

Volume 12, Issue 1-2015; Jan - Mar 2015

# NW Native Plant Journal

A QuarterlyWeb Magazine

**Bird Cherry, p16**

**Conifer blooms, p35**

**Garden maintenance, p7**

**...And more!**

From The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database -- [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)

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The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest  
Native Plant Database  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)  
Editor: Jennifer Rehm, Webmaster



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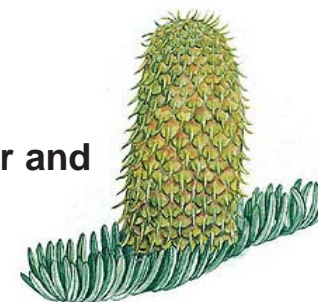


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# About this Journal

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.).



Juvenile *Abies concolor* (White Fir)  
Snow doesn't phase this baby!  
Photo credit: Geographer



# On the Cover:

## *Abies procera* (Noble fir or Tuck-tuck pine)

The Royal Horticultural Society describes it thus:

*"Plants in the Genus Abies are evergreen conifers, often very tall, with whorled branches bearing flattened, linear leaves, often whitish beneath, and on the upper branches, large cones which break up whilst attached to the tree."*

*"The Species Abies procera (synonym Abies nobilis), a member of this family, is a vigorous evergreen conifer forming a large tree with broadly conical crown and upcurved blue-green needles. Cones large, deep purple-brown when young."*



Photo by Kyloe Woods Northumberland, UK





# Wildlife Corner

## Out back with the animals

This afternoon I saw one of our squirrels and a mourning dove drinking together from one of the bird baths. Different species sharing food, water and shelter is not a rare occurrence. Rather, it's the rule instead of the exception. The scene changes by the minute with a new bird most every day.



Back a few weeks ago, a new bird came by, perched for a moment on the deck rail and then vanished. I did not see his face, but the back and sides very much resembled this Helmeted Guineafowl which is native to parts of Africa.

There are records of these birds being brought to Oregon and other states in attempts to introduce them in the US. My bird may have been one of them but I am sceptical.

It's time for maintenance in the wildlife habitat, and a nice opportunity to evaluate the situation. If you've a mind to tag along, here's my plan, first evaluating 2014:

What were the successes?

What didn't live up to expectations?

What is missing in this dedicated part of the garden?

What would make it better?

I'll share my answers with you in the next journal. It would be wonderful if you would tell us of your wildlife habitat. I'd like to do an article on what various discoveries have come to light in our backyard habitats. Snap a photo, tell your story, we can learn so much from one another.

The perfect shrub for your wildlife habitat. *Amelanchier alnifolia* (Serviceberry) provides beauty, flowers, fruit, fall color and shelter.



Photo credit: eboy



# Garden chores to do now



## Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense

Now that winter's upon us, it's time to put the finishing touches on the garden for the year. Done well, you can prepare for an easy spring at the same time. Timing is important. To reap the benefits, these tasks must be done now.

	Chores to do now	Done	Undone
1.	<b>Leaves and other garden debris:</b>	Dump into a compost bin or pile. Nutrient rich soil will be ready come spring.	Bag up, take to landfill or have garbage service pick up. Pay fees for landfill or pickup.
2.	<b>Plant new shrubs and trees:</b>	Planting in fall puts nature in charge of watering throughout the winter and spring. Established plants can be weeded without loosening their roots.	Planting in spring, wait for ground to dry out and last frost is done. Plants will need more watering. Pulling spring weeds can disturb fresh plantings.
3.	<b>Trim dead limbs:</b>	Dead limbs can take out live parts if they break from heavy weather. Use limbs as a base for compost, allowing ventilation, shred for mulch.	Dead limbs left through winter can be subject to damage from winds and snow. Cutting out the dead branches often bothers the early spring growth.
4.	<b>Mulch young plants:</b>	Blanketing the soil around young plants keeps in moisture, minimizes cold damage and looks good.	Soil around fresh plantings can wash away in heavy rain and cannot fully protect plants from frost or heaving from freezing.
5.	<b>Dry out watering and drip systems:</b>	Empty of water, the hose, tube or pipe can sail through the winter unscathed, ready to use in spring.	Water left in any kind of hose, drain tube or pipe will be in danger of freezing and splitting at the cost of the system and sweat equity of the gardener.



# Maintaining insect control

## Winter in the wildlife garden

Birds gladly take on the job of controlling bugs in the garden, with just a few requirements. Backyard wildlife habitats are easy to care for, but there are some chores to do. The more they imitate nature, the less work will be required. Until firmly naturalized, the gardener must pitch in and help where needed. Here's a basic list for winter.

**1. Nestbox:** Take it down and clean it out. It's a good idea to wear gloves and a dust mask while you do this. Use hot soapy water and a scrub brush, and rinse it with a pot of boiling water for good measure, to get rid of pests. (Please no pesticides or bleach for nesting boxes.) After the box is fully dry, put it back out for small birds to roost in during the winter.

**2. Birdfeeders:** Clean them up for winter use. A scrub brush and some mild soapy water will do wonders. I do not use bleach for this but some sources say it's fine when bleach is properly diluted and item is flushed sufficiently to remove all traces and odors. Usual solution is one part chlorine bleach to ten parts water. Rinse everything thoroughly. A good drying in sunshine is critically important.

**3. Birdbaths and all manner of ponds:** Will this be the year to spring for a birdbath heater? It'll keep your feathered friends happy and hydrated on a cold winter's day and save you some trips in and out. But at what cost? Birds need clean water throughout the year, for bathing and for drinking. Basically, clear all debris from small ponds. Decaying leaves and other vegetable matter will rob the water of precious oxygen. Plan to have a bird bath available, one made of plastic or another material that will not be harmed by the freezing weather. If you decide to forego the heating unit, either electric, battery or solar, you will eliminate a lot of work and worry. Just carry out a bucket of fresh water to pour into the water source. Do this 2-3 times a day and wildlife will feel properly pampered. If your water basin is deep, lay a crossed assortment of sticks over the water for birds to stand on so their little feet don't freeze.





# Insect control, cont'd

**4. Landscape cleanup:** Don't cut it all down! Leave a few seed heads on some flowers and plants in your garden, and you'll feed finches and other small birds far into the autumn. Does it seem that your bright little American Goldfinches have disappeared for the winter? They may still be out there, in their drab winter plumage.

**5. Habitat for wildlife:** If you have the time, space, and inclination, create a brush pile for the wild critters that share your outdoor space. Song Sparrows and towhees will love you for it! Wildlife experts agree, few wildlife management practices can provide a more important part of wildlife habitat for the amount of effort than brush piles. Dead tree? Rather than cutting it down, consider creating a snag for wildlife. Russell Link, author of *Landscaping for Wildlife*, says, When people ask me what are my top ten plants, I oftentimes will include dead or dying trees ... because they're so important to a



Small water feature for wildlife. Photo by Donna L. Long



**6. Planning:** It's never too soon to start planning next year's garden. If something worked particularly well as an attractant this year, maybe you can plant more. Cedar Waxwings favor cedar berries, mountain ash, toyon, mistletoe, madrone, juniper, crabapple, hawthorn, firethorn, cherries, serviceberries, strawberries, and mulberries. And don't forget the hummingbirds! You can attract these feathered gems to your yard or balcony by growing native plants with flowers of red, orange, or purple. Native plants offer nectar in spring and summer (and some even in fall and winter). They also attract insects – the most important part of a hummingbird's diet. And native plants provide cover and a natural, sustainable habitat that welcomes birds to your yard.

Garden pond by Mbhufford

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Insect control, cont'd

## Resources:

In Season The Earth is Good, a blog by Donna L. Long,  
<http://donnallong.com/>

[AWayToGarden.com](http://AWayToGarden.com).

Cornell Lab's NestWatch.

[Audubon.org](http://Audubon.org)

Dead trees - or "snags" - attract wildlife!, <http://www.NWF.org>.

Project FeederWatch.

<http://birdnote.org/> Check out these BirdNote stories about gardening for birds!

Interviews with Russell Link on Gardening for Wildlife,  
[keyword?keys=russell+link&=Find%21](http://www.birdnote.org/?keys=russell+link&=Find%21)

Landscaping for Wildlife I - Interview with Russell Link

*Healthy habitat is the key to the future of birds. And October is a good time to enrich your backyard habitat. Russell Link, who wrote the book, "Landscaping for Wildlife," says one of his top ten plants is a snag, because it's so important to a wide variety of birds. Plants that have berries in the fall are a real favorite.*

Landscaping for Wildlife II - Interview with Russell Link

*Russell Link of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife tells how to go about planting to attract birds. He suggests that you take a walk in your neighborhood to see what plants do well. Concentrate on providing structure in the landscape, from ground covers to shrubs to mid-sized trees to larger trees. Native plants provide food and cover for birds, like this Steller's Jay of the West. Learn more about Russell's book, "Landscaping for Wildlife," in Related Resources.*



Male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)  
Photo by Donna L. Long

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Insect control, cont'd

Native Plants Attract Native Birds, <http://birdnote.org/show/native-plants-attract-native-birds>

*A native garden provides natural, sustainable habitat that welcomes native birds to your yard. Native plants offer sustenance year round: nectar in spring and summer, along with berries and fruits, and nuts and seeds in autumn and winter. They provide shelter from the weather and protection from predators. Perhaps this Cedar Waxwing will pay a visit!*

Learn how to create a native plant garden that will attract birds and butterflies, [www.PlantNative.org](http://www.PlantNative.org).

Bird-friendly Planting in the Fall, <http://birdnote.org/show/bird-friendly-planting-fall-joanna-buehler>



*The landscape around Joanna Buehler's home on Lake Sammamish was once completely barren. But today, it provides food, water, and refuge for many species of birds. You can create a bird sanctuary in your own yard by selecting native plants adapted for your area. If you're lucky, nature will do some planting for you! That's what happened in Joanna's landscape: the cottonwood trees that seeded themselves are a safe place for birds like this male Belted Kingfisher to perch.*

<http://www.backyardwildlifehabitat.info/>

Photo by Donna L. Long:  
House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in my garden





# So glad you asked!

## Readers speak up: Questions, suggestions, pats and pans

### Plants for wildlife habitats

I'm working on an article on the best native plants (trees, shrubs, perennials) for overwintering birds on a regional basis. I found your nursery through a quick search for Pacific Northwest native plant specialists, and I was hoping you or Wally would be able to make some recommendations for the region.

I've gotten short lists from people in each region of the country now except for the Mid-Atlantic and Pacific Northwest.

Though I'd like this to be a long, comprehensive list, I need to restrict my list for each region to two or three plants. Of particular interest are plants that help birds overwinter successfully by providing food and shelter when the weather is most uncooperative. Most of the experts who've contributed to the article so far have used one tree, one shrub or vine and one perennial species—but I'm just looking for a short list of outstanding species and some commentary on why they're particularly good for birds.

The article is for Birding Business magazine, a small trade journal for independent birding supply stores. My deadline is November 15.

Thanks in advance for your help! --Michelle

*A wildlife habitat here in the Pacific Northwest should include a native Oak such as Garry Oak (Quercus garryana) or a Western Hazelnut (both are deciduous and bear edible nuts), and an evergreen such as Noble Fir (Abies procera), Sadler's Oak (Quercus sadleriana) or Mountain Hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana) for both food and shelter year round.*

*If the space is limited, the Pacific Rhododendron (Rhododendron macrophyllum) is evergreen and the birds in my garden benefit greatly from the shelter provided—this shrub can grow to well over 10 feet tall if allowed to. Other shrubs such as Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus) and the native roses have flowers that*



Sadler's Oak  
(Quercus sadleriana)

[⇒More⇒](#)

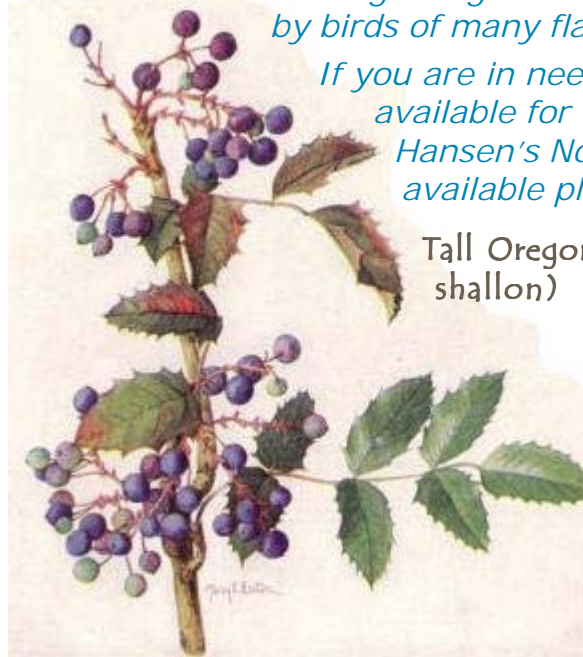
# So glad you asked, cont'd

hummingbirds love and the white Snowberries and brightly colored rose hips persist through the winter. Another group of shrubs, the Oregon Grapes (Mahonias), are evergreen, have sweet smelling clusters of yellow flowers followed by dark blue fruits treasured by wildlife as well as humans. (They are delish!)

The lower level of a habitat needs some attention, and Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) fits this bill perfectly. It is quite lovely (florists use branches as filler in bouquets) with lustrous dark green leaves, pink or white bell-shaped flowers and delicious fruits. The low stature (from 3 - 6 feet) is haven for birds that like to savor bugs and other tasty bits so they can forage safely, and the ground-dwelling birds are sheltered. Salal grows quickly to form a dense mat, but is neither invasive nor anti-social to other plants.

Hooker's Fairybells (*Prosartes hookeri*), Smith's Fairybells (*Prosartes smithii*), Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) or Monkey Flower (*Mimulus guttatus*) are perennials welcomed by wildlife in the garden. A friend of mine grows Alpine Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis alpestris*) especially for Quail which are famous for dwelling on the ground as much as possible. She hopes for new Quail generations each year because the sight of the mother hen with a trail of babies following along is her most favorite wildlife prize. These perennials are easy to grow and well respected by birds of many flavors and other wildlife.

If you are in need of photographs of these or other native plants, my entire graphic library is available for use with a simple acknowledgement such as "Photo credit to The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database. [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)." You can find thumbnails of available plant photos at bottom of each plants' page from the plant lists on the home page.



Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*); Fairy Lantern (*Prosartes smithii*); Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)



Note: Wally passed away some years ago and the nursery is gone forever. I have reconstructed the website for non-profit educational use, preserving the vast store of information for gardeners and native plants lovers the world over.

[⇒More⇒](#)



# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Plant ID

Hello, I was looking at the website for PNW flowers and did not see an exact match for this what I thought was a Blackberry taken at Skagit State Wildlife Recreation area, would you help with an ID please? --Nick

*I don't recognize this as a cane berry of any type. Rather, it looks more like a wild rose of some sort. I used to see a similar plant growing on the fences by the game preserve near Adair Village off Highway 99. Btw, gorgeous photo! What did you take it with?*



Unfortunately I did not, the flowers were in large clusters and very similar to Blackberry flowers except for the yellow stamens. Worst case I will go back next June and get more details of the plant in general.

I have attached a couple of views of what I think is an Orchid at Nisqually NWR, would you know what the species is on this?

*I'm striking out on a positive ID for both plants. The yellow flower does look like a wild orchid I think. I thought it might be a Monkey Flower (Mimulus), but they don't have the little spur that your flower has. I checked Native Orchids of Washington State (<http://www.wanativeorchids.com/nativeorchids.html>); Native Orchids of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Rockies (<http://nativeorchidsofthepacificnorthwest.blogspot.com/>); Turner Photographics Wildflowers website (<http://www.pnwflowers.com/browse/family/common/orchid>); and Orchidwire (<http://www.orchidwire.com/Earth/1/Washington.html>) but no match. Sorry I could not solve these mysteries, but if you find the answers please let me know. I'm always looking to expand my mental library.*

*News from Nick*--I did get a response just yesterday from a Flickr member, the orange flower is Impatiens

[⇒More⇒](#)

# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Photos

In connection with a poem published today on my blog, which you can find here: <http://www.worldnarratives.com/2014/11/the-maple.html> , I've used one of your Big-Leaf Maple photos and given your website the following credit line: "Photo by The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database (Creative Commons)." The underlined text is a link to your site. -- Loren

*Thank you for using this photo. It does my heart good when we can celebrate the plants native to the Pacific northwest. I'll mention in the coming journal that you used this picture on your website.*

*Your poem is beautiful. If that's OK with you, I'd like to include it in the journal I'm working on right now, to be published on New Years. This will be announced on our fledgling facebook page, The Wild Garden. Please let me know whether or not your will allow this.*

*...And Loren did permit her poem to be printed here you to enjoy.*



## **The Maple**

by Loren Paulsson,  
[www.WorldNarratives.com](http://www.WorldNarratives.com)

It stood inside the backyard fence  
behind our house, beside the street.  
It smelled of ancient streams and rocks  
and nodded in the breeze.

On rainy days, its mossy trunk  
worked better going down than up;  
Each fall it buried half the yard  
in happy drifts of orange and gold.

Its branches—big as other trees,  
tireless and wise—swept up and out  
and beckoned us to see the sky  
reframed and be refreshed with shade.

One Saturday our father placed  
three pipes to hold and brace two swings  
whereon my sis and I would laugh  
and fly and peek outside the fence.

And then they came with biting saws,  
and I was nine and cried to see  
the Maple left there on the ground  
to be cut shorter and then split.

But when I hear the crunch of leaves  
or sit beside a fireplace since,  
I think of all that's good and green  
and feel the warmth of my old friend.





# Staying in touch

## The Wild Garden is on Facebook

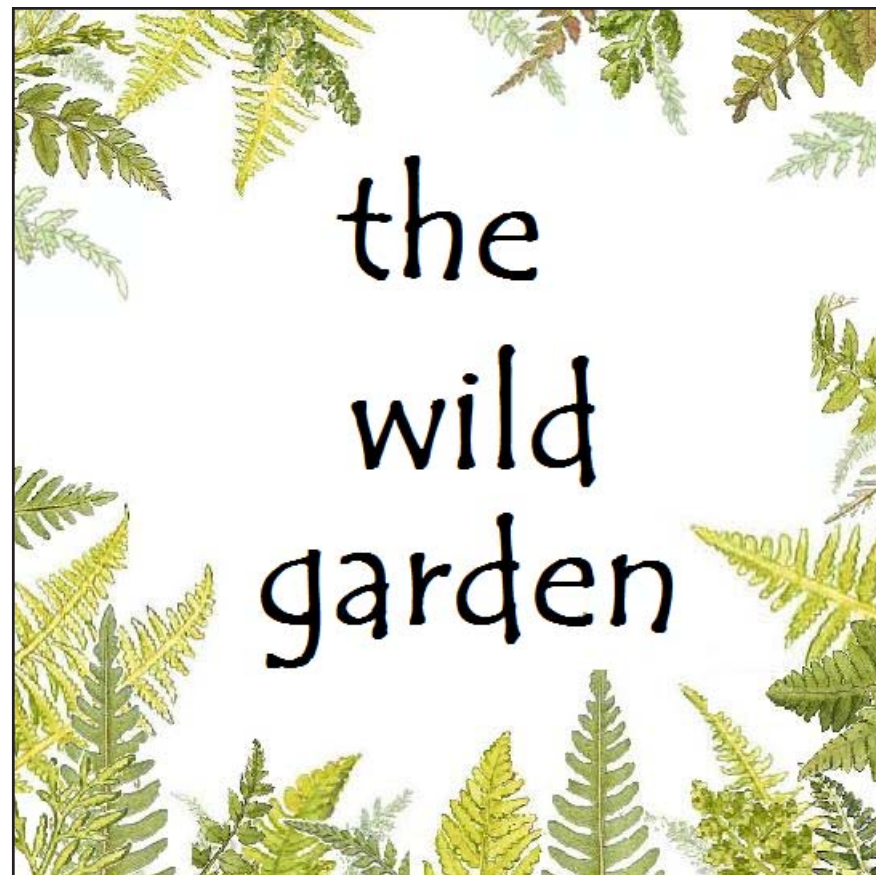
Want to know when the next 'Journal' is coming out? Follow The Wild Garden on Facebook! Share comments, ask questions, stay in touch. Get the latest news about our website ([www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)).

Originally our website was all about a native plant nursery, Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants. But in 2011, all that changed when the nursery closed its doors for good. We felt it was imperative to preserve the vast amount of native plant information, so the website morphed from a commercial entity into what you see today: an ever-expanding non-profit repository of information about plants native to the Pacific Northwest.

What about communication? In the nursery's day, we partnered with an e-mail marketing company that, for a price, sent out the e-mails we prepared to our huge mailing list (over 4,000 addresses).

Now that we are completely non-profit, we had to find an alternative to that method. We chose Facebook for our new communication partner. In the days ahead, we will send one last email to everyone on the list inviting all to visit our Facebook page. If you choose to "like" the page, you can receive an automatic notice whenever we update our page about a new journal or addition to our website, or other info we want to share with you. If you decide to "opt out" from these communications, just "unlike" our page. You are in charge.

I urge you to take a peak at our page before you decide. I hope you like it. Post a comment there anytime!



# A winter-lovely shrub

## Bird Cherry, *Oemleria cerasiformis*

*Harbinger: a person or thing that announces or signals the approach or arrival of someone or something; a forerunner of something*

*(Historical Terms) a person sent in advance of troops, a royal train, etc., to provide or secure lodgings and other accommodations*

*synonyms: herald, sign, indication, signal, portent, omen, augury, forewarning, presage; More forerunner, precursor, messenger; literary foretoken:*

*"I long to see the Indian Plum and other harbingers of spring"*

If old man winter becomes dreary, take yourself outdoors and see if you can espy an otherwise barren shrub with bright chartreus-green leaves just peaking out at the top-most branches.

A while before any other deciduous tree or shrub even considers waking up from their winter's sleep, *Oemleria cerasiformis* cannot wait another day. Those easily discernible leaves with their harkening color somewhere between green and yellow give the gloomiest scene a whole new vista.



⇒More⇒



# A winter-lovely shrub, cont'd

But wait, is that a flower I see? Oh yes, it is a little waterfall of pale yellow-white blooms quietly softening the starkness of bare branches from which those bright leaves have just opened. It is as if the leaves unfurl shouting "Here! Bloom here!" to which the flowers respond with a glissando of delicate notes.

I think every landscape should include this native bush just for the cheerful sight it gives to a winter morning. The birds will agree. Early rising hummingbirds take sips from the blossom's throat. There's sure to be at least one bug for the non-vegans. And after the flowers pass away, bittersweet purple berries the size of olives call wildlife once again to the branches of this shrub.



Plentiful fruit. There will be enough to share with visiting birds and other wildlife

[⇒More⇒](#)

# A winter-lovely shrub, cont'd

First nation peoples ate them, too, a tart-sweet burst of flavor make a welcome change from usual winter fare.

In her book, Food Plants of Coastal First Peoples, author Nancy J. Turner, says of this fruit:

*"Peculiar, pungent aroma. Male and female flowers grow on separate bushes but look similar. The fruits can be bitter and "choky," especially when unripe.*

*"The habitat is moist, open woods and roadside thickets.*

*"Aboriginal Use: The Straits Salish, Halqemeylen, Squamish and several Washington Salish groups ate the fruits fresh or sometimes dried, but not in large quantities.*

*"Some aboriginal people call them "choke-cherries" because they are bitter and make you pucker, but they are quite palatable when fully ripe.*

*"The Kwakwaka'wakw ate a type of fruit they described as Indian Plum, which they obtained from a restricted area at the upper reaches of Knight Inlet, although Oemleria has not been recorded from there."*

Ripening fruit.

Photo credit: Walter Siegmund



[⇒More⇒](#)



# A winter-lovely shrub, cont'd

Ms. Turner describes herself and her work:

*"My speciality is ethnobotany .. Much of my work is field-oriented, interviewing knowledgeable elders of Aboriginal communities in many parts of British Columbia, to document traditional uses, names, and perceptions of plants. Analyzing these data and comparing information from different regions and cultural groups has been a major focus of my research."*

Indian Plum is found from BC to California, west of the Cascade Mountains, USDA zones 8-9. It prefers moist sites in full to partial shade but will survive in full sun. It is self-sufficient, requires no pampering beyond its first summer. A natural feature plant that works well as an underplanting beneath either evergreen or deciduous trees. Planted alongside Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), together create a magnificent autumn showpiece.



Ready to eat!

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## A winter-lovely shrub, cont'd



Autumn color

Read more about this native deciduous shrub here: [http://nwplants.com/business/catalog/oem\\_cer.html](http://nwplants.com/business/catalog/oem_cer.html). (You may need to copy this link to your browser.)

An Indian plum shrub as its leaves begin to yellow in mid-summer, Pierce County, Washington. Photo credit: YoDeeKu





# On the wing

## Recent visitors at Nona and Don's

(Images captured and generously shared by Nona)



This little guy landed on the window screen but, finding no treats, I think he flew away to better pickings. He may have been drawn by the light reflected in the lower portion of this photo.



[⇒More⇨](#)

# On the wing, cont'd

Western bluebird



[⇒More⇒](#)



## On the wing, cont'd



Stellar jays



⇒More⇒

# On the wing, cont'd



Stellar jays



⇒More⇒



# On the wing, cont'd

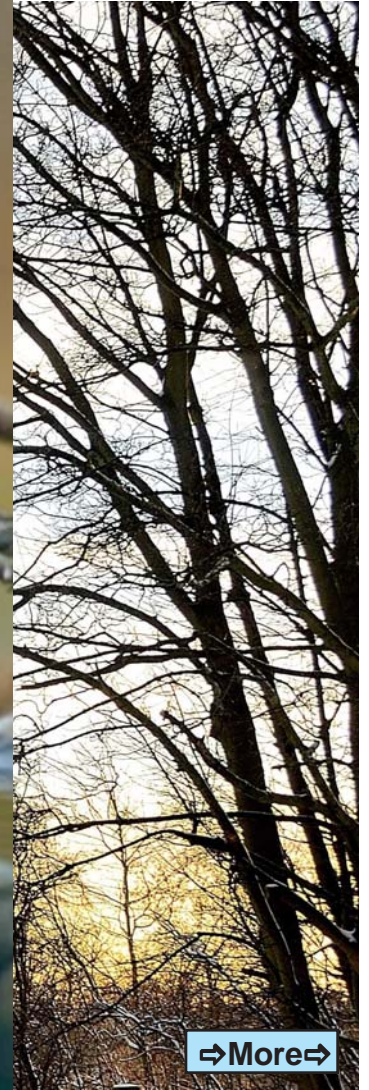
Western bluebird



# On the wing, cont'd



Chipmunk



⇒More⇒



# On the wing, cont'd



Hairy woodpecker



⇒More⇒

# On the wing, cont'd

Quail



[⇒More⇒](#)



# On the wing, cont'd

Stellar jays



⇒More⇒

# On the wing, cont'd



Spotted towhees



⇒More⇒



## On the wing, cont'd



Redshafted  
Flicker



⇒More⇒



# On the wing, cont'd

Stellar jays



[⇒More⇒](#)



## On the wing, cont'd



Black capped chickadee



[⇒More⇒](#)

# On the wing, cont'd

Flicker





# Conifer 'blooms'

## Cones of Fir and Pine

While the flowers of many plants (angiosperms) carry the very important function of insuring that the species will continue, the reproductive role of firs (*Abies*) and pines (*Pinus*) is assigned to their cones.



A single flower of the angiosperm tribe may have both male and female parts while in other species the male parts may be borne on a separate plant than the female parts.

Just as the carpel (female reproductive organs) containing the ovary is fertilized with pollen from the stamen (male reproductive parts), in gymnosperms ("naked seed") the male cones disperse their pollen to the eggs of the female cones in the case of the firs and pines.

The male cones are mostly inconspicuous, they do exist on every pine tree. Unlike the philosophy of birds where the male sports the flashy look, female cones enjoy the fancy

Bristlecone Pine with male and female cones. Photo credit: mcsbloomington

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Conifer 'blooms,' cont'd

appearance. Male cones are substantially smaller than females, often in small clusters of 1/2 inch long members. Once the wind has pollinated the female cones in spring, the males drop off and many times they simply fall apart. In the grand design of the pines and firs, male cones usually develop on the end of last year's growth on branches beneath the female cones, thereby preventing self-pollination.

Once the pollen reaches the female cones, a year must pass by before the female eggs are fully pollinated. When ripe, some species open their cones slowly as the seeds mature. In other species, heat of at least 130 degrees Fahrenheit must occur before the seeds are dispersed. The dispersal duties are carried by wind or animals that eat the seeds and then deposit them elsewhere in their bodily waste. The seeds designed for wind-dispersal have a prominent wing to aid this process. Those seeds meant for animal dispersal are attractive to critters that bury their excess food. Long forgotten, the seeds germinate when further environmental triggers occur.



Photo credit: joated





# Calendar 2015: Cones of Firs and Pines



## A gift for you

Our calendar for 2015, Cones of Firs and Pines, is ready for you--find a link on the home page of our website at [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com), or copy/paste this to the address line of your browser:

[http://nwplants.com/information/gifts\\_from\\_wally/screensavers/index.html](http://nwplants.com/information/gifts_from_wally/screensavers/index.html)

This calendar is free, there are no strings attached and no hoops to jump through. Download a copy for your own use, make copies for friends and neighbors or print for your bulletin board or wall.

The file is set up for printing both sides of the paper. I used photo paper that is finished on both sides, but you can use regular photo paper (finished on one side only) and print on just the finished side. You can use regular paper as well, but the photos won't be as clear and color may not be as deep. If you have trouble with printing this or my instructions are not clear, send me an e-mail and I'll try to help.

Anyway, hope you enjoy this calendar!





# Oh, those conifers!

## Wild winter beauty

To my mind, nothing personifies winter more than the conifers which are native to the Pacific Northwest. My family would drive to Mount Hood when the snow was flourishing to pay homage to the great mountain in its most wonderful winter raiment.

We'd tug on coats and hats and boots and gloves, wrap woolen mufflers round our necks while Mom prepared a thermos of hot chocolate and Dad put the chains in the car in case of need. Sometimes we'd do this outing when visitors to the northwest came to call. Having migrated to Oregon from the southern states, my folks never got used to the magnificence of winter time in the mountains.

The following pages feature beautiful photographs of our native Firs and Pines. I hope you will take a break from hustle bustle and enjoy them. What better time to celebrate our native Firs and Pines!

Only nature could decorate a tree with such elegance. The short, thick leaves dotted with dark blue and botanical green spheres are haute couture for an ordinary native plant: Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*). As the cones of this tree need more than a year to become ripe, both ripe and unripe cones can be seen together, as on this tree on Saaremaa, Estonia. Photo by Siim Ainsaar (Wiki user Pt)

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## Conifers!, cont'd

### *Abies amabilis*

Commonly called  
Pacific Silver Fir;  
White fir;  
Red fir;  
Lovely fir;  
Cascades fir;  
& Silver fir



**USDA zone:** 7a – 9a

**Mature landscape size:** 50 ft

**Habitat:** shaded, wet forests; no  
summer droughts



Photo by Walter Siegmund

[⇒More⇒](#)



## Conifers!, cont'd

### *Abies lasiocarpa*

Commonly called  
Sub-Alpine Fir,  
& Rocky Mountain Fir

**USDA zone:** 2-9

**Mature landscape size:**  
80 ft

**Habitat:** moist ground,  
cold hardy

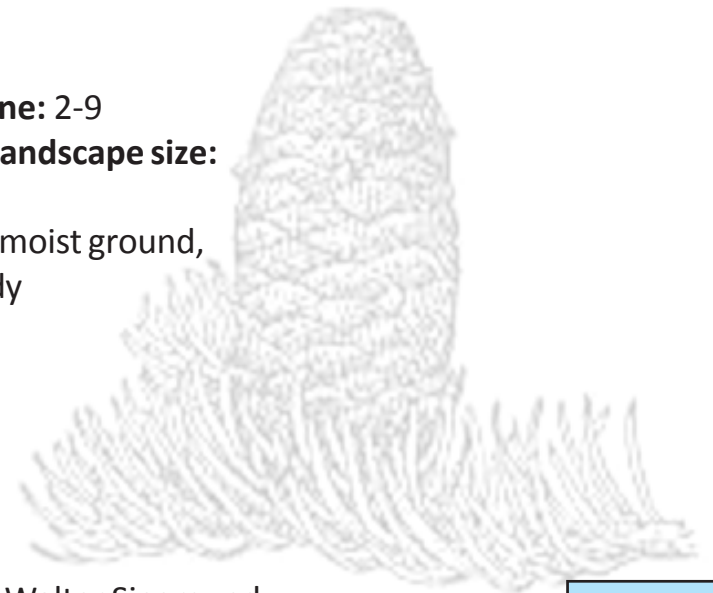


Photo by Walter Siegmund

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## Conifers!, cont'd

*Pseudotsuga menziesii*  
var. *menziesii*

Commonly called  
Douglas fir,  
& Coast Douglas fir

**USDA zone:** 4

**Mature landscape size:**  
200 ft

**Habitat:** full sun, autumn  
mulch

Photo by Walter Siegmund

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# Conifers!, cont'd

*Abies concolor*

Commonly called  
White Fir,  
& Concolor fir

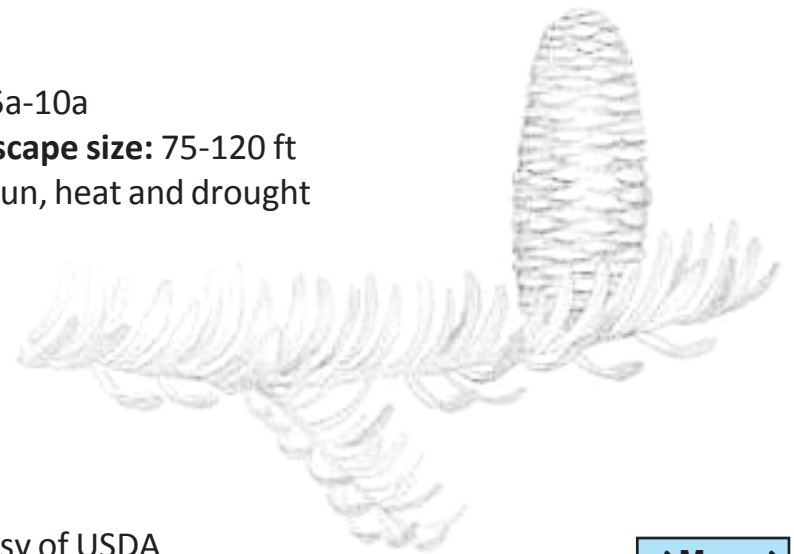
**USDA zone:** 5a-10a

**Mature landscape size:** 75-120 ft

**Habitat:** full sun, heat and drought  
tolerant

Photo courtesy of USDA

[⇒More⇒](#)







## Conifers!, cont'd

### *Abies magnifica*

Commonly called  
Red Fir,  
& Silvertip Fir

**USDA zone:** 5

**Mature landscape size:** 125-200 ft

**Habitat:** very drought tolerant



Photo from Walter Siegmund

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Conifers!, cont'd

*Abies procera*

Commonly called  
Noble Fir,  
Red Fir,  
& White Fir

**USDA zone:** 5-10

**Mature landscape size:** 200 ft

**Habitat:** sun, good drainage

Photo by Walter Siegmund

[⇒More⇒](#)





# Conifers!, cont'd



*Pinus  
longaeva*

Commonly called  
Great Basin Pine,  
Intermountain Pine,  
& Western  
Bristlecone Pine

**USDA zone:** 4-8

**Mature landscape size:** 20-  
30 ft

**Habitat:** sun, sandy loam

Photo by  
Stan Shebs



[⇒More⇒](#)





## Conifers!, cont'd

### *Abies grandis*

Commonly called

Grand fir;  
Giant fir;  
Lowland White fir;  
Great Silver fir;  
Western White fir;  
Vancouver fir,  
& Oregon fir

**USDA zone:** 6

**Mature landscape size:** 20-30 ft

**Habitat:** shade tolerant, moist soil

Photo courtesy of Dave  
Powell, USDA Forest Service

[⇒More⇒](#)





## Conifers!, cont'd

### *Pinus flexilis*

Commonly called  
Lumber Pine,  
Southwestern White Pine  
& Rocky Mountain White  
Pine

**USDA zone:** 3

**Mature landscape size:** 66-82 ft

**Habitat:** drought and wind tolerant



Photo by Matt Levin

[⇒More⇒](#)





## Conifers!, cont'd

*Pinus attenuata*

Commonly called  
Knobcone Pine

**USDA zone:** 3

**Mature landscape size:** 26-79 ft

**Habitat:** dry, rocky soil

Photo courtesy of  
U.S. Bureau of Land  
Management

[⇒More⇒](#)





## Conifers!, cont'd

*Abies bracteata*

Commonly called  
Bristlecone fir,  
& Santa Lucia fir

**USDA zone:** 9-10

**Mature landscape size:** 65-110 ft

**Habitat:** loam, coastal ok

Photo by Silversyrpher, Scotland,  
taken at Bottcher's Gap

[⇒More⇒](#)





# Conifers!, cont'd

## Pinus coulteri

Commonly called  
Coulter Pine,  
& Big-Cone Pine

*"Pinus coulteri is the heaviest-coned pine; one who seeks its shade should wear a hardhat." Flora of North America, [www.eFloras.org](http://www.eFloras.org)*

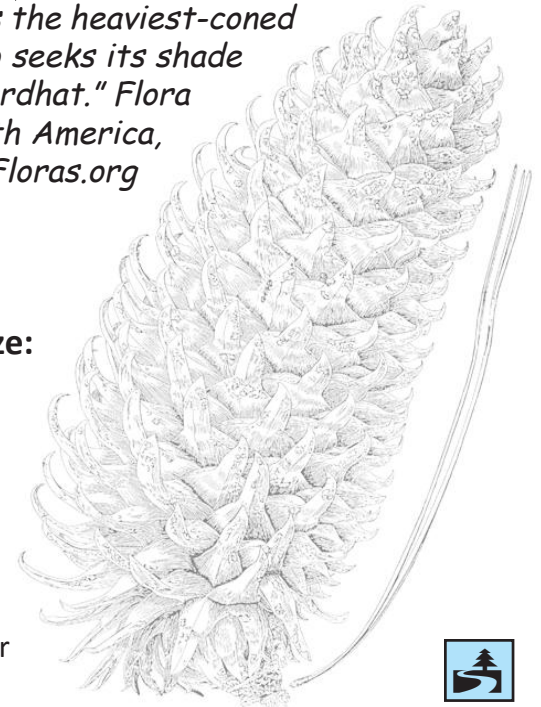
**USDA zone:** 6-10

**Mature landscape size:**

30-80 ft

**Habitat:** warm, dry,  
rocky

Photo by Jason Hollinger  
at Strawberry Peak







# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

Last night's weather report gave me hope that there might be snow right here in the Willamette Valley. The ski crowd was deliriously happy with conditions at Mount Hood Meadows, Mount Bachelor and other prime locations: the snow there was of just the right type with just the perfect density to go swooping down the slopes with panache.

This morning all conversation focuses on a severe weather warning for high winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts 40 to 50 mph through today with the strongest winds through 11 am.

Right now, it is reported "31° which feels like 17° with clear skies, wind 28mph."

Maggie and I are basking in the warm sunshine coming through the patio's French doors. Outside, the trees and shrubs are gently swaying, rustling leaves are giving a soft sound as counterpart to the bird songs and squirrel chatter.

I confess, my little garden is magically exempt from severe blowing and other unpleasantness. I hope yours is also.

Until next time,  
*Jennifer*

Photo by Nona