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Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



Native Plant Theme Gardens

Living Green, Part 2

Toads: Nature's Answer to Bad Bugs

Western Crabapple
Bareroot & Berries

Published by Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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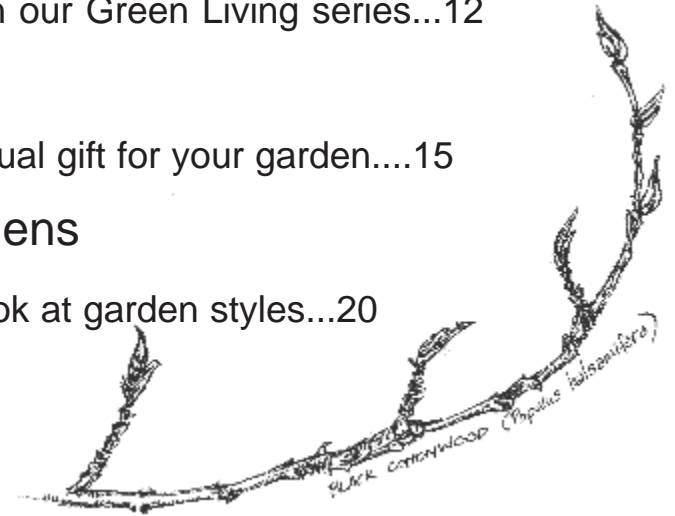
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Articles are by Jennifer Rehm unless otherwise indicated.

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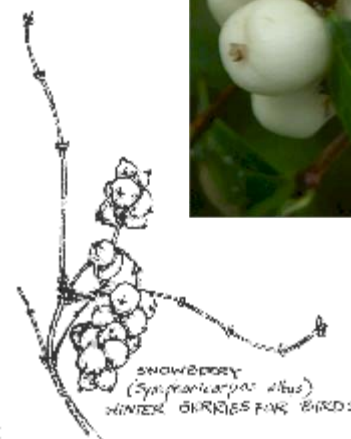
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About this Web Magazine

I am Wally Hansen – I am a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' My 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.).



Snowberry
(*Symphoricarpos albus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott
Bare Root drawing by
Heidi D. Hansen

Writers wanted: If you have expertise for any species of Northwest plants and wish to write an article for pay for publication in this Journal, please contact Wally via e-mail at plants@nwplants.com Some articles (and pics) might deal with propagation, culture, diseases, restoration, reclamation, fertilizers, etc.



On the Cover



Western Crabapple
Bareroot & Berries

Western Crabapple (*Pyrus [Malus] fusca*)

Often growing in thickets, this small tree grows moderately fast to reach 40.' It is native to low elevations from coastal Alaska to northwestern California, USDA zones 6 – 9. Its leaves resemble those of cultivated apple tree leaves, turning red or orange in autumn. The branches are armed with distinctly sharp spur-shoots. White, clustered flowers are smaller than those of cultivated apples but equally fragrant.

Fruits are but 1/2" and hang in clusters on long stems. These tart fruits can be picked when immature and stored until ripe – a wise idea as the birds may otherwise beat you to the tasty fruit! Crabapples make a flavorful juice (yielding as much as 2 cups of nutritious juice per lb. of fruit!) or jelly. Crabapples like moist areas and sun or shade.

This painting was done for me several years ago by my daughter, Heidi D. Hansen, in the style of old-tyme botanical artists.



Rare plant puzzle

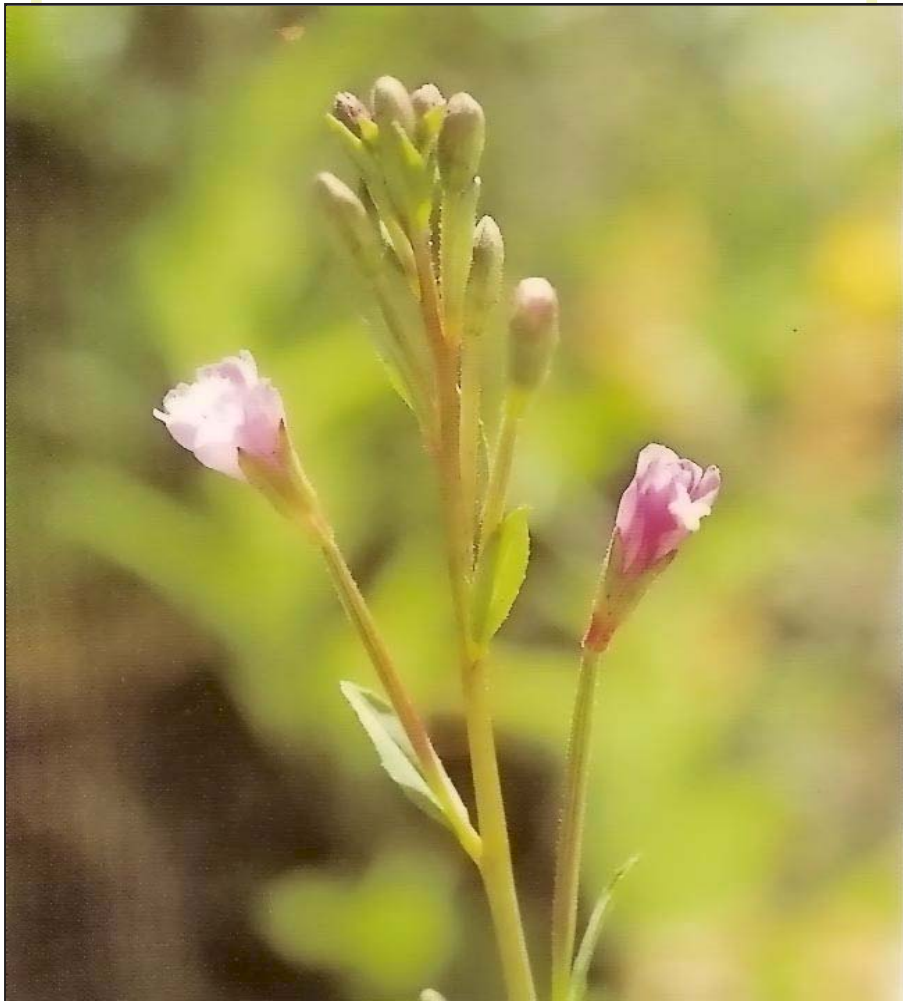


Photo by Donald C. Eastman
All rights reserved

Name this plant!

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

"I bloom in June under the moon.
For me, a bog is a boon.
Look for my leaves to pop up soon!"

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant. A small prize to those who correctly identify by February 5, 2007.

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Ephedra viridis

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

1 – Take hardwood cuttings for propagation. Many native plants can be propagated with this simple technique. Add to your own garden or share your plants with friends.

2 – Clean up dormant perennials. Slugs and earwigs love to hunker down in the debris of last year's perennials. Pick all that old stuff up and add to your compost pile where it will become rich, nutritious amendments for tired soil. Good for container gardens, too!

3 – Remove dead trees, shrubs, branches if they pose a danger from falling on someone, otherwise consider leaving them for your wild visitors. You can use dead branches as trellis for climbing plants or to support wobbly ones. Lay branches along a fence row where they'll compost or put some together tipi style for a shady spot in summer.

4 – Order bare root plants. Prepare their new homes and plant as soon as they arrive. They'll have a head start on container plants you put in later and they are much less of an expense when purchased in bare root form.

5 – Get your tools in order if you haven't done that yet. Sharpen, replace handles, mark them to ease identification if you loan tools. A bright handle will help locate a forgotten tool in the yard.

6 – Plan gardens for this year. Suggested theme gardens are described beginning on page 20. Maybe a nice huckleberry garden?

7 – Construct planting boxes. Make wooden ones from old pallets (a wonderful free source for wood projects!) or form some with hypertufa.

8 – Set up a toad house. Put your creativity to work here. Broken flower pots make good toad houses as do other found objects.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Squirrel secrets:

Did you ever notice how we run up and down trees? We go in a spiral, not straight up and down.

When you see a squirrel in a tree, we try to keep the tree between us so we can peep around the tree and then hide if we want to.

We love racing around on the ground but we don't just run, we sort of scamper. We run a couple of steps and then we leap ahead.

The way we climb a tree is this--we get to about 3-5 feet from the tree and then we jump up onto the tree trunk a few feet from the bottom.

Now here's some stuff I found on the internet lately. (Yes, I do sneak into Wally's office and get on his computer early in the morning before he gets up. We don't have 'lectricity in our trees and so far nobody has managed to get a laptop--yet.)

Did you know?

- Tree squirrels don't hibernate. They store nuts to last through the winter.*
- Squirrels can use their tail as a parachute and to land on if they fall out of a tree.*
- There are more than 270 species of squirrels. They live in a variety of habitats around the world.*
- Squirrels look different than chipmunks; they have no stripes on their faces.*
- Some squirrels are arboreal (live in trees), while others are fossorial (live underground in burrows).*

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Sparky's Corner, continued

Squirrel habitats

Western gray squirrels need you to maintain and create habitat for them! If you have oak trees in your habitat area, that's a good start. If not, you can plant oaks or other trees that produce seeds or nuts, such as maple, walnut, hazelnut, spruce, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, and lodgepole pine. Knowing your area's soil type and weather will help you decide which species to plant.

You can provide shelter for Western gray squirrels by leaving large trees and dead or dying trees if they do not pose a safety hazard. If woodpeckers make cavities in these trees, squirrels can nest in them after the woodpeckers leave.

If you wish, you can attract squirrels to feeders with peanuts, walnuts, corn, sunflower seeds, and suet. Squirrels like to eat corn. Simple feeders can be made to hold an ear of corn. There are many other types of squirrel feeders, which you can make yourself or buy at bird and nature stores. Please note, however, that feeding squirrels can attract the non-native Eastern gray squirrel rather than the more shy Western gray squirrel. Too many squirrels in one area can drive away birds and other desirable wildlife.

Look for squirrel tracks the next time you are outside. Their front feet leave 1-inch-long round tracks with four toe prints. The back feet leave 2.25-inch-long tracks with five toe prints. When a squirrel runs or hops, its trail has the hind prints in front of the fore prints. Tracks are especially fun to look for in the snow, when squirrels may leave trails from tree to tree.



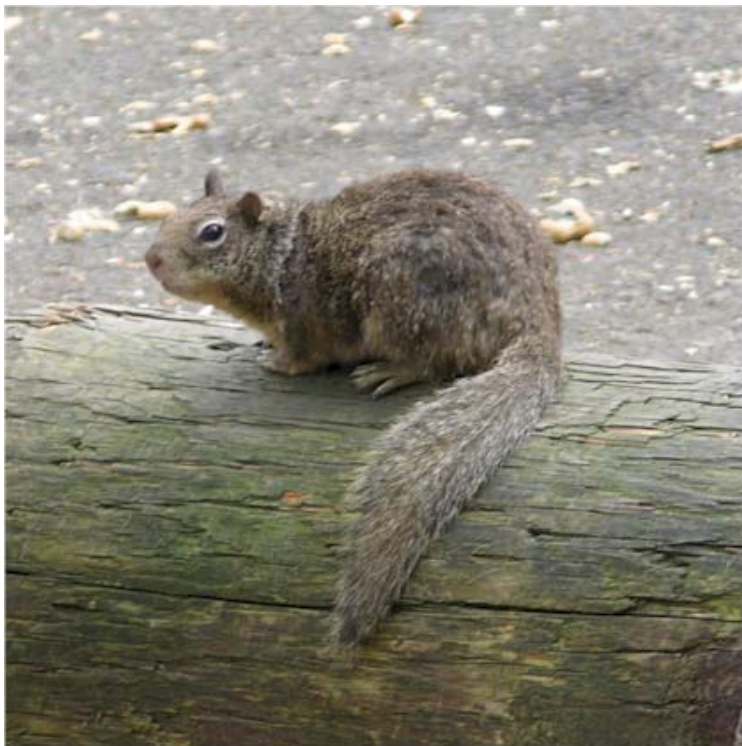
This is Violet. She's very shy, especially around two-leggers. She did let JoAnn take her picture though.

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Sparky's Corner, continued

Western gray squirrels are diurnal, which means they are active in the daytime and sleep at night. When squirrels wake up at sunrise, they first groom themselves. They are most active during the first 2 to 3 hours of the day. Squirrels spend a lot of time looking for, storing, and eating food. They often store their food to survive during seasons when less food is available.

The best time to watch squirrels is 1 to 2 hours after sunrise. As the day warms up, squirrels spend more time resting. They may sprawl on their belly on tree limbs with their legs and tail dangling. Or, they might sit on a limb with their tail curled over their back.



Violet got a little braver for this shot.

About 3 hours before sunset, squirrels usually go to their nests for the night. In the winter, they like to sleep in tree cavities, which are holes (often made by woodpeckers) in tree trunks. They also build nests called dreys high in trees. A drey is a flat nest made of large sticks on the outside and lined with soft leaves and shredded bark. Dreys often are used for sleeping and raising young.

Female squirrels give birth after being pregnant for at least 6 weeks. A litter can range from one to five young, though two or three seem common. Females give birth to one litter between February and June. The young may be born in dreys, or they may be born in tree cavity nests and moved to dreys when they are older. They are born with their eyes closed and without hair. You can look for babies outside of their nests beginning in mid- to late spring.

The Western gray squirrel is listed in Oregon as a sensitive species, which means it is declining in population. In Washington, the species is listed as threatened, which means there is concern of possible extinction. Competition with other species and loss of oak woodlands and older trees may contribute to the species' decline.

*Prepared by Sandra K. Headley and Sarah Sells, students in Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University.
Published May 2005*

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Sparky's Corner, continued

It's about time for the babies to be born and since those little ones fall out of the nest sometimes, I thought it would be good to tell you what to do if you find one. Now pay close attention please, this is important.



What to do if you find a baby squirrel

Keep the baby warm and safe.

If you can, put the baby in a box with a bit of blanket or something (it is best not to use terrycloth as they can become tangled in the loops) at the base of the tree nearest where it was found and if you can watch it closely for an hour or so, many times mamma will come and get it. If baby is injured it should go to a rehabber immediately - mamma doesn't have a first aid kit! If she does not come back, or if you can't keep watch over baby, it is best to just get the squirrel to a rehabber (that's a two-legger who knows all about baby squirrels).

For the first 24 hours, you don't need to worry about feeding the baby anything but water or pedialyte just to keep them hydrated. This can be done with an eyedropper (preferably plastic as even little sharp teeth can break glass eyedroppers!) or even a straw. Just be careful they don't inhale the liquid as that can cause pneumonia.

A heating pad with a layer or two of soft rags on top is the easiest and best way to keep them warm overnight until you can transfer them to a rehabber. If you can't do that, keep them wrapped up well in soft fabric (old sweatshirts are good for this) inside a cardboard box in a warm area, possibly even under a lamp. We do not like to be cold! Think snuggly warm. Protect the baby from any curious kids or pets--they may think it's a toy or even prey.

How to find a Wildlife Rehabilitation Expert

I did a short search on the internet for rehab directories and found a couple of interest plus one that describes (in detail) how to care for a lost baby squirrel if you can't find an expert.

ALWAYS look for an expert before you undertake caring for a baby squirrel yourself. This is not a job for beginners.

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Sparky's Corner, continued

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Information Directory under the University of Minnesota has a website to help you find a rehabilitator with the training and wherewithal to aid lost or injured wild things. This website provides information on what to do with injured wildlife (not just squirrels), who to contact and it has links to sites of interest relating to the field. Information is also present about wildlife in general that will appeal to everyone. <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~devo0028/>

Another rehab website by Squirrel Rescue has a rehabber directory, information about lost baby squirrels as well as lots of other facts and fun about us--we are amazing little animals. However, it does not make the distinction between eastern and western gray squirrels—an important detail that appears to be overlooked on this site. See <http://www.squirrel-rescue.com/>

One website is sort of a white paper on squirrel care with very specific, detailed information about caring for squirrels. If you cannot find anyone who is experienced in the rehabilitation of orphaned squirrels, you will likely find everything you need to know about how to do it yourself here. The title of the website is Squirrel Nutrition and Care by Clarissa Summers, <http://www.hal-pc.org/~jbsum/squirrel.html>. **Remember, though--this is a last resort to be used only if you cannot find a trained rehabber!**

OK, that's enough information for today. Gotta go fly through some trees! See you next time.

Your friend,

Sparky



Tips for Green Gardening

Though written in springtime, this story is appropriate for Northwest gardeners' consideration now. Spring is just around the corner.

This article is from the World Wildlife Federation's website at www.worldwildlife.org/greentips/gardening.cfm. "Planting native plant species and attracting natural predators and pollinators can result in a more beautiful, and eco-friendly garden."

Get Involved: Green Tips

Gardening Possibilities for a Truly Green Thumb

Spring is finally upon us, and with nature in full bloom, many people's thoughts are turning to their gardens. As you prepare for planting, keep in mind that with a little care, you can create a garden that is remarkable for both its beauty and the ecological benefits it provides.

"Why just plant a garden when you can create an ecosystem?" asks Taylor Ricketts, director of World Wildlife Fund's Conservation Science Program. "Green gardening not only beautifies your home but also provides habitat for native plants and animals."

Gardening with the environment in mind allows you to enjoy nature while helping to maintain healthy ecosystems. Remember these things when planning your patch and you can be guaranteed to have a truly green garden.



Coastal Shield Fern (*Dryopteris arguta*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

This evergreen fern tolerates more sun than other northwest ferns.

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Tips for Green Gardening, continued



Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

One of nature's largest trees, the Giant Sequoia is slower growing than the Coast Redwood (shown here in bareroot form) and also more hardy. These trees can live for centuries.



- Collect rainwater to water your flowers.
- Let part of your garden grow freely and see what wild flowers appear.
- Plant local species of trees.
- Plant pollinator-friendly plants, to attract butterflies and moths to your garden and provide them food.
- Never take plants or pick flowers from anywhere in the wild.
- Buy bulbs from cultivated stocks only (ask the shop or gardening center for advice).
- Stop using chemical pesticides — try to use natural products instead.
- Use traps, parasites, and natural predators such as ladybirds.
- Use disease-resistant and pest-resistant plants.
- Use organic compost and mulch to improve soil health and reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

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Tips for Green Gardening, continued

- Don't use peat in your flower beds and vegetable gardens (peat is taken from ancient bog land, destroying some of our most precious wildlife areas). Instead, make your own compost with grass clippings and vegetable scraps from the house.
- Use plants that repel insects. Some herbs and flowers - including basil, chives, mint, marigolds, and chrysanthemums — mixed in with other plants, help keep pests away.
- Don't use electrical equipment like leaf-blowers as they consume so much energy for so little gain. Use a rake instead — it's better for your health too!
- Never pour antifreeze, oil or other chemicals on the ground, into storm sewers or down the drain. Take these toxic substances to your local waste disposal facility.
- Don't buy garden furniture or decking made of tropical hard wood — mahogany for example — unless it's got a Forest Stewardship Council label.
- Take time out to sit out in your backyard with friends and family, and appreciate the beauty of nature!



Pacific Silver Fir (*Abies amabilis*)

From above, the needles of Pacific Silver Fir are dark green with a blue-ish tinge. Seen from below, the needles are distinctly silver.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott



A Native Gardener's Friend

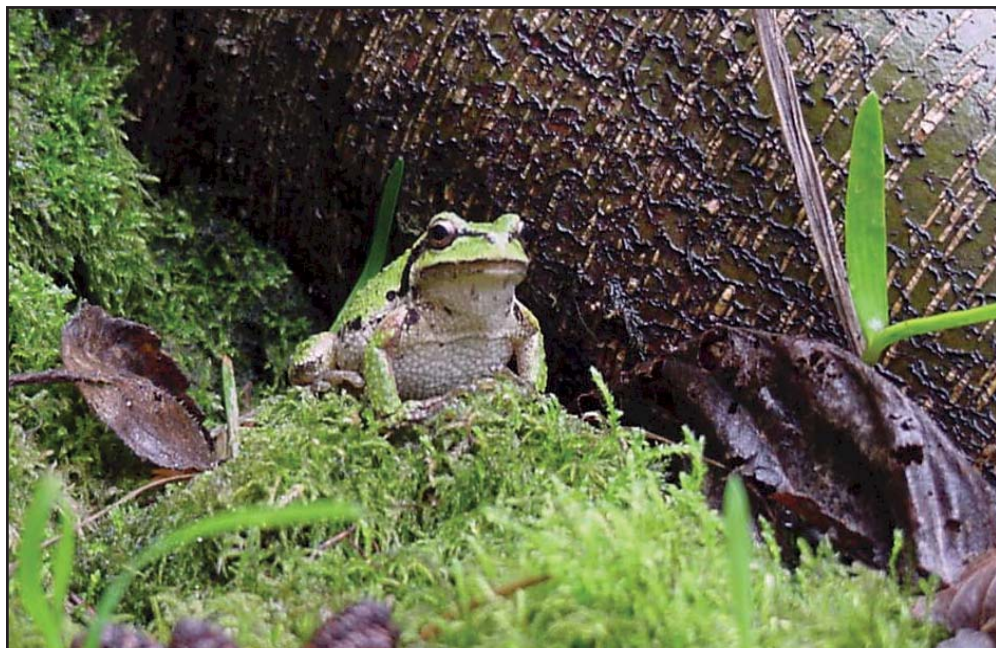
Toads are a valuable resource as well as being cute!

This article was written by Linda Knox, an Adams County (Pennsylvania) Master Gardener

In Praise of Toads

Linda Knox
Adams County Master Gardener

Not that they have been forgotten, but toads came to my attention again a few months ago. In a restaurant with antique games and books set out to amuse waiting customers, I happened upon a Lippincott's Silent Reader for second graders printed in



1923. In a story on toads, it talked about how a farmer regarded toads as one of his best friends. According to the farmer, "one toad is worth five dollars a year."

Toads are as valuable today as they were in 1923. One source claims a toad can eat 86 flies in 10 minutes, several thousand insects in a month and 2,000 cutworms during a summer. Since they have been around for about 65 million years in pretty much the same form as we see them today, you could probably say toads are the original contributors to the concept of organic gardening.

Curious amphibian in Reed College Canyon



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A Native Gardener's Friend, continued

Those who are not delighted by the appearance of the squatty little bug-eaters among their plants may be pleased to know that toads are nocturnal and usually seek cool damp shelter during daylight hours, thus keeping them out of view most of the time. Of course if you're inclined, you might often observe their nightly meals being devoured near any light source because the light attracts many insects. As the Lippincott's Silent Reader pointed out to its young readers, toads eat caterpillars, beetles, slugs and many other pests.

Frogs and toads belong to a classification of animals known as Anurans. Like frogs, "true toads" flick out their long sticky tongues more quickly than the human eye can see.

Species of "true toads" number about 400, and the common American toad lives throughout the US and southeastern Canada. Since toads are awkward movers, their tongue speed and stickiness are extremely important in catching prey. Some toads even pull their eyeballs inwards and use the blinking action to swallow their food.

Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) makes a good daytime napping cover for toads. This fern is very hardy and easy to establish. Lovely in the garden as well as in cut flower arrangements.

Photo by Wally Hansen



Tadpoles--
Pacific Tree Frog (*Hyla regilla*)



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A Native Gardener's Friend, continued



Western Toad (*Bugo boreas*)



Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) Every night, this little one and his friends perform a serenade unrivaled by the heartiest bullfrog.

Recently the Baltimore Sun carried a news story concerning global studies that show numbers of amphibians have been going down. Of the 4,000 species, 2% are extinct and 43% are endangered. This threat to amphibians affects the entire environment.

Many studies over the last decade show that the numbers of frogs and toads have been declining. Biologists have collected information from Australia, Canada, India, Europe, Central and South America and much of the western US. There are organizations that are convinced the decline is occurring simultaneously worldwide. When numbers of particular species fall off, the problem may not be noticed immediately. For example, a strange frog in Costa Rica that incubates its eggs in its stomach has not been seen in years.

Suspected culprits include acid rain and the thinning of the ozone layer. Another possible cause may be the amounts of toxic compounds in the air that are dangerous to animals like toads and frogs that breathe through their skin. Some biologists believe a wide-spread fungus could be to blame. Others believe the decline is the result of natural environmental fluctuations that periodically occur. The greatest challenge is to identify a reason for the overall steady change and to do something about it if we can.

If you are fortunate to have toads in your own garden, you may want to invest in a toad house. Recently these structures have become commonplace in the garden departments of many stores. Toad houses can be ornate or simple, or you can simply create your own by propping a covering over some stones set to provide a cave or low hiding place. Water nearly will also help to attract a resident toad.

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A Native Gardener's Friend, continued



Pacific Tree Frog (*Hyla regilla*)



Although toads have many enemies, they protect themselves with a poisonous milky substance released by the paratoid glands near their eyes. Predators that have caught a toad soon learn of this unpleasant substance and are usually more than happy to release their nasty-tasting prey. This same substance does not, however, cause warts as many people believe.

Toads are fascinating little creatures, worthy of a space in anyone's garden. Should you decide to investigate them, you will, no doubt, find them to be a "toadally" absorbing topic.

Read other articles from the Adams County Master Gardeners at <http://www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles.htm>

Ferns and other natives
Photo by Robbie Porter

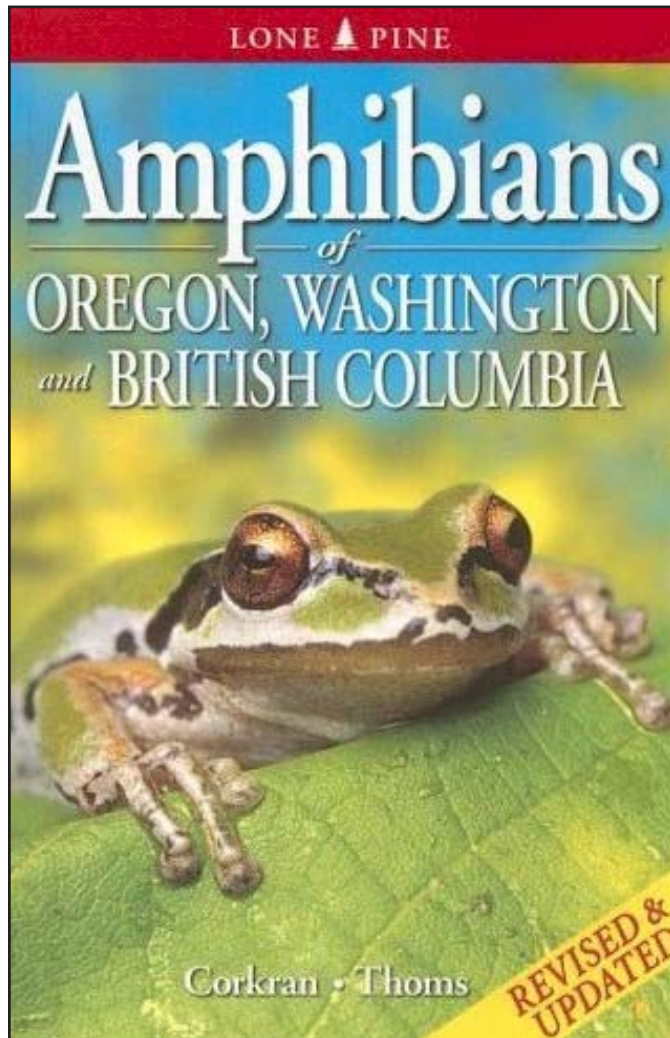


Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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A Native Gardener's Friend, continued



A native woodland garden is naturally perfect for toads but here in the Northwest, as long as you provide sufficient shade, moisture and a place to hide, toads should be comfortably at home.

Evergreen trees and shrubs are important for winter toad habitat as are evergreen groundcovers such as:

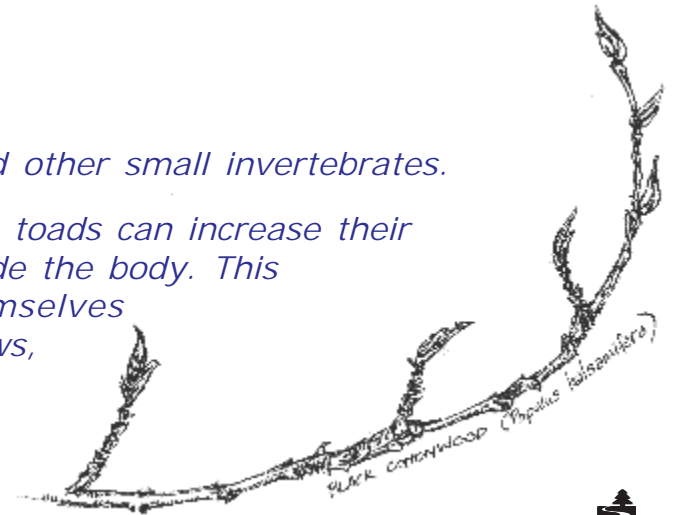
- Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)
- Alpine Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis alpestris*)
- Mahala Mat (*Ceanothus prostratus*)
- Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

A good field guide for identifying Northwest toads is the one shown at left by Charlotte C. Corkran and Chris Thoms, published by Lone Pine Field Guides.

Toad Facts--did you know?

DIET: Consists of insects and other small invertebrates.

BEHAVIOR: When frightened, toads can increase their size by inflating air sacs inside the body. This allows them to wedge themselves tightly in rock walls or burrows, making it very difficult for a predator to extract them.



Theme Gardens



Six different kinds of native plant gardens

Imagination is one of the best tools a gardener can use when planning a new garden or revamping an existing one. We offer here some ideas for gardens with a theme. Rock gardens, bog gardens, woodland gardens and butterfly gardens are not new ideas though they are wonderful themes to follow. But how about something a little different, a bit unusual--something fresh!

For each of these themes, we list Northwest native plants that could be used in a variety of environments. Pick those that fit your soil type, amount of sunshine, moisture and space.

Whatever kind of garden you decide to grow, let nature have a broad hand in choosing the plants. As long as you stick with natives, your garden will be beautiful!

NOTE: Many of the plants we suggest here are available now in bare root form. You can start your theme garden early with these budget stretchers.

This vine has been trained into an arch, making a natural transition from sun garden to shade.

In this particular garden, each of the areas or 'rooms' has a different flavor. The designer took special care to make the rooms distinct but complementary so a walk through the garden flows from one space to the next as smoothly as a walk through a wild garden.

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Theme Gardens, continued

Edible Flowers Garden

This collection of native plants with edible flowers from your own garden can add some unusual variety to your dining table.

Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*)
Chocolate Lily (*Pritillaria lanceolata*)
Clustered Rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*)
Early Blue Violet (*Viola adunca*)
Evergreen Yellow Violet (*Viola sempervirens*)
Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)



Violets are not only beautiful, they're delicious! The Early Blue Violet (*Viola adunca*) shown above (photo from the USDA Forest Service) is a perennial favorite. Coat the blooms with a wash of egg whites and dip in sugar. Allow to dry. Sprinkle on a cake or some ice cream or (sigh) ginger gelato for a sweet treat.

The Evergreen Yellow Violet (*Viola sempervirens*) at left (photo by JoAnn Onstott) is a peppery surprise in a fresh green salad. Bright delight!

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Theme Gardens, continued



Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Scented Garden

Include a pathway through this garden for fragrant evening strolls. A perfect end to a busy day.

- Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)
- False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*)
- Cascade Lily (*Lilium washingtonianum*)
- Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
- Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
- Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)

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Theme Gardens, continued

Crafts Garden

By growing your own craft materials, you can harvest when you are ready. No need for storage!

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Willows (*Salix* family)
Oregon Myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*)
Paper or Canoe Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
Pacific Bayberry (*Myrica gale*)
Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)



Oregon Myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

The fragrant wood of this tree is an excellent medium for carving. Treasures made of Myrtle are featured in galleries all along the Oregon coast.

Paper or Canoe Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Use the bark of this tree to cover candles or boxes or weave into baskets.

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Theme Gardens, continued

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott
Breezes rustle the leaves of this tree, making natural music. Sound is an integral part of the Zen Garden.



Zen Garden

A peaceful Zen garden is a quiet spot to read a book, to meditate, to think. Spend just a few minutes each day here to collect your thoughts and find your center.

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*)
Silk Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)
Smith's Fairybells (*Disporum smithii*)
Spiny Wood Fern (*Dryopteris expansa*)
Self-Heal or Heal-All (*Prunella vulgaris*)



Silk Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)
Drawing by Heidi D. Hansen
The pendulous flowers are intricate and airy,
quietly beautiful to contemplate.

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Theme Gardens, continued



Labrador Tea (*Ledum glandulosum*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Tea made from the leaves of this NW native shrub is aromatic and flavorful.

Tea Garden

Leaves or blooms from these plants make a refreshing beverage. Grow organically, of course.

- Labrador Tea (*Ledum glandulosum*)
- Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
- Wild Strawberries (*Fragaria*)
- Wild Roses (*Rosa*)
- Huckleberries (*Vaccinium*)
- Wild Grape (*Vitis californica*)



Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Drawing by Heidi D. Hansen

This NW native shrub is colorful in the winter landscape. The flowers can be made into a fine tea.

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Theme Gardens, continued

Friendship Garden

The plants in this garden are easy to propagate. Turn the cuttings into fine gifts your friends will appreciate.

Maples (Acer)
Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia)
Salal (Gaultheria shallon)
Blueblossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus)
Ocean Spray (Holodiscus discolor)
Pacific Ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus)



Pacific Ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott
Another easy to propagate native shrub, find a space in your friendship garden for this beauty.

Salal (Gaultheria shallon)

Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Short in stature and long on charm, this ever-green is easily propagated to share with friends.

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

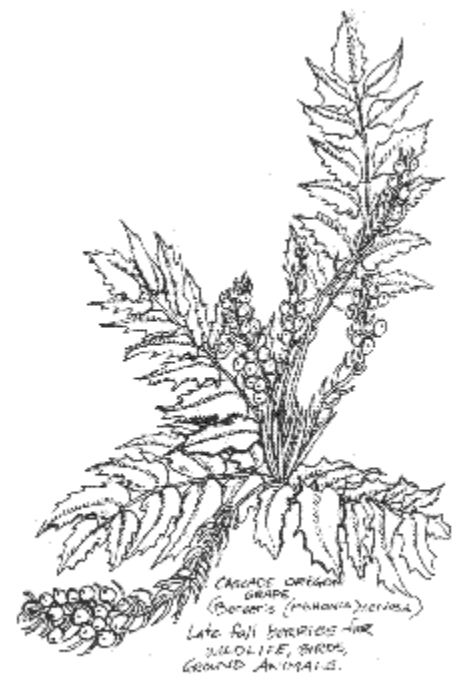
<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

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.

Bare Root Douglas Spirea



⇒ 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

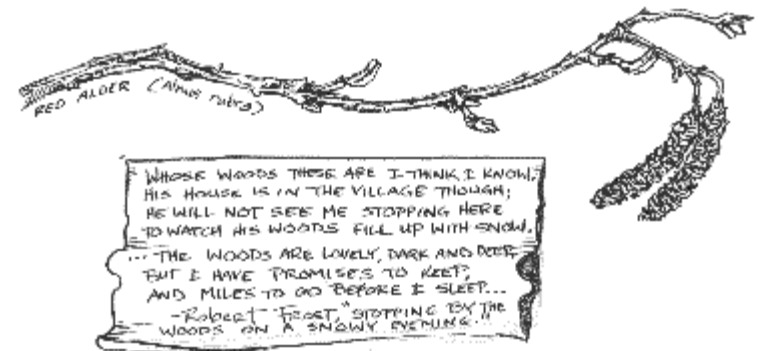
<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>

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

Winter thoughts

Of late, the sun shines brightly in the winter sky every day. The early spring flowers in confusion push up from the soil and begin to bloom, yet are often surprised by another night-time frost.

Weeks go by without a drop of rain and then torrents gush from the clouds, so much that the streams overflow their banks. The wind blows with such gusto--such purpose, it sweeps the earth clean of every last bit of leaf and debris.

But after a few days, again come the cloudless skies. Our weather changes so abruptly it fair takes my breath away.

And the surprises it leaves! Trash can lids part from their hosts and appear sometimes blocks away from whence they came. Bits of newspaper or plastic bags catch high in the trees and wave like impromptu flags.

There is a flock of white swans stopping over along the highway. They take a break on their journey to bask in today's sun and enjoy an afternoon meal. I suppose they will continue on tomorrow to wherever they are bound.



Snowberry in December (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

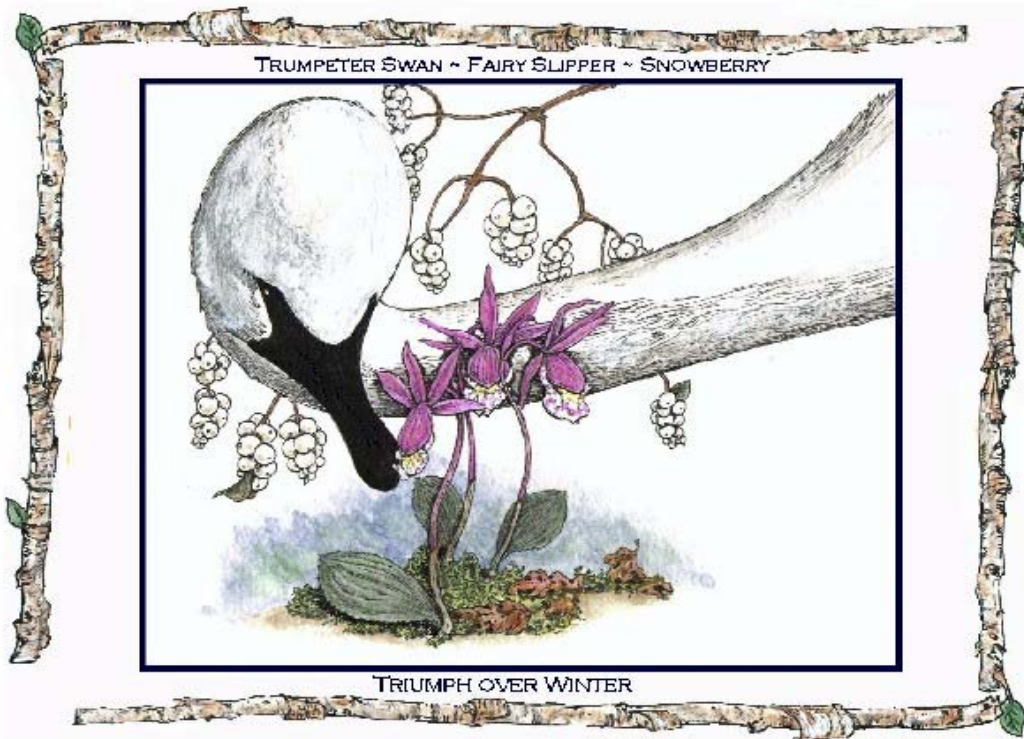
⇒More⇒

⇒More⇒

Personal notes from Wally, continued

This poem by Robert Lee Frost is a lovely ode to the winter garden, telling of alders and birds and the infinite hope the coming spring will realize.

Good luck!
Wally



Another wonderful painting by my
daughter, Heidi D. Hansen

A Winter Eden

by Robert Lee Frost

A winter garden in an alder swamp,
Where conies now come out to sun and romp,
As near a paradise as it can be
And not melt snow or start a dormant tree.

It lifts existence on a plane of snow
One level higher than the earth below,
One level nearer heaven overhead,
And last year's berries shining scarlet red.

It lifts a gaunt luxuriating beast
Where he can stretch and hold his highest feat
On some wild apple tree's young tender bark,
What well may prove the year's high girdle mark.

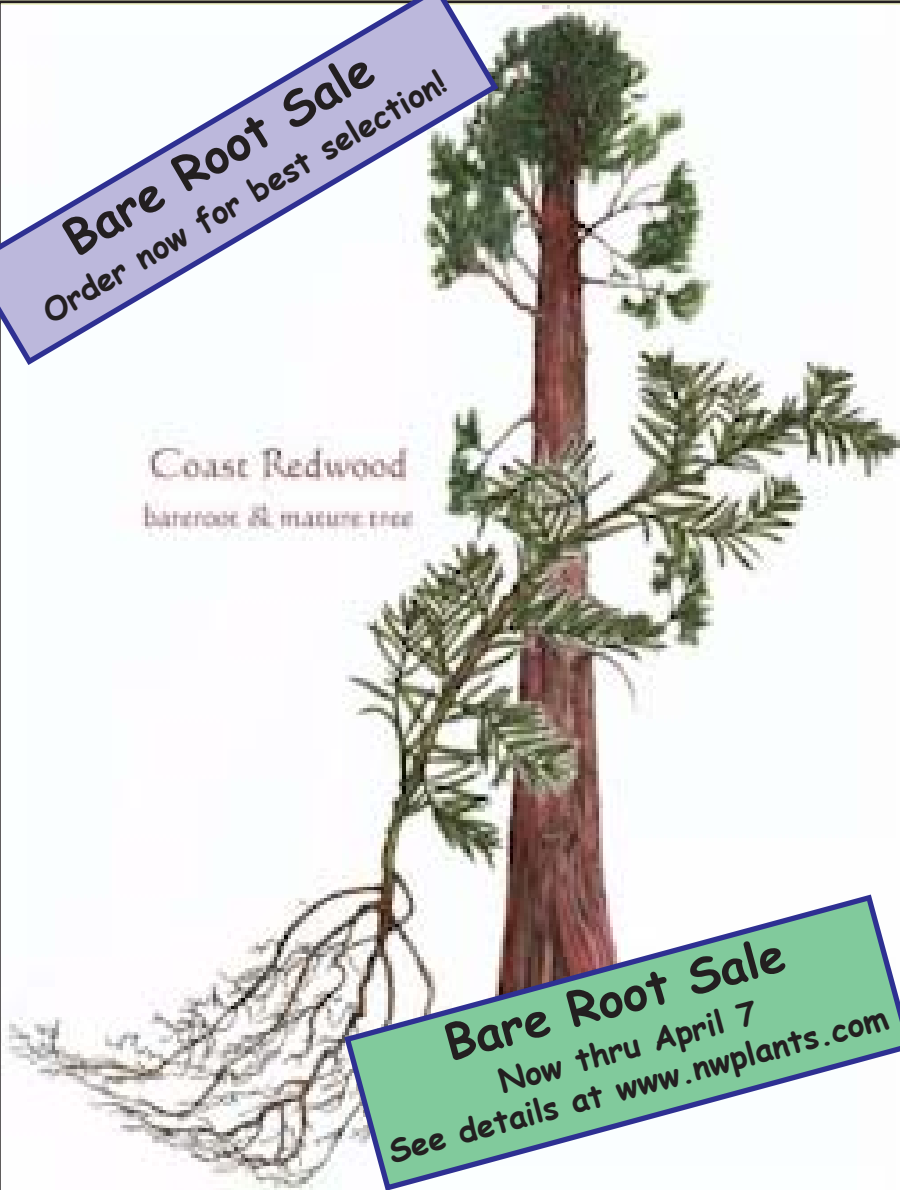
So near to paradise all pairing ends:
Here loveless birds now flock as winter friends,
Content with bud-inspecting. They presume
To say which buds are leaf and which are bloom.

A feather-hammer gives a double knock.
This Eden day is done at two o'clock.
An hour of winter day might seem too short
To make it worth life's while to wake and sport.



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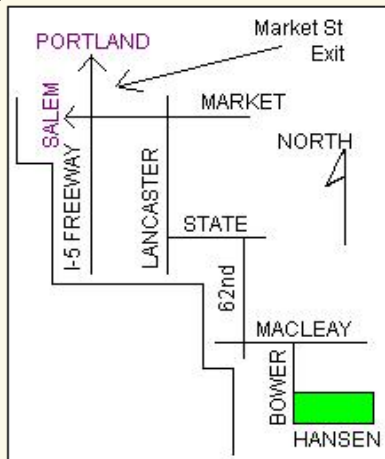
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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