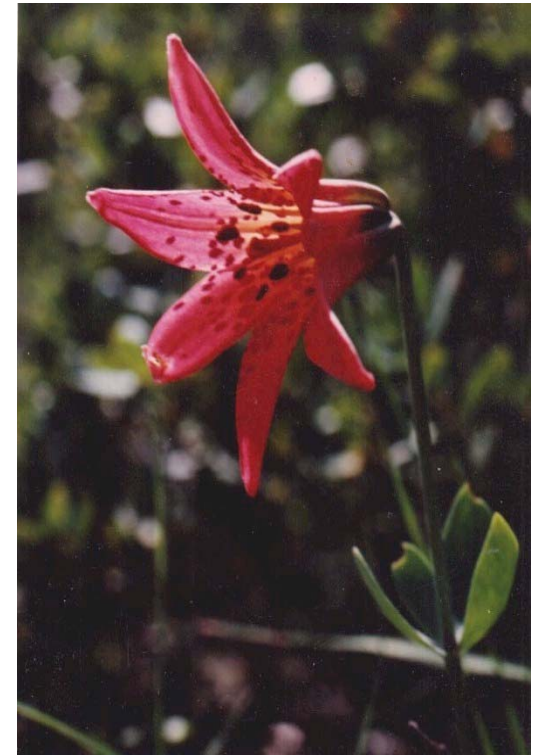
lance-shaped tepals about one and one-quarter inches long. They are deep wine red in color, turning yellow toward the center, with maroon colored dots extending to the tip. The tepals are only slightly spreading and very little recurved. The stamens are considerably shorter than the tepals, and have deep red anthers. It blooms in June and July.



*Lilium columbiana* (Tiger Lily)

Photo by Rory, © Wallace W.

Hansen



*Lilium bolanderi* (Bolander's Lily)

© Donald C. Eastman

# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued



*Lilium occidentale* (Western Lily)  
Photo and copy © Donald C. Eastman

## ***Lilium kelloggii***

### **(KELLOGG'S LILY)**

This species of lily is now believed to be possibly extinct in Oregon. It is apparently more common in California. It grows on a sandstone/sedimentary type of soil in dry wooded areas. *Lilium kelloggii* is quite similar to *Lilium rubescens*, but has smaller tepals that are recurved to the base. It is pink with purple dots and has a touch of yellow along the midline of each tepal. It grows from three to five feet tall and has several whorls of long, narrow, lanceolate leaves, with as many as sixteen in a whorl. It is very fragrant, and it blooms in June.

## ***Lilium occidentale***

### **(WESTERN LILY)**

One of the rarest plants in Oregon, this extremely rare lily that grows only on the periphery of bogs near the ocean from Coos County, Oregon, to Humboldt County, California, is at risk by collectors and by destruction of its habitat. *Lilium occidentale* grows up to five feet tall and has as many as ten nodding flowers per stem. They are crimson red shading to yellow and green at the base. The yellow and green areas are dotted with purple. The tepals, two inches tall, are recurved only halfway. The deep red anthers, one-half inch long, closely surround the pistil. It has no fragrance. Its leaves generally are single along the stem except for one whorl near the middle. It blooms from late June through July.

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# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued

## **Lilium pardalinum**

### **(LEOPARD LILY)**

A beautiful lily with early summer flowers of red and orange spotted with purple. Leopard lilies form clumps and can reach 6 feet tall. Often, as many as 10 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 zone 5-9). Leopard Lilies are grown commercially, but bulbs are not widely

available. Seeds sometimes available. Expect over five years from germination to blooming size. Leopard Lilies are resilient to diseases and pests. (Nursery photo at right and on cover.)

## **Lilium parvum**

### **(ALPINE LILY)**

Also referred to as small tiger lily. This species is believed at one time to have existed in Curry, Josephine, and Klamath counties in southwest Oregon. Apparently, it has been some time since it was last reported in this state. Many now believe it to be extinct in Oregon. On the premise that it may still be found somewhere in Oregon, it is here included. It grows along mountain streams and in wet thickets at high elevations. It is apparently more common in the Sierra Nevada Mountains further south in California. *Lilium parvum* grows to about five feet in height; its stem supports mostly scattered leaves, or a few partial whorls. The flowers, one and one-half to two inches long, are normally orange-yellow going to a dark red at the outer edges, spotted with maroon. The photograph shows a pink variety called *Lilium parvum* var. *rubellum*. It blooms in June and July. [⇒More⇒](#)



*Lilium parvum* (Alpine Lily) © Donald C. Eastman



*Lilium pardalinum* (Leopard Lily)

Photo © Wallace W. Hansen



# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued

## **Lilium rubescens**

### **(LILAC LILY)**

This California lily was once known from a few sites in Josephine and Curry counties in Oregon. It is now considered possibly extinct in this state though presently stable in California. It grows on dry wooded slopes. *Lilium rubescens* is a large lily, sometimes reaching seven feet in height. The long, stout stem supports several whorls of six to twelve leaves, four to five inches long, that are glaucous beneath. The two to eight flowers atop the stem are erect, pinkish white dotted with purple, gradually darkening to a rose-purple with age. The tepals are one and one-half to two and one-half inches long and reflexed for about one-third to one-half their length. The anthers are yellowish, about one-quarter of an inch long. The branching flowering stems ascend nearly parallel to the main stem. It blooms in June and July.



*Lilium vollmeri* (Vollmer's Tiger Lily)  
© Donald C. Eastman

## **Lilium vollmeri**

### **(VOLLMER'S TIGER LILY)**

This rarely-seen lily which grows in hillside bogs, often with *Darlingtonia*, is found chiefly in Josephine and Curry counties in Oregon and in adjacent northern California. It may grow in serpentine soil but is not restricted to it. It is threatened throughout its range, chiefly by collectors. What used to be called leopard lilies (*Lilium pardalinum* Kellogg) in Oregon is now believed by some to be *Lilium vollmeri*. *Lilium vollmeri* grows about three feet high. The leaves are scattered and erect on the stem, though some may be whorled. The one to several flowers are nodding; the recurved tepals, about two and one-half to three inches long, are dark red on the outer half, and yellow to orange with maroon spots near the center. The orange-brown anthers do not flare greatly from the pistil. It blooms from late June to August.

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# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued

## **Lilium wigginsii**

### **(WIGGIN'S LILY)**

This rare regional endemic; known in Jackson and Josephine counties in Oregon, and Humboldt and Del Norte counties in northern California, grows at fairly high elevations along stream banks and wet seeps and meadows. *Lilium wigginsii* is a yellow lily with purple spots on its perianth segments, which curve back from the base. It grows to about five feet tall. Its petals and sepals are two to three inches long. Its long, lance-shaped leaved, five to nine inches, are spreading and usually scattered along the stem, but may be in whorls of three or four leaves. Its blooming period is from June through July.

*Lilium wigginsii* (Wiggin's Lily)  
© Donald C. Eastman



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# Beautiful Native Lilies of the NW, continued

***Lilium washingtonianum***

**(WASHINGTON LILY)**

Also called Shasta Lily and Cascade Lily. A beautiful, 3 ft plus lily with large flaring white trumpets. Tepals are white to faint pink and fade to deep pink. Found in the Cascades in Washington State, thru the East side of Mt Hood, Oregon, and South through the Cascades to Northern California. These are spectacular rare lilies – amazing!

*Lilium washingtonianum* (Washington Lily)  
Original watercolor painting © Heidi D. Hansen



# Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady



Written by Nellie Stark

(Note - Dr. Nellie Stark is a Forest Ecologist living in Oregon, with considerable research in *Vacciniums*. She is the author of a book on huckleberries, *The Ecology and Culture of Montana Huckleberries*. )

The wild Iris of Oregon is one of the most attractive wild flowers to be found. We usually think of irises as growing in moist places, and while all irises require a fair amount of moisture, some can live in places that become quite dry during summer. Some even live amongst the stately ponderosa pines where summer drought is common. And some are so beautiful that they have been the inspiration for the name, "Iris" as applied to beautiful women.

The name "iris" is derived from the Greek word for rainbow and aptly describes this beautiful bloom. *Iris* and *Sisyrinchium* or blue-eyed grass are both in the IRIDACEAE and are closely related. In fact, as far back as Theophrastus, he called the plant "Sisyrinchium" which means "iris-like plant."

The flowers vary in color from light or dark blue, to white or yellow. These color variations may occur even within species. The flower has its flower parts fused at the base forming either a narrow or flaring tube. The sepals are generally spreading and often bend downward. The sepals have a fine, penciled brown or purple pattern on them, which adds to the beauty of the flower. The petals are erect and often narrow and may vary in color. The plants are perennial herbs with rhizomes or sometimes bulbs. The leaves are grass-like, mostly basal and often blue-green to green in color.

Original watercolor painting © Heidi D. Hansen

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# Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady, continued



All native Iris are showy, decorative plants that can be planted in moist areas for color and contrast. They make excellent additions to creek banks and to the edges of ponds. The plants are not easy to propagate from seeds and require a good bit of special attention, but they can be propagated from dormant bulbs or rhizomes. Once established, they require almost no special attention and will grow and flower year after year. Some persons prefer to add a bit of nitrogen fertilizer to keep the plants looking their best. Unlike some other bulb or rhizomatous plants, they do not have to be brought in during winter at lower elevations. Iris grow mostly at lower elevations where the winters are not extreme. The plants are usually under three feet tall. They often hybridize with one another and it can be difficult to sort out the parentage of individual plants that have been exposed to other Iris species with which they can interbreed. Some, like *iris douglasiana* grow in dense clones and can be centuries old.

Here is a list of some of the native species:

1. ***Iris chrysophylla*** Howell. This lovely plant has flowers, which are off-white, to pale yellow and can even be bluish tinged. They grow to one to two feet in height in open woods with Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir. They occur from northwest California to Polk and Marion Counties in Oregon. They are found on drier sites. This is a most attractive wild plant.
2. ***Iris missouriensis*** Nutt. This is the showy deep blue iris that most people recognize, but the flowers may also be pale blue. It has wide spreading rhizomes and grows on moist stream banks and in meadows. Their habitat may become quite dry during the late summer months. The species ranges from east of the Cascades to British Columbia, Southern California and into northern Mexico. It can be found on some Pacific Coast islands as well. See photos, this page.



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# Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady, continued

3. ***Iris tenax*** Dougl. This is a smaller plant of no more than a foot in height. It has slender rhizomes, which are not extensive. It grows exclusively on the western slopes of the Cascades. The flowers are a lovely lavender-blue to purple, but occasional white to yellow or even orchid individuals can be found. The plants are most common in western Washington and northwestern Oregon. This is a gem of a plant well worth the trouble to find and cultivate.
4. ***Iris tenuis*** Wats. The flowers of this lovely plant are white with prominent purple veination. The flowers can have yellow or purplish blotches. The species is rare, known only from shaded, moist stream banks in Clackamas County, Oregon, and should be left unmolested if found.
5. ***Iris douglasiana*** Dougl. This is a champ among the irises. It has a broad tolerance for soils and grows readily in many areas. Its natural range tends to be close to the coast, but it will grow further inland where it frequently interbreeds with other local species of Iris. The plants are 6 to 30 inches tall with broad, deep green leaves up to an inch wide. The leaves tend to be red at the base and wider than those of most other iris species. Unlike many other Iris species, this one has a branched flower stalk with the individual flowers borne in bracts. Most plants bear 2 to 3 flowers, each on a separate branch of the stem. The flowers are 1.1 to 3 inches wide with a tube that is 0.6 to 1.1 inches long. The flowers are lavender to purple and with darker veins and a yellow center. Off-white to rarely pure white flowers have been reported with a stunning yellow signal patch. The plants occur naturally from the



Original watercolor painting © Heidi D. Hansen

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# Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady, continued

coastal areas of southern Oregon as far south as Los Angeles (Santa Barbara), or over 700 miles north to south. They flower in April to June, but are known to flower in January on the southern coast. The plants grow on acid to slightly alkaline soils and this is the only Iris that is likely to tolerate any alkali.

The soils vary from clays to beach sands and plants have been seen on the sand dunes where the rooting medium is pure sand. They also occur naturally on sea slopes, in fields and in open woods near the coast. The plants are not naturally from the coastal areas of southern Oregon as far south as Los Angeles (Santa Barbara), or over 700 miles north to south. They flower in April to June, but are known to flower in January on the southern coast. The plants grow on acid to

slightly alkaline soils and this is the only Iris that is likely to tolerate any alkali. The soils vary from clays to beach sands and plants have been seen on present naturally in the hot valleys of southern California. They are tolerant to both sun and shade, but do best where there is at least partial sun. One distinctive feature is the strongly triangular seed pods (capsules), which have a pronounced beak.

## Introduced Species Gone Wild *iris pseudoacorus* L.

This plant had been introduced from Europe and has managed to escape into the wild in some areas of

Oregon. The flowers are pale to bright yellow. The plants grow to nearly three feet in height and may have leafy stems. They grow around streams and along stream banks and in other moist places. It is a bit less showy than some of the native species, but often well worth the effort to cultivate.



Cinnamon Teal Duck with Douglas Iris  
Original watercolor painting © Heidi D. Hansen

Most Irises can be grown from seed by collecting the seeds from the capsules in the fall. The seeds can be put into plastic bags with well-moistened perlite (not with

standing water) and placed in the refrigerator for the winter in northern climates. In spring when freezing is past, the seeds can be removed and placed on a moist bed of peat moss where they will germinate. Where the winters are very mild with little or no freezing, the seeds may be sown in moist compost in the fall directly. If plants are to be grown in pots, it is best to remove the plastic

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# Iris, a Flower and a Lovely Lady, continued

bags from the refrigerator after about three months and expose them to temperatures in the 50-60''s. This allows the seeds to germinate in the bag before they are removed with forceps and placed in individual pots.

Some persons prefer to cut the leaves of the plants back in the fall to avoid borer damage. If borers are not a problem, it is best to leave the leaves intact as long as possible so that they can store energy in the bulbs or rhizomes for the next year's growth. Leaves should be cut back 2/4 of the way when they are no longer photosynthesizing (usually October).

Any amount of effort is worthwhile for these beautiful plants that grace our gardens as well as the wilds. Irises are extensively grown in gardens around the world, including England, Russia, and Japan. Many hybrids have been made by man, and there are some stunning bearded forms which no longer resemble either wild parent.

The taller Irises make an excellent back planting where they can tower above smaller flowering plants. The shorter Irises mix well into flowerbeds where their distinctive flower colors can blend with those of other plants that flower at the same time. Species differ in terms of flowering times, so that one planting can have several species of Irises blooming all season long.



## Yellow Iris, *Iris pseudoacorus*

(Shown at left) Do not use this Iris for restoration work, and be careful for home gardens. This is a beautiful Iris but is very aggressive and spreads rapidly in swampy areas and can crowd out other vegetation. It has naturalized in the Northwest and may be of European origin. I grow a few for my own interest, and normally do not sell this iris.

### Did you know?

Did you know the fleur-de-lis is an artistic interpretation of the iris?



# Landscaping with Native Plants

Ellsworth Springs April, 2002



Original watercolor painting © Heidi D. Hansen

## Ideas on using Northwest Native Plants in your yard

Northwest Natives can meet nearly every garden need including great variety in plant form, flowers, foliage and fruit. Natives will provide an ideal refuge and source of food for birds and animals. Many natives can survive under extreme drought conditions. Many natives are evergreen, providing a delightful mix with deciduous plants for a year long, attractive garden.

In the Pacific Northwest, there is a natural relationship and function for native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Native trees, both evergreen and deciduous, provide the over-story framework of the landscape. Below tree level, shrubs provide an under-story. Below the shrubs, perennials, including ground covers complete the natural landscape. Shrubs and perennials provide delightful color, texture, and form.

Accept and enjoy natives as they are. Enjoyment of natives implies an acceptance of the simple joys of nature – not a continual frenzied search for the different, the bigger, the brighter, or the new. Did you ever really look at a native rose? — Just a simple, single petal flower – pale pink, nostalgic fragrance. How beautiful, how fragile, and yet eternal! How close to the land and how close to life! If you can enjoy a simple wild rose, your life is greatly enriched! Some common questions and answers are shown below:

## Which Native trees can be planted in full sun?

Nearly all native trees do fine in full sun. This includes Fir, Cedar, Spruce, Hemlock, Pines, Oaks, Madrone, Oregon Myrtle, Maple, Alder, Birch, Hazel, Cottonwood, Quaking Aspen, Willow, Hawthorn, Bitter Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Oregon Ash, and Cascara.

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# Landscaping with Native Plants, continued

## **Which Native trees will tolerate some shade?**

Douglas Fir, White Pine, Oregon Ash, Madrone, Hawthorn, Crabapple.

## **Which Native trees will tolerate medium shade?**

Spruce, Hemlock, Pacific Silver Fir, Grand Fir, White Fir, Coast Redwood, Port Orford Cedar, California Black Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Tan Oak, Bigleaf Maple, Oregon Myrtle, Cascara, Yew.

## **Which Native trees will tolerate deep shade?**

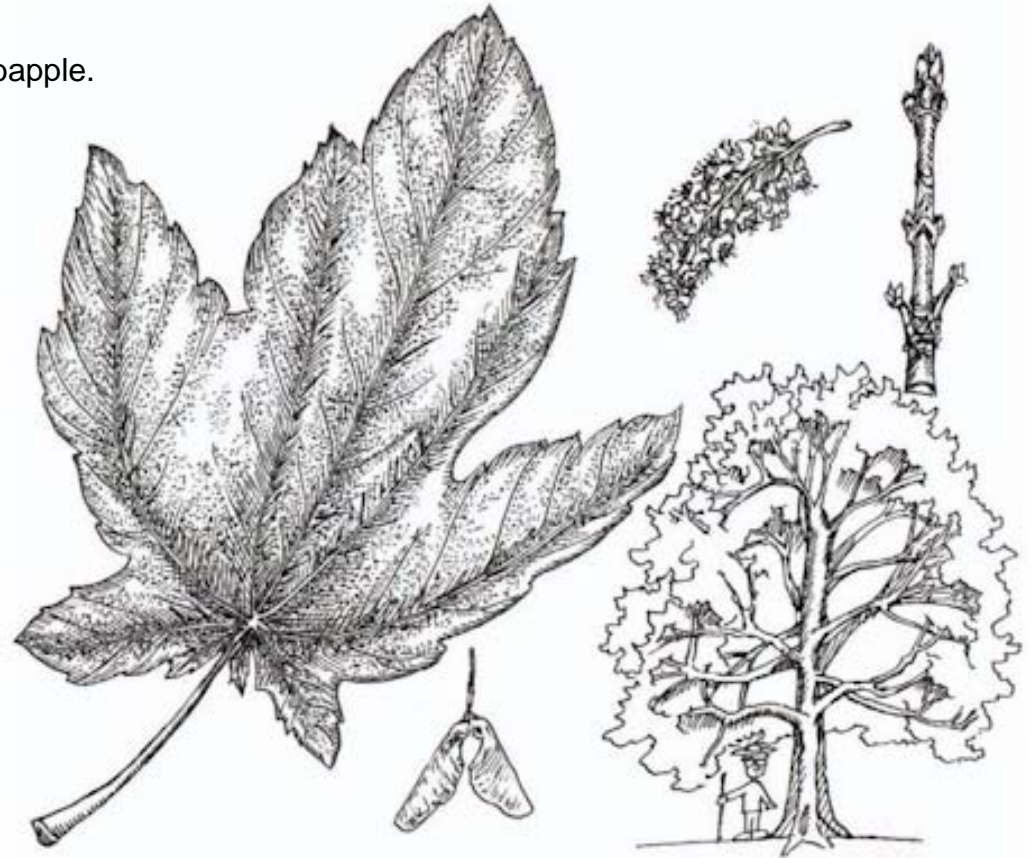
Western Hemlock, Sub-Alpine Fir, Western Red Cedar, Vine Maple, Western Hazelnut, Pacific Dogwood, Oregon Myrtle.

## **Which Native shrubs can be used in medium shade?**

Pacific Rhodie, Salal, Evergreen Huckleberry, Red Huckleberry, Elderberries, Oregon Grape, Indian Plum, Devil's Club, Salmonberry, Twinberry, Pacific Wax Myrtle, Oregon Boxwood, Ninebark.

## **Which Natives can I plant that require no watering or maintenance?**

There are many microclimates in the Northwest – variables such as elevations, latitude, water, and temperature ranges. To design for your area, start by identifying native plants growing in non-cultivated areas in your vicinity. Use this list as a starting point, and find other plants commonly associated with the plants in your area.



*Acer macrophyllum* (Big Leaf Maple)  
© Heidi D. Hansen

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# Landscaping with Native Plants, continued



*Asarum caudatum* (Wild Ginger)  
Original painting © Heidi D. Hansen  
Wonderful native ground cover

## **Which Native plants do well in wet areas?**

For deciduous trees and shrubs, consider plants in the Willow family – Cottonwood and all the Willows. Consider the Birch family, including Birches and Alder. Western Red Cedar is the best conifer for wet areas. Bog Rosemary, Skunk Cabbage, Cattails and Yellow Iris do well.

## **How should I use Ferns in Native gardens?**

On the West side of the Cascades, generously use Sword Ferns in your light to heavy shaded areas. Well-placed Sword Ferns give a touch of natural elegance and strength and Northwest Forest grandeur that is hard to explain but it is so very real. Supplement with other ferns, of course, but place your Sword Ferns first.

## **Which Natives are good for ground covers?**

*Andromeda polifolia* (Bog Rosemary), *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (kinnikinnik), *Asarum caudatum* (Wild Ginger), *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Dicentra Formosa* (Bleeding Heart), *Fragaria* (Wild Strawberries), *Gaultheria shallon* (Salal), *Linnaea borealis* (Twinflower), *Mahonia repens* (Creeping Oregon Grape), *Maianthemum dilatatum* (False Lily-of-the-Valley), *Oxalis oregana* (Oxalis), *Smilacina stellata* (Star-Flowered Solomon's-Seal), *Vancouveria hexandra* (Inside-Out Flower).

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# Landscaping with Native Plants, continued

## **Which Native plants can be used to attract wildlife?**

For animals and most birds, consider the following Natives for food and shelter. Trees include the Oaks, Oregon Myrtle, Hazelnut, Cascara, and all trees in the Rose family (Hawthorn, Bitter Cherry, Chokecherry, and Western Crabapple. The following native shrubs are excellent: Serviceberry, Salal, Twinberry, Oregon Grape, Indian Plum, Bitter Cherry, Sumac, Golden Currant, Roses, Blackcap, Thimbleberry, Salmonberry, Pacific Blackberry, Red and Blue Elderberry, Russet Buffalo-Berry, Mountain Ash, Snowberry, all Huckleberries. The large, coarse flowers of Cow Parsnip attract numerous insects.

## **Which Native plants attract butterflies?**

Vine Maple, Indian Plum, Sitka Spruce, Blueblossom (Wild Lilac), Salal, Honeysuckle, Cascade Oregon Grape, Mock Orange, Red-Flowering Currant, Nootka Rose, Thimbleberry, Red Elderberry, Snowberry, Red Huckleberry, Columbine, Aster, Bleeding Heart, Foxglove.

## **Which Native plants attract hummingbirds?**

Buckeye, Hawthorn, Crabapple, Manzanita, Clematis, Honeysuckle, Rhodie, Azalea, Red-Flowering Currant, Salmonberry, Columbine, Bleeding Heart, Foxglove, Tiger Lily.

## **What about Native plants for food and medicinal use?**

Native Americans used many NW Native plants for food and for medicinal use. Several good books are published on this subject. The most common food plants are Huckleberries, Salal, Serviceberry, Oregon Grape, Camas (beware "look-alike" Death Camas!), Thimbleberry, Salmonberry and Blue Elderberry. The most famous medicinal plants are Devil's Club, Cascara, the Yew tree for cancer.



*Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern)  
© Heidi D. Hansen

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# Landscaping with Native Plants, continued



## **Which Native plants will grow under Douglas Firs and Bigleaf Maples?**

Douglas Firs and Bigleaf Maples can steal all the water, sunshine, and nutrients and make survival for other plants very tough. The best plants I have found on the West side of the Cascades are Sword Ferns, Vine Maple, and Oregon Grape. If you can open the trees up to allow more sun and bring in water, you can use a larger choice of Native plants.

## **Which Native plants are used most in restoration projects?**

Professionals usually specify which Native plants are to be used for each project. From my experience, the following shrubs and trees are the most common for the West side: Bigleaf Maple, Red Alder, Serviceberry, Common Camas, Red-Osier Dogwood, Oregon Ash, Salal, Oceanspray, Oregon Grape, Mock Orange, Ninebark, Native Willows, Nootka Rose, Clustered Rose, Snowberry, Red-Flowering Currant, Salmonberry, Thimbleberry, Western Red Cedar.

*Pinus monticola*  
(Western White Pine)  
On Reed College Campus, Portland OR



# Fall Color

## Best Northwest Native Plants

This time of the year, we all are delighted at the annual free show of Nature – brilliant colors of Fall leaves. Here are my recommendations, by leaf color, for Natives Plants for Fall Color (not in priority order).



*Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple)  
© Wallace W Hansen  
Afternoon in the nursery

### **Yellow Colors**

*Acer glabrum* (Douglas Maple)  
*Betula papyrifera* (Paper Birch)  
*Larix occidentalis* (Western Larch)  
*Philadelphus lewisii* (Mock Orange)  
*Populus tremuloides* (Quaking Aspen)

### **Purple, Red, Pink Colors**

*Cornus* (Dogwoods)  
*Vaccinium* (Huckleberries)

### **Yellow-Orange**

*Acer macrophyllum* (Big Leaf Maple)

### **Orange, Yellow, Red, Purple**

*Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple)  
*Amelanchier alnifolia* (Service Berry, Saskatoon Berry)  
*Crataegus douglasii* (Black Hawthorne)  
*Prunus virginiana* (Chokecherry)  
*Rhus glabra* (Smooth Sumac)  
*Viburnum trilobum* (Snowball, American Cranberry Bush)





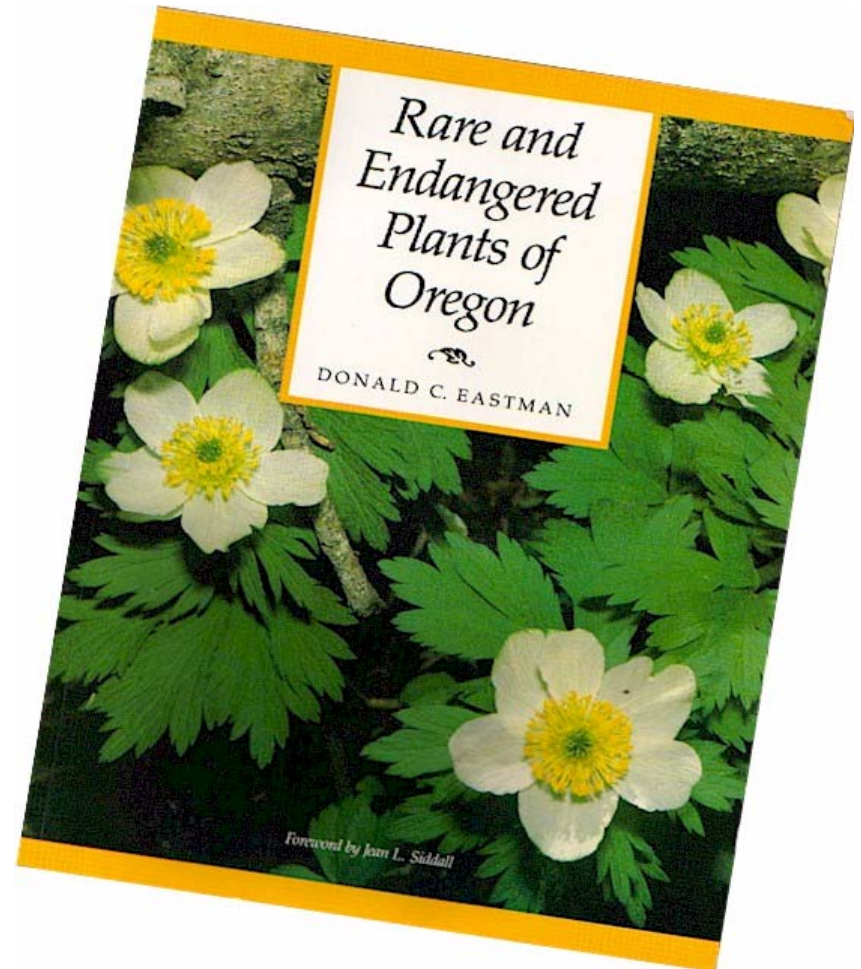
# A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

## Local photographer shares his work with Northwest Native Plants!

Donald C. Eastman published a book several years ago titled "Rare and Endangered Plants of Oregon." Today, this book, shown at right, is still a treasure to all who are lucky enough to own a copy. It's delightful to see plants some of us have only heard about. Though the book is out of print, occasional copies do appear in book stores.

We have made arrangements with Mr. Eastman to use some of his photos in our Journal. Beginning in this issue, we show just a few of the lilies from Mr. Eastman's vast library of photographs of Northwest Native Plants he has taken over the years.

In our next Journal issue: A special interview with Don and his botanist wife, Priscilla. It's a fascinating story about two very wonderful people who share a love of photography and native plants. You won't want to miss it.



# How to Get Free Plants

## Winter Cuttings of Deciduous Native Shrubs

Why not experiment this winter with native plant winter cuttings? It does not take too much time and you will learn by doing.

-- After the first hard frost, take your cuttings, usually about 6 "and pencil thin. Keep damp, dip in rooting compound. We want to form a callus at the root end of the cutting.

-- Tie the cuttings in bundles, wrapped in plastic (except the bottoms with the rooting hormone dip) and store vertically in a large plastic box with damp peat moss in the bottom.

-- Bury the closed box into the ground with about six inches of soil over the top. Get these in before Christmas. Then you must start peeking in early February.

-- When a callus forms on the bottom of the cutting and the new buds are swelling, remove from underground and stick in flats.

-- The cuttings need light and some warmth and some moisture.

-- When roots form, starting feeding the new plant with liquid fertilizer. You must grow strong roots before planting out in pots or open garden.

This is more an art than science so be patient, use your gardener's sixth sense and keep trying!

WHOSE WOODS THESE ARE I THINK I KNOW,  
HIS HOUSE IS IN THE VILLAGE TOWN;  
HE WILL NOT SEE ME STOPPING HERE  
TO WATCH HIS WOODS FILL UP WITH SNOW.

...THE WOODS ARE LOVELY, DARK AND DEEP,  
BUT I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP,  
AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP...

-ROBERT FROST, STOPPING BY THE  
WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING.

VINE MAPLE (*Acer circinnatum*)

PACIFIC DOGWOOD (*Cornus nuttallii*)

SNOWBERRY  
(*Symphoricarpos albus*)  
WINTER BERRIES FOR BIRDS





# 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 started from a larger list compiled by Lawyer Nursery in 2002 which was published in one of their flyers. We've added some discoveries of our own to their original list. I wish to thank Lawyer Nursery for getting us started on 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://elil.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/flora/>

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

## **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.

## **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.”

## **National Agroforestry Center**

<http://www.unl.edu/nac/>

NAC conducts research on how to design and install forested buffers to protect water quality and develops agroforestry technology for natural resource professionals who directly assist landowners and communities.

## **The Native Plant Network**

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

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.

## **Native Plant Society of Oregon**

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

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, & study of Oregon's native vegetation.

⇒ More ⇒

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

## **Native Plants of British Columbia**

[http://rbcm1.rbsm.gov.bc.ca/nh\\_papers/nativeplants/index.html](http://rbcm1.rbsm.gov.bc.ca/nh_papers/nativeplants/index.html)

Photo and data for native British trees which are often used in the North American landscape.

## **OSU**

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/index.php>

Oregon State University Extension Service

## **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.

## **Woody Plant Seed Manual**

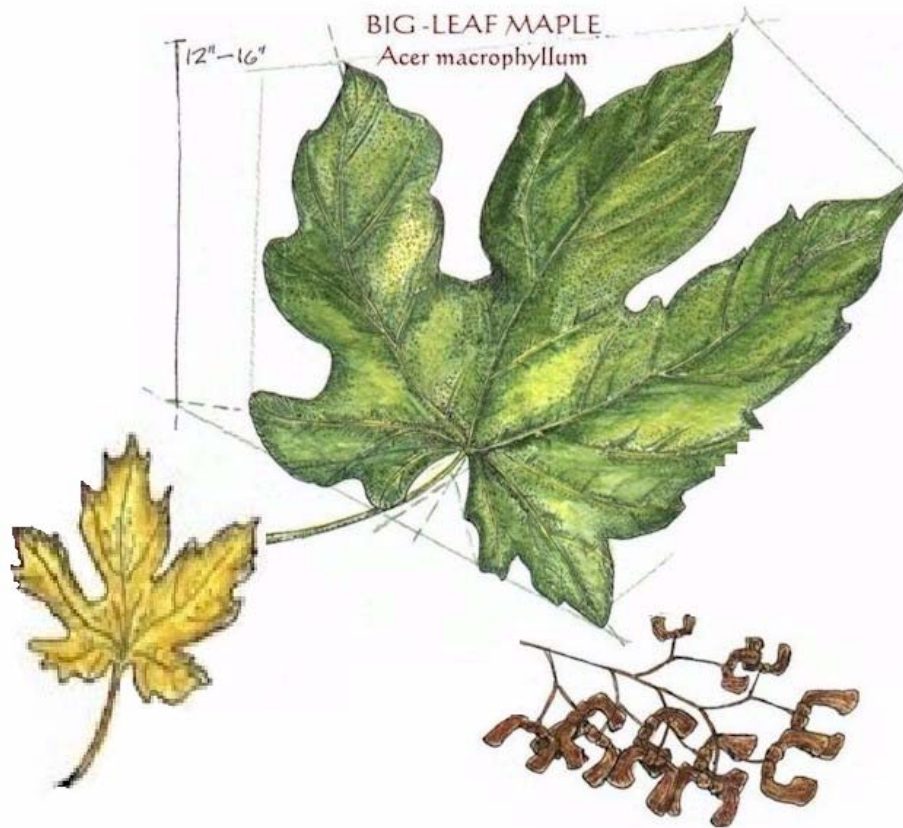
<http://www.wpsm.net/>

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.





# Personal notes from Wally



## The Seeds!

In My Gardens In The Fall This Year - -

So much color! So much beauty! These are the most intense "Fall Colors - ever" - especially the yellows in the Big Leaf Maples!

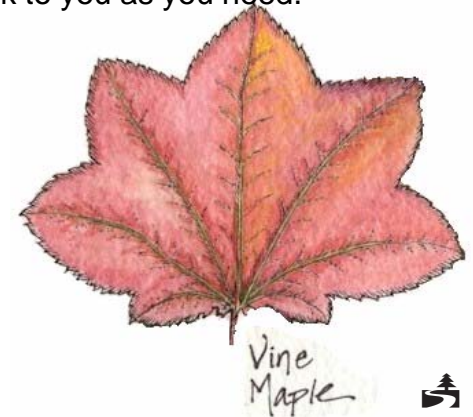
At the same time the Maples are brazenly showing off their beauty ("Beauty Is It's Own Excuse For Being") the winged seeds are getting ready to launch!

The Seeds! – Ah! - The real miracles! - The great mystery! - The impossible! – but there they are! Life packaged in one little brown seed - intelligence – complete instructions encoded at the molecular level – all waiting for moisture and warmth signals to start growth!

Create your garden – Work in your garden - Walk in your garden – Wonder in your garden - Pray in your garden - Escape in your garden - Your garden will give back to you as you need.

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!**

