

Volume 12, Issue 2-2015; Apr - Jun 2015

NW Native Plant Journal

A QuarterlyWeb Magazine

Artemisia, p36

Blooming bushes, p12

Certify your garden, p21

...And more!

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The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest
Native Plant Database
www.nwplants.com
Editor: Jennifer Rehm, Webmaster



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Feature Articles



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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.).



Lilium columbianum(Tiger Lily)



On the Cover:

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Oregon's state flower,
tallest of the species,
Mahonia aquifolium is
a lovely shrub. Shiny
pointed leaves, golden
cascades of fragrant
flowers, dark blue
juicy fruits: the
garden's delight.

A Spring Kiss 2K13

Solo sylvan-hued
Oregon Grape postures firmly;
Spring kisses blossoms
golden.

Haiku--Anthony O. Mitchell Jr.

This elegant photo is so
clear, it's tempting to
touch or smell.

Photo credit: Aelwyn



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).

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.



***See The Wild Garden on Facebook for an exciting announcement--a brand new section is on a plant family we've never studied before. Copy the following to the address line on your browser: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wild-Garden/383505488458055?ref=aymt_homepage_panel
Please let me know if you cannot find the fb page.***

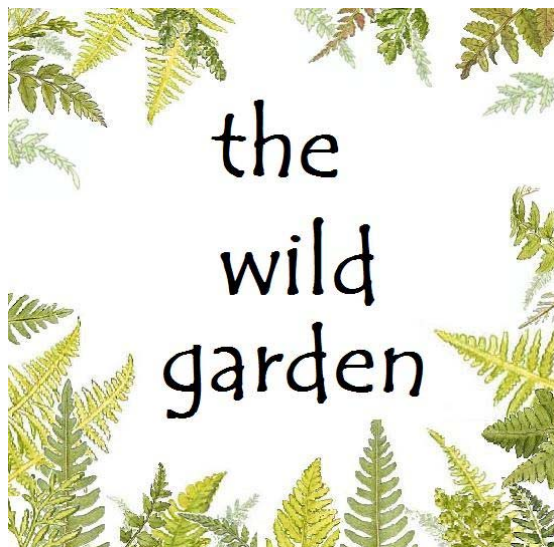
I urge you to take a peak at our page before you decide. I hope you like it. Post a comment there anytime!



So glad you asked, cont'd

Facebook and memories

I can't locate you on Facebook. I was sad, but not surprised, to hear about the garden. I treated my mother to a visit many many years ago and we had Wally all to ourselves. What a treasure. --Shawn



Oh, Shawn. Your note made me go outside and sit in the sun for a few moments. Thank you.

Wally was indeed a wonderful man. Sometimes, he called me to come out to meet with him. He'd describe his vision of what he wanted and then ask me to think on it. He'd say, "let your imagination fly, see what happens." Then we'd meet again to share ideas and hash out a plan. It was such an uplifting time to blend thoughts. He told me many stories of his boyhood

in Canada, his grandfather, his deep love for the plants. Such an in-depth way of teaching, it was a magic time. It's good to reminisce. It honors us all.

On facebook, search for The Wild Garden. When you see the picture at left, you're in the right place!

Or, here's a link that should work. Copy and paste to your browser's address bar. https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wild-Garden/383505488458055?ref=aymt_homepage_panel.

Let me know if this link is a dud. --J



So glad you asked, cont'd

Name this plant

This last week we were camped in a campground outside Valdez, Alaska and found this plant growing in several places beside the roads and paths in the campground. I found several other plants that were new to me and found out what they were from books and online. This one will probably turn out very common but I cannot find it listed anywhere that the pictures look like this. Can you help me identify it and tell me some of its characteristics, please? -- Rog



I'm stumped on this one. Do let me know if you get it figured out. It will probably tell you its name when it gets a bit bigger. --J



*The port of Valdez, set against a natural backdrop of mountains under the midnight sun in July.
Photo credit: Saket Vora*

[⇒More⇒](#)

So glad you asked!

Readers speak up: Questions, suggestions, pats and pans

Looking for plants

- ✍ I am just curious to know where I can purchase a Madrona tree. I live in the Arlington area, and cannot find this at any local nursery. Maybe you can steer me in the right direction. --Adam
- ✍ Have bought these from you before. Would like to know price if buying two. We live in western Washington and they did good. Moved and would like more for planting by year round creek. --Gary
- ✍ I'm looking for either incense or western red cedars for a 2,200 ft area near Goldendale WA. Prefer drought tolerance/fire resistant tall as possible live trees. What do you recommend of the two above or do you have other suggestions? They are for screening purposes. I've found WR cedars in the 12-15 ft range. We're looking for 4-6 trees to purchase / plant in the next month. What do you recommend? Are you a source for trees & plants? What price and height trees do you have? Do you have a way to truck/trailer them to us 6 miles north of Goldendale on Highway 97? --Adele

Wally's nursery (Wallace W. Hansen Native Plants of the Northwest) closed permanently in November of 2010.

To help those looking for plants, I've compiled a list of nurseries in the Pacific Northwest that sell plants native to our area. See "Nurseries with natives" at <http://www.nwplants.com/information/resources/nurseries.html>.

I keep this list updated but please notify me if you find any changed info or if you know of a nursery I've missed. --J

Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is a beautiful tree with a different appearance for each season. Buy a young tree and choose its home carefully. It does not transplant well except when young.



⇒More⇒

So glad you asked, cont'd

Suggestions please

My neighbors built a nice new fence, and we have a nice strip of land to fill with native plants.

At the moment, water is puddling there, and I assume my neighbors sprinklers in the summer are going to keep it moist. Otherwise, the area faces directly into the southwest sun, the environment will be a lot like a sunny stretch of a western Washington riverbed, a la the nooksack or mt. rainier.

I've always loved hiking and bathing these waters, and I've fallen I love with the hundreds of flowers and shrubs I've seen there.



Trouble is, I can't name one of them! Except of course the foxgloves, which are not native.

I am attaching a photo. Would you mind having a look and making some recommendations? I'd like for the area to be relatively carefree, and the root system should hold the earth in without pushing up the driveway.

Done right, this could be an award winning corner of my yard! The back is a stand of Douglas firs, red cedar, and hemlock, so any ferns you'd recommend? --Richard

I've misplaced the photo you sent, please re-send.

As to the fern, how about Deer Fern (Blechnum spicant)? It's evergreen, grows upright 12-24 inches. It should be perfect with that much sun.

The one at left was happily growing in full sun in a private garden here in Salem. I think it's fully mature.



I'm sure you will have great success with this garden. Please send photos as it progresses. I'll stick them up on Facebook for us all to enjoy --J

A mere youngster
greet the world
Photo by JoAnn.



Wildlife Corner

Out back with the animals

The backyard habitat at my house is the place to be if you're a bird, butterfly, squirrel, and probably some other habitues I haven't noticed yet. The crowds thin out a little bit from time to time but there are always at least a handful of visitors present (except at night--I really don't know who comes by then but I do find little footprints, seed shells and other signs that someone has stopped in).

The native plants that were added last year are showing signs of awakening to greet the spring. The huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) is jammin,' taking the trophy for biggest spring show so far. The Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) is getting all leafy, as is the Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*). Looks like the Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *arborescens*) is gone though. Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) are spreading into a beautiful blanket beneath the cherry and Red Flowering currants (*Ribes sanguineum*).

I have a couple of hanging planters with asters (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*) and other interesting native flowers. I

A family in the southern part of Salem had drop in visitors last week. A small flock of turkeys came by. A wildlife expert said the birds winter in large groups, then break away during the summer.

Photo by Nona

Recent owl attacks seem to be over though the warning signs are still up.



trimmed them all last fall to an inch. Today they are coming to life. Birds regularly check out the pots for bugs or other protein tidbits. Even though the plants are not offering sustenance, their environment is working hard.

This year I want to finish backyard wildlife certification. I can't bannish chemicals and destructive garden practices from the whole town, but I can do my best to make my little garden peaceful and serene, and in harmony with our planet. I know it's working because those birds I take action to attract are clearing away the slugs and other nasty creatures and the community angels such as dragonflies, ladybugs, and honey bees are continuous members of the club.



Garden chores to do now

Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense

Containers

You've admired the gorgeous containers on your neighbor's porch, or the hanging pots popping up everywhere. Salem and Corvallis, for instance, both have streetside plantings on light poles, planters built into trash containers, adorning businesses, shopping centers and even the post office. And don't even think about the incredible containers at nurseries, florists and museums.

There's a wonderful restaurant in West Salem along Edgewater Street that has big pots outside filled with trees, shrubs, perennials and herbs that give shade and dreamy aromas to the tables and chairs on the sidewalk.

Those container gardens do not come cheap. If your budget suits, by all means choose your heart's desire. But if your budget is like mine, doing your own containers is more sensible and more pleasing. You can always take notice of those designer pots for inspiration.



First, pick out a pot and make it a good one. The variety might make you lose your mind while shopping unless you know and remember the number of pots you want, the style and size, and stick to it. Wood, ceramic, clay, metal, all are available.

Get funky with it and re-purpose whatever you can find for a most unique container. I once planted the barrel from inside a clothes dryer, it looked very chic, even glamorous. Look for anything that will hold dirt but do make the containers sizable. Small ones are fine if you want to water a lot or invest in a system.

Plants that suit the pots and vice-versa is a good rule of thumb.

Two well-done containers. Photo credits:
Lost in the Landscape, blog by James SOE
NYUN

*See 2 more nice pots, interesting
shape/size of plants, pg 17.*



Blooming bushes

Summer-flowering shrubs

Amelanchier alnifolia (Serviceberry)

A choice deciduous shrub, reaches 6 – 10.' It's extremely hardy, ranging from the Pacific coast to the prairies, USDA zones, 3-10. Found on rocky, dry slopes and well-drained thickets, prefers full sun and, aside from a generous layer of mulch, will require minimal attention. Delicious fruit!



[⇒More⇒](#)

Blooming bushes, cont'd

Arctostaphylos patula (Greenleaf Manzanita)

A fine evergreen shrub with stout, crooked branches reaching to 7 ft at maturity. Grow this native shrub in full sun or light shade in dry well-drained soils. It is hardy to USDA zone 5. Perfect in the wildlife garden.

Photo credit: Pat Breen, OSU



Photo credit: Lassen National Forest USFS, Region 5



[⇒More⇒](#)

Blooming bushes, cont'd

Mahonia aquifolium (Tall Oregon Grape)

This superb evergreen shrub is the State flower of Oregon. Hardy in USDA zones 5-10, can reach 10' tall, but is usually 5' in gardens. In spring, large clusters of small golden flowers unfurl from shiny green, holly-like foliage. It flourishes in sun or shade and is highly drought tolerant: perfect for the northwest. Fragrant.



Photo credit: Hugo.org



[⇒More⇐](#)

Blooming bushes, cont'd

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus (Blueblossom)

The queen of wild evergreen lilacs, Blueblossom reigns with grace and majesty from southwestern Oregon to southern California (USDA zones 8-10). Grows rapidly to about 6' tall and 5' wide - ideal for gardens close to buildings. Blueblossom does well in sun or shade, requires minimum care or water. Blueblossom is a must for west side gardens.



Blooming bushes, cont'd

Cercis orbiculata (Western Redbud)

a fine deciduous shrub that favors dry, sunny areas. A true native beauty, it graces the landscape from the Pacific coast to Utah, in USDA zones 6-10. It usually develops multiple stems with an open form, to 8.'



Photo credit:
Ken Gilliland

Photo credit:
Stan Shebs



[⇒More⇒](#)

Blooming bushes, cont'd

Holodiscus discolor (Oceanspray)

A beautiful deciduous shrub that grows to 20' in the wild - can be kept to 10' in the garden by pruning (the trimmings add character to bouquets). Creamy white flowers, fragrant, form in early summer and persist through fall. Prefers full sun and is found on dry, rocky slopes.



Blooming bushes, cont'd

Philadelphus lewisii (Mock Orange)

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



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Blooming bushes, cont'd

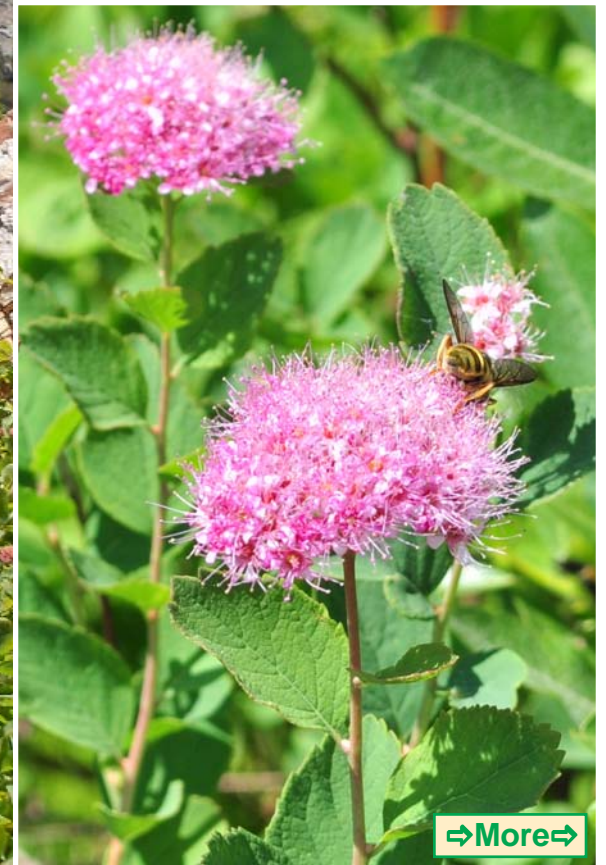
Spiraea splendens (Subalpine Spirea, Rose Meadowsweet)

Butterflies flock to this plant's delicate flowers. Subalpine Spirea is at home along the Pacific Coast and east to Montana. It is hardy from USDA zones 5-9. While it tolerates shade, it is far happier in a sunny, moist site.



Photo credit: Matt Lavin,
Bozeman, Montana

Photo credit: Joe Mabel



[⇒More⇒](#)

Blooming bushes, cont'd

Viburnum opulus var. americanum (American Cranberry Bush)

The American variety of European Cranberry Bush, grows quickly to reach 8-12,' with many stems. Edible berries are rich in Vitamin C and are sought out by many wildlife species. Does well in a moist site with full to partial sun. It is native from Oregon north through Canada and very hardy (USDA 2-7).



Photo credit: Wouter Hagens



Get certified--Yes you can!

Demystifying Certified Wildlife Habitats

Creating a wildlife habitat is about creating a place for the entire life-cycle of a species to occur, from tadpole to frog, from caterpillar to butterfly. Certified Wildlife Habitats not only provide water for wildlife, they use sustainable gardening practices that help ensure our human demands on water are kept to a minimum. Really, turning your garden into a habitat for wildlife also converts it to a healthy habitat for humanity.

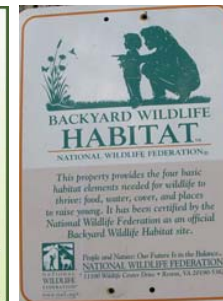
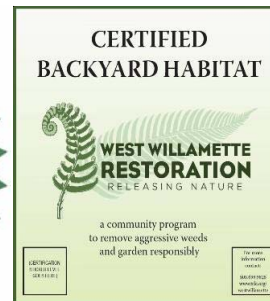
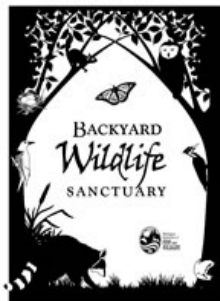
Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas. By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young you not only help wildlife, but you also qualify to become an official Wildlife Habitat gardener.

The certification process

There are two places right now in the area (and many around the country) that are authorized to give certification:

Backyard Habitat Certification, "Plant Roots, Create a Habitat, Transform the World...One Yard at a Time," is active in the cities of Portland, Gresham and Fairview, within Multnomah County, and the City of Lake Oswego.

Gardening for Wildlife, "Making wildlife habitat at home," The National Wildlife Federation, "Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future," certifies backyard habitats all over the U.S.



Signs!



Get certified, cont'd

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

The Audubon Society of Portland the Columbia Land Trust together formed the Backyard Habitat Certification, "Plant Roots, Create a Habitat, Transform the World...One Yard at a Time," <http://backyardhabitats.org/>, which is active in the cities of Portland, Gresham and Fairview, within Multnomah County, and the City of Lake Oswego.

"If you live outside this area, contact us to join our waiting list and we'll notify you as the program expands." <http://backyardhabitats.org/contact/>

If this fits you, there's an enrollment form on their website. Fill it out, pay the enrollment fee of \$35, and they will send a technician over to assess your property, help you plan, and provide discounts for plants and materials.

This local program is based on Five Elements of Backyard Habitat:

Invasive Weeds
Native Plants
Pesticide Reduction
Stormwater Management
Wildlife Stewardship

There are resource pages on the website providing educational materials and information to guide you through putting your habitat into the approved state.

In progress.....



➡More➡

Get certified, cont'd

Invasive Weeds

Invasive weeds threaten the health of our natural areas. <http://backyardhabitats.org/resources/invasive-weeds/>

- King County's Noxious Weed Information and Services
- City of Portland's Invasive Plants Poster
- OPB's The Silent Invasion
- Workshops offered in East Multnomah County.
- How we're controlling weeds in West Multnomah County
- Factsheets help identify and control invasives.
- Report a weed! learn how
- Support the No Ivy League!



Get certified, cont'd

Native Plants

Native plants fit our climate, resist pests and diseases, need less maintenance and more.
<http://backyardhabitats.org/resources/native-plants/>

- Portland Plant List – City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Native Plants for Willamette Valley Yards – Metro
- Native Plant Gardening - Oregon State University Extension
- Backyard Habitat Native Plant Sales just for program participants.
- Retail Nurseries that give discounts to program participants.
- Local Plant Sales
- Native Plant garden design examples

Below left--*Fragaria virginiana* var. *platypetala* (Wild Strawberries)
Photo credit: D. Gordon E. Robertson, PhD

Below right--*Fragaria vesca*
(Wood's Strawberry)
Photo credit: H. Zell



At right, Lupine
Far right, Red-Flowering
Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)



Get certified, cont'd

Pesticide Reduction

A successful wildlife habitat does not use pesticides. Eliminating their use is essential for pollinators, birds, other wildlife, and for our own health and well-being. This program is designed to help you get there. <http://backyardhabitats.org/resources/pesticide-reduction/>

Grow Smart Grow Safe has methods and products that are less toxic. Download to PC or smart phone, or print.



Take Metro's Pesticide Free Zone pledge rewards you with a lady-bug sign--share your smart choices with neighbors, and encourage them to follow suit.



⇒More⇒

Get certified, cont'd

Stormwater Management

Rain from the roof, driveway and sidewalk, picks up pollutants, pesticides, motor oil, metals, other chemicals. It drains into our rivers and streams, endangering water quality and making these waterways unhealthy for people, fish, and wildlife. This program has ideas that may help you find a better way. <http://backyardhabitats.org/resources/stormwater-management/>

- Sustainable Stormwater Management – City of Portland Bureau of -- Environmental Services (BES)
- Get a "Treebate" for planting qualifying trees – City of Portland, BES
- Learn about installing a Contained Planter for Stormwater Collection – City of Portland, BES
- Convert your conventional roof into a living, breathing, ecoroof - City of Portland, BES
- DePAVE to free your soil – DePAVE
- Take the healthy lawn and garden pesticide-free pledge and get a free ladybug yard sign – Metro
- Find the least-toxic garden products – Metro, Grow Smart Grow Safe

-- Use a raingarden to manage your roof water onsite – East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

-- Disconnect your downspouts – City of Portland BES

Raingarden

See 2 more interesting arrangements, shape/size of plants, pots. pg 17.

Contained planter



⇒More⇒

Get certified, cont'd

Wildlife Stewardship

Over 365 species of native fish and wildlife find critical habitats right here in our region.

"Habitat loss, invasive plant and animal species, environmental contaminants, and a variety of man-made hazards can make their journey a hazardous one."

This program can help you find what you may be unaware of, offer strategies to remove them and give a hand to locally imperiled species. <http://backyardhabitats.org/resources/wildlife-stewardship/>

Water & Shelter

- Bird Nest Boxes – Audubon Society of Portland
- How to build nests for native bees PDF – Xerces Society
- Install a Bat house – Bat Conservation International
- How to Create a Garden Pond for Wildlife – Oregon State Extension Service
- Create Roosts for Bats in Your Yard – Oregon State University Extension



Decrease Hazards to Wildlife

- For the Birds: Protecting Birds in Your Backyard
- Living With Urban Wildlife – Audubon Society of Portland
- Converting Outdoor Cats to Indoor Living:

"Cats account for nearly 40% of the animal intakes at our Wildlife Care Center, the number one cause of injury by a wide margin."

"Unlike native predator species, studies have also shown that domestic cats will continue to hunt regardless of whether they are well fed or not. A well-fed pet cat is just as likely to prey on birds as a feral cat."

"Audubon Society of Portland recommends whenever possible, pet cats should be converted to living indoors. Belling cats and use of other "warning devices" have been demonstrated to be ineffective in protecting wildlife from cat predation."

Photo credit: Mark Marek Photography

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

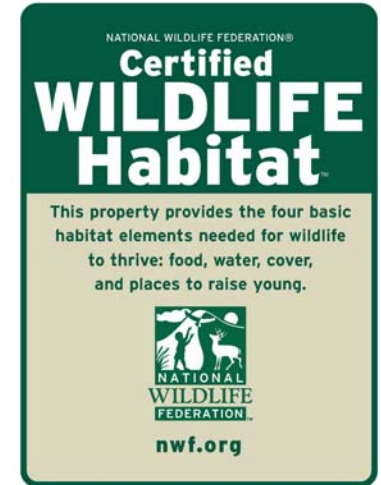
Gardening for Wildlife

"Making wildlife habitat at home," The National Wildlife Federation, "Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future," certifies backyard habitats all over the U.S. (<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife>). This program costs \$20.

This program is based on four requirements:

- Food sources
- Water sources
- Cover
- Places to raise young

To certify your backyard habitat, the application begins with habitat elements.



"Be a Force for Wildlife!"

"Provide a habitat in your own backyard for monarchs, other butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife! Join a growing community of over 400,000 wildlife gardeners nationwide creating habitat where they live, work, play, learn and worship!"



Photo credit: LiveOAK Media

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

Habitat Elements

The type, size and location of your habitat are very basic, and cover almost every situation. Pick one of each.

Remember, this is a national program rather than a local one.

Habitat type

- Apartment/Condo
- Business/Corp
- Community Garden/Park
- Farm
- Home
- Nature Center
- Place of Worship
- School/University/College

Habitat size

- Less than 1/8 Acre
- 1/8 - 1/4 Acre
- 1/4 - 1 Acre
- 1 - 5 Acres
- 5 - 10 Acres
- 10+ Acres

Habitat location

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban



I'm imagining my summer project (dream photo at left). I need now to find some plant sticks for the frame and the willow whips to thatch into the cover.

If I play my cards right, the whips will thatch themselves. Sometimes it happens but rarely. Most times a little massage will put it to rights.

This will be a place of lazy shady afternoons out by the tomato garden. It is shaded there at that time. The flowers and ferns will perfume the air, the birds and bugs can be observed unobtrusively.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

Food Sources (minimum required: 3)

Everyone needs to eat! Native plants or hanging feeders in safe places are two easy ways to make your habitat the latest and greatest five-star restaurant for wildlife of all shapes and sizes.

Natural by plants

- Seeds
- Nuts
- Berries
- Fruits
- Nectar
- Sap
- Foliage/Twigs
- Pollen

Supplemental Feeders

- Seed
- Suet
- Hummingbird
- Squirrel
- Butterfly

Amelanchier alnifolia
(Serviceberry)



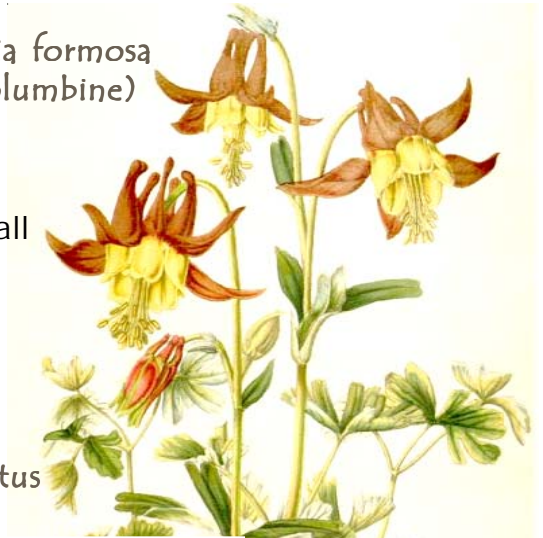
Mahonia aquifolium
(Tall Oregon Grape)



Ceanothus velutinus (Snowbrush) USDA NRCS PLANTS database



Aquilegia formosa
(Red Columbine)



Physocarpus capitatus
(Pacific Ninebark)



Arcostaphylos uva-ursi
(kinnikinnik)



Ion cil Photo credit:
Walter Siegmund

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

Water Sources (minimum required: 1)

Wildlife need clean water for drinking, bathing, and reproduction. Water may be from natural features—ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands. Water may be provided by created elements—bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, ponds, rain gardens or fountains.

To start a wildlife habitat, the easiest way to have water is a bird bath with water changed at least 2-3 times per week when mosquitoes are breeding or when the bath water freezes. Some may recommend a heater, either solar or powered, but if you carry a small pail of water to the bath every day you will have no mosquitoes or overly frozen water.

- Lakefront
- Seasonal Pond
- Coastal
- Birdbath
- Water Garden/Pond
- Rain Garden
- Lake/River/Stream
- Spring
- Shallow Dish
- Puddling Area

Cardinal taking a bath
Photo credit: ehpien

Bathing bird
Photo credit:
Mark Winter-
bourne



➡More➡

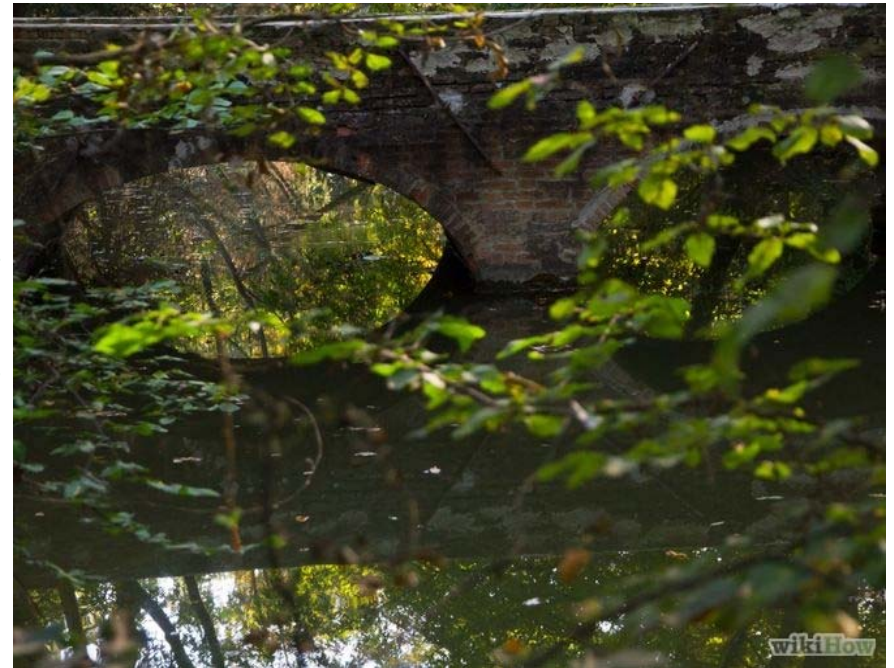
Get certified, cont'd

Cover (minimum required: 2)

Terrestrial wildlife need places to hide or flee to safety from people, predators or foul weather (excuse the pun). Native plants—shrubs, thickets and brush piles provide great hiding places within their bushy leaves and thorns.

- Brush Pile
- Log Pile
- Wooded Area
- Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- Meadow/Prairie
- Evergreens
- Ground Cover
- Roosting Box
- Water Garden/Pond
- Bramble Patch
- Burrow
- Cave
- Rock Pile/Wall

Excellent shelter at the edge of a pond. Note the overhanging foliage and many crevices in which froggies could find safety. Photo from wikiHow



Aquatic or amphibious types of wildlife need similar places of protection suited to their favorite terrains. For example, marsh plants can give hiding places and water plants can provide shelter from the sun. Rocks or overturned pots will give a safe spot for frogs or other amphibians.

This little hopper has not fully thought out the serviceability of this branch as a place of shelter. Photo credit: Caston's Nature Photography

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

Places to Raise Young (minimum required: 2)

Wildlife need places to reproduce, bear and raise their young, and see their young survive to adulthood, all safe from predators, bad weather and human intervention.

- Mature Trees
- Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- Meadow/Prairie
- Host Plants for Caterpillars
- Dead Trees/Snags
- Water Garden/Pond
- Wetland
- Burrow
- Cave
- Nesting Box

Wildflower meadow
Photo credit: Garth Newton



Many habitat features that serve as cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise their young: from wildflower patches where butterflies and moths lay their eggs and small mammals burrow into the undergrowth, to constructed birdhouses, ponds for amphibians and fish, or caves where bats roost and form colonies.

If natural options aren't available for you, consider constructing a birdhouse specifically for the types of birds you would like to attract to your habitat.

Providing these places of cover not only helps wildlife, it can also help your overall garden if you "branch out" to attract other helpful pollinators, such as bats or bees.

Ponds provide cover for aquatic wildlife, such as fish and amphibians. A "toad abode" can be constructed to provide shelter for amphibians on land.

Fallen log with small stream
Photo credit: Jim Champion

[⇒More⇒](#)

Get certified, cont'd

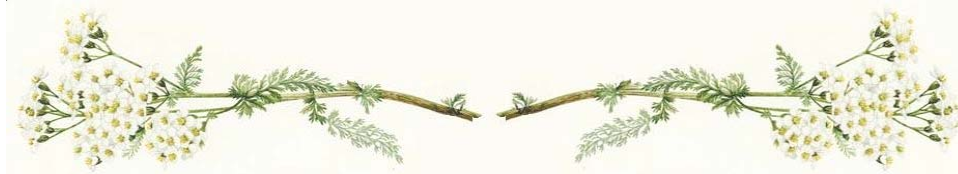
For more information about the certification programs, see the following:

The Audubon Society of Portland, founded in 1902, "Building a region where People and Wildlife Flourish Together," (<http://audubonportland.org/issues/backyardhabitat>)

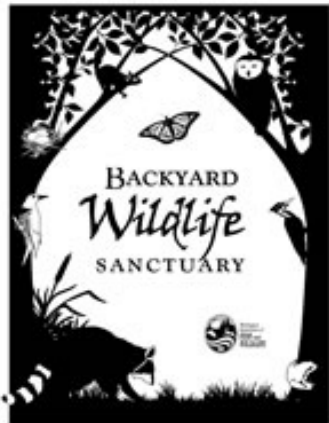
Columbia Land Trust, "Conserving and Caring. Two states, One iconic river, 13,000 square miles of wonder. We conserve the Northwest you love." (<https://www.columbialandtrust.org/>)

Backyard Habitat Certification Program, "Plant Roots, Create a Habitat, Transform the World...One Yard at a Time," (<http://backyardhabitats.org/>), which is active in the cities of Portland, Gresham and Fairview, within Multnomah County, and the City of Lake Oswego.

The The National Wildlife Federation "Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future." (<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife>)



By following basic guidelines, you can set up your own Monarch Waystation and get it certified with a designated sign. The sign and certification applications are available at <http://shop.monarchwatch.org/store/p/1181-Monarch-Waystation-Sign.aspx>



Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife looks forward to acknowledging your efforts to provide habitat for wildlife where you live or work. Fill out this application and send it in along with your \$5 payment. We'll send you a personalized certificate suitable for framing, a yard sign to educate others about your habitat project, and a subscription to our "Crossing Paths" newsletter. Please allow 8-10 business weeks for processing. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/backyard/>



Sustainable Gardening

Environmental questions

How will garden zones be impacted by Global Warming?

Building the perfect habitat for wildlife is not a “set it and forget it” kind of project. Native forbs, shrubs and trees provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive.

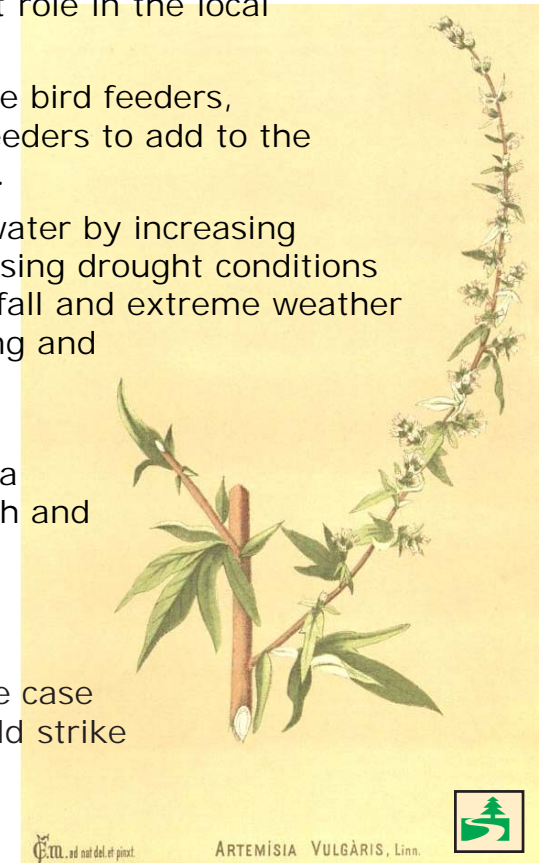
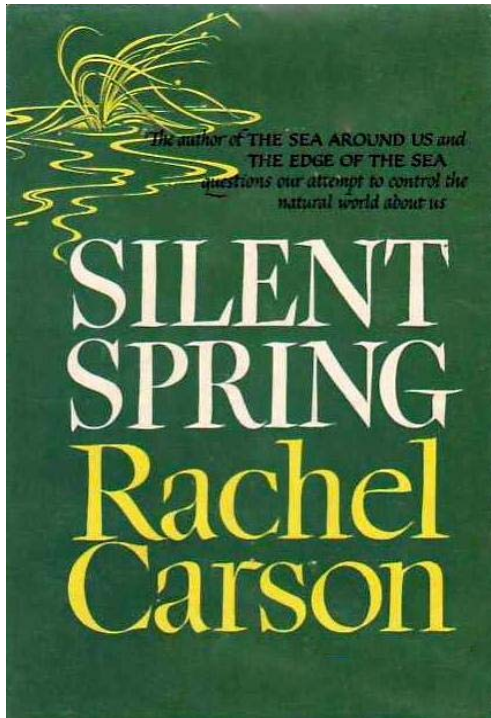
Natives are well adapted to survive in a particular geographic area according to the climate, soils, rainfall and availability of pollinators and seed dispersers. And because they are indigenous to a specific region, native plants usually require little maintenance and are welcomed by wildlife, serving an important role in the local ecosystem.

In times when natural food sources are not as available, it is important to also provide bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, squirrel feeders and butterfly feeders to add to the native food sources for resident and migrating wildlife.

Climate change is threatening our sources of clean water by increasing temperatures and reducing rainfall in some areas, causing drought conditions and lower water tables. In other areas, increased rainfall and extreme weather events such as tornadoes and hurricanes cause flooding and erosion of natural ecosystems and can pollute local watersheds.

These problems highlight the importance of providing a constant source of clean water for birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife in their different habitats.

In Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* about the effects of pesticides on the environment, she made the case that if humanity poisoned nature, nature in turn, would strike back and poison humanity.



Artemisia: New kids on the block

Mugworts and more

Isn't it funny how a casual conversation can generate a research project that, ultimately, brings a huge discovery—a family of plants that had been overlooked thus far in my own education. That's how I met Artemisia.

A native of Eurasia Mugwort is found in most of North America except the desert southwest and northern plains states. There is a very large number of Artemisia which are native to North America, and a smaller group native specifically to the Pacific northwest.

"Artemisia is Dead Latin's version of a Greek name for wormwood after the goddess Artemis for whom it was sacred. Artemis' Roman equivalent is Diana. She was the twin sister of Apollo, a goddess of transitions, a hunter, a virgin, and one of the goddesses who assists at childbirth. She also got really irritated with the love affair between Krokus, a human, and Smilax, a wood nymph. Such things were frowned upon. But even in her anger Artemis was romantic. She turned Krokus into the saffron crocus and Smilax into a brambly vine so they could be forever together... ain't love grand. There are several real people named Artemisias in Greek history."



Photo credit: Stan Shebs

Artemisia tridentata, Big Sagebrush, Blue Sage, Black Sage, Basin Sagebrush, Common Sagebrush. An aromatic shrub which grows in arid and semi-arid conditions found throughout cold desert, steppe and mountain habitats in the Intermountain West of North America.

There are four major subspecies.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemisia, cont'd

Nonetheless, gardeners tend to overlook the plebian names and use various species as an ornamental and often aromatic addition to native habitat gardens.

Flowers are rarely the drawing card for Artemisia. Some do bear a lovely bloom, but we treasure these plants more for their leaves over petals.

It is native to North America where it is widespread coast to coast, but many subspecies are found only in the western United States.

This is a perennial rhizome growing to between 30 centimeters (1 ft) and one meter (3.3 ft). The stems bear linear leaves up to 11 centimeters (.3 inches) long. The stems and foliage are covered in woolly gray or white hairs.

The top of the stem is occupied by a narrow inflorescence of many nodding flower heads. Each flower is like a handful of silky hairs centered by yellow florets.

The fruit is a minute achene. This plant was used by many Native American groups for a variety of medicinal, veterinary, and ceremonial purposes.

Artemisia furcata Bieb. var. *furcata*, **Forked Wormwood, Three-Forked Mugwort**, occurs on open, rocky ledge slopes in mountainous regions. Gray-silky hairs on leaves and stems. Flowers are born along upright stems. I quite like them for cutting, but their fragrance could be too fragrant for indoors. They would probably do well on a patio dining table--the aroma might make bugs stay away.



Photo credit: Lindsey Koepke

© Lindsey Koepke

⇒More⇒

Artemesia, cont'd

Artemisia ludoviciana (Gray Sagewort, Prairie Sage, White Sagebrush, Louisiana-Sage, Western-Sage)

Stems and leaves are softly covered in woolly gray or white hairs. Many nodding flower heads, each one is like a handful of silky hair in which yellow petals surround a center of yellowish disc florets a little less than 1/4 inch. The fruit is a minute seed.

This plant was used by many Native American groups for a variety of medicinal, veterinary, and ceremonial purposes.



Artemisia californica, Coastal sagebrush



Photo credit: Raffi Kojian, Gardenology.org

Artemisia californica, Coastal sagebrush, California Sagebrush. Branches from base and grows out from there becoming a rounded, 5–8 ft. tall shrub. Easy care, naturally hardy. Contains terpenes which make it quite aromatic. Many people regard the species to have a pleasant smell.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemesia, cont'd



Photo credit: Matt Lavin

other herbs which are strangers to me the one resembling the camphor in taste and smell, rising to the height of 2 or 3 feet; the other about the same size, has a long narrow, sm[o]th, soft leaf of an agreeable smel [sic] and flavor; of this last the A[n]telope is very fond; they feed on it, and perfume the hair of their foreheads and necks with it by rubing [sic] against it."

Artemisia cana, Silver Sagebrush, Sticky Sagebrush, Silver Wormwood, Hoary Sagebrush, Dwarf Sagebrush

An aromatic shrub found in grasslands, floodplains, native from Alaska - California - Arizona - Minnesota. First collected by Meriwether Lewis on October 1, 1804, near Centinel Creek in South Dakota:

"On these hills many aromatic herbs are seen; resembling in taste, smel [sic] and appearance, the sage, hysop, wormwood, southernwood and two



Photo credit: Matt Lavin

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemesia, cont'd

Artemisia palmeri, San Diego Sagewort, Palmer sagewort

A rare species of sagebrush native to northern Baja California and San Diego County, California. Its natural habitat is sandy coastal ravines and river drainages. As a large part of this habitat has been destroyed as the land is overtaken by humans which triggers the plant to go farther inland.

Aromatic long, narrow leaves, typical yellow flowers.

Photo credit: Stickpen, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, California



Artemisia pycnocephala, Beach Wormwood, Coastal Sagewort, Sandhill Sage

Hugs the western United States coastline from Oregon to Central California. It is a leafy perennial wormwood, dense foliage from light green to nearly white.

The plant is used to flavor a popular carbonated soft drink made out of sugary tarragon concentrate and colored bright green in Western Asia and Europa.

Photo credit: Stan Shebs

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemesia, cont'd

Artemisia tridentata, Big Sagebrush, Blue Sage, Black Sage, Basin Sagebrush, Common Sagebrush

An aromatic shrub in arid - semi-arid conditions, through cold desert to mountain habitats. Food and habitat for wildlife: sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, gray vireo, pygmy rabbit, and mule deer. It is losing ground to human settlements, livestock, invasives, wildfires, and climate change.

Photo credit: Young, sagebrush bonsai

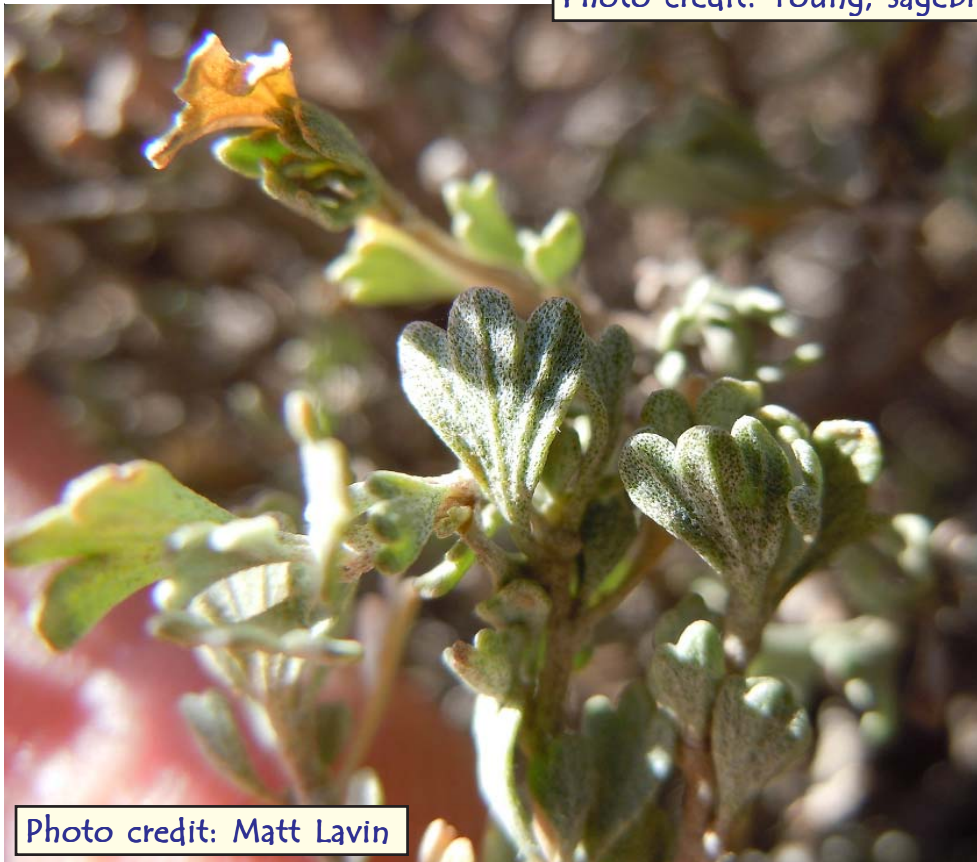


Photo credit: Matt Lavin



Artemisia nova, Black Sagebrush, Small Sagebrush
Grows in forest, woodland, and grassland habitats. It has two main forms: a darker, easily recognized form, and a less common light gray-green colored variant. The aromatic leaves are green, short, narrow, and sometimes toothed at the tip.

[➡More➡](#)

Artemesia, cont'd

***Artemisia nesiotica*, Channel island Sagebrush**

This is a small shrub, generally rounded in shape. It is rare and threatened. It does well on dry sunny slopes near the coast. Good for erosion control. Drought tolerant, a severe allergen.

Perennial: Living for many years.

Photo credit: John Game



***Artemisia rigida*, Scabland Sagebrush**

A flowering plant in the aster family, small, spreading, deciduous shrub with many woody branches, fragrant. The flowers are somewhat bell-shaped with 4 to 8 yellow-red to red florets. Grows where few other plants survive. Provides food for wildlife, often the only plant exposed as spring snow melts.

Photo credit: Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemesia, cont'd

Artemisia dracunculus, Tarragon, Silky Wormwood

Artemisia dracunculus var. *sativa*, is cultivated for culinary herb. Favorite "French tarragon" is best, "Russian tarragon" better than wild but not as good as French. Even though this native is not the favored strain for culinary, it is a hardy winner as aromatic landscape. Excellent in patio pots.

Photo credit: Andrea Moro



Photo credit: Jim Pisarowicz

Artemisia frigida, Fringed Sagebrush, Fringed-Sage, Prairie Sagewort, Estafiata

Cultivated for its foliage effects, and has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

This sagebrush had a variety of uses for Native American groups. Sprigs and corn ears are attached to decorated tablets carried by female dancers in a drama. The sprigs are also dipped in water and planted with corn so the corn will grow abundantly.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Artemesia, cont'd

***Artemisia douglasiana*, Douglas' Mugwort, Douglas' Sagewort, Northwest Mugwort** Extensive rhizomes aid in stabilizing streambanks. Its seeds are foraged by a variety of native birds and its leaves are used as nesting material by some native bees. Native American tribes used it medicinally and ceremonally.



Photo credit: Jason Hollinger

Photo credit: Stonebird,
Inglewood California

***Artemisia arctica*, Boreal Sagebrush**

Grows in subalpine and alpine climates and meadows in Arctic habitat such as tundra, and areas dominated by grasses and sedges.

Companions are larkspur monkshood (*Aconitum delphiniifolium*), Eschscholtz's buttercup

(*Ranunculus eschscholtzii*), and Canadian burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*).

A pioneer species in the primary phase of ecological succession in disturbed areas, such as plains scoured by flooding. It has been known to colonize denuded soil in vehicle tracks. It was used to revegetate habitat disturbed during the construction of the Trail Ridge Road in Colorado.



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Artemesia, cont'd

Fine Gardening, <http://www.finegardening.com/mugwort-artemisia>

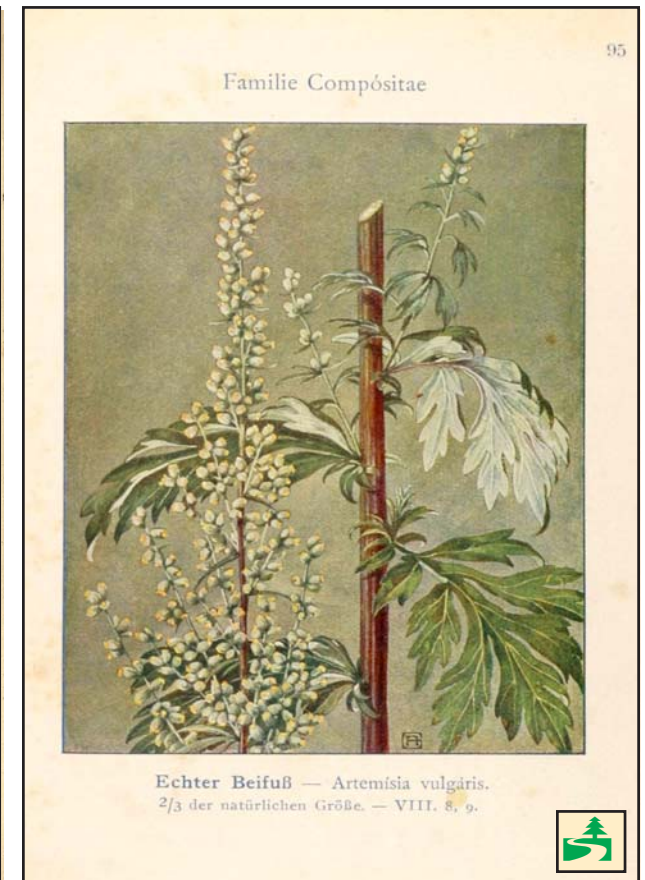
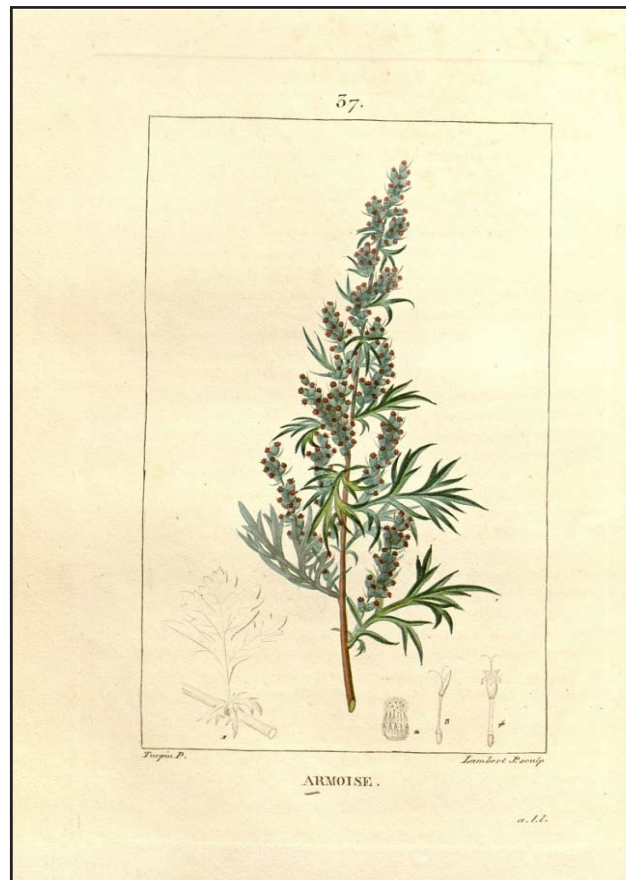
Better Homes and Gardens, <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/perennial/artemisia/>

Chicago Botanical Garden, https://www.chicagobotanic.org/downloads/planteval_notes/no19_artemisias.pdf

California Native Plant Society, <http://grownatives.cnps.org/2012/03/23/artemisia-in-the-garden/>

Rodale's Organic Life, <http://www.rodaleorganiclife.com/garden/artemisias>

Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/news/2014/2014-herb-of-the-year-artemisia>



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

Out my door, the birches are leafing out with spring catkin pendulums. They are so cheerful, the bright sky background renders them translucent.

Several kinds of flowers are popping up, many that were not here last year. Gifts from the squirrels? Or the birds? I have my suspicions. (Yes, the photo of my faerie garden at right might be a clue.)

I'm Looking for some old tree snags for the wildlife garden.

I have an area beneath the Doug Fir, surrounded by dogwood, paper birches and rhodies. It's about 10 x 15 ft. A couple of old close-to-rotting snags will anchor the arrangement.

Dead trees work especially well, as they are home to lots of different animals, including some that use tree cavities and branches for nesting and perching. Let some ferns and other wild things snuggle up to the snags and in no time nature will accept them.

Looks like I'm going on an adventure.

Until next time,

Jennifer

