

The background of the entire page is a photograph of evergreen branches, possibly from a cedar or redwood, with a strong red color cast. The branches are thin and vertical, with green needles visible. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is naturalistic but with a distinct color filter.

Volume 2, Issue 2, 2004

February 2004

# **Northwest Native Plant Journal**

**A Monthly Web Magazine**  
(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

**Fritillaria--Native Lily is a Work of Art**

**Native Plants with Edible Berries**

**Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden**

**Northwest Native Plant Resources on the Internet**

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

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

## A Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

### Departments

About this Monthly Web Magazine.....3

On the Cover of our Journal.....4

**New Feature!** Do you know this rare plant?.....5

To Do list for native plants.....6

Coming next month.....23

Personal notes from Wally.....24



### Contents

#### Fritillaria, Part 1

Unusual Native Lily  
Photos by Don Eastman.....7

#### Edible Berries

Delicious Treats in the Garden  
Article by Marci Degman.....11

#### Natural Beauty

In the Winter Garden  
Article by Jennifer Rehm.....17

#### Useful Plant Databases on the Web

Native Plant internet resources.....20

Jennifer Rehm, Editor, author, webmaster for  
The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database  
website: [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com); e-Mail: [chillipepper6@comcast.net](mailto:chillipepper6@comcast.net)

All rights reserved. This entire publication Copyright © 2012 The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database. No part of this work may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means--graphic, electronic, or mechanical--without the written permission of Jennifer Rehm, The Wild Garden, except for reviewers who may quote brief passages. Any request for photocopying, recording, taping or information storage and retrieval systems of any part of this publication shall be directed in writing to the publisher: Jennifer Rehm, The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database.



# 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.

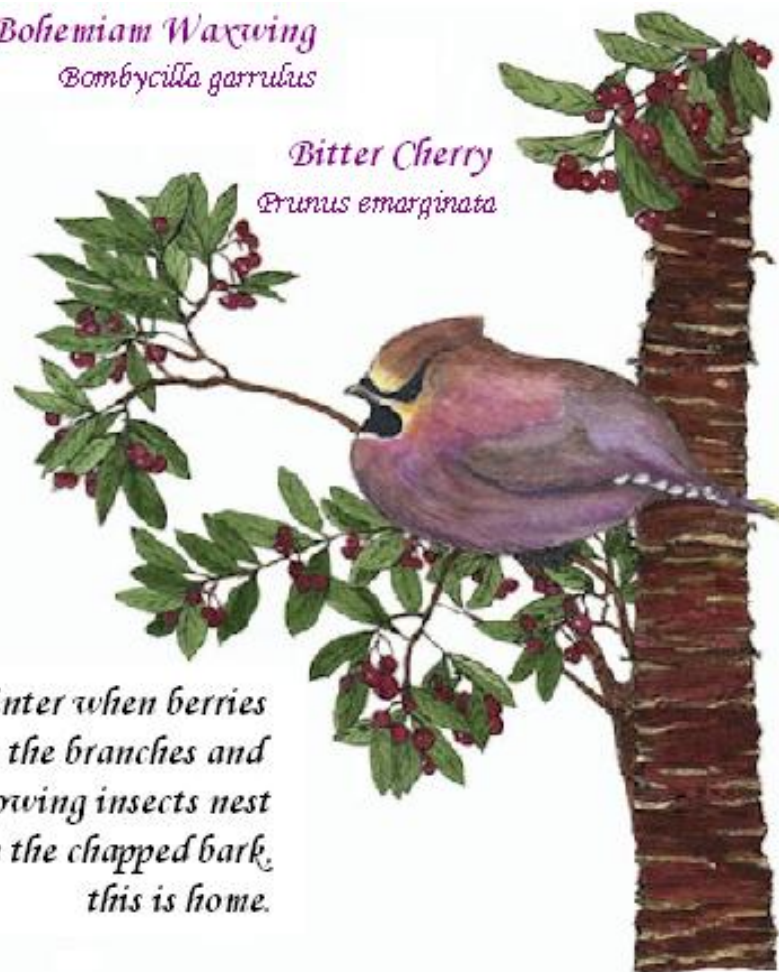
D — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.

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.).

*Bohemian Waxwing*  
*Bombycilla garrulus*

*Bitter Cherry*  
*Prunus emarginata*

*In winter when berries  
persist on the branches and  
burrowing insects nest  
in the chapped bark,  
this is home.*



Painting © Heidi Hansen



# On the Cover

## Northwest Native Trees

The vibrant red new growth on these young Red Osier Dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*), begged to be photographed when I visited the nursery on January 23, 2004. Imagine what a show they'll make when they come into bloom! Only 1- and 2-gallon pots are shown in this little grouping outside Wally's office.

Too bad we didn't get a shot of them during this past winter's snowfall. The white snow covering the ground (and the pots) and on the green tree branches in the background must have made a picturesque contrast with those cardinal red stems.

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm





## New regular feature:

# Do you know this rare plant?



Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

### **Correctly identify this plant and win a small prize!**

Each month in our Journal we will show a photo of a “mystery” plant. If you can identify it correctly, send an email to Wally at [plants@nwplants.com](mailto:plants@nwplants.com) and he'll send you a small prize!

Here are some clues about our first candidate:

This Northwest Native perennial grows in moist soil or gravelly places, usually on serpentine, in Douglas, Curry, Josephine and Jackson counties of southwest Oregon and south to central California. It is unusual in Oregon but more common in California.

It grows to two and one-half inches tall; the foliage is somewhat villous with glandular hairs. The leaves, up to an inch long, are numerous and crowded at the base. The one to four flowers have deep purple tubes, one to two inches long, which abruptly flare into a broad throat streaked with darker purple. The upper petal leaves are large, rounded and rose-purple; the lower leaves are almost non-existent. The four stamens, in two unequal pairs, are slightly exerted and have bright yellow anthers. The calyx, almost one-half inch long, is tubular, greatly dilated, with prominent, dark green vertical ridges. It blooms from March into May.

If you know this plant, send me an email with the correct answer and I will send you a small prize!

Good luck!

**Wally**



# To Do List for Native Plants

Spring is coming, but not yet! If you can't wait to get into the garden, plant some bare root trees or shrubs. It's perfect weather for planting bare root or semi-bare root stock and your new plants will get a head start for the year.

Another favorite gardening (and decorating) idea is forcing some flowering branches to get early blooms for your home. Nothing is quite so heartening as seeing those lovely flowers while it's still chilly outside. It's very simple to do and though "forcing" something to bloom may sound a little rough, it's really not harmful. Think of it as early pruning. I purposely encourage extra long branches of my Northwest Native spring-flowering shrubs just so I can cut them in February. Choose branches with fat buds. You can cut them short or long, it does not matter. Slice the stem end into 2-3 divisions or remove a section of bark to get them to drink plenty of water. Immediately put these branches in water and store in a cool place (an unheated garage or shed is perfect). Make sure they have enough water and in a short time--a few days up to a couple of weeks, depending on how close to blooming they were when you cut them--you'll see those buds start to swell. When you can see a little color, bring them into the warmth of your home and in 2-4 days you'll have blooms. Don't be discouraged if you only get leaves. Fooling Mother Nature is not an exact science, but it's a fun experiment.

Favorite natives to try forcing:

Western Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)  
Red-Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*)  
Western Redbud (*Cercus occidentalis*)  
Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
Silk-Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)  
Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)  
Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*)  
Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)  
Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)  
Willows--Columbia River (*Salix fluviatilis*), Hooker's (*Salix hookeriana*), Pacific (*Salix lasiandra*), Mtn. Pussy Willow (*Salix scouleriana*), or Silky (*Salix sitchensis*)

*Salix scouleriana*  
(Mtn. Pussy Willow)  
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm



**Note:** Although the Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) has beautiful flowers and blooms quite early, it's best appreciated outdoors. Those yellow blooms have a distinctly unpleasant odor. In fact, one of its common names is Skunkbush!



# Fritillaria, Part 1

## Northwest Native Wildflowers

This is the first of a 2-part article on *Fritillaria*, a most unusual and intriguing Northwest Native perennial wildflower.

### **Diamond Lake fritillaria**

(*Fritillaria adamantina* Peck).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

Siddall, Chambers, and Wagner in their Interim Report of 1979 states that this species was thought to be extinct until it was found again near Diamond Lake in 1976. The same year it was found near the summit of Mt. Ashland in Jackson County. Some botanists are now saying that it is not a distinct species, but is instead a spontaneous hybrid of *Fritillaria atropurpurea* by its stout stem, broad bulb, and many bulblets. This is not to encourage the digging of the bulb! It may be distinguished by its stout stem with narrow leaves, and its reddish, greenish, brownish perianth segments that are spotted with purple, and not recurved at the tips. It may grow up to two feet in height. It blooms from May to July.



*Fritillaria atropurpurea* [adamantina]  
Diamond Lake Fritillaria  
Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

⇒More⇒



# Fritillaria, Continued

## **Kamchatka fritillary**

(*Fritillaria camschatcensis* [L.] Ker-Gawl.).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

Also known as “Indian rice” and “black lily”, this species of meadows and moist open woods is found far north of here, from the Kamchatka Peninsula in Siberia to northern Washington. It has recently been found as a small disjunct population in the Bull Run watershed northwest of Mt. Hood in Oregon. It is rare in Oregon, but more common northward.

*Fritillaria camschatcensis* may reach sixteen inches in height, with flowers one and one-quarter inches long. The tepals are deep reddish-purple, streaked or mottled with yellow within, and greenish on the outside. The flowers are nodding. The leaves are lance-shaped with one to three whorls of three on the stem. It blooms here in June.



*Fritillaria camschatcensis*  
(Kamchatka Fritillary)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Fritillaria, Continued

## Falcate fritillary

(*Fritillaria falcate* [Jeps] D. E. Bettle).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

This species grows on rocky serpentine ridges in Stanislaus, Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey counties in California and possibly on serpentine in southwest Oregon. A fritillary found recently on Chrome Ridge in the Oregon Siskiyou Mountains is thought by some to be *Fritillaria falcate*. If so, it is indeed rare in Oregon and California. The flower pictured was photographed on Chrome

Ridge. Some of the leading botanists in the state, however, feel this flower is a form of *Fritillaria glauca*.



*Fritillaria falcate* has two to six fleshy alternate leaves at the base of the stem which are falcate, folded, and are from one and one-half inches to three and one-half inches long and less than one-half inch wide. The flowers with perianth segments nearly an inch long and one-quarter inch wide, are rusty-reddish-brown with yellow or green markings. The flowers, one to four, are erect, and terminal to a short stem. It blooms from March to May.

*Fritillaria falcata*  
(Falcate Fritillary)  
Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Fritillaria, Continued

Native plants, because they have been around for so many centuries and have been loved by so many peoples, have a myriad of common names. How often have we heard someone describing their childhood favorite flower only to realize upon seeing it that it's a favorite of ours as well, but called by a completely different name!

Fritillaria are no exception to this phenomena. Even the botanical name is sometimes called Fritillaria but also Fritillary. I imagine the former being used by a field guide as he leads a group through the woods, "And here we see the rare and unusual Fritillaria . . ." But then I think of a grandmother on a wagon train saying, "Come look, there's a Fritillary!"

The varieties shown on the previous pages are not ordinarily available to gardeners but there is a more common Fritillaria that we do have, though in limited numbers. The Chocolate Lily (or Checker Lily, Mission Bells or Rice Root) is as striking as her more rarely found sisters. Julie, one of our nursery team, took the photo shown at right in the Columbia Gorge area. The mottled pattern of the petals on the bell-shaped blooms helps this Fritillaria blend with its surroundings, making it hard to spot.



In next month's Journal, we'll have more Fritillaria photos. Don't miss it!



Fritillaria lanceolata  
(Chocolate Lily)  
Photograph © Wallace W .Hansen





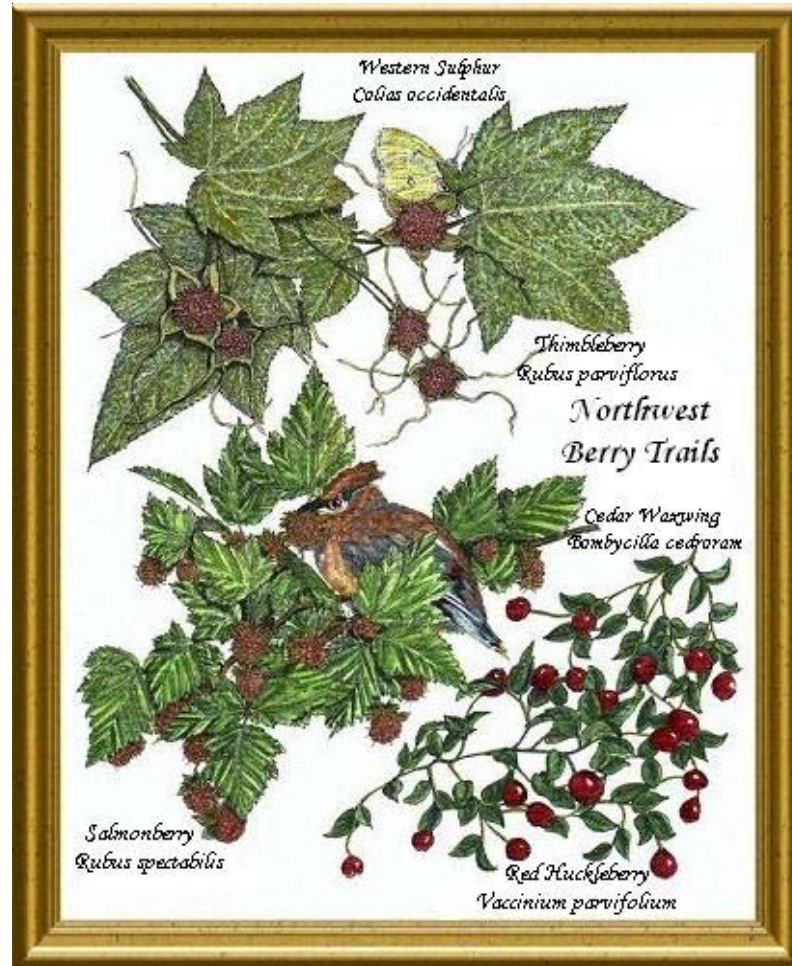
# Plants of the Pacific NW with Edible Berries

By Marci Degman

The sheer number of berries we call native to the Pacific Northwest is mind boggling. We often pass them by because they are unfamiliar and we know they can potentially be poisonous. Caution is good, but it should not keep us from learning which berries are palatable. Native American history teaches that many times flavor alone did not determine the value of a berry.

## **Empetrum nigrum**

*Empetrum nigrum* or Crowberry is largely unknown to most of us. Due to this berry's ability to persist even under snow it was once highly important as a winter food source for humans and wildlife alike. While this low growing needle-leaved plant resembles that of the heather clan, it is the blue black berries that distinguish it. Crowberry is found in higher elevations and along coastal bluffs, so the limited distribution contributes to it being a lesser known plant. It is difficult to describe the flavor since opinions vary widely, but when one is hungry it might be nice to come upon a patch.



## **Rosa Species**

Another sometimes shunned edible lumped in as a berry is the rose hip. Hips ripen when little else is available, and considering their nutritional stores of vitamin C, they do deserve more widespread use. The cultivated rose is so often trimmed back before hips can form that they are missed completely. Since there is no need to prune wild roses, the hips are plentiful. Four Pacific *Rosa* species come to mind: Nootka Rose, Wood Rose, Baldhip Rose and Cluster Rose. All four have single petals in varying shades of pink, and produce edible hips. The petals are also eaten, and are used in many other ways. The Cluster Rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*) is used more as a wetland plant or bank cover due to its arching growth habit and attractive blue foliage. *R. pisocarpa* has hairy seeds, and the hairs can cause mouth and digestive tract irritation.

⇒ More ⇒

# Edible Berries, continued

Using the outer pea-shaped hip is perfectly fine. It is always good to make sure that herbicides and pesticides have not been used in harvest areas. By growing them ourselves we can be sure. One area to shy away from is the busy roadside. Carbon monoxide can settle on berries, hips, and leaves, which is not healthy. Even if flowers are used for decoration only, make sure they are safe when presenting them with food in case they are ingested. It is the outer shell of the hip that is used in most recipes. Remove the seeds and set them aside for germination or discard them outdoors to proliferate. The hip is cooked or put through the blender, strained and made into jelly, or dried to add zing to tea blends.

## **Rubus species**

Rubus leaves such as blackberry and raspberry are also dried for tea and contain vitamin C. We have one true native blackberry, the Pacific Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). This is a trailing berry which requires a male and a female plant for fruiting. As with most wild canes, a good amount of space is needed, so Pacific Blackberry is not usually recommended for the small garden. However, it can readily be grown on a vertical trellis. This blackberry has proven to have far better flavor than the non-native more invasive Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*). Another non-native, the Evergreen Blackberry (*Rubus laciniata*), has attractive cut leaves, but still lacks flavor. Often we miss some of the other Rubus berries which are well worth mentioning. We have a wild Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) that is every bit as good as the hybrid varieties. Two other Rubus berries worth mentioning are the Thimbleberry and the Salmonberry. These are among the berries I sampled as a child, while my father sat along the river with his fishing pole. He made me promise to show him each berry I planned to eat, so he could be sure that it was safe. Rubus spectabilis or Salmonberry was easy for me to recognize with its orange berry and magenta pink bloom. Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), has distinctive large soft maple-like leaves, large crinkly paper-like flowers, and a short wide raspberry-like fruit. Salmon and Thimbleberries fill a different niche. They both grow from rhizomes and form low dense thickets, making them good for moist wooded sites. The berries in my opinion are good, and while a handful may be all that is harvested at one time, they are wonderful for nibbling fresh. They can be made into jam, so if the numbers are few mix them with other wild berries for a unique flavor combination.



*Rubus spectabilis* (Salmonberry)  
Berry and Bloom with Cardinal  
Painting @ Heidi Hansen

⇒More⇒



# Edible Berries, continued



Photo @ Jennifer Rehm

## **Native Berries for Eating**

Native berries can all be used in the same ways; jelly, jam, syrup, dried and frozen. I am busy in the summer and usually only manage to pick and freeze my berries, pulling them out as I need them. Most of our frozen berries go into the blender straight from the freezer with a little milk and sugar. Berries are a tonic to the body and full of antioxidants. Of course, eating them fresh off the bush while out and about is by far the best way to receive the most benefit.

## **Native Berries for Wildlife Habitat**

Birds and other wildlife love berries and often get to them first. Take heart! If you have planted generously, there will eventually be enough for all. A neighbor once told me his philosophy was to plant at least three of each type of berry: one for himself, one for the animals, and one for good measure. In my own garden, I did fight the robins for berries at first, but once the bushes matured and produced more, the problem was solved. I enjoy the birds too much to discourage them. I plant bush berries throughout my garden as part of the landscaping.

## **Vaccinium species**

The fall color of many berry bushes is astounding and the urn-shaped flowers of the *Vacciniums* are wonderful and many times fragrant. I would consider *V. ovatum*, Evergreen Huckleberry, to be most valuable as a landscape plant. The shiny evergreen foliage is attractive all year round and it does well in shaded areas. Some feel the berries are much tarter than the widespread Mountain Huckleberry (*V. membranaceum*). Mountain Huckleberry is likely what you will find at a roadside stand when traveling through the Cascade region of our state. Being plentiful and good enough to eat fresh, this is a very desirable Huckleberry. I have used red and blue huckleberries in all of the same ways that blueberries are used. *V. parviflorum* is the most commonly grown red huckleberry, and is plentiful in western forests. *V. parviflorum* and *V. membranaceum* are deciduous plants that will fit well in any size garden and provide fall color. Woodland berries prefer filtered sunlight, humus-rich soil, and some moisture. Make sure when planting them in the garden they will receive some irrigation during drought, since they are often found growing where there is natural soil moisture. *V. oxycoccus*, or Bog Cranberry, is a moisture lover. It does

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Edible Berries, continued

especially well planted among moss, which has great moisture retaining qualities. I have a fairly dry sloped forested site, but by locating an area where moss grows freely I know there must be an underground spring. Often by examining wild habitat it is easy to determine the individual needs of a plant.

## **Fragaria species**

The Pacific Northwest is known for its superb wild strawberries. These low growing plants make an outstanding groundcover. I have large areas of the Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) which indicates that I have a very high acid content in my soil. Strawberries love acid soil, and that is their greatest requirement. Virginia has the longest runners, so it covers an area quickly. It is also known to be the most fragrant in leaf and berry. The very word *Fragaria* was given to wild strawberries for their intense fragrance. Both *F. virginiana* and *F. vesca* are parents to modern day strawberries. They are much smaller in size but superior in flavor. Because of this they are best for nibbling or use the leaves in tea. *F. vesca*, or Woodland Strawberry, known as the gourmet berry, is a bit larger than Virginia and spreads slower by stolens so is fitting for a small area. They are both good and worth growing as filler between native shrubs.



Painting @ Heidi Hansen

## **Sambucus species**

Pacific trees boast great berries with my favorite being the Blue Elderberry. *Sambucus cerulea* fits in well below the stately fir and cedar providing the under story protection so important for wildlife habitat. There is some need for caution when eating elderberries. There is conflicting information concerning the Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*). More data says we should not regard this as an edible berry. It is beautiful and birds love the berries, but they can cause serious stomach irritation for us. All other parts of the Elderberry except the flower are poison. Blue Elderberries are regarded as safe and edible. Because the berries also contain small amounts of hydrocyanic acid, eating too many raw berries at one time can cause mild stomach discomfort. The edible flowers can be made into fritters, and have long been used in skin astringents and beauty products. The vitamin C content in the berries is said to exceed that of oranges. For any of the above reasons I think every native landscape should contain at least one Elderberry.

⇒More⇒



# Edible Berries, continued

## Amelanchier species

*Amelanchier alnifolia*, the Western Serviceberry or Saskatoon, is another understory tree prized for its fruit. It is actually an apple-like pome, but the fruit is so small we think of it as a berry. Serviceberries are fairly sweet when ripe but do contain a large seed, so squeezing them through a sieve would be the best way to extract the juice. The berries are also ornamental and good food for wildlife. The form of this small multi-stemmed clumping tree is similar to that of Vine Maple, and also provides good fall color.

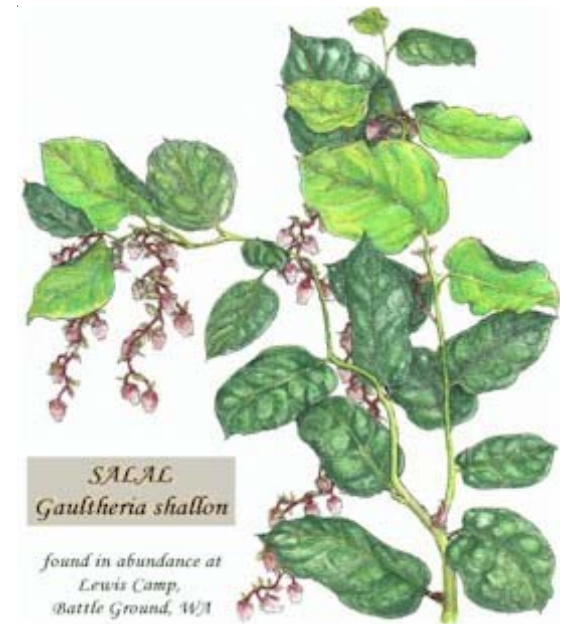
## Gaultheria species

Sometimes the only deterrent in trying a new berry is in knowing how to use it. Some have odd textures or are very tart. One of these is Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), a beautiful 1-2 foot high evergreen groundcover with thick glossy leaves, pretty urn-shaped flowers, and sweet black berries. I initially found the berries good but the texture mealy. By crushing Salal berries into juice, the flavor can be utilized without the mealy pulp. The berries are also used dried and in baking, which softens the texture. Salal will grow much slower in the sun and would prefer some shade, but will tolerate most garden conditions.

## Berberis species

*Berberis aquifolium* or Tall Oregon Grape makes a great landscape plant but has very tart berries. These too are good once made into a sweetened juice and used for jelly. Two other low growing forms of Oregon Grape are *B. nervosa*, Cascade Oregon Grape, which reaches two feet in height, and *B. repens*, Creeping Oregon Grape, which is even shorter. All prefer part shade but with water can handle a little more sun.

Painting @ Heidi Hansen



⇒More⇒

# Edible Berries, continued



## Know What You are Eating

The best way to become familiar with Pacific Northwest Berries is to buy a reference book such as *Wild Berries of the West* by Betty Derig and Margaret Fuller, or sign up for a hike with a known expert. Another avenue is checking with your local extension office. By purchasing native plants from a reputable native plant nursery you will be able to know for sure that you have the right plant. If landscaping is more your goal than eating the berries, isn't it nice to know that if someone should pop them into their mouth, you needn't worry. Especially those curious youngsters (as I was!). Do be curious, but be safe, and do not be afraid to find new uses for our fabulous native berries and fruit.

## Other sources for reference and recipes:

The Pacific Northwest Berry Book, Bob Krumm and James Krumm, 1998 Falcon Publishing, Inc.

Wild Berries of the Pacific Northwest, Ted Underhill, 1974 Hancock House Publishers

"Saskatoon" in all it's forms  
Painting @ Heidi Hansen

Good botanical drawings make plant identification much easier!



# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden

**By Jennifer Rehm**

Have you ever noticed all those bright red rose hips along country roadsides in the winter? Or the majestic shape of an oak tree after the leaves have fallen? These are examples of the winter faces of old friends that we usually consider in the spring, summer and autumn. Of course, we are all familiar with the conifers as staples of the winter landscape, but there are so many other interesting and beautiful natives that can add winter sparkle to even a small yard.

The three basic elements in landscape design are color, texture and form. These three elements are even more important in winter than they are at other times of the year. Let's see how Northwest Native shrubs and trees can provide these elements.

## **Color**

The fruits of many native plants last all winter long. The bright reds hips of Bald-Hip Rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*) and Wood's Rose (*Rosa woodsii*), the large orange hips of Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) and the clusters of red hips of Peafruit Rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*) look like nothing as much as beads on the arching branches. The large white fruits of Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and Creeping Showberry (*Symphoricarpus albus* var. *laevigatus*) will lighten up a dark corner of your yard. Squasberry (*Viburnum edule*) also has true red fruits which last all winter.

Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) has bright red, fuzzy seed clusters all winter which are loved by birds. The flower sprays of Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) turn a tan color and persist long into winter and have the added bonus of lovely fragrance that gets better as the blooms age.



Rosehips in the Rain  
February 16, 2004  
Photo @ Jennifer Rehm

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden, continued



## Texture

Another element of landscape design is texture. You can have several plants of the same color family with diverse textures and still achieve a beautiful and balanced effect. Aside from leaf texture, many of our deciduous native trees and shrubs are unbeatable for the texture of their stems and branches. An outstanding texture example is the Devil's Club (*Ophopanax horridum*). This Northwest Native shrub is a show-stopper year round. It has a tall, wand-like stem with vicious spines, medieval in appearance. Quite unusual and thought-provoking! Also very effective planted in a hedge as a barrier!

Mature Pacific Willows (*Salix lasiandra*) have cracked yellow bark, attractive and interesting and lovely in combination with the velvety red or yellow bark of Mountain Pussy Willows (*Salix scouleriana*). Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*) is evergreen and has a beautiful reddish-brown bark that peels and is smooth and lustrous underneath. This is an outstanding ornamental that is especially appreciated in winter, as is Pacific Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*) with its thin, shreddy bark.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bark on trees and shrubs is not always just a brown skin covering the trunks and branches. There is color here! The vibrant red stems of the Red Osier Dogwood that grace the cover of this month's Journal look lovely with their cedar backdrop. But they'd be smashing planted in a group with only the blue sky behind them. Other native dogwoods have nicely colored branches on their new growth as well. Shrubs such as Red Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*) with its dark red stems, native trees like Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) with reddish stems, and Birches are well noted for their bark—Scrub Birch (*Betula glandulosa*), Red Birch (*Betula occidentalis*) and the beloved white bark of the Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*, var. *californica*) has smooth brown bark, Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) has dark reddish-brown bark. And who can resist the distinctive bark color of our Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) with its large lustrous evergreen leaves.

---

*Mahonia aquifolium* (Tall Oregon Grape)  
Photo @ Jennifer Rehm

---

# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden, continued

## Form

When the leaves and blooms are gone from deciduous shrubs and trees, the uninterrupted form is visible and can be appreciated on its own merits. The form of a plant is as important as the color and texture it provides. Though evergreen, the upright sentinel-like form of the Western Red Cedar—also called Giant Arborvitae—(*Thuja plicata*) is a distinct shape. Another evergreen columnar tree is the Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). And it's hard to beat the pure majesty of our native oaks, both the evergreen Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and the deciduous Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*).

## Early blooming trees and shrubs

Early bloom graces the Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*, var. *californica*) with its pendant catkins that look like fringe. Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) is the first flowering shrub to bloom in spring. Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) puts on a nice spring flower show. The evergreen Fremont Silk Tassel (*Garra fremontii*) has small winter catkins which contrast nicely with the bright green foliage with light undersides. Silk-Tassel (*Garra elliptica*) has longer catkins (up to 10"), glossy dark green foliage with gray undersides. Both are beautiful in winter when blooms are scarce. Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) have a lovely little bell-shaped bloom early in the seasons. 🌿 ♦ 🌿

Next month we will investigate more thoroughly the early blooming native plants and discuss some evergreens that have unique winter faces.



Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*)  
Photo @ Jennifer Rehm



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web

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

*Wally*

---

## **American Bonsai Society**

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

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **CalPhotos**

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

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

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

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

## **Fire effects on plant species**

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

USDA, Forest Service site.

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

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

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

⇒More⇒



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **Fire effects on plant species**

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

USDA, Forest Service site.

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

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

Maps of the most common forest types.

## **Forestry index**

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

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

## **Growit.com Rooting Database**

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

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

## **The Native Plant Network**

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

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.

⇒ More ⇒

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

## **Woody Plant Seed Manual**

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

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

## **River Corridor and Wetland Restoration**

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

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

## **Soils**

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

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

## **Soil Science Society of America**

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

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.



# Coming next month:

A few of the items we'll include in the March issue of Northwest Native Plant Journal:

- ❖ Fritillaria, Part 2--take a closer look at other Northwest Native Fritillarias. Descriptions and photographs by Don Eastman.
- ❖ Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden--second part of Jennifer Rehm's article about Native plants to enhance your landscape in the winter months.
- ❖ Spring in Northwestern United States. Oregon flaunts springtime like a little girl with new shoes. Brazenly blooming perennials, shrubs and trees are everywhere!
- ❖ And much more!



*Erythronium oregonum* (Fawn Lily)  
Painting @ Heidi D. Hansen



# Personal notes from Wally

A wonderful new season is spreading out before us! – The days are longer! – The air is warmer! – Sunny days alternate with gray! – Buds on plants everywhere are swelling and getting ready to burst open! – The “Show Off” Indian Plums are first, of course!

There is a time for everything – a time to plant and a time to reap, a time to put down and a time to pick up – a time for joy and a time for mourning. We do not really understand this amazing life in which we find ourselves – part of a magnificent creative process everywhere with its eternal cycles. I puzzle often about all this, struggling to understand – finding comfort in my own beliefs and limited understanding – peering through a dark glass. And always, turning to my Gardens – to the miracles of all forms of life – of the knowledge that Spring always follows Winter.

Your garden is your source of strength and renewal – if you still have a touch of winter melancholy, walk in your garden – work in your garden, even if it is cold outside. There is always a garden task to do. I suggest, in your early garden planning, after considering the coming Spring, plan for next winter. Make your garden a “year-round” joy and refuge! We have an article beginning this month in the Northwest Native Plant Journal, that will help with planning the winter Garden – plant, textures, colors, size, etc.

Keep the faith, you plant lovers – you have something going for you that many do not have!

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.**



Red Osier Bloom



Red Osier Dogwood bare root plants

**Good luck!  
Good gardening!**