

Volume 3, Issue 3, 2005

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Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Bi-Monthly Web Magazine
(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

Landscaping with Native Plants

NW Native Perennial Paintbrush

Native Plant Rock Garden

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

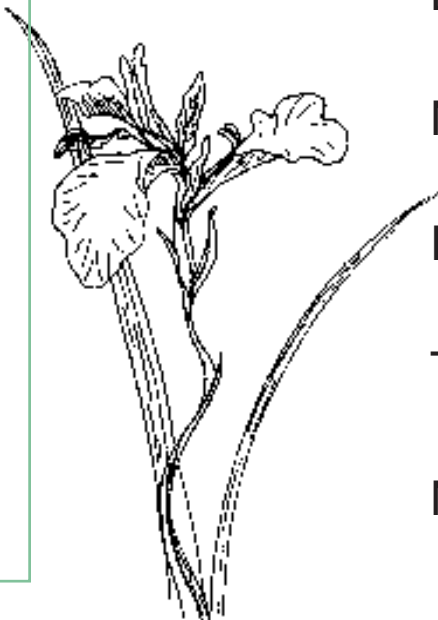
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About this Web Magazine

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.).

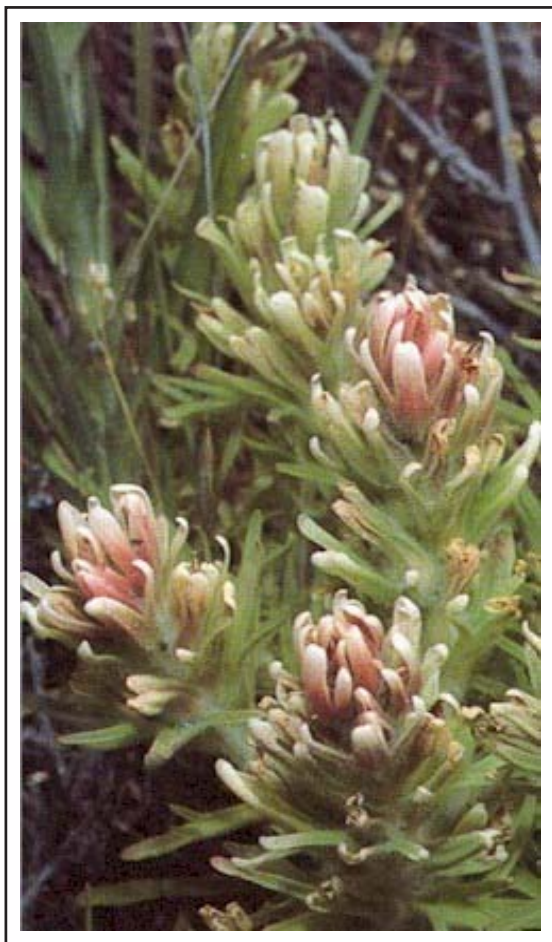
Journal News: We’re changing our publishing schedule! Monthly issues became more than we could properly serve right now. Beginning with this issue, we’ll be publishing our journal six times a year. You’ll enjoy the same high quality photos and information-packed articles every other month. Thanks for reading!



Western Redbud (*Cercus occidentalis*)
Photo © Jennifer Rehm



On the Cover

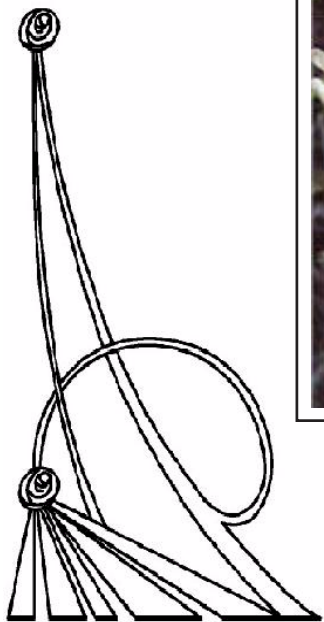


Yellow-haired paintbrush (*Castilleja xanthotricha* Penn)

A rarely seen Northwest native perennial, the paintbrush looks almost like a living feather growing up from the ground. Often called “Indian paintbrush,” perhaps that’s why.

See description of this Yellow-haired Paintbrush and several others in our feature article beginning on page 20 in this issue of the Journal.

Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman



Rare plant puzzle

Name this plant!

What Northwest Native Plant do you suppose sports this red, red bloom? Our mystery plant is distinctive and quite colorful. Here's a clue:

"Think of me on the fourth of July!"

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant before this contest expires on May 10. I'll send you a beautiful treat!

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Erigeron decumbens
(Willamette Valley Daisy)

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!

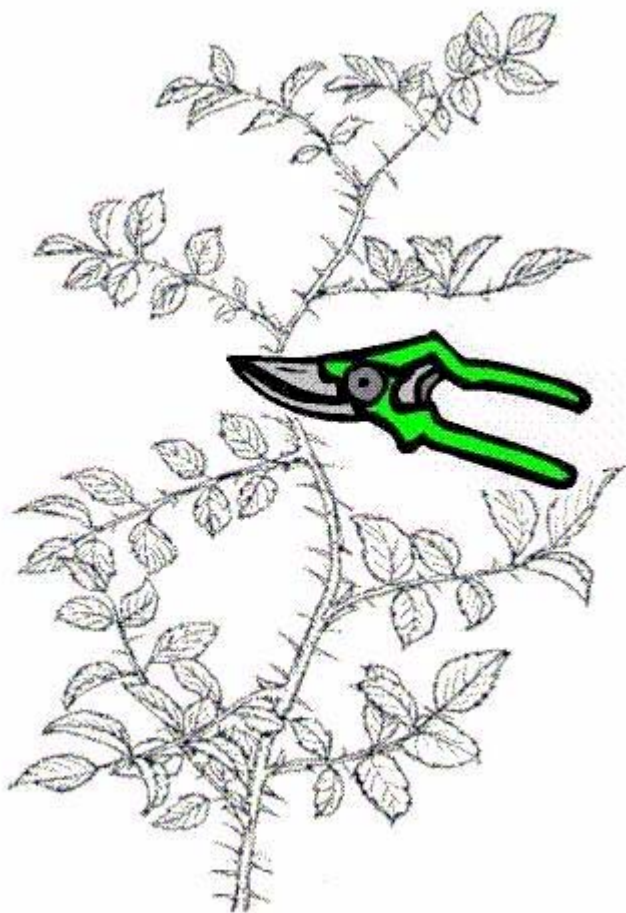


Photo © Donald C. Eastman



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden



A – “Rusts” on Deciduous Shrubs – April and often May is a bad time for various “rusts” to infect deciduous shrubs. This usually is not fatal but does not look good. The wet and cool weather causes “rusts” to pop up overnight. I use the fungicides “Zyban” and “Alliette.” You can probably buy smaller quantities of similar sprays in garden centers. If nothing else, use sprays formulated for roses. As the weather gets warmer and drier into June and July, usually rust is not a problem.

B – Get your Spring plantings in before July. Otherwise, start planning for Fall plantings. As you get into June, use plenty of water when shifting plants from pots to ground. Be careful in moving plants that were in shady areas into direct sun. If there are some early hot, sunny days, rig some shade and gradually adapt the plant to full sun. You might be shifting a plant from a nice, cozy nursery out into the real world – be kind to your precious plants – they respond like any living organism.

C - Pruning – while the regular pruning season is past, do not hesitate to use a pruning shears from time to time. Here in the nursery, the wild roses in pots grow so fast that I prune them back at least twice in the summer growing season, both tops and excess stems.

D – Mulching. In a garden situation, use plenty of mulch around the base of new plants to conserve water and reduce water stress. In this particular part of the Northwest, ground fir bark is the best.

E - Watch for “yellow leaf” plants. Yellow leaves indicate the plants needs nitrogen, iron or magnesium. Treat these by adding fertilizer high in these elements, preferably by liquid fertilizer. You might repeat every week until you get nice green leaves back again.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Rain! Lots of rain! What a deal! Our rainfall was so sparse for so long we squirrels got carried away and buried some of our treasure (nuts) in places that looked like great spots but now they're puddles! Oh dear! So we've been digging it all up and moving to dryer ground. I think everybody is about done with this emergency but it sure did keep us busy for a few days!

We know the rain is important but soggy food is not good. It spoils quickly and besides, we get our feet all muddy when we dig it up. Yuck!

The nursery has been jumping lately with lots of visitors (mostly two-leggers but some barkers also). We like visitors and we try to make sure to give them a good show. We fly through the smaller trees and race up and down the big ones, (I think Wally calls those the Doug Firs). And if our visitors happen to get too close to our secret buried treasure spots we warn them with our chatter as loud as we can. Must protect the groceries you know.

Gotta go, it's raining today and I just remembered another treasure trove I didn't move yet. Hope to see you soon!

Sparky



Landscaping with NW Native Plants

By Wallace Hansen

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

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

Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)
growing around a big conifer
Photo © 2005 Jennifer Rehm



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Landscaping with NW Native Plants, continued



Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta*)
Photograph © JoAnn Onstott

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

Which Native trees can be planted in full sun?

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

Which native trees will tolerate some shade?

Doug Fir, White Pine, OR Ash, Madrone, Hawthorne, Crabapple ⇒More⇒

Landscaping with NW Native Plants, continued



Red Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium parviflorum*)
Painting © Heidi D. Hansen

Which native trees will tolerate medium shade?

Spruce, Hemlock, Pac. Silver Fir, Grand Fir, White Fir, Coast Redwood, Pt. Orford Cedar, CA Black Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Tan Oak, Big Leaf Maple, OR Myrtle, Cascara, Yew.

Which native trees will tolerate deep shade?

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

Which Native shrubs can be used in medium shade?

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

Which natives can I plant that require no watering or maintenance?

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

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Landscaping with NW Native Plants, continued

Which Native plants do well in wet areas?

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

How should I use Ferns in native gardens?

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

Which Natives are good for ground covers?

Andromeda polifolia (Bog Rosemary), *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (kinnikinnik), *Asarum caudatum* (Wild Ginger), *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Dicentra formosa* (Bleeding Hears), *Fragaria* (wild strawberries), *Gaultheria shallon* (Salal), *Linnaea borealis* (Twinspur), *Mahonia repens* (Creeping OR Grape), *Maianthemum dilatatum* (False Lily-of-the Valley), *Oxalis oregana* (Oxalis), *Smilacina stellata* (Star-Flowered Solomon's Seat), *Vancouveria hexandra* (Inside-Out flower).



Painting © Heidi D. Hansen

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Landscaping with NW Native Plants, continued



Which Native plants can be used to attract wildlife?

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

Which Native Plants attract Butterflies?

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

Which Native Plants Attract Hummingbirds?

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

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Photo © Wallace W. Hansen

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Landscaping with NW Native Plants, continued

What about Native Plants for Food and Medicinal Use?

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

Which Native Plants will grow under Doug Firs & Big-Leaf Maples?

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

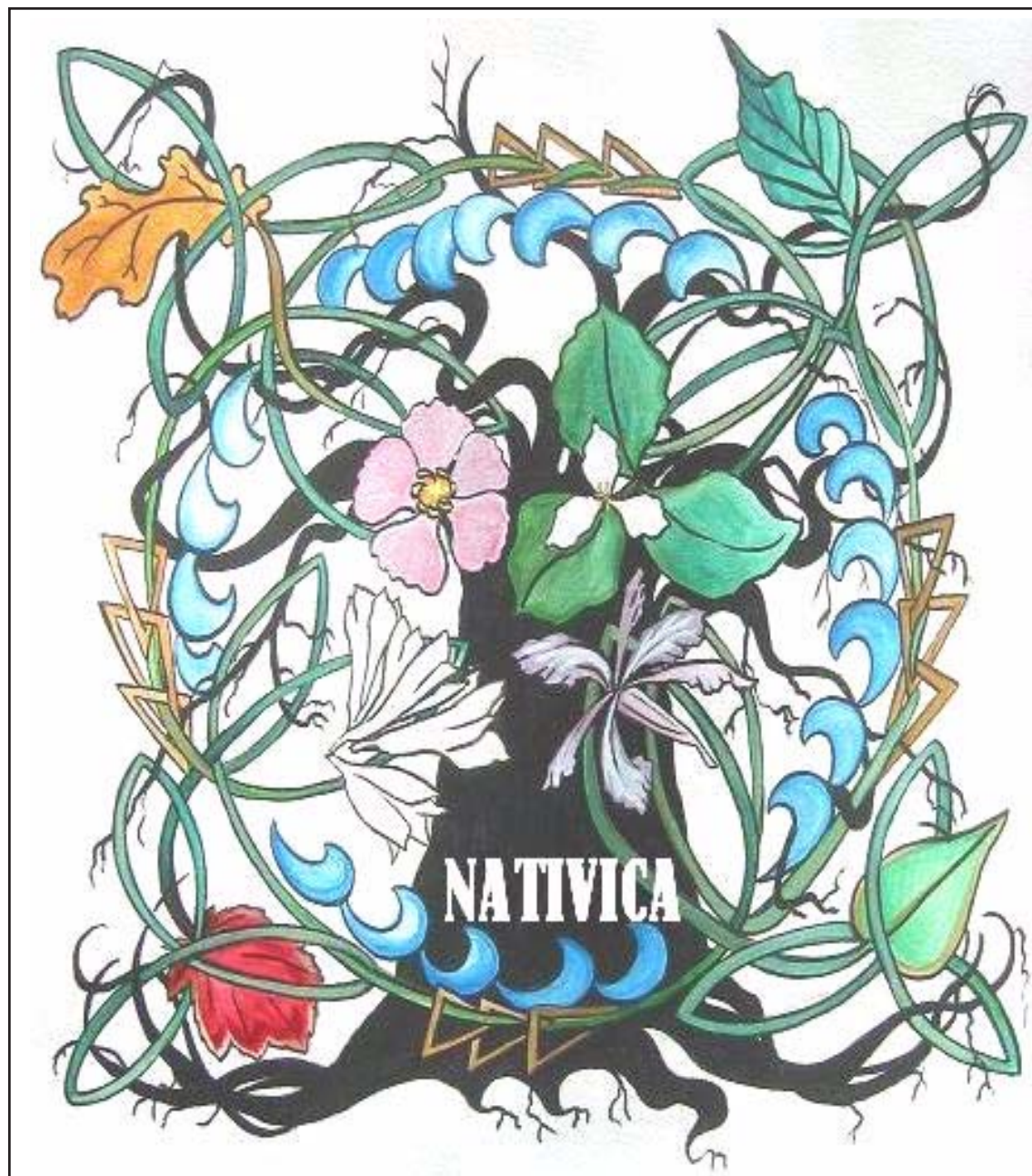


Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
Photo © Wallace W. Hansen

Which Native plants are used most in Restoration Projects?

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





Painting
© Heidi D. Hansen

Native Plant Rock Garden

Rock gardening may be practiced by gardeners of all ages

There are as many styles of rock gardens as there are gardeners. There are alpine gardens, low and high desert gardens, oriental themed gardens. Some are miniature landscapes in or out of a container (sometimes referred to as “fairy gardens”) and some are life-sized vignettes. A rock garden can be an area of just a few feet or an entire landscape can be done as a rock garden. Location depends on your situation and desire but an irregular terrain such as a rocky hillside or series of ledges, perhaps with terraces here and there, works nicely.

Rock gardens are traditionally sunny and well-drained but one can also break with tradition and create a rock garden in shade or damp areas or even put some rocks in a bog garden.

Flowers are not necessary but are as lovely in rock gardens as anywhere else in the landscape. If your rock garden features flowers, choose plants that bloom at different times of year so something is blooming year-round.

About the only real requirement for a rock garden is the presence of rock, a few or many, large or small. A single great big rock with some pockets or indentations could be planted. Add some other appropriately sized plants around it to finish the scene. But usually several rocks are more pleasing to the eye.

Botanic Garden, University of Copenhagen



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Native Plant Rock Garden, continued



Natural Rock Garden in Oregon

Rock gardens are perfect for displaying plants that might be lost in a traditional garden as they are more sparsely planted so that each single plant is on view.

Try new plants in your rock garden. Even though a plant might naturally grow in conditions a little different than what you are developing, you may be surprised by the tenacity of native plants. They seem to adapt more readily than their hybridized cousins. If you've got your heart set on a particular plant for your garden, try it again if the first one doesn't survive. As one avid gardener says, "I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself . . . at least three times."

One past president of the National Association of Rock Gardeners wrote "there is no right way to rock garden. But whether you raise alpine in a small trough, a rock wall, a raised bed, on a large mound, in an alpine meadow, or a natural rock formation, the key word is 'drainage'." a rock garden plant is simply "any plant that looks good in a rock garden."

A Basking Garden

Butterflies love to bask in the sun to raise their body temperatures so they can fly. Consider them when planting your rock garden by including some rocks with flat places. They particularly enjoy areas that gradually slope to the south which will collect more of the sun's warmth

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Native Plant Rock Garden, continued

About those rocks

You must have rocks (best to have at least half the area in rocks) but they can be any kind you like, whatever fits your overall theme. They should seem to have 'grown' where they appear, not just placed here or there on the ground. At least half of their mass should be underground for stability as well as looks. Well-weathered stones native to your area are a good choice. You can also use anything rock-like--building rubble, bags of cement that got wet, use your imagination. Of course, if you're using shale or river pebbles or other rock as a path or to represent a stream they should be well seated but not necessarily half buried.

Place your rocks starting at the lowest point and work up. "Plant" them with the strata in the same direction as any existing material. Think how water will run off the stones and place them so it will go into the soil at the roots of your plants.

Provide an adequate depth of good soil for your plants in the pockets between and behind rocks. This should be done while the garden is being constructed. The soil should be well drained to a depth of at least 18 inches to promote desirable growth of plants. Most rock garden plants cannot tolerate poor drainage.

Add compost or shredded peat moss to the soil to increase the organic matter content, and add dried manure to improve the fertility. Do not use too much manure — it will cause excessive vegetative growth of your plants. A mixture containing 2 parts loam soil, 1 part shredded peat moss, and 1/2 part dried manure is suggested.



Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

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Native Plant Rock Garden, continued



Dunedin Botanic Garden, the first
botanic garden in New Zealand

Plan the rock garden for easy maintenance. The most attractive ones are usually so wide you cannot reach to the center to remove undesirable weeds, prune plants, or set out new species. A sufficient number of large flat or rounded stones should be present to serve as a place to walk or stand while doing maintenance jobs in the garden. These must be deeply imbedded to provide secure footing as you work.

A rock garden should express the creative ability of the gardener to use the terrain and plant materials that are available. Each garden should be a unique development and not a reproduction of one that has been observed on other residential or public property.

Plants for the Rock Garden

Except for trees which provide partial shade and shrubs which serve as background or accent features, most of the plants in a rock garden should be relatively small or dwarf in size. Plants are used to complement the rocks and must not hide or detract from the beauty of the stones.

Plants for the rock garden should require a minimum of care. Select plants that will tolerate the growing conditions, such as a wet or dry soil or an exposure that is windy, hot and sunny, or cool and shady.


Dwarf evergreen shrubs may be used to give a permanent quality to the rock garden. Hardy native ferns, perennial flowering plants, native roses, and spring-flowering bulbs add interest and color.

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Native Plant Rock Garden, continued

Consult the catalogs of nurseries who offer native trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. In some catalogs, plants suitable for rock gardens will be listed in a separate section. The pictures and descriptions will help you select plants suitable for your particular garden. Many times, placing native plants in scale among local rock is often the first, tentative beginning of “rock gardening fever.”

Here are some suggestions for native rock garden plants:

Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
Allium campanulatum	Wild onion		Mahonia	Oregon grape
Arctostaphylos spp	Manzanita		Mimulus	Monkey flower
Artemisia	Sagebrush		Penstemon	Scarlet bugler
Brodiaea californica	Brodiaea		Phlox	Phlox
Ceanothus	Mountain lilac		Pinus	Pine
Dodecatheon	Shooting stars		Polymonium	Jacob's ladder
Elymus canadensis	Wild rye		Polypodium glycyrrhiza	Licorice fern
Epilobium angustifolium	Fireweed		Polystichum munitum	W. sand fern
Erigeron	Fleabane		Potentilla	Cinquefoil
Erigonum fasciculatum	Cal. buckwheat		Primula	Primrose
Eriophyllum lanatum	Garden harrow		Rhododendron	Rhododendron
Gentiana	Gentian		Salix	Willow
Geranium	Geranium		Sedum	Stonecrop
Iris	Iris		Sisyrinchium	Grass
Juniper	Juniper		Spirea	Shrub
Linanthus	Linanthus		Viola	Violet
Lupinus	Lupine		Zauschneria californica	California fuchsia

Garden created by Liz Toffey of
Berkshire Botanical Garden



Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom



Green-tinged paintbrush

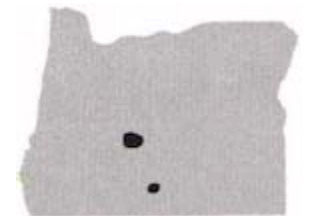
(*Castilleja chlorotica* Piper)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

This rare plant, found only on Pine Mountain in Deschutes County and further south in Lake and Klamath Counties, Oregon, is considered to be threatened throughout its range. It grows at rather high altitudes (6000 to 8000 feet) on dry gravelly or sandy slopes.

Castilleja chlorotica grows from four to fourteen inches tall and has glandular, long, soft hairs. Its lower leaves are linear, and entire; the upper leaves often have a pair of lateral lobes. The greenish-white flowers are inconspicuous, protruding from the inflorescence of leaves and bracts at the top of the stem. The lateral margins of the upper lip of the flower in this species are reddish to orange in color. The bracts are tipped with yellowish-green with some purple tones. It blooms late June to mid-August.

Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd

Slender indian paintbrush

(*Castilleja elata* Piper). Also known as *Castilleja miniata* Dougl. ex Hook. ssp. *elata* [Piper] (Munz).

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*).

This rare species of high meadows and bogs (up to 5000 feet), often on serpentine, is found only in Josephine and Curry Counties in southwest Oregon and in Siskiyou and Del Norte Counties in northern California.

Castilleja elata reaches a height of up to twenty-four inches. The upper bracts and calyces usually are tipped with a deep red color, though they sometimes vary from pink to a deep purplish-red. The flowers are up to an inch in length. It is not glandular-pubescent below its rather short inflorescence. It blooms from May to August.



Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd



Glandular paintbrush, also called Sticky Indian paintbrush

(*Castilleja glandulifera* Penn.).

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

This regional endemism is found on gravelly soil high in the mountains of eastern Oregon (above 7500 feet in the Blue Mountains and on Strawberry Mountain).

As the name implies, glandular paintbrush is covered with sticky, glandular hairs. Its stem is stout, erect and angled, growing to sixteen inches high. Its leaves are usually entire, although the upper ones may have a pair of linear lateral lobes. The bracts and calyces are tipped with pale yellow, varying to dull red-orange. The flowers, about an inch in length, are yellowish-green. It blooms July and August.

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© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd

Golden paintbrush

(*Castilleja levisecta* Greenm.)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

This yellow paintbrush of northwestern Oregon and western Washington was once quite common in the Willamette Valley in Linn, Marion and Multnomah Counties, but is now probably extinct in Oregon. A few sites still exist in Washington in Clark and Thurston Counties where it is considered endangered.

Castilleja levisecta is the only yellow-bracted Indian paintbrush in its Willamette Valley-Puget Trough ranges. It grows from a perennial base to over twelve inches high, and is covered with a soft pubescence. Its leaves, closely ascending to the stalk, are narrowly oblong with one to four pair of short lobes near the tip. They are about one to one and one-half inches long, are closely ascending to the stalk, and turn reddish with age. The bright yellow bracts, also turning to reddish-orange with age, are oblong with one to two pairs of short lobes. The flowers barely extend beyond the bracts. It blooms from April through August.



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© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd



Dixon's paintbrush

(*Castilleja miniata* Dougl. var. *dixonii* [Fern.] Nels. & Macbr., also known as *Castilleja dixonii* Fern.)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

A species of the coast of Washington to southeast Alaska, it is known in Oregon only from the summit of Saddle Mountain in Clatsop County.

The stems of *Castilleja miniata* var. *dixonii* are solitary, curved to erect, and from ten to thirty inches tall. The lower parts are glabrous; the inflorescence is somewhat villous. The leaves are smooth-margined and lance-shaped. The bracts may have narrow lateral lobes. Both the bracts and the calyces are tipped with scarlet. The corolla is over an inch long; its upper lip or galea has narrow, pale or reddish margins. It blooms in late summer on Saddle Mountain.

Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd

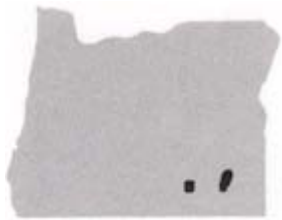
Steens Mountain paintbrush

(*Castilleja pilosa* [Wats.] Rydg. var. *steenensis* [Penn.] N. Holmg., also known as *Castilleja steenensis* Penn.)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

To date this variety of *Castilleja pilosa* has been found only at high elevations along the summit ridge on Steens Mountain, with one reported siting in the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Lake County. Although locally abundant on Steens Mountain, its range is indeed small. It grows with grasses and other plants in rocky soil.

Castilleja pilosa var. *steenensis* is a small perennial reaching ten to twelve inches in height. Its stems and leaves are a reddish-green changing into a lighter, slightly yellowish-pink tone in the inflorescence. Its finely pubescent leaves are linear-lanceolate with one or two pairs of lobes. The bracts are broader with one or two pairs of lobes, and the calyces, which are nearly an inch long, are cleft, with each division being divided into two lobes. It blooms late June to early August.



Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman



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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd



Cliff paintbrush

(*Castilleja rupicola* Piper)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

Generally a species of high elevations in the Cascade Mountains from central Oregon to British Columbia, it is found in the Columbia Gorge as low as four hundred feet. More information is needed to determine its degree of rarity in Oregon.

Castilleja rupicola grows in clumps. It is pubescent on the stems and leaves, becoming villous in the inflorescence. The leaves are oblong with two to three spreading linear lobes on each side. The many lobed bracts and cleft calyces are tinged a scarlet-red distally. The corolla is about an inch long. It blooms June to August in the mountains, but as early as April in the Columbia Gorge.

Photograph copyright
© Donald C. Eastman

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Paintbrush: Fiery Colors, Long Bloom, cont'd

Yellow-haired paintbrush

(*Castilleja xanthotricha* Penn)

Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*)

This plant is endemic to the John Day River area in central Oregon where it grows on dry rocky slopes in sagebrush country up to 2500 feet elevation. It is currently stable but could become threatened or endangered in the future, and therefore should be monitored.

The stems of *Castilleja xanthotricha* are clustered, unbranched, ten inches tall, pubescent and somewhat glandular. The leaves are entire, one to two inches long. Its bracts are shorter and wider than the leaves and are tipped with a creamy-yellow to pinkish-brown color. The corolla may be over an inch in length. It blooms April to July.

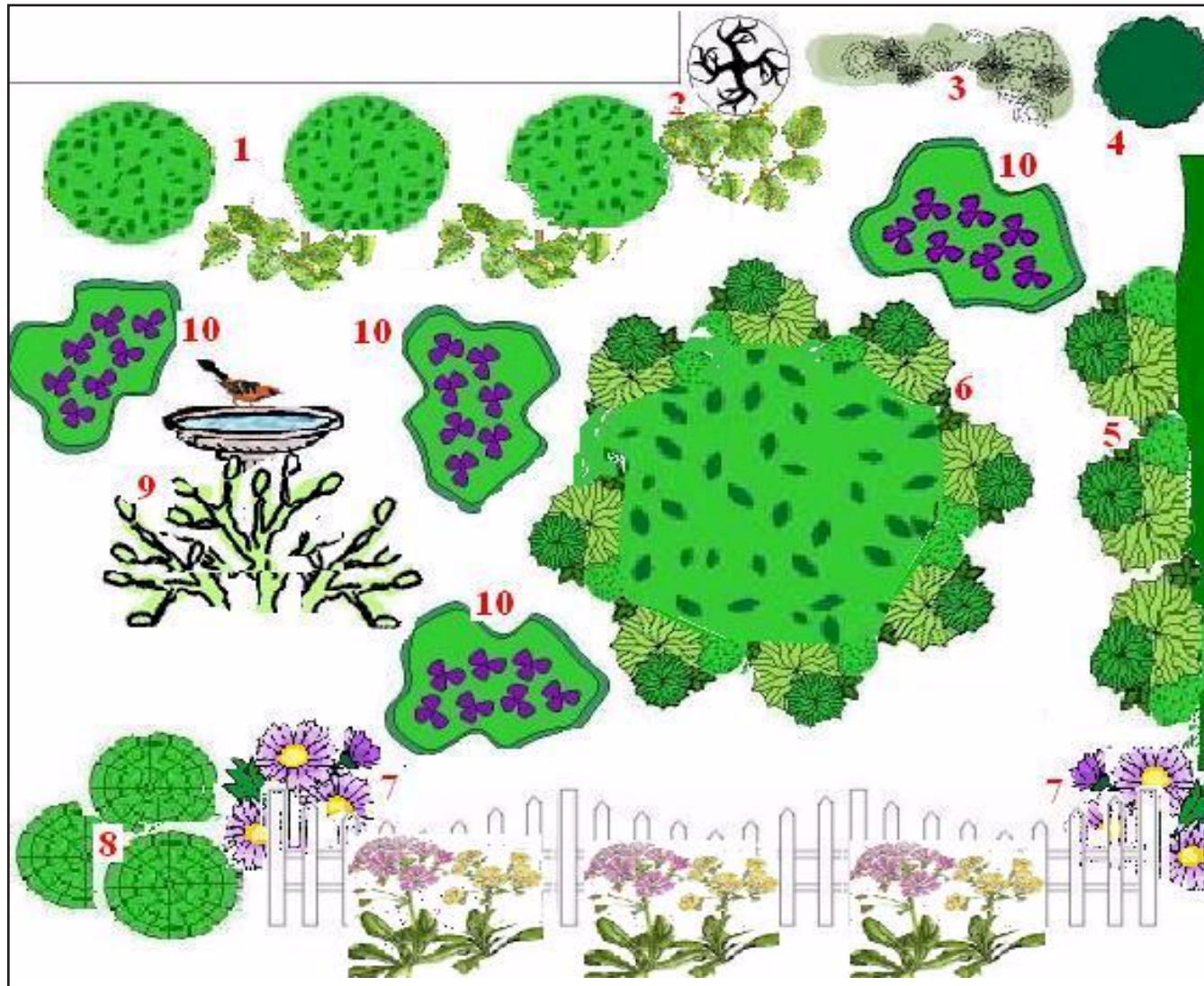


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The Transformation of a Garden

By Jennifer Rehm



Once a common landscape in Salem, Oregon, a determined woman transforms her yard to a NW Native masterpiece (I hope).

I had planned to begin planting this spring but common sense and some words from a wise gardener has moved planting time to fall. The main reason for this is because it will be much easier to care for. Newly planted gardens need careful watering and, truth be told, that's not my strong point. If I wait until this autumn to plant, nature will do most of the watering for me.

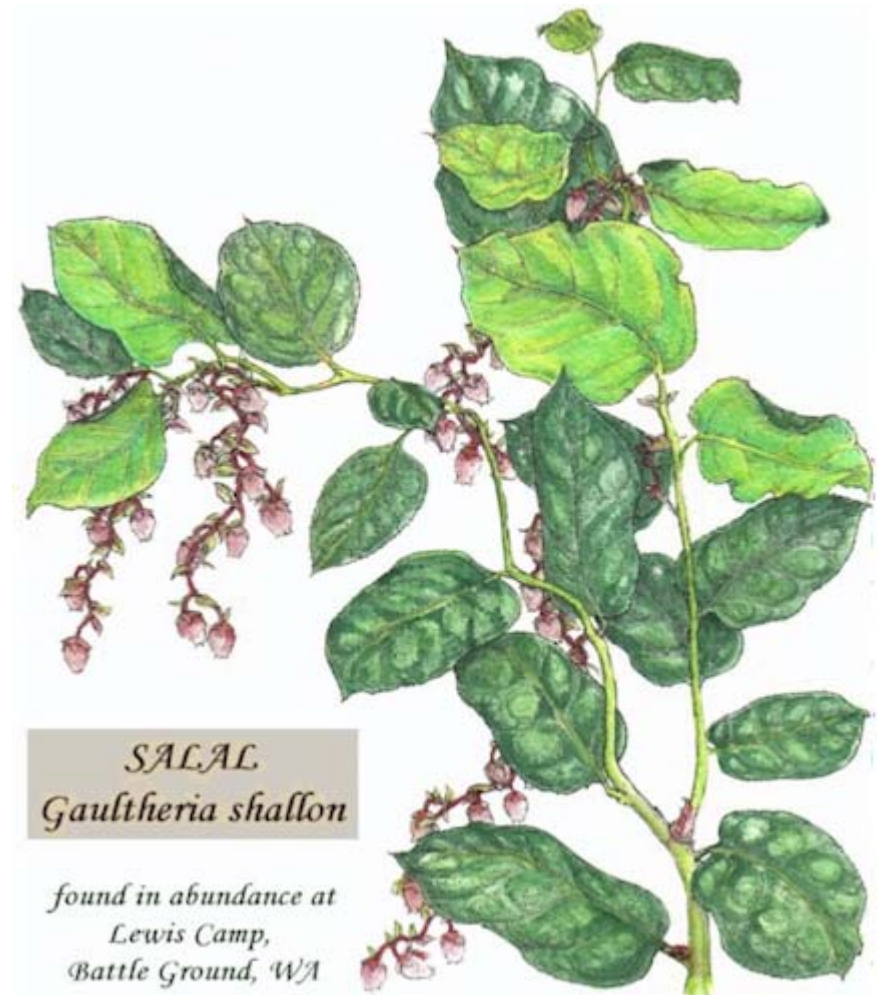
Waiting a while longer to plant gives me time to consider more ideas. A country style native plant garden might be appealing. This one is special--all the plants were first cataloged during the Lewis and Clark Expedition!

⇒More⇒

The Transformation of a Garden, continued

Country style Lewis and Clark garden. A variety of leaf texture and color with lots of flowers to attract butterflies.

1. Existing Rhodies underplanted with Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
2. Existing Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)
3. Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), Monkeyflower (*Mimulus lewisii*)
4. Existing Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*)
5. Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium* and *nervosa*) in front of neighbor's Giant Arborvitae
6. Existing Douglas Maple (*Acer glabrum*) underplanted with Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Western Iris, Camas and Monkeyflower (*Mimulus lewisii*)
7. Picket fence with Aster at each end and Lewisia along the street side. A few flat rocks would be included here for butterflies as this is the sunniest spot.
8. Existing Oregon Boxwood (*Paxistima myrsinites*) trimmed into clouds
9. Birdbath surrounded by Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
10. Kinnikinnik ground cover (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)



Watercolor © Heidi D. Hansen

⇒More⇒

The Transformation of a Garden, continued

The Lewis and Clark country garden meets all the qualifications well. The bonus with this garden plan is of course the celebration of the journey the Corps of Discovery made at the request of President Jefferson. The list of plants cataloged by these brave men changed the face of gardeners all over the world. It's fitting a small part of this list would change a suburban garden 200 years later.

Necessary elements for my garden:

- Year-round interest
- Food and shelter for wildlife, especially little birds
- Flowers and greenery for cutting
- Easy to care for, no watering after the first year
- Privacy to enjoy the garden
- Attractive
- Unusual



Tall Oregon Grape
(*Mahonia aquifolium*)
Photo © 2004 Jennifer Rehm

How much did it cost?

Here's the itemized price list for everything so far.

Materials:

Black plastic, 250 x 20 ft roll	\$35.00
Fasteners	\$12.50
Organic compost, 2 yards	
@ \$18 per yard	\$36.00
Mint compost, 5 yards	
@ \$16 per yard plus	
distance fee for delivery	\$98.00

Total Materials	\$181.50
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Labor:

Initial laying of plastic	\$10.00
Spreading compost	Trade 4 hours of computer work

Total Labor	\$10.00
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Grand Total	\$191.50
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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

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.



Personal notes from Wally

FLOWER-DE-LUCE.



Our beautiful native Iris - Iris tenax - will soon bloom again in the Northwest Mountains and Valleys - the most beautiful of the Spring Flowers

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a wonderful poem which captures the aura – the romance of this precious flower. The setting is a millpond on a lazy summer day, long ago! (Beauty is it's own excuse for being!)

"FLOWER – DE – LUCE"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Beautiful Lily, dwelling by still rivers
Or solidarity weir
Or where the sluggish meadow brook delivers
Its waters to the weir!

Thou laughest at the mill, the whirl and worry
Of spindle and of loom,
And the great wheel that toils amid the hurry
And rushing of the flume.

Born to the purple, born to joy and pleasance
Thou doest not toil or spin.
But makest glad and radiant with thy presence
The meadow and the lin.

⇒More⇒

Personal notes from Wally, continued

The wind blows and uplifts the drooping banner,
And round thee throng and run
The rushes, the green yeomen of thy manor,
To the outlaws of the sun

The burnished dragon-fly is thine attendant,
And tilts against the field,
And down the listed sunbeam rides resplendent
With steel- blue mail and shield

Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest,
Who, armed with golden rod
And winged with the celestial azure, bearest
The message of some God.

Thou art the Muse, who far from crowded cities,
Hauntest the sylvan streams,
Playing on pipes of reed, the artless ditties
That come to us as dreams

O flower-de-luce, bloom on, and let the river
Linger to kiss thy feet!
O Flower of song, bloom on, and make forever



Photo © Wallace W. Hansen

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

Our website, www.nwplants.com, is no longer commercial. Our goal is to continue Wally's legacy of generating interest, even passion, in the magnificent native plants of the Pacific Northwest through information and illustration.

Good luck! Good gardening!

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
Photograph © JoAnn Onstott