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October 2007

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

Wildlife in the garden:

**How to attract the ones you want
and repel those you don't!**

...and more

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

In Every Issue

About this Journal.....	3
On the Cover.....	4
Native Plant Puzzle	
Name this plant!.....	5
Garden chores to do now.....	6
Sparky's Corner.....	7
This & That, notes from Jennifer....	46
Wally's personal notes.....	52
Native plant resources on the web..	49



Features

Garden Recycling Tips

The 3 R's in the garden.....9

Wildlife: In or Out?

Tips to attract or repel.....13

Cats.....13

Dogs.....23

Deer.....24

Raccoons.....28

General tips.....31

Attracting birds.....36

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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.).

“Autumn Walk”
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen



On the Cover

Nature's Autumn Bouquet



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Vine Maple leaves with sprays of Snowberry and a few sprigs of other native pretties are gathered together here, composing an array of color, shape and texture even the most renowned floral artist could not rival.

For our Julie Nichols, putting this collection together was simply a few minutes of snipping a piece of this plant and that one, a bit from another, and quite suddenly a vision of autumn was born as if by magic.

Of course, the materials at hand were fine plants native to the northwest--a goodly selection of them.

But somehow I suspect Julie could do this feat of ledgerdomain anywhere on the planet. A piece of that, a bit from another, and just a little of this are transformed from nothing very much to a thing of beauty clutched in the hand of an artist extraordinaire.



Native plant puzzle



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Name this plant!

A clue to help your on your quest for the correct answer:

"I'm right here every year but nobody sees me. Am I invisible? I have lovely yellow bells with orange wings and sprightly yellow stamens. I bloom generously and yet somehow I'm overlooked."

We've hidden the identity of this journal's mystery plant somewhere in this issue. See if you can find it!

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*, formerly *Rhus diversiloba*)

Congratulations to all you super-sleuths who found the answer!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

A – Fall Leaves — You probably have a nice crop of fall leaves about now. They are a precious garden resource – pile them up and COMPOST. The native woodlanders especially like soil made from native deciduous trees – humus! There is equipment and composting information available everywhere. I make piles of leaves about 18” deep and use plenty of nitrogen fertilizer. Then I periodically till the compost area with a tiller. If you do not have many fall leaves, consider buying a load of hardwood sawdust and let it decompose for a couple of years.

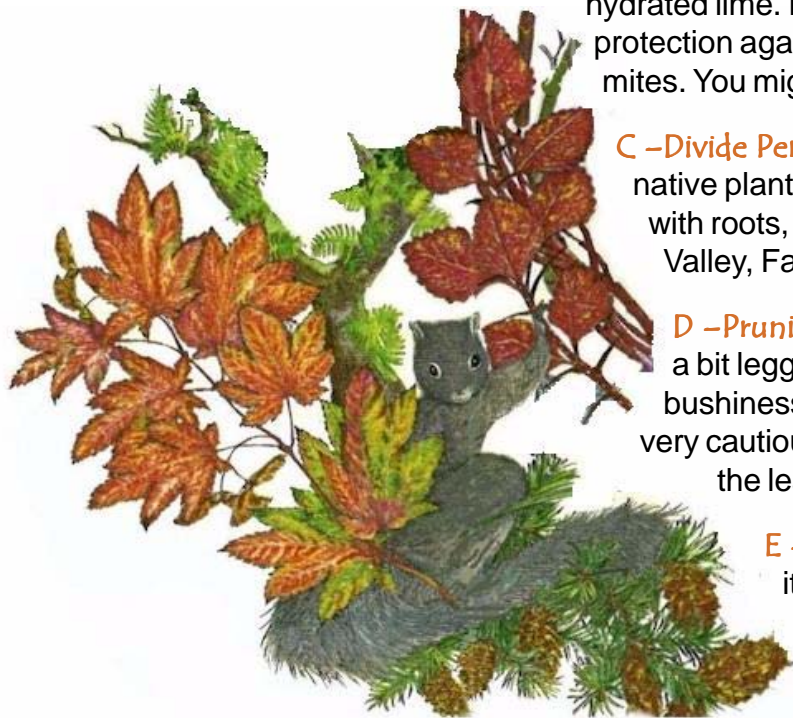
B –Bordeaux and Lime-Sulfur — These old fashioned (several hundred years) “close to natural” herbicides are applied in early winter for many species. Make plans now and get materials early. This treatment can be used for many species. If you have Native Crabapple, Chokecherry or Bitter Cherry, I suggest you make one or two applications of these fungicides. Bordeaux is a mixture of copper sulfate and hydrated lime. It is rain-fast when sprayed on plants. Both are broad-spectrum fungicides and give protection against bacteria. Lime sulfur gives dormant season protection against insects and mites. You might apply early in the winter and later before bud break.

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

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

E –Bulbs and Rhizomes — Get your native bulbs and rhizomes in now. Sometimes it is tricky to hold bulbs in refrigeration. This may break winter dormancy too early and the bulbs and rhizomes will “think” the winter is over and start sprouting!

A piece from Heidi D. Hansen’s painting, Four Seasons



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



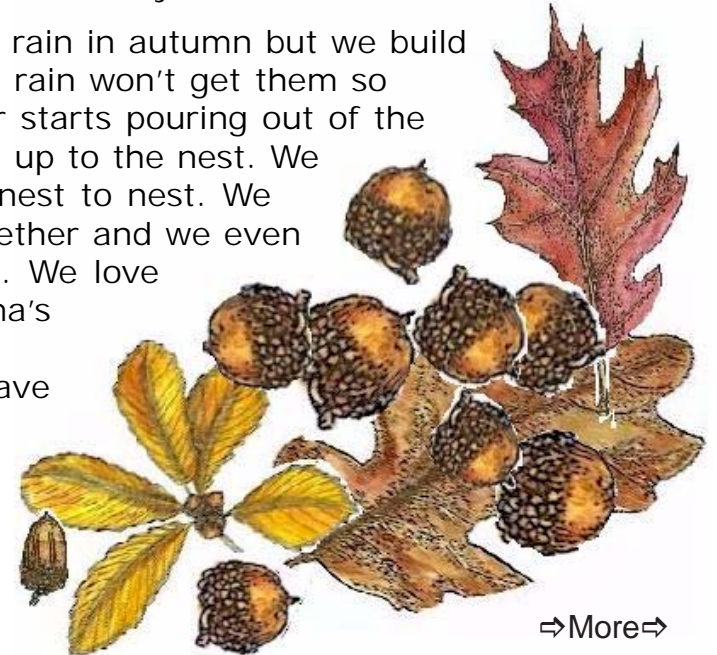
Squirrels are happy all year but fall is our favorite time. For us, it is about the same as the 'holidays' are for two-leggers. I think it's that way because right now the temperature is perfect, there's lots of wind moving stuff around so we can chase it and the nuts are ripe. Woohoo!

We love nuts! Berries are good but nuts are way better. You just can't bury berries. Well, you can but why bother? They get all squishy and practically disappear. All that's left when you dig them up are some little bitty seeds only the winged ones like. But nuts--you can bury nuts and they're still good until way into next summer!

Oh sure, there's rain in autumn but we build our nests where rain won't get them so when that water starts pouring out of the sky we hurry on up to the nest. We visit a lot from nest to nest. We have dinner together and we even have sleepovers. We love going to grandma's nest and old Mr.

Snorters because they tell us stories. And Skoogie and Squidgy always have lots of fun ideas of things to do.

So, right now it's all sunny out here and everybody is yelling for me to quit writing and come play. Guess I better do that. I'll write more after while.



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Sparky's Corner, continued

So much fun! We flew the entire side of the hill without going on the ground once! When we tried that last year we didn't make it because the maple at the neighbor's house wasn't quite big enough to reach between the oaks. But this year it's bigger and we now have an official squirrel elevated highway!!!

The other big surprise? Violet won the race. Shy, quiet Violet is a maniac in the trees. Man, that girl is quick! She's not so shy up there either.

After the race we settled down over at old Mr. Snorters' nest and got all snuggly while he told us stories about tree races when he was a kid. There were more trees then and less two-leggers. Also more of other kinds of wildlife.

He said the big cats like Puma and Bobcat were interesting but really scary. Cats can climb right up in the tree with you (but not as high and they can't do the tree highway). But if they catch you, you're a goner.

When the cats came around, all the squirrels would go up as high as they could and be totally still. Cats have got good eyes but if you're quiet and hide well, they usually don't bother you.

We're not worried because only grandma and Mr. Snorters can remember when the last big cat was prowling around here. Too many two-leggers building nests so the cats had to go to higher territory.

Just as well, I wouldn't want to have to run into one. But I'd like to see one, just once. But mama says, "Be careful what you wish for." So maybe I'll just pretend I see one and figure it out that way. Much safer.

Well, see you next time!

Your friend,

Sparky



Golden Season
Painting by Carl Bender



Recycling Tips: the 3 R's

First reduce, then re-use, then recycle! An article from the UK's Green Choices

The biggest contribution any householder can make to reducing waste is to compost! Filling skips full of green garden waste then buying in soil improvers has got to be one of the craziest habits we've got into. Kitchen scraps are an even bigger issue, because in landfill they create methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and polluting leachates. Composting at home is the best possible solution - your council may be one of the many that offer free compost bins and advice to encourage more households to get involved.

Adding paper and cardboard to your compost heap is particularly important for stopping your compost being too wet or sour - technically speaking, it both aerates the mix and increases the carbon : nitrogen ratio. Practically speaking, it just happens to work very well and deals with yet more of your household waste.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott



www.greenchoices.org

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Recycling Tips: the 3 R's, continued



Western Redbud
(*Cercis occidentalis*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott

A vision of bright pink in spring, the uniquely shaped leaves turn golden in the fall.

One of the most beautiful North-west Native shrubs.

Look for recycled products (aka re-use):

Glass "gravel" as an alternative to freshly mined rock.

David Bamford Recycled Plastics - rugged benches, compost bins and planters made from recycled plastics 01544 267849 or d.s.bamford@btinternet.com

Panda Stix - rot-proof recycled plastic plant supports

Recycled plastic fencing from Evalast Fencing

Use a Paper Potter to turn old newspapers into starter pots for young transplants and seedlings that will biodegrade over a matter of weeks. Available from Natural Collection.

Designing and running a garden gives lots of opportunities for being creative with all kinds of cast-offs, especially when it comes to containers and planters. Don't just look to the garden centres for inspiration - check out what other gardeners are getting up to, use your imagination, and have fun!

A Tip: Habitat for Humanity sells leftover building materials at sites in many cities.

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Recycling Tips: the 3 R's, continued

Further help and inspiration

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers runs practical training courses in various outdoor skills including wildlife gardening

Gardening Online is a free internet course produced by the Greater Manchester Community Grid for Learning. It teaches the basics of gardening using organic principles, and is suitable for beginner gardeners and anyone who wants to hone up their gardening skills. It is open to anyone who has access to the internet

The Good Gardeners Association - practical and inspirational, looking at gardening especially from the point of view of soil health and optimum nutrition

Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) - generations of experience of organic gardening: the first port of call for organic gardening in the UK. Their Guides and Factsheets are available online. Their Organic Gardening Catalogue offers organic seeds, heritage varieties, biological pest controls, books and more

The National Federation of City Farms helps those who wish to set up a community garden.

Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Smashing NW native shrub has bright red branches that show to good advantage after the leaves have fallen.



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Recycling Tips: the 3 R's, continued



The Organic Directory - a comprehensive directory of organic produce and services hosted by the Soil Association

Organic UK - a site for independent advice and support for UK organic gardeners.

Don't forget local organic gardening clubs - experienced gardeners are a mine of information

Oceanspray (*Holidiscus discolor*), photos by JoAnn Onstott. Frothy cream colored flower clusters are plentiful in spring. In fall, the leaves are golden with light red spots and veins.



Permaculture is a design approach and philosophy which appeals to the growing movement towards thinking in terms of integrated systems and of working with nature, rather than imposing piecemeal upon what is naturally there. The Permaculture Association is a source of inspiration and radical ideas

Permaculture Magazine - a window into one of the radical sides of UK gardening, and much more besides. Their Earth Repair Catalogue includes practical and inspirational gardening titles

The Pesticides Action Network offers online gardening tips, and detailed factsheets on dealing with common pests as safely as possible, plus advice on safe disposal of unwanted pesticides, including a database of local council facilities.



Wildlife in the Garden: In or Out?

Tips for attracting or repelling winged or furred friends (or foes)

In all aspects of life, some things are welcome and some are not. That holds true in the garden: some animals are welcome and some are definitely not. Often, the very action we take to attract the ones we want are just as attractive to the other kind. It's a conundrum that takes pretty careful choreography to satisfy all concerned. This first part of our article is concerned with keeping wildlife out.

Cats: Most people don't want cats in the garden. Felines think the world is just one big cat box, they often kill birds and other small animals and they seem to prefer lying right on the plants we prize the most.

We address two varieties of cats—the tame ones belonging to the neighbors and the feral ones belonging to nobody.

Tame cats: I personally believe cats need to live inside so my cats are not a problem for anybody but me. I know they will not end up as road kill or get into somebody's space. One of my cats (a rescued little guy) won't go outside at all, he's scared of everything. The other one is a little braver and sometimes will make a run for the outdoors but the second he's out there he remembers he doesn't like it and streaks like lightening for the back door where he howls until I let him in. Except for these rare episodes, neither Bob nor Alley leaves my home.

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), photos by JoAnn Onstott
Beautiful foliage, glorious sunny flowers, delicious fruit!



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued



However one of my neighbors has a big old tom cat who is not neutered and who makes a nuisance of himself every single day. The neighbor thinks it's funny and does not seem to get it when we try to make her see reason (keep that rascal at home!). Since he's a tom he doesn't have kittens so she feels it's not her problem. In other words, she's not taking any responsibility for this animal.

Stray cats are included in the 'tame cat' category. A stray is a cat who has been abandoned or who has become lost from home. This is a cat who can be re-socialized and adopted and should be taken to a rescue service or shelter if you can't find him a home yourself.

Feral cats: A feral cat is one who was born outside and has never lived with humans, or else it's a house cat who has strayed and finally become unsocialized to humans. Feral cats are not adoptable and most shelters kill them (sometimes this happens in the animal control truck before they even get to the shelter). Feral kittens can often be adopted but it's a rough road to socialize them.

October 16 is National Feral Cat Day

Sponsored by Alley Cat Allies

See www.nationalferalcatday.org for info

Aside from lending year-round beauty to the landscape, Oregon Grape's flowers attract butterflies, birds adore the fruit and the leaves are so thorny they discourage passersby from touching. A lovely way to repel intruding cats or dogs.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

I adopted a barn cat once. He was about 7 or 8 weeks old when I found him. He had never had any truck with humans. The first thing we had to figure out was feeding. He had always trapped and killed everything he ate so I put a small amount of dry cat food in a dish on the floor and he eventually came out of hiding and began to eat.

But every time I moved his food dish he attacked me. He'd lie in wait watching that food dish and each time I approached it he'd come racing out of hiding, claws at the ready and growling like the tiger he thought he was. We finally came to an agreement about food but each aspect of life involved much negotiation and give and take on both sides. He became my best friend and died of old age after 16 wonderful years together.

But grown cats that have gone feral or never been 'tame' are a much different story. They are extremely dangerous—they will hurt you on purpose (it's a matter of survival), spread cat diseases. There are many groups of people who can help you deal with a feral cat if one moves into your neighborhood.

Whether the unwelcome cat visitor to your garden is tame or feral, methods to control the damage are the same. Remember, these are suggestions and we make no claim that they actually work. Use your own judgement. A lot of these ideas could work for both dogs and cats.



Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridus*) is named for its plentiful sharp thorns. Plant one beneath your window and you'll never be bothered by a peeping tom. Intruding animals beware! Large leaves are topped by clusters of bright red berries.

Photographs by JoAnn Onstott

⇒More⇒

Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Pacific Ninebark
(*Physocarpus capitatus*),
photos by JoAnn Onstott.

This NW native shrub is
prized for its unique gray
scaling bark. The flowers are
nosegays of white blooms
and the leaves have good fall
color.



Motion-activated sprinklers:

Motion activated sprinklers use infra-red to detect when an animal enters a defined territory. When a cat enters the infra-red field, the sprinkler shoots out a burst of water for a few seconds in the general direction of the animal. The effect is to frighten the cats rather than soak them, but they quickly learn not to enter the area. After a while, the sprinkler becomes unnecessary. It doesn't work in winter conditions, as the water will freeze, but if you introduce the device in warmer weather, by wintertime you'll have trained them. Two examples:

The "Scarecrow," made by Contech
Spray Away, manufactured by Havahart

Manual devices:

Try spraying the intruder with a blast from the hose. Most cats will turn and run although some actually enjoy water, especially on a hot day.

Cats are not stupid creatures. They can be taught. Sometimes a stern "no" is all it takes to teach a cat to stay out of the garden.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Ultrasonic devices:

These devices contain a motion sensor and, upon being triggered, emit a high-frequency alarm imperceptible to humans but highly annoying and startling to cats. The key with ultrasonic devices is to make sure you have enough of them for the size of the area you're trying to exclude the cats from. Try using two of them to guard a property line. One device is placed at each end of the property line and then positioned so that their motion sensors face each other. Whenever a cat crosses the line, one of the devices goes off. Can also be mounted high up off the ground and positioned to "cover" a car parked below, keeping cats off the vehicle. It can be used in any weather, though the battery will likely need to be replaced more often in cold temperatures. "Cat Stop" from Contech is an example.



Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) is unbeatable for dramatic fall color. Birds love the bright red, fuzzy seeds which grow in spiky clusters above the branches and remain on the shrub after the leaves have fallen.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Scent repellants:

Both naturally-based and chemically-based scent repellants are available. The chemical products contain the active ingredient methylnonylketone, which the manufacturers warn should not be applied to food crops. Reports on the effectiveness of scent repellants are mixed, sometimes working quite well and in other situations, not at all. Repellants should be sprayed or placed around the edges of the yard, the top of fences and on any favorite digging areas or plants. Sprays need to be replenished after rain.

Naturally-based products include:

The Coleus-Canina plant, a weed originating in Europe, is known as the "Scardy-Cat" or "Pee-off" plant because it emits an odor offensive to cats (but not to humans) and deters their presence. Recommendation is to plant them three feet apart around the area to be protected. You may need to order cuttings or seeds from a nursery or dealer. For a list of brokers and their contact info, go to www.scardy-cat.com and click on "Broker List."

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

For protecting gardens or flower beds, common household items may be effective, including the herb rue, either planted or sprinkled in its dry form. Other suggestions for garden areas are orange and lemon peels (cats dislike citrus smells), cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil, and mustard oil.

“Havahart’s Cat Repellent” uses capsaicin pepper and oil of mustard as its active ingredients. It repels by both taste and odor, has a lemon scent, lasts 7-10 days and needs to be reapplied after rain or new growth.

Little Wild Rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*) lovely rose with sweet fragrance and small thorns. Photos by JoAnn Onstott



Commercial products like predator urine and cat (and dog) repellents also are available at many garden centers.

Spray the plants with a solution of a little cayenne and water. It’s nontoxic to the animals, doesn’t hurt the plants, and boy, the cats sure hate the smell of it when they sniff around to prepare to answer nature’s call.

Put human hair around your plants (on top of the soil). It’s my understanding that animals hate the smell and are deterred from it. Any hair salon would probably be more than happy to sweep some up into a bag for you.

Moth Balls—place a few around the edges of garden, flower area, in pots, etc. Said to keep cats totally away and doesn’t hurt the plants or vegetables at all.

⇒More⇒

Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Cat repellent recipe:

- 2 parts cayenne pepper
- 3 parts dry mustard
- 5 parts flour

Mix it together and sprinkle where ever you wish to repel cats. It must be reapplied periodically and after a rain.

Place some lemon peel or any other citrus peel on the soil of potted plant, the cats should leave the flower alone as they do not like citrus smell.

The broadcaster Jerry Baker has suggested treating your yard with a tonic made from chewing tobacco, urine, birth control pills, mouthwash, molasses, detergent and beer.

One gardener has reported success using dried rabbit blood but you may feel that the ingredients listed in the previous paragraph should be tried first.

If a Tom starts to mark his new territory you could mark over it yourself although it may surprise the neighbours!

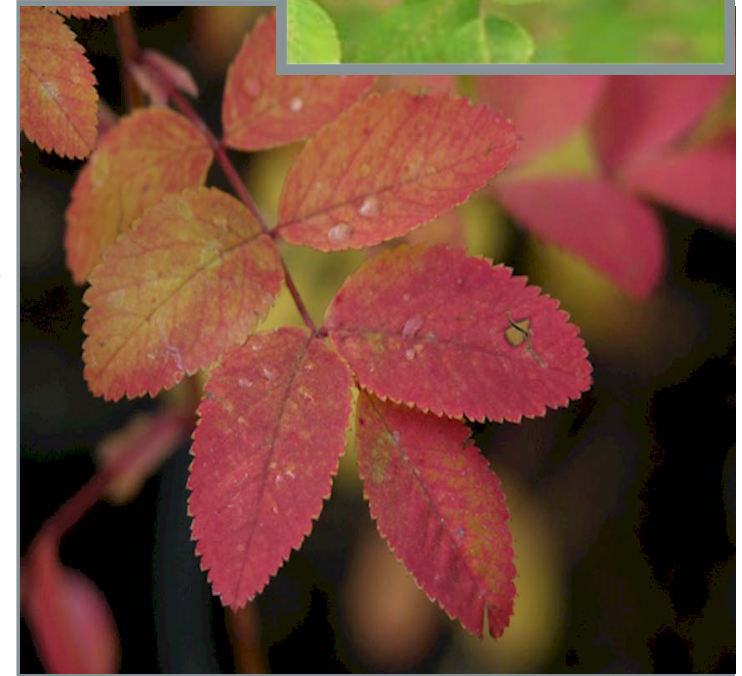
Lion dung is said to keep them out but it may smell even worse than cat's poo, but it's good for the roses.

One way to use repelling scents is to tear up an old sheet (so you have six-foot-long strips), dip the strips into the repulsive mix, and wrap them around the trunk. If skunks or squirrels are the problem, try using rags soaked in ammonia.

Solid toilet blocks (used in public loos usually) crumbled around.

Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) is a good bloomer and very colorful in autumn. The hips form before the leaves turn color and persist in winter until eaten by birds or other wildlife.

Photos by
JoAnn Onstott



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Physical barriers to digging:

Gardens and flower beds can be protected from digging through a number of means:



Clustered Rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*) is another of our NW native roses. It blooms in May – June and often blooms a second time in fall before the hips turn red and the leaves become golden with red veins. Very attractive to birds and butterflies. Photos by JoAnn Onstott

“Cat Scat” from Gardener’s Supply consists of plastic mats that are pressed into the soil. Each mat has flexible plastic spikes and is cut into four pieces. The spikes are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage excavation.

Cover exposed ground with rough surfaced rocks.

Take branches from a thorny plant, like a Rose of Sharon tree, and lay them on the ground in a lattice-type pattern, then plant flowers and seeds in the openings. Regular lattice type fencing used in this way will also discourage digging.

Place aluminum foil or pine cones around the plants.

Small sticks pushed into the ground so that approximately six to 12 inches are sticking out of the ground like spikes. They must be close enough together to prevent cats snuggling their bottoms down between them to poo.

If you have bare soil cover it with gravel or slate chippings etc, it will discourage digging.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Purchase chicken wire or hog wire (small holed wire) and place it wherever you do not want dogs or cats digging. If you've not planted the area yet, then lay the wire in large pieces and cut holes in the wire with wire cutters where you plan to plant. If it is an area that has already been planted, then place as large of pieces as will fit in between and around the plants. You may have to secure with stakes at first. Put compost or bark on top of the wire for looks if desired.

Wood's Rose (*Rosa woodsii*) is one of the most hardy of NW native roses.

It survives harsh conditions from the Rocky Mountains to the Cascades in USDA zones 4-6. Wood's Rose needs little sun and is drought tolerant. An excellent choice for difficult sites. The thorny stems are good at discouraging unwanted visitors to the garden. Photos by JoAnn Onstott.



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Other types of deterrents:

If you have bird feeders near your garden, move them to a new location or hang them higher than a cat can jump. Otherwise, cats may continue to visit your garden in hopes of catching birds.

The first line of defense is to ensure that your yard boundaries are secure. Any gaps in your fence should be blocked to deny low level access. But cats can jump so fix a taut wire or string some six inches above the top of your fence to deter this approach.

Once inside your garden many people say that the best cat repellent is a dog that will soon see off any feline invader. If you are not a dog lover then you will have to resort to more passive methods. Since cats like to lie on freshly dug soil you should lay mulch on your borders so that no bare soil is left exposed. Seed beds should be covered with wire netting or twigs arranged as a barrier.

Young trees should have plastic guards fitted around their trunks to protect them against use as a scratching pole. Your garden pond should be covered with netting to keep your fish safe.

Combining wild roses and Snowberries gives a charming display all winter. The white Snowberries and red rose hips contrast well and provide visiting birds a delicious feast when other dietary pickings are slim. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒More⇒



Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Some communities provide a cat trap service. Once the animal enters the cage it cannot escape but is completely unharmed. The owner has to pay to recover his pet and so should be encouraged not to let the cat stray in future. Apparently few owners bother to reclaim their cats but just obtain another kitten. However this sounds like a good way of dealing with a cat that cannot be deterred by any other method. If there is no such scheme in your area, just buy your own trap.



Douglas Spirea (*Spirea douglasii*) is a fast growing deciduous shrub, reaching 3-4 feet at maturity. It favors moist, sunny areas and does not mind coastal weather.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Place a small length of hosepipe in amongst your plants, cats and birds don't like snakes! Also said to be effective to repel rabbits.



Dogs: The majority of the cat repelling tricks work for dogs but here's a couple specifically for doggies.



Usually the dog that gets into the garden is the gardener's own. Dogs just don't have a lot of respect for plants until the significance is explained to them. Here are some ways to remind dogs to keep away from certain plants.

Clothes Hangers--Take a wire clothes hanger and unbend it, leaving the rod part still bent. Stick the straight part into the ground, with the bent part pointing out and at the approximate height of the dog in question's bottom. When the male dog lifts his leg-he gets poked just a little.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Plastic water bottles--In Australia, it's common to see water-filled soft-drink bottles on lawns and gardens. People swear that this keeps dogs away. Just take an empty 1 1/2 litre or 2 litre soft drink bottles (clear plastic) take off any wrappers and fill it with water. Put it out on the flower bed (just lay on side) and see if it works on U.S. dogs!

Deer:

Keeping deer out of the garden is perhaps one of the worst predicaments a gardener can find themselves facing. Deer are wild, they are big and they often do their damage late in evening or early morning. Whatever deer control strategy you decide to use, you'll have to change it up often because deer will become accustomed and then it won't work any longer.

One idea is to guide the deer away from the garden. This is a lot like slug bait—you put the bait where you want the critters to go and they may ignore the good stuff. For deer, try setting a salt lick away from the plants they are eating to entice them to change their natural path.

Dogs are considered a top deterrent for keeping deer out of the garden if the dog happens to be outside when the deer come and if the dog doesn't like deer.

Fencing can help to deter deer, but this can become costly depending on the size of your garden. The fence has to be at least 6 feet tall. Deer are great jumpers.



Western Snowberry or Wolfberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) has plentiful pink bell-like flowers which are followed by clusters of puffy white berries, prized by birds and other wildlife. The autumn color of the leaves is varied from red to gold to dark wine on the same stem!

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

Wildlife in the Garden, continued



Oval Leaf Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*) This deciduous huckleberry is found from Alaska to Oregon and east across much of Canada. It's a very attractive shrub and the fruit can't be beat--plant one for you and one for the birds.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott



Another fencing idea--bird netting stretched over a pvc pipe framework (spray painted green to be less obvious). The deer apparently don't see as well as they hear and smell. They poke their nose into the netting and it startles them and they shy away. Anything protruding through the netting, of course gets trimmed off. It's fairly inexpensive but sort of a nuisance when you want to work in the bed, since you have to roll it back out of the way. It also keeps out wild turkeys. But gophers can still come in from below.

Some people have been known to urinate (yes urinate!) around the garden and get successful results but it has to be someone who is not a vegetarian. It's not socially acceptable though.

There is a product on the market that works off the basis of deer not liking the smell of rotten eggs. So some people have let eggs rot and then placed them around the garden perimeter, with mixed results.

Growing plants that deer are not particularly fond of can also deter the deer from around your garden.

Ivory and Irish Spring soap grated around the garden have also been tried to help deter deer.

Coyote Urine, purchased at your local hunting supply, has also had pretty good results in deterring deer.

⇒More⇒

Wildlife in the Garden, continued



Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*). This small-leaved huckleberry has fewer berries than other hucks but they are every bit as delicious as the more fruitful plants. The bright red berries follow small bell-shaped flowers. Leaves have great autumn color. Photos by JoAnn Onstott.

Scare tactics, like throwing rocks, spraying water, running after the deer through the woods like a mad man, yelling out wildly, can clearly convince the deer that you are quite off your rocker, and can possibly deter them until they believe you might be back on your meds.

Egg spray - Mix one slightly beaten egg with 1 quart of water and spray onto anything that the deer eat. You have to re-apply this about every 4-5 days or after a rain.

Try Deeroff: Rutgers University ranked deeroff number 1 out of 35 repellents tested. Now labeled for rabbits and squirrels.

Electric fence and a small charger, kept low to the ground. Works on deer, rabbits, coons, possums, and of course cats and dogs.

Surround your garden with chicken manure. It works on deer, rabbits, chickens, coons and people.

Put up some posts and run clear fishing line. You can run it at various heights, depending what you're trying to keep out. Also try white cord (even strips of sheets). Tie strips of plastic bags every two or three feet, so people don't run into it.

Hook up a radio to a motion light. If your motion light does not have a plugin, you can use a socket adapter to plug in the radio. Put it on whatever station you want to hear--deer won't like it.



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Not Tonight Deer, is a powder that smells like eggs and tastes like pepper. It is sprayed around the perimeter of the garden and can be found at www.nottonight.com.

N.I.M.B.Y. or not in my backyard, was developed for the power industry and is an emulsion of natural oils.

Liquid Fence, available at www.liquidfence.com, is a nontoxic mix of egg and garlic that lasts a month before it has to be renewed.

Carnivore urine is available at www.predatorpee.com and is a collection of urine from bobcats, coyotes, foxes and wolves. In theory, it sends a message to animals that a meat-eating animal is roaming the garden.



American Cranberry Bush (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*) has beautiful flat clusters of lacy white flowers in May. They are followed by scarlet berries which are edible by humans and favored by birds.

⇒More⇒

Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Raccoons:

This is from eHow.com. Raccoons are the Houdini of the animal kingdom. It seems as though they can get into and out of anything. Here are some steps to prevent them from entering your garden.

Step One

Play a radio in your garden at night. Raccoons are stealthy creatures and will shy away from noisy areas. Select an 'all-talk' station. Keep the volume low so you don't disturb your neighbors.

Step Two

Surround vegetable gardens with a 6 foot fence made of loose plastic mesh. The mesh should be tight at the bottom and loose near the top so that it drapes slightly. Raccoons will be unable to climb the mesh because it will collapse under their weight.

Step Three

Keep all pet food indoors at night. This includes water bowls. Raccoons are fastidious creatures and love to wash their hands in fresh water.

Step Four

Use motion detection sprinklers or lighting in the garden or near fish ponds. A burst of water or light will frighten raccoons, at least temporarily.



Oval Leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*). A deciduous native shrub with white flowers and clustered red fruit, very showy. In the wild it occurs in thickets and open woods. Survives in USDA zones 7-9. Photo by JoAnn Onstott.

⇒More⇒

Wildlife in the Garden, continued



Step Five

Leave articles of human scented clothing in the garden, the stinkier the better.

Step Six

Drape fine plastic mesh over garden plantings, especially melons, strawberries and squash. To harvest, simply lift off the mesh.

Step Seven

Cover compost piles with a layer of fine plastic mesh or a chicken wire frame.

Step Eight

Eliminate grubs from your lawn by applying beneficial nematodes or soapy water. Raccoons dig for grubs that live just under the turf near the roots. Grubs will eventually pupate into destructive beetle insects. You are actually doing your garden a favor by making this important step.

Step Nine

Keep the dog outside at night.

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) is without doubt the finest NW Native tree for fall color. Its colors are so varied it pleases even the most discerning landscape artist. A hardy small tree, Vine Maple will tolerate drought once established. It thrives in full or partial sun, even does well in shade. Superb whether used as a tree or vine. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Overall Tips & Warnings

Raccoons are wily and will overcome obstacles over time. Use several of these steps at the same time and change them often.

Do not confront a raccoon. They are wild animals and may carry disease. Call the local Animal Control Agency if the problem persists.

Overall Things You'll Need

- stinky socks
- plastic mesh or chicken wire
- portable radio
- beneficial nematodes or soapy water
- plastic mesh
- motion detection sprinkler or lighting

Raccoon tracks are distinct and easy to identify. Because they sometimes carry disease, do not leave pet water bowls accessible at night--if a diseased raccoon drinks from the water bowl the pet may become ill.



Douglas Maple (*Acer glabrum*) is similar to Vine Maple but more hardy. It's colors in autumn are not quite as showy but still quite beautiful. It thrives at high elevations from USDA zones 5-10.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒More⇒



Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Garden Moochers: Tips for keeping unwanted critters out



Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is among the most handsome of maples and can reach 100 feet with a 50 foot spread. The leaves are usually a foot across and blanket the forest floor in brilliant yellows and golds. A majestic tree. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

By Marty Wingate
Special to the Post-Intelligencer

Gardeners who love to observe wildlife and feed the birds have a limit to their patience. Watching a flicker at the suet cake is fun; squirrels in the feeders and raccoons in the vegetable garden are frustrating.

Raccoons, squirrels, rats, starlings — they all have their place, but it isn't messing up our garden. What measures, besides pulling our hair out, can we take to put up a virtual "keep out" sign in our gardens?

Sometimes the easiest actions are the ones that don't occur to us, says Constance Perenyi, who teaches and writes about animals and gardening.

First and foremost, don't feed them on purpose. Perenyi tells a story of a woman who had started feeding one "sick" raccoon, and ended up putting food out every night for 60 of the masked bandits. Perenyi advised the woman to decrease the amount gradually, night by night, so that the raccoons would naturally go elsewhere when there wasn't enough food for them all. But the woman decided to cut them off all at once.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued



The morning after the no-food night, the woman opened her door and there were 60 raccoons staring at her — waiting.

Next, don't leave pet food outside, and keep a tight lid on your garbage and compost. If a raccoon knows there's something to eat inside your garbage bin, it will learn to pop the top in no time. A bungee cord will keep the lid secure.

Gardeners who compost food scraps should be sure that the scraps are not available to raccoons and rats. Composting systems, such as the green cone, keep food scraps enclosed and out of reach. Look for composters at nurseries, in mail-order catalogs or at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in February.

Once you've eliminated the unintentional attraction, take a look at your garden to see what else is drawing unwanted visitors. Urban wildlife won't go away, but you can discourage the animals and birds that you don't want without becoming a warrior. Exclusion is the name of the game.

If you feed the birds, Perenyi advises that you focus on our natives. Seed mixes often contain food that is not attractive to native species such as goldfinches and pine siskins. Russell Link, in his "Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" (University of Washington, 320 pages, \$29.95) offers a list of seeds and which birds each type attracts.

Creamy yellow flowers on a maple tree. I'm not sure which maple this is, it was growing near the bridge crossing from south Salem to Independence. Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Did we mention this is our mystery plant for this month?!?

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Keeping spilled seeds cleaned up helps decrease rat activity. Perenyi says that if you see rats at feeders you should take the feeders down for a while, until the rats have moved on to more abundant gardens.

The most obvious raiders of feeders are squirrels. Keeping squirrels out of feeders is a booming industry — you can find baffles of all shapes and sizes, each intended to safely keep squirrels from eating all the seeds at your feeders before the birds do.

Ingenious methods of exclusion seem to lead to smarter squirrels, as they eventually figure out just about any device you put out. But some baffles do their job well. Look for feeders that have cages around them that let only small birds through (this keeps the starlings away, too). Inverted bowl shapes or wobbly tin roofs are other ways of keeping squirrels baffled (and, we hasten to add, us entertained).

Perenyi advises diversionary tactics, too: Give the squirrels something to keep them busy and they'll be more likely to leave the bird feeder alone. And so another industry was born: squirrel feeders. Pinwheels of corncobs or peanut boxes with heavy lids provide cheap entertainment for us and activity for those bushy-tailed busybodies. Keep them occupied trying to figure out something, but don't think that you'll stump them altogether.



Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*) is a lovely small tree native to the northwest. In spring while the branches are still bare, long graceful catkins appear, followed by oval leaves. The nuts are raised commercially. Needless to say, squirrels are as fond of them as humans are. Photos by JoAnn Onstott.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

A few years back, a show on one of the cable channels kept track of how long it took a squirrel to figure out increasingly difficult obstacle courses that led to food. The last, most difficult course took the squirrel a full week to learn, but learn it he did.



Douglas Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*) A slow growing tree reaching between 10 to 30 feet. The dense clusters of rose-like flowers are a butterfly's delight. Ladybugs are quite partial to this tree. The fruit is delicious and makes excellent pies and jams if you can get them before the birds!

Photo by JoAnn Onstott.

Raccoons are nighttime raiders. If you have a pond with fish, you will need to protect them or you'll be buying more fish on a regular basis. Small ponds can be covered with a wire mesh screen every night; be sure to secure the screen tightly. Larger water features need secret places for the fish to hide.

Vegetable gardens can be protected with motion sensors. Gardeners in the suburbs who have deer problems report that this works well — and looks so much better than wads of hair hanging from tree branches.

Motion sensors turn on sharp bursts of water when triggered. (Be sure to remember to turn them off in the morning before you go out to pick up the newspaper.) Raccoons are also deterred by motion sensors that turn bright lights on their activities.

The most effective motion sensors are those that are moved regularly, so that the light or water is a surprise.

Are birds eating your blueberries before you can get to them? My friend Jutta covers hers with Reemay, a brand of lightweight, floating row cover that gardeners also use to give their crops another degree or two of warmth early and late in the season. The Reemay is tied at the base, and the birds can't get in.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Bird netting is another possibility. It's black, and so may not be noticeable to you, but it can keep the birds out of fruit trees and berry patches. It comes in large pieces that are folded up for packaging; it's not easy to unfold, because it seems to stick to itself.

Just a warning: Think how you might look while struggling to unfold it. It's large and unwieldy, and to your neighbors, it's invisible. Maybe you could tell them you're practicing some special martial arts.

Sources for feeders, baffles, advice and more

Duncraft – 888-879-5095, www.duncraft.com
Seattle Audubon Nature Shop – 8050 35th Ave. N.E.,
Seattle, 206-523-4483, www.seattleaudubon.org
www.scatmat.com – For scarecrow motion sensors (\$89) and
squirrel baffles (\$49)
Constance Perenyi – E-mail to cperenyi@oz.netv

Help with wild ones

PAWS, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society
(www.paws.org), is a local organization that deals with
rehabilitating wildlife.

Other wildlife centers are listed on the Web site for the
Seattle/King County Humane Society:
www.seattlehumane.org/animalsvcfaq.shtml

Marty Wingate, a Seattle-based Master Gardener, has a master's degree in
urban horticulture and is the author of two garden books. She can be
contacted at: martywin@earthlink.net.



Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) is native to China and has fan-shaped leaves that turn yellow in fall. Grows well in USDA zones 1-10. Some specimens live to 1000 years. Photo by JoAnn Onstott.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Wildlife in the Garden: Attracting Birds

The following will help you attract the birds of your choice:

Food: Many of the birds we see in winter are seed eaters. Some people spend a lot of money on bird feed mixes, which birds don't even like. Most of the bird feed mixes use "junk" seed, which the birds simply toss aside to get to the "good stuff." The junk seed will be thrown to the ground and attract mice and rats.

Location of Feeders: Place the feeders where you can enjoy watching them from your window or porch. The simplest feeder is the ground itself. Sparrows, juncos, doves, and bobwhites prefer to feed on the ground, and all you have to do is scatter the seed there. A tree stump or a knee-high table will do as well.

Other birds, such as purple finches and evening grosbeaks, prefer raised feeder. You can sink a pole into the ground topped with a wooden platform, at a height you can comfortably reach. It helps to nail an edge on the platform to help save the seeds from rolling off. Alternatively, you can place the platform on a second story porch, or attach it to a window sill.

Once lost, this ancient tree is now found again. The deciduous member of the Sequoia family, Dawn Redwood is a most special tree. Its needles are soft to the touch-- almost like fur, and they fall to the ground after first becoming golden yellow. New spring growth is bright green. Awesome nesting tree.that is generally ignored by deer. Photos by JoAnn Onstott.



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

You can also purchase enclosed feeders designed to mount on poles. Because such feeders help to keep the feed dry, you can put in a several-days' supply at one time. I don't use this kind of feeder, myself, because I enjoy putting out the seed, and the squirrels have chewed up all the ones I've tried.



Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is a musical tree. When the breezes blow through it's small, heart shaped leaves, it sounds like water through a babbling brook. So lovely and old fashioned.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott.



Small hanging feeders are attractive to many small birds. You can make a hanging feeder from a coconut shell or purchase one made of transparent plastic.

Food to Provide: The hands-down favorite bird seed is sunflower. It attracts cardinals, woodpeckers, blue jays, goldfinches, purple finches, chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches. I found that the birds seem to prefer black sunflower to the grey-and-white striped. They are softer shelled, hence easier to crack open. They're also cheaper than the grey-and-white ones.

Another essential bird seed is Niger Seed. Goldfinches love this seed. You may have dozens of goldfinches visiting your Niger feeder at once, which is quite a cheering sight on a winter day. Niger is a tiny black seed. Niger is also expensive, so you won't want to waste it. Buy a hanging tube with tiny holes, designed especially for Niger, and hang it where you can see it from your best viewing window. Up close to the house, even under the eaves, is fine. Goldfinches will become very tame and won't mind your standing two feet from them, on the other side of the window, while they eat.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Safflower is another favorite seed. It is a white seed, slightly smaller than a black sunflower seed. Squirrels, grackles, blue jays or starlings don't like it. Grosbeaks, cardinals, titmice, chickadees and downy woodpeckers love this seed.

Another important seed is white millet, which is even cheaper than sunflower seed. I scatter it on the ground for sparrows, juncos, and mourning doves.

Storing Seed: Store them in the garage in mouse-proof metal trash cans. In humid climates, you may want to store the bags indoor as they may get moldy outside. Moldy seeds cause fatal diseases, such as aspergillosis.

Plants for birds: However, seed isn't the only way to feed birds. Many native plants serve the same purpose.

Often overlooked and undervalued, Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) is decorative all year. Beautiful sprays of white flowers are followed by yummy reddish-black fruit, great for juice, jam and jelly. After the fruit is gone (and make no mistake--the birds will race you to this delectable treat!), the leaves are fabulously colored in fall.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Squirrels:

NO RAW PEANUTS FOR SQUIRRELS!



Don't feed raw peanuts to squirrels and other animals because it can seriously hurt them.

Raw peanuts and other legumes contain a trypsin inhibitor or substance that inhibits or prevents the pancreas from producing trypsin, an enzyme essential for the absorption of protein by the intestine.

The detrimental effects of feeding raw peanuts have been documented since 1917. Squirrels fed a steady diet of raw peanuts, soybeans, other legumes, and sweet potatoes could easily develop severe malnutrition.



WDFW Urban Wildlife Biologist Patricia Thompson also reports that there are mycotoxins in raw peanuts that can cause liver, kidney, and brain diseases which unfortunately are seen in many birds.

If you want to feed peanuts, the solution is to roast them. According to the Washington State Cooperative Extension Service, roasting hulled raw peanuts for 20 to 30 minutes at 300 degrees Fahrenheit, stirring them frequently, will destroy the trypsin inhibitor and render them suitable for feed.

If that sounds like a lot of work, buy roasted peanuts but be sure they aren't salted. (Salted nuts of any kind should never be fed to wild animals.)

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Garry Oak
(*Quercus garryana*)
once
reigned regally
throughout Oregon's
Willamette Valley.
Many still remain to
the pure delight of
squirrels and humans.
Photos by JoAnn
Onstott.



Wildlife in the Garden, continued



photo by Marie Read

Safflower



Black Oil Sunflower



Photo courtesy of Rosenberg, K.V. 1997. *Food for Thought. Birdscope, Spring 1996, Volume 10, Number 2: 6.*

Feeders & Food Selection Designed to Attract Birds (recommendations from Fish and Wildlife Service)



platform feeder, mixed seed tube feeder, house or hopper feeder	American Goldfinch Black-Capped Chickadee Blue Jay Downy Woodpecker Evening Grosbeak Mourning Dove	Northern Cardinal Purple Finch Red-Bellied Woodpecker Red-Breasted Nuthatch Rose-Breasted Grosbeak White-Breasted Nuthatch
tube feeder	American Goldfinch Black-Capped Chickadee Black-Headed Grosbeak Blue Jay California Towhee Carolina Wren Common Grackle Common Redpoll Dark-Eyed Junco Downy Woodpecker Evening Grosbeak House Finch House Sparrow Mourning Dove Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	Northern Cardinal Pine Siskin Purple Finch Red-Bellied Woodpecker Red-Breasted Nuthatch Red-Headed Woodpecker Red-Winged Blackbird Rose-Breasted Grosbeak Rufus-Sided Towhee Song Sparrow Summer Tanager Tufted Titmouse White-Breasted Nuthatch White-Crowned Sparrow

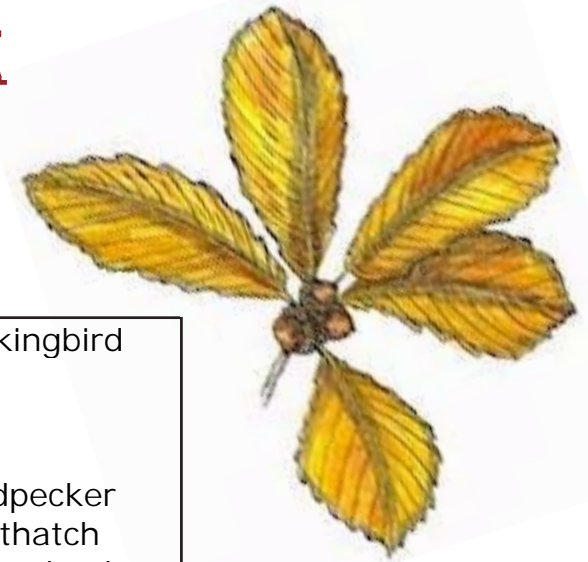
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Wildlife in the Garden, continued



Nectar

The Audobon Society publishes the best North American bird identification field guides available and they are divided by section of the country. They hold a bird county every year during the winter holidays and the public is encouraged to participate.



Nectar	nectar feeder (do not let spoil)	American Goldfinch American Robin Black-Capped Chickadee Black-Headed Grosbeak Common Grackle Dark-Eyed Junco Downy Woodpecker Evening Grosbeak Gray Catbird Hooded Oriole House Finch Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird Northern Oriole Pine Siskin Purple Finch Red-Bellied Woodpecker Red-Breasted Nuthatch Rose-Breasted Grosbeak Ruby-Crowned Kinglet Song Sparrow Summer Tanager Tufted Titmouse White-Breasted Nuthatch White-Crowned Sparrow
Fruit:	platform feeders, suet feeders, nuttall's hoppers (remove immediately if not eaten before it spoils)	American Robin Black-Headed Grosbeak Blue Jay Carolina Wren Cedar Waxwing Gray Catbird Hooded Oriole House Finch Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker Yellow-Breasted Chat	Northern Mockingbird Northern Oriole Red-Bellied Woodpecker Red-Headed Woodpecker Rose-Breasted Grosbeak Starling Summer Tanager Varied Thrush White-Crowned Sparrow Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Peanut Butter Cake

1 part melted beef suet
1 part peanut butter
6 parts cornmeal

Melt suet. Mix in peanut butter and cornmeal. Spoon into paper-lined muffin tins and cool. Store in freezer till needed.

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued



Making your own suet cakes is a fun way to spend an afternoon and the birds are most appreciative!

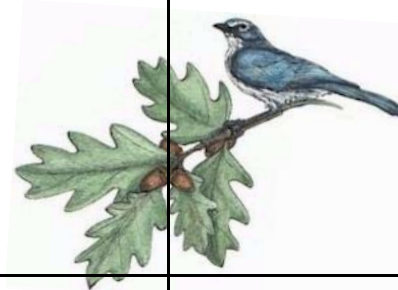
Oat Cake

1 pound suet in small pieces
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup chunk peanut butter
1 cup mixed wild bird seed
1 cup sunflower seeds

Melt suet. Stir in remaining ingredients and blend. Pour into paper-lined muffin tins. Chill until hardened or freeze.

Suet

hanging feeder



Peanut Butter Suet:

Millet

tray or platform feeder

American Goldfinch
American Robin
Black-Capped Chickadee
Black-Headed Grosbeak
Blue Jay
Carolina Wren
Common Grackle
Common Redpoll
Dark-Eyed Junco
Downy Woodpecker
Gray Catbird
Hooded Oriole
House Finch
Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker
Northern Mockingbird
Northern Oriole

Bluebirds
Cardinals
Goldfinches
Kinglets
Jays

Blackbirds
Chipping Sparrows
Cowbirds
Doves
House Sparrows

Pine Siskin
Purple Finch
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Red-Headed
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
Ruby Crowned Kinglet
Rufus-Sided Towhee
Starling
Summer Tanager
Tufted Titmouse
Varied Thrush
White-Breasted Nuthatch
White-Crowned Sparrow
Woodpecker
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker
Yellow-Breasted Chat

Juncos
Starlings
Thrushes
Woodpeckers
Wrens

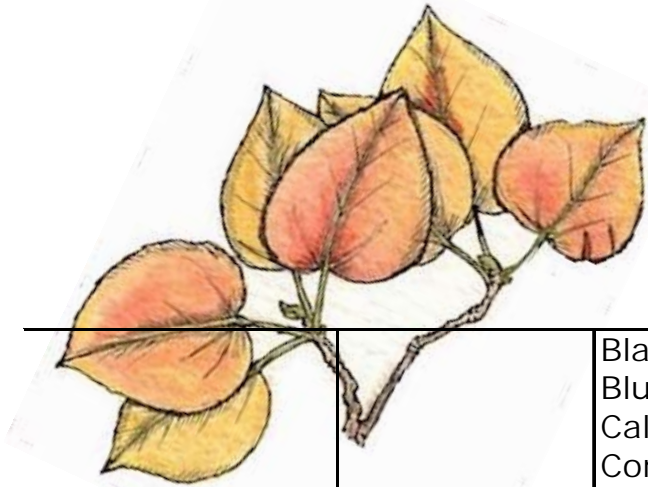
Juncos
Towhees
Tree Sparrows
White-Crowned Sparrows
White-Throated Sparrows



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

A birdbath is a great feeder for winter but you'll have to set up a way so the food stays dry. A patio umbrella or garden sail works well for this. Be creative!



Corn	tray or platform feeder	Black-Headed Grosbeak Blue Jay California Towhee Common Grackle Dark-Eyed Junco Downy Woodpecker Gray Catbird House Sparrow Mourning Dove Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker White-Crowned Sparrow	Northern Oriole Pine Siskin Purple Finch Red-Bellied Woodpecker Red-Headed Woodpecker Red-Winged Blackbird Song Sparrow Starling Summer Tanager Varied Thrush White-Breasted Nuthatch
Peanuts	platform feeder or tube feeder and tray	Cardinals Chickadees Chickadees / Titmice Woodpeckers	Finches Juncos Starlings
Niger Thistle	thistle feeder	American Goldfinch Black-Capped Chickadee Common Redpoll Dark-Eyed Junco House Finch Starling	Mourning Dove Pine Siskin Purple Finch Rose-Breasted Grosbeak Song Sparrow

Nut and Apple Cake
 2 cups bread crumbs
 1 cup nuts unsalted!
 3 chopped apples (use seeds too)
 1 cup raisins
 1 cup sugar
 1/4 cup of cornmeal
 1/2 pound of ground suet
 1/2 cup flour
 1 8-ounce jar of peanut butter
 1 cup wild bird seed

Mix ingredients, add enough bacon drippings to hold it together. Shape into balls or press into pine cones. Freeze and use as needed.



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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Resources:

Gardening in an Environmentally Friendly Way, www.avianweb.com - Chemicals and toxins in our environment hurt wildlife and us. This step is an important in having your garden certified as a Wildlife Habitat

Landscaping to Attract Birds, Baltimore Bird Club, www.bcpl.net/~tross/by/attract.html

Trees and Shrubs that will Attract Birds in North America, www.birding.about.com/library/weekly/aa030700e.htm

Backyard Wildlife Planting for Habitat, University of Nebraska, www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/index.jsp?giveNotFoundMessage=1&what=subjectAreasD&subjectAreasId=38

Attracting Hummingbirds to your Garden, www.hummingbirds.net

Backyard Habitat: Make a home for birds, butterflies, and nature's other creatures, www.birding.about.com/od/gardening/a/backyardhabitat.htm

From Trash to Treasures - Projects to Attract Birds to Your Backyard, www.birding.about.com/library/weekly/aa050800a.htm

Managing for the Most: A Landowners Planning and Planting Guide to Conserving North Dakota's Wildlife Legacy, North Dakota State University, www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/wildlife/wl1000-2.htm

Build a Wildlife Pond, www.magazine.audubon.org/backyard/backyard0306.html

Furnishing a Backyard B & B, www.magazine.audubon.org/backyard/backyard0109.html

Guerrilla Gardening by Barbara Pallenberg, Renaissance Books.

HGTV, hgtvgarden.com

Keep Deer from Destroying a Garden, Hilary Groutage Smith, Salt Lake Tribune

Carolina Country Advice from Readers, www.carolinacountry.com

iVillage Garden Web, gardenweb.com



Small painting by Heidi D. Hansen

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Wildlife in the Garden, continued

Bluegrass Gardens, www.bluegrassgardens.com

About.com: Dogs, dogs.about.com

The Dollar Stretcher, www.stretcher.com

Thriftyfun.com, www.thriftyfun.com

The Frugal Life, www.thefrugallife.com

Neighborhood Cats, www.neighborhoodcats.org

Ezine Articles, ezinearticles.com

National Feral Cat Day, www.nationalferalcatday.org

Feral Cat Coalition, www.feralcat.com

eHow, www.ehow.com

Fit Matters, seattlepi.nwsourc.com

Growise, www.growise.com

Nova Scotia Canada Natural Resources, www.gov.ns.ca

How to Attract Birds, www.howtoattractbirds.com

HGTV, Attracting Birds to the Garden (Video), http://www.hgtvgarden.com/hgtv/gl_design_plans_strategy/article/0,1785,HGTV_3569_1745500,00.html

Homemaker's Journal E-Publications, homemakersjournal.com

Avian Web, www.avianweb.com

Garden Artisans.com, www.gardenartisans.com



Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)
with Hummingbird
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. Seems like Fall and Spring are the energizing times and Winter and Summer are the lazy days. I think it has to do with the weather and the sun. I love spring because of the flowers but Autumn is so colorful it paints a new face on everything.

Yesterday a friend and I drove down the valley to take pictures of Blue Elderberries which are at the height of fruiting right now. Heavy rains were expected so I knew if we didn't get the photos then, it would be too late. Sure enough, today it is raining 'up a storm' as my grandmother used to say. I'll bet those little berries are all on the ground, what with this much precipitation and the wind.



It was a lovely drive though. We found a huge old oak tree with big round shape, just a magnificent tree.

A large goat family was living in the woods next door. This was a grove of young oaks and the goats had chomped down all the underbrush so it was rather like a rustic park. There was a black and white grandfather goat with big horns and full beard, a fawn colored

mother goat and a dark colored father goat, and children of all sizes from teenagers to one youngster who was as colorful as the grandfather. We stopped to admire them but they were antisocial, each one immediately turning tail and heading the other way.

Across the road from the goat garden we spotted a shrub of some sort covered with bright orange berries. We couldn't make out what the plant was but there were other cultivated trees and shrubs in the immediate area. They seemed to be planted around a square so it was likely an old homestead that had been razed. The blackberries were doing their best to eradicate everything but this orange fruited plant seemed to be making good its escape.



[⇒More⇒](#)

This & That, continued



Two of the tiny goats who enjoyed human laughter. The brown one was a twin (didn't get a pic of her brother, he was not as sociable as she).

A little farther we saw three little tiny goats. So cute--they were not more than 2 1/2 feet tall. They were also spooked by us but didn't go away, they just turned around and showed their backsides. I wanted to take their photo. We made various noises trying to get them to look up (with no response) and then we made ourselves laugh--that got their attention! We tested the theory: each time we laughed they stood stock still and looked up. So my friend laughed and I got my shot. Teamwork!



We admired horses and cows and apple trees and a burro as we made our way back toward Salem. The countryside is so peaceful and, well, natural. Some folks had pumpkins piled up for sale, others offered apples in bags. The corn field I saw being harvested the day before was now just stubs of the stalks. The mint was harvested last month and those fields are lying fallow.

At last we reached the first elderberry tree. Huge bunches of berries were hanging pendulous, waiting for hungry birds. We didn't even have to get out of the vehicle, the branches were so near the road we could reach out the window to touch them.

⇒More⇒

This & That, continued

We got a plentiful number of photos, pulling over every few yards to shoot each tree. The leaves were still verdant green and not yet battered by wind. One plant was different--the leaves were turning already and were right then sort of chartreuse yellow. The berries on that plant were also different. Where the others had hundreds of berries in large clusters, this one had many branches and each one had only a dozen or so berries bunched at the ends instead of the flat shape of the other trees. Nature is such a marvelous thing! Two trees side by side and as different as night and day. Diversity is the spice of life!

Before we took our leave of the country, we got a couple of good photos of Poison Oak in its showy red fall cloak. This plant is perfection all year, from the petite flowers covering the stems to the white berries to the scarlet autumn coloration. Why does nature make such an evil plant look so beautiful? It's almost too pretty. And perhaps that is the point.

That's enough for me today. I hope you enjoy this energizing fall season. Button up your overcoats and wear your galoshes, keep your 'brolly' handy and if you're down in the dumps take a slow drive out in the country. Guaranteed to adjust even the bluest attitude.



Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall.
Confucius



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



Autumn Leaves painting by Heidi D. Hansen

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.

⇒More⇒

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

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.

Forest Types of the United States

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

Maps of the most common forest types.

Forestry index

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

Growit.com Rooting Database

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

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

ModernBackyard

<http://www.modernbackyard.com>

Landscape architecture provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online.

The Native Plant Network

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

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.



American Cranberry Bush
(*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

⇒More⇒

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323>
Oregon's Clean River Agency website full of wonderful information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants at

River Corridor and Wetland Restoration

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/>
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

Soils

<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>
A website about soil fertility, chemistry, and pH with many interesting links.

Soil Science Society of America

<http://www.soils.org/>
Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

Woody Plant Seed Manual

<http://www.wpsm.net/>
Manual by the US Forest Service covering seed biology, genetic improvement of forest trees, seed testing, certification of tree seeds and other woody plant materials, and nursery practices.



Vine Maple
(*Acer circinatum*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen



Personal notes from Wally

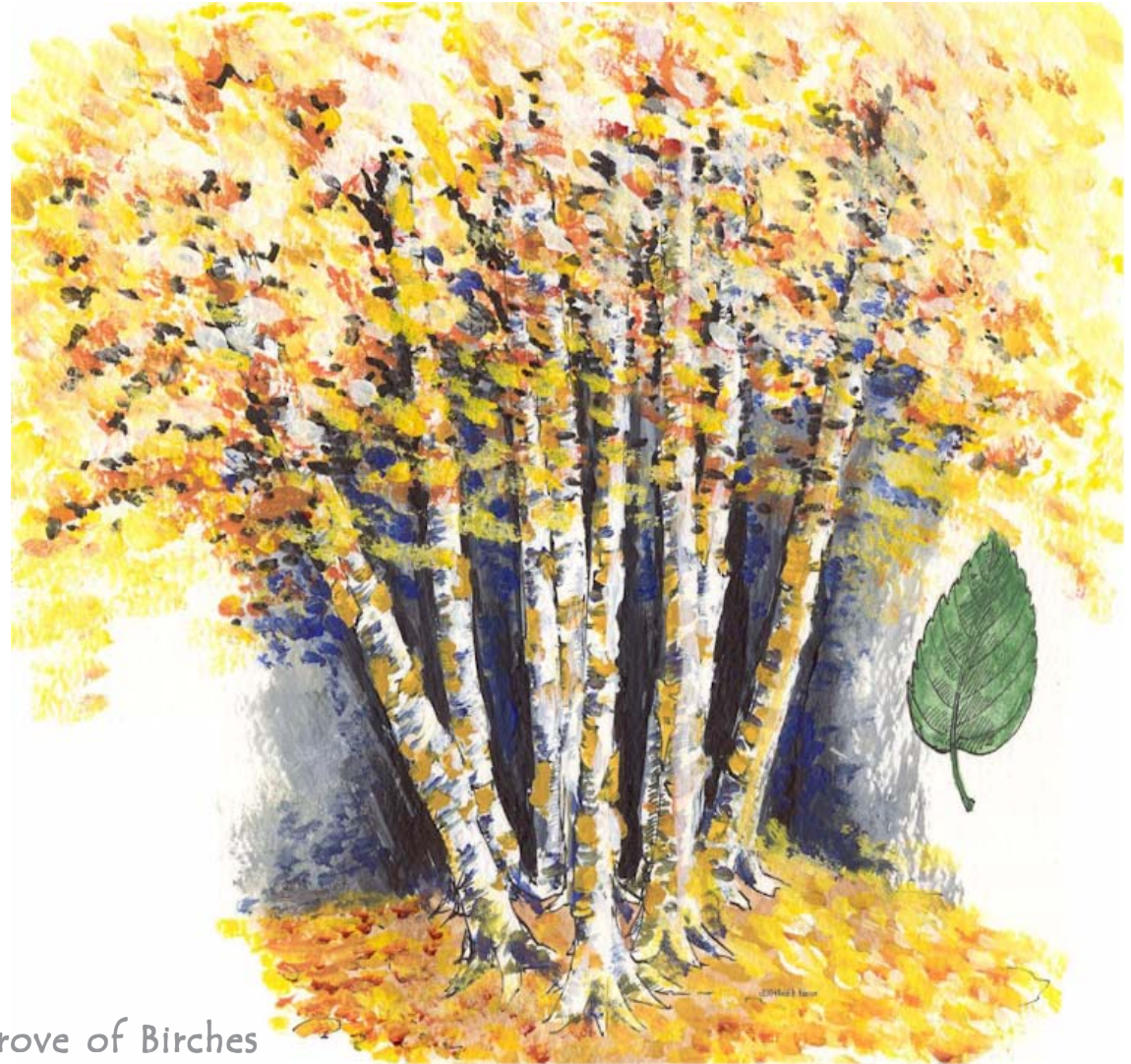
A Seed

by William Allingham

See how a Seed, which Autumn flung down,
And through the Winter neglected lay,
Uncoils two little green leaves and two brown,
With tiny root taking hold on the clay
As, lifting and strengthening day by day,
It pushes red branchless, sprouts new leaves,
And cell after cell the Power in it weaves
Out of the storehouse of soil and clime,
To fashion a Tree in due course of time;
Tree with rough bark and boughs' expansion,
Where the Crow can build his mansion,
Or a Man, in some new May,
Lie under whispering leaves and say,
"Are the ills of one's life so very bad
When a Green Tree makes me deliciously glad?"
As I do now. But where shall I be
When this little Seed is a tall green Tree?

Wally

Grove of Birches
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen



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!

Pacific Ninebark
(*Physocarpus capitatus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Large spreading shrub grows rapidly to 12 feet. Leaves are small and maple-like. Bark is thin and shreds, giving good winter interest. Dense clusters of small white flowers. Leaves as shown here are just beginning their fall transformation of color to golden, red and orange.

