Volume 5, Issue 7-2007 July 2007

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

Double trouble for Fender's Blue

Oregon plants, birds and butterflies in the colors of Old Glory

Sparky's latest adventure

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

In Every Issue

Features

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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.).

Wild Strawberry, Vintage postcard

On the Cover

Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Excellent choice for your wildlife habitat, Chokecherry is a very pleasing native tree with beautiful white blooms with a tropical look. Our catalog description:

This decorative relative of the plum grows quickly to heights of 25.' In the wild, it is most common in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California at low elevations and often in riparian zones. It is hardy in USDA zones 5-10. Left on its own, Chokecherry will sucker freely to form dense stands. It requires a well-drained site and is highly tolerant of drought and cold weather. In spring the Chokecherry is bedecked with showy sprays of flowers and later reddish-black, edible fruits which are used to make delightful juice, syrups or jellies but do take care not to crush the seeds as they contain cyanide. In autumn the shiny, dark green leaves turn a deep maroon and then fall to reveal the reddish twigs. This tree is perfect for wildlife who relish the leaves and fruit.

Rare plant puzzle

Photo by Susan Vernon
Find this plant's botanical name somewhere in this issue of our journal.

Name this plant!

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

> "I'm the 'runt' of my family but just as pretty as my bigger brothers and sisters. As common as I am, I'm still often mistaken for a more memorable perennial."

Just for fun, we've hidden the correct answer in this issue of the journal. See if you can find it!

Good luck!

Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Cardamine penduliflora (Willamette Valley Bittercress)

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!

To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

1 – Holiday preparation--wet the garden down in the evening before fireworks start to help protect from damage. Sparklers are especially damaging because they stay hot for so long.

2 – That big old sun can be even more harmful to tender plants than fireworks can. Consider shading the young or newly transplanted. When you see wilting, propping up a shade of some sort works as well or better than dragging out the hose or carrying buckets of water.

3 – If you're planting anything now, the plants will need daily attention and maybe daily watering. Their roots will take a while to establish so you must supplement nature until they get a good grip on the earth.

4 – Summer winds are extremely drying. Hot air moving fast turns your garden into a convection oven rather quickly. Watch those plants on breezy days. However, summer wind is the perfect helper for drying fruit or herbs or vegetables and also just the ticket for winnowing: an agricultural method developed by ancient cultures for separating grain from chaff. In its simplest form, it involves throwing the mixture into the air so that the wind blows away the lighter chaff, while the heavier grains fall back down for recovery. Useful for cleaning seeds you want to save.

5 – Stake young trees if you have not done so already. Really, this should be part of the planting process but can be done later if necessary.

6 – Absolutely positively do get out and sit in your garden. Allow the wonder of nature to permeate your every cell. It will cure what ails you (or at least make it better!).

Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor

You just never know what life will bring. Sometimes it's a grand summer day with lots of fruit to pick off bushes and plenty of nuts left from last winter. And sometimes half of a tree falls down for no reason at all.

Be careful with those fire-works--we'll be in the trees hiding from the noise so don't send any up here!

It's not commonly known but we squirrels have ways of communicating with each other over very long distances. We'll never tell how we do this but it is real efficient and the other day we got some astounding news. Let's just say we heard it through the grapevine.

What happened? Well, everybody was enjoying the sunshine and the plentiful stuff to eat and we squirrels were all taking naps in the afternoon. You know how sleepy you get after a good romp and a big meal. The two-leggers were mostly inside their nests. I don't know what they were doing, probably napping also.

Suddenly there was a loud CRACK!!!!! It scared the fur off everybody! It was so loud even the eye-holes in the two-legger nests rattled! They all thought Chicken Little was right for sure! All the two-leggers ran outside and the squirrels just ran around, everybody trying to figure out what made that noise. Birds were having a fit. The sky was still where it was supposed to be so it wasn't that. Then they noticed one of the huge old oak trees looked weird and half of it was laying on one of the two-legger nests!

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Sparky's Corner, continued

Everyone gathered around, two-leggers and squirrels and birds--everybody. And everybody was talking about it.

What happened? *Is it mad?*

What's the matter with that tree? *Did anybody have a nest in there?*

Did you see what happened?

Oh my! It went right through that two-legger nest! Look you can see inside! Oooooh how interesting!

Maybe too many acorns and they got too heavy?

What in the world happened? *Did some secret two-legger thing whack it?*

But what's the matter with that tree!

Well, this is what the squirrels and birds were saying. Nobody understands two-legger language but they sounded a lot like what everyone else was saying. Of course, the two-leggers were just standing around but the furry people were jumping and flitting and twitching. They were sort of afraid to actually touch the tree in case it went kerflooey alltogether but they ran all over the part that fell off and also the two-legger nest--it has these little paths all around the top.

Here's the tree. You can see the scar where the big part fell off. See the branches and stuff laying on the two-legger nest? It fell on the back part and you can't see the hole from here. Fortunately JoAnn heard about this and hurried over to take it's picture. Two-leggers also have a way to communicate but it's not a secret.

This went on for quite a while (you can imagine!) and finally some of the two-leggers hauled out a big funny thing with two big branches and little branches going back and forth. They propped it up on the two-legger nest that had the hole in it and climbed up this thing so they could see better. Poor things, they can't run up trees or fly, it's a wonder they can get around at all. It took a long time for everybody to settle down after all this and I bet nobody got a nap that day!

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Sparky's Corner, continued

What a story! My whole neighborhood was too shook up to nap that day either! The excitement went on for days and a lot more action happened too. We'll save it for another time.

Got an email from a really nice lady up in Vancouver about last month's article when we talked about the squirrels disappearing from Washington. She thinks they have all come to her house and wondered if maybe some of them could go out to where there aren't any. Well, this lady has the most wonderful garden it's no wonder the squirrels want to be there. She's really cool and she's got strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, a fantastic old walnut tree and she plants bulbs all the time. Party in Paradise!

To help her out, I sent a message along the 'grapevine' and asked those guys around her place to think about maybe part of the neighborhood should be pioneers and go make a new neighborhood. The only places left in Washington where the Western Grey Squirrels are living are the southern Puget Trough, the Methow Valley and north shore of Lake Chelan and in river valleys of Klickitat and southern Yakima Counties.

This is like the thing the two-leggers climbed up on to see the broken tree and the nest hole. I don't know what it is but it's what the poor things used. It worked pretty good.

So, I told the guys to think about moving on to Aberdeen or Olympia, Port Angeles, Seattle, Yakima, Richland, anywhere across the middle of the state. There's still lots of places with Doug Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Oregon White Oak, and let me tell you the people in all those towns and cities have strawberries and blueberries and raspberries almost as nice as our friend in Vancouver.

Naturally, if any squirrels or two-leggers are planting acorns or other trees to help spread the squirrels around, please don't put them in Vancouver. But if you're going around that big middle part of Washington a little tree planting wouldn't hurt.

Well, gotta go. Too much thinking isn't good for me (Grandma says I don't have to worry about that). So see you next time and, as old Mr. Snorters says, 'keep your powder dry.'

Your friend,

Sparky

Native Blooms in Red, White and Blue

Colorful flowers add spice to the garden

These native plants rival the most complicated cultivars for bloom color. And they can be seen in the wilderness, alongside a road, in a mountain meadow and even in a vacant lot. They are wild and filled with the 'wow' factor--naturally beautiful.

Scarlet gilia or Skyrocket (Ipomopsis aggregata). Photo by Teresa Prendusi. Our favorite teacher, Paul Slichter, describes it: Scarlet gilia is a strikingly beautiful wildflower. It is a favorite of hummingbirds, and makes a nice addition to the dry, eastside (east of the Cascades) meadow or rock garden. It is a biennial, or a short-lived perennial. From experience, it is difficult to get it to over-winter outdoors west of the Cascades, as it is quite susceptible to the dampness and fungal attack.

Leopard or Panther Lily (Lilium pardalinum). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Beautiful lily with early summer flowers of red and orange, spotted with purple, forms clumps and can reach 6.' Often as many as ten flowers grace each stem. Native to wet meadows and edges of streams along coastal regions of the northwest, USDA 5-9. Needs regular water. Extremely resilient to diseases and pests but does not appreciate being transplanted.

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Native Blooms, continued

Myosotis alpestris (Alpine Forget-Me-Not) Photo by Andrew Kratz, USDA Forest Service. This version of the well known forget me not is the state flower of Alaska, and is one and the same as Myosotis sylvatica, a native of Europe. It is commonly found in high alpine meadows and moist areas such as stream banks. This plant prefers part shade and will grow in USDA zones 1-8. It may act as a biennial or annual that will reseed and create a groundcover. It is hard to miss the sky blue flowers, which have yellow centers circled in white. The flowers appear in mid-Summer and continue for a long period of time. The foliage is a cluster of fuzzy basal leaves.

Red Columbine (Aquilegia formosa). An elegant perennial, nodding red flowers distinguish this elegant plant from the Blue Columbine whose flowers are held erect. Hummingbirds and butterflies thrive on columbine nectar. This is a beautiful, delightful flower reaching to about 2' tall. A fine flower for every garden, Red Columbine is native along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Baja, California and east into Utah (USDA 7-10). This columbine needs regular water but is otherwise very adaptable. Natives groups used Red Columbine medicinally.

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Native Blooms, continued

Cornus nuttallii (Pacific Dogwood). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Beautiful tree native along western coast from BC to California and in California mountains, in USDA zones 6-7. The branches become laden with brilliant white flowers in spring and sometimes again in late summer. Requires rich, well-drained soil and will thrive in partial shade.

Rubus parviflorus (Thimbleberry). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Thornless native bramble shrub forms dense thickets of upright 4-6' stems. Large, downy leaves, pure white blossoms, and tart, red, edible fruits. Found between Alaska and California and east to Great Lakes, hardy in USDA zones 3-9.

Cornus sericea ssp. stolonifera (Red-Osier Dogwood. Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Deciduous shrub grows rapidly in sun or shade to 15,' can be sheared. Leaves turn spectacular crimson in fall. When the leaves fall, they reveal red, showy twigs. White flowers followed by blue-white berries. USDA zones 5-10.

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Native Blooms, continued

Cow Parsnip (Heracleum lanatum). Photo by Jennifer Rehm. Massive native perennial for the back of a flowergarden or border. Butterflies love the flowers, as do beneficial insects like ladybugs. Likes rich, moist soil and plenty of room to grow. Native along Pacific and Atlantic coasts (USDA 3-9). Sometimes referred to as "Indian Celery" or "Indian Rhubarb," Cow parsnip was widely used by Natives as a vegetable.

Wood Sorrel (Oxalis oregona). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Superb, forest ground cover perennial. Delicate leaves are similar to clover fold in on themselves when the sun goes down or on very dark days. Hardy USDA zones 7-10), needs the shade of larger plants.

False Solomon's Seal (Maianthemum racemosum). Photo by Jennifer Rehm. Showy perennial native to Pacific Northwest, very hardy, surviving between USDA zones 3-8. Exceptionally easy to establish in a moist, shaded spot in the garden and asserts itself in the gentlest of ways.Gorgeous, creamy white flowers emit a lovely scent, are followed by dense clusters of berries.

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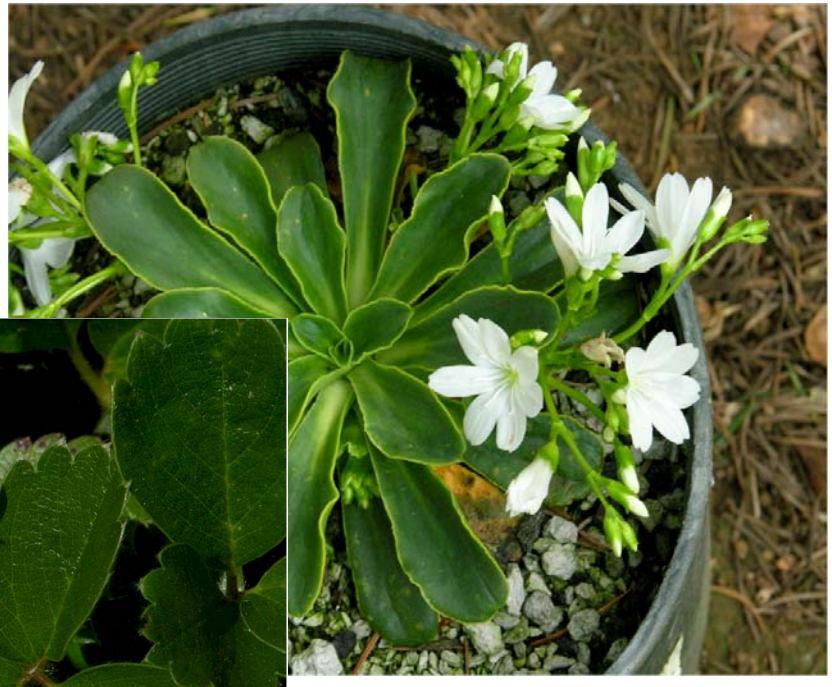
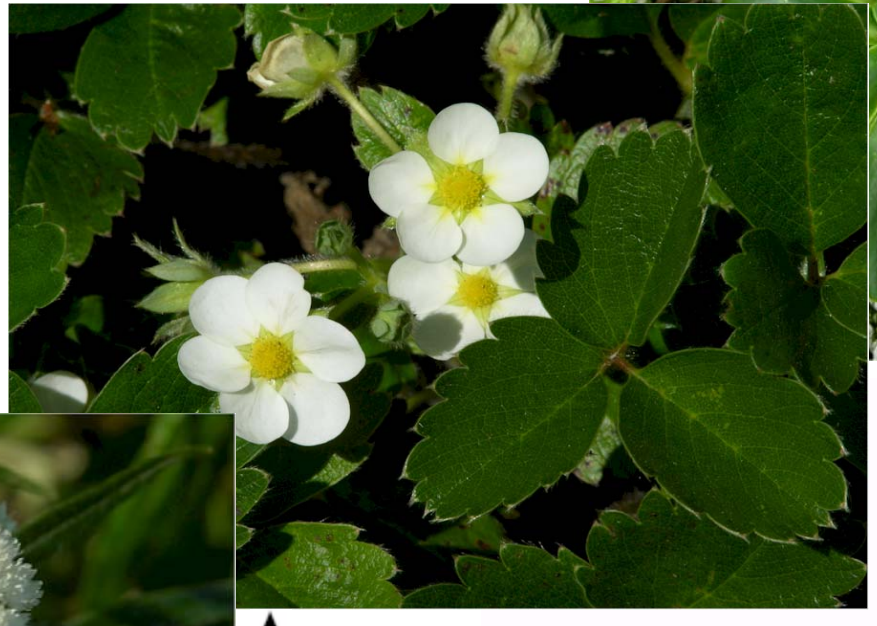
Native Blooms, continued



Lewisia. Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Lewisias are showy succulents, hardy and easy to grow. They mostly prefer dry ground rich in sand or gravel. Most like full sun but will grow well in a little shade. Perfect drainage is their only really critical environmental requirement. Great rock garden plants and a nice choice next to a curb.



Pearly Everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Beautiful member of the Aster family, an excellent choice for reclaiming bare land as it tolerates all types of abuse and neglect! It survives drought, pollution and weak soils. Besides these attributes, it is a beautiful wildflower that attracts butterflies.USDA zones 4-10.

Wild Strawberry (Fragaria). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Not sure which northwest native strawberry this one is. All are superb groundcovers, all have sparkling white flowers and all produce exquisitely delicious fruit. Some are deciduous and some are evergreen, some prefer moist ground and some like a dry habitat.

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Native Blooms, continued

Leichtlin's Camas (Camassia leichtlinii ssp. suksdorfii). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Beautiful perennial with star-like, slender petaled blossoms of creamy blue or white in late spring. Found only on the west side of the Cascades. Hardy from USDA zones 6-10. Sun or filtered shade and succeeds in heavy soils. A true meadow plant, likes moisture in Winter and Spring followed by a dry period in Summer.

← Oregon Iris (Iris tenax). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. Native grass iris growing 1-2' tall, at home in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Hardy between USDA zones 5-9. Low growing with narrow grass-like blades and showy dark blue, short tube flowers on thin stems. Grows in open, sunny sites, sometimes in dry meadows, pastures and woodland openings, with an acidic soil.

Blueblossom (Ceanothus thrysiflorus). Photo by JoAnn Onstott. → The queen of wild evergreen lilacs reigns with grace and majesty from southwestern Oregon to southern California (USDA zones 8-10). Grows rapidly to about 6' tall and 5' wide - ideal for gardens close to buildings.A must for west side gardens.

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Native Blooms, continued

Scarlet Monkey Flower (Mimulus cardinalis). Photo by Matthew Streisfield.

Rainyside Gardeners (www.rainyside.com) say about this plant: This perennial barely reaches into the Pacific Northwest via Southwestern Oregon. We proudly claim this brightly colored flower as a Northwest native. It inhabits shady, wet places from streamsides to seepages. It spreads by rhizomes and will form good sized colonies. In my garden where I grow it in a drier position, it does not spread as much but does reseed in my gravel walkways.

White-Flowered Rhododendron (Rhododendron albiflorum). Photo by Prof. Wilbur Bluhm.

The appearance of this shrub is more like the rhododendrons we term azaleas. Small deciduous leaves, reaches 3-6'with an open branching habit. Limited range within British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana at sub alpine to alpine elevations along moist forest slopes, stream banks. USDA zones 6-8.

Lewis Flax (Linum lewisii). Photo by Clarence A. Rechenthin @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS database. This blue beauty is native to the U.S. and grows freely throughout the state of Oregon. Indeed, it grows all across the entire continent.

Composting the Easy Way

Grand Hound's Tongue (Cynoglossum grande) Photo by JoAnn Onstott. West Coast perennial found in woodland areas. Blooms February through April in shady moist sites. USDA zones 7-9.

This simple, earth-friendly way to get rid of yard waste doesn't have to be hard or expensive.

Have you ever visited an old farm? Every farm I've ever seen has a compost heap. They may call it something else but it's where they pile clippings and old plants they don't want and vegetable tops and the scrapings out of their cold frame and the stuff that's left over after canning. After a few years they move whatever is on top to start a new pile and on the bottom is a rich, dark humus that they put on their garden and that's how they grow the best veggies you've ever seen.

Outside of the farm, composting was something those overzealous, health conscious, everything-natural folks did. But now it's something even mainstream America is doing. An ever-increasing number of local governments are banning the disposal of yard wastes-grass clipping and leaves-in landfills. Most localities have forbidden leaf burning for years. In our area, garbage services offer (at a price) a yard waste container along with the usual garbage bin. But if you don't mind devoting a small space of your yard to this cause, you can take care of this for free with a compost heap.

Whether you begin composting to save money, out of necessity or a sincere desire to improve the environment, it is extremely easy to do.

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Composting the Easy Way, continued

How to start? This is so simple you may find it hard to believe:

1. Pick a place in your yard that you don't want to use for anything else. Most homes have a side yard that we don't have a particular use for anyhow. You can get picky and select a level, well-drained area that doesn't get too hot or too cold but, truly, any old place will do. If your goal is speed, by all means be very particular--go to www.compostguide.com or any of the other websites for online information or just contact your local extension office for brochures and carefully follow the 'managed compost' directions. But if you just want to get rid of yard waste and enrich your dirt for free, think more about space you don't use for something else.

2. Put your yard waste on the spot you've chosen. Add to it what you have when you have it. Here again are levels of determination and purpose. Layering various kinds of materials in order will make compost faster. But by natural events you will probably end up with just what you need anyhow. See a list of what you can include later on.

That's all you have to do. You can turn the pile and build a cage around it and keep it covered (but you have to uncover it and water now and then). But you don't have to do that. Just let it be and it will make compost.

Great fodder to feed your compost heap!
Garry Oak leaf
Quercus garryana var. garryana
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Composting the Easy Way, continued

Materials to include .... or not

Type of Material	Use it?	Carbon/ Nitrogen	Details
Algae, seaweed and lake moss	Yes	N	Good nutrient source.
Ashes from coal or charcoal	No	n/a	May contain materials bad for plants.
Ashes from untreated, unpainted wood	Careful	Neutral	Fine amounts at most. Can make the pile too alkaline and suppress composting.
Beverages, kitchen rinse water	Yes	Neutral	Good to moisten the middle of the pile. Don't over-moisten the pile.
Bird droppings	Careful	N	May contain weed seeds or disease organisms.
Cardboard	Yes	C	Shred into small pieces if you use it. Wetting it makes it easier to tear. If you have a lot, consider recycling instead.
Cat droppings or cat litter	No	n/a	May contain disease organisms. Avoid.
Coffee ground and filters	Yes	N	Worms love coffee grounds and coffee filters.
Compost activator	Not required, but ok.	Neutral	You don't really need it, but it doesn't hurt.
Cornstalks, corn cobs	Yes	C	Best if shredded and mixed well with nitrogen rich materials.
Diseased plants	Careful	N	If your pile doesn't get hot enough, it might not kill the organisms, so be careful. Let it cure several months, and don't use resulting compost near the type of plant that was diseased.
Dog droppings	No	n/a	Avoid.
Dryer lint	Yes	C	Compost away! Moistening helps.
Eggshells	Yes	O	Break down slowly. Crushing shells helps.
Fish scraps	No	n/a	Can attract rodents and cause a stinky pile.
Hair	Yes	N	Scatter so it isn't in clumps.
Lime	No	n/a	Can kill composting action. Avoid.
Manure (horse, cow, pig, sheep, goat, chicken, rabbit)	Yes	N	Great source of nitrogen. Mix with carbon rich materials so it breaks down better.
Meat, fat, grease, oils, bones	No	n/a	Avoid.
Milk, cheese, yogurt	Careful	Neutral	Put it deep in the pile to avoid attracting animals.
Newspaper	Yes	C	Shred it so it breaks down easier. It is easy to add too much newspaper, so recycle instead if you have a lot. Don't add slick colored pages.
Oak leaves	Yes	C	Shredding leaves helps them break down faster. They decompose slowly. Acidic.
Sawdust and wood shavings (untreated wood)	Yes	C	You'll need a lot of nitrogen materials to make up for the high carbon content. Don't use too much, and don't use treated woods.
Pine needles and cones	Yes	C	Don't overload the pile. Also acidic and decomposes slowly.
Sod	Careful	N	Make sure the pile is hot enough, so grass doesn't continue growing.
Weeds	Careful	N	Dry them out on the pavement, then add later.

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Composting the Easy Way, continued

Composting problems and how to fix them.

Problems	Possible Causes	Solution
Damp and warm only in the middle of the pile.	Pile could be too small, or cold weather might have slowed composting	If you are only composting in piles, make sure your pile is at least 3 feet high and 3 feet wide. With a bin, the pile doesn't need to be so large.
Nothing is happening.Pile doesn't seem to be heating up at all.	1. Not enough nitrogen	1. Make sure you have enough nitrogen rich sources like manure, grass clippings or food scraps.
	2. Not enough oxygen	2. Mix up the pile so it can breathe.
	3. Not enough moisture	3. Mix up the pile and water it with the hose so that there is some moisture in the pile. A completely dry pile doesn't compost.
	4. Cold weather?	4. Wait for spring, cover the pile, or use a bin.
	5. Compost is finished.	
Matted leaves or grass clippings aren't decomposing.	Poor aeration, or lack of moisture.	Avoid thick layers of just one material. Too much of something like leaves, paper or grass clippings don't break down well. Break up the layers and mix up the pile so that there is a good mix of materials. Shred any big material that isn't breaking down well.
Stinks like rancid butter, vinegar or rotten eggs.	Not enough oxygen, or the pile is too wet, or compacted.	Mix up the pile so that it gets some aeration and can breathe. Add course dry materials like straw, hay or leaves to soak up excess moisture. If smell is too bad, add dry materials on top and wait until it dries out a bit before you mix the pile.
Odor like ammonia.	Not enough carbon.	Add brown materials like leaves, straw, hay, shredded newspaper, etc.
Attracts rodents, flies, or other animals.	Inappropriate materials (like meat, oil, bones), or the food-like material is too close to the surface of the pile.	Bury kitchen scraps near the center of the pile. Don't add inappropriate materials to compost. Switch to a rodent-proof closed bin.
Attracts insects, millipedes, slugs, etc.	This is normal composting, and part of the natural process.	Not a problem.
Fire ant problems.	Pile could be too dry, not hot enough, or has kitchen scraps too close to the surface.	Make sure your pile has a good mix of materials to heat up, and keep it moist enough.

Let freedom (from paying to dispose of yard waste) ring!

Bird and Butterflies

All in red, white or blue, of course!

Along with flowering plants, many red, white or blue wildlife are often seen here in Oregon. Some are passing through and some stay year-round. Oh, what a blessing nature has bestowed on our land! And we're not unique in the grand scheme of things. All around the world there are birds and butterflies and various beasts with these same colors. We show here just a few along with their most favorite northwest native plants.

Red butterfly (species unknown)

Trumpeter swans feeding on grain in a field in the Willamette Valley
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Blue Heron

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Bird and Butterflies, continued

Some Food Plants for Caterpillars	
Trees	**Caterpillars**
Black cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa), quaking aspen (P. tremuloides) and willows (Salix spp.)	western tiger swallowtail, mourning cloak and others (especially willows)
Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and pines (Pinus spp.)	pine white
Garden Flowers and Ground Covers	
Hollyhock (Alcea rosea)	painted lady, west coast lady
Kinnikinnik (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)	spring azure, brown elfin
Vegetables	
Broccoli, cabbage (Brassica oleracae var.)	cabbage white
Beans (Phaseolu vulgaris var.)	gray hairstreak
Carrot, dill, fennel, parsley (Umbelliferae family)	anise swallowtail
Common "Weedy" Species	
Nettle (Urtica lyallii)	Milbert's tortoiseshell, red admiral, satyr anglewing
Clover (Trifolium spp.)	common sulfur, orange sulfur

Painting by
Heidi D. Hansen

Ideas from the Oregon Zoo for plants to attract butterflies

Some Flowering Plants for Butterflies	
Plants	**Bloom Time**
Mock orange (Philadelphus lewisii)	June/July
Mountain balm (Ceanothus velutinus)	April/May
Pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea)	August/September
Garden Shrubs	
Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)	April/May
Viburnum (Viburnum carlesii)	April/May
Garden Flowers	
Bee balm (Monarda didyma)	June/July
Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia fulgida)	All Summer
Lavender (Lavendula angustifolia)	June/July
Phlox (Phlox paniculata)	June- August
Purple cornflower (Echinacea purpurea)	July- September

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Bird and Butterflies, continued

Jays are not everybody's favorite bird but you must admit they are a pretty color. In my neighborhood we had a few jays that tended to 'lord it over' the rest of the birds but then we got adopted by a big family of crows (another not-so-favorite of some folks).

I've learned a lot by watching these big black birds and have grown to like them quite a lot. For one thing, the jays are gone and we now have a lot of little birds, a good thing in my opinion.

Another thing I like about the crows is they take care of us all. If an animal is hurt or begins to bully another animal, they announce it loud and clear, in unison, until the problem is fixed.

The jays, though pretty, just never showed that much community interest.

Top, left: Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri)
Port Orford Cedar (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana)

UK's Common Blue butterfly (Polyommatus icarus), photo courtesy of Jenny Bailey ©www.english-country-garden.com Do visit this website, it is quite lovely and full of good information.

Far left, Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta var. latifolia)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott
Western Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma californica)
Garry Oak (Quercus garryana), paintings by Heidi D. Hansen

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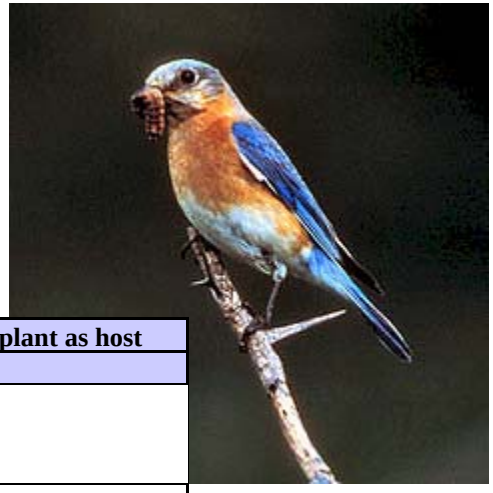
Bird and Butterflies, continued

The chart below is from the Eugene-Springfield chapter of the NABA (North American Butterfly Association) website. They also have a list of Willamette Valley native nectar plants for butterflies--a great resource. See http://www.naba.org/Chapters/Nabaes/btrfly-gdng4.html.

NATIVE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOST PLANTS		Common Willamette Valley butterfly species or groups that use plant as host	
Common Name	**Latin Name**	**Documented**	**Suspected**
nettles, stinging	*Urtica dioica*	red admiral, painted lady, w. coast painted lady, satyr anglewing, Milbert's tortoiseshell	green anglewing
cherry, choke	*Prunus virginiana*	w. tiger and pale tiger swallowtails, Lorquin's admiral, echo blue	painted lady
lupine, many-leaved	*Lupinus polyphyllus*	painted lady, w. tailed blue, silvery blue	clouded sulphur, w. coast painted lady, gray hairstreak, echo blue, Fender's blue, acmon blue, silver-spotted skipper
vetch, American	*Vicia americana*	orange sulphur, clouded sulphur, gray hairstreak, w. tailed blue	silvery blue
oceanspray	*Holodiscus discolor*	pale tiger swallowtail, Lorquin's admiral, echo blue	-
willow, Scouler's	*Salix scouleriana*	w. tiger swallowtail	Lorquin's admiral
yellow monkeyflower	*Mimulus guttatus*	buckeye, mylitta crescent	w. checkerspot, Edith's checkerspot
cress, American winter	*Barbarea othoceras*	Sara orange tip, sharp-veined white	w. white
violet, early blue	*Viola adunca var. adunca*	great spangled fritillary, hydaspe fritillary, callippe fritillary	w. meadow fritillary, valley silverspot
mugwort	*Artemesia douglasiana*	painted lady, American painted lady	w. coast painted lady
oak, Oregon white	*Quercus garryana*	propertius dusky wing	Lorquin's admiral, California sister, gray hairstreak, echo blue
everlasting, pearly	*Anaphalis margaritacea*	painted lady, American painted lady	w. coast painted lady



Western Bluebird (Sialia mexicana) This little guy is beautiful and one of the finest bug catchers you'll find. They love elderberries and Oregon Grape. One of their favorite nesting sites is an oak grove.

The National Wildlife Federation lists the top 10 native plants for the Pacific northwest at http://www.nwf.org/backyard/pacificnorthwest.cfm

And on Wally's nursery website, there is a whole section of our gardening notebook devoted to wildlife gardening. See www.nwplants.com for links.

⇨More⇨

Bird and Butterflies, continued

More from the Oregon Zoo: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP LOCAL BUTTERFLY POPULATIONS

Reduce Pesticide Use

Reconsider Butterfly Releases

Miami Blue. Photo courtesy of the North American Butterfly Association, www.naba.org

It has become popular to release commercially bred butterflies at special occasions such as weddings, fairs and other events. Although a seemingly harmless practice, many scientists have stated that releasing butterflies into the wild has the potential of harming wild butterfly populations and ecosystems. Their concerns include the following:

- Some released, non-native butterflies could mate with wild butterflies, potentially polluting or reducing the genetic viability of wild populations.
- Massive releases of commercially raised butterflies may also skew data related to butterfly counts that help monitor the status of wild butterfly populations.
- Butterfly breeders, who are not properly permitted by appropriate regulatory agencies or who do not follow industry standards, could produce butterflies that carry diseases and parasites that might spread to wild butterflies.

Since some caterpillars are considered potential plant pests, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and corresponding state agencies have the responsibility of regulating the butterfly breeding industry. USDA regulates and issues permits for breeding a limited number of butterfly species approved for release. The approval of species for release is also regulated by state agencies.

If you are thinking about releasing butterflies for a special occasion, it is important to consider all of the above factors. Contact your state agency to determine which species/types of butterflies are allowed for release in your area. And make sure that the organization from which you are receiving the butterflies has all the proper governmental permits.

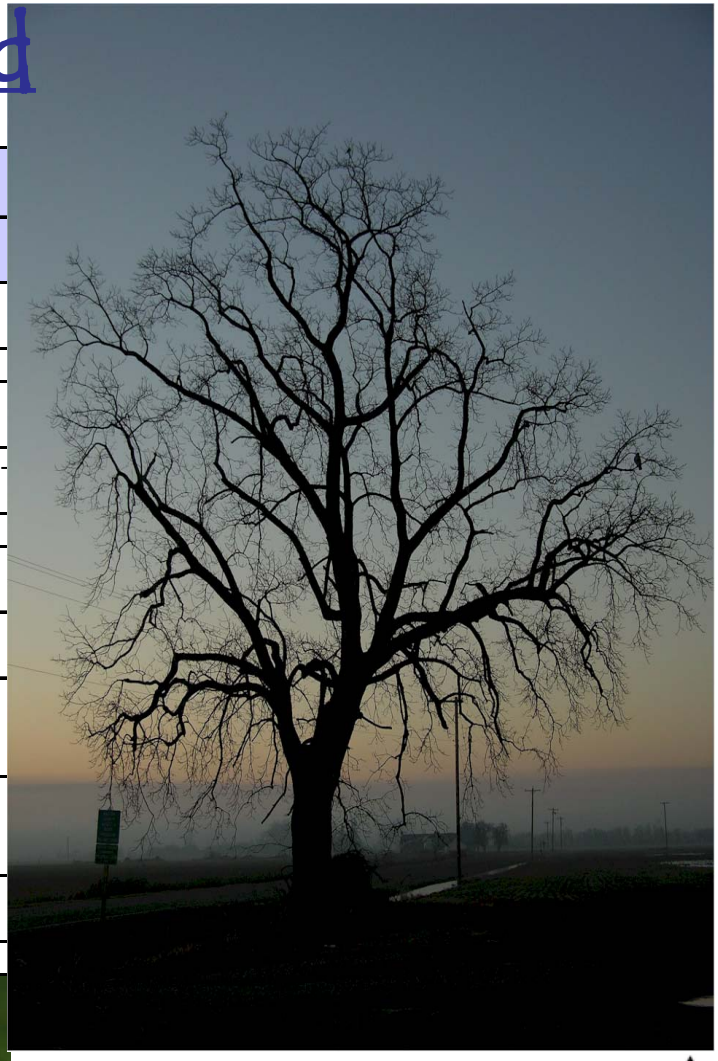
Thank you for making an informed decision about butterfly releases. For more information, check out the North American Butterfly Association's release about this subject.

Trumpeter Swans in flight-Awesome!

⇨More⇨

Bird and Butterflies, continued

NATIVE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOST PLANTS		Common Willamette Valley butterfly species or groups that use plant as host	
Common Name	**Latin Name**	**Documented**	**Suspected**
violet, stream	*Viola glabella*	w. meadow fritillary, hydaspe fritillary, callippe fritillary	great spangled fritillary, valley silverspot
maple, bigleaf	*Acer macrophyllum*	w. tiger swallowtail	mourning cloak, echo blue
milkweed, showy	*Asclepias speciosa*	monarch	gray hairstreak
yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	painted lady	purplish copper, gray copper, two-banded checkered skipper
heart, bleeding	*Dicentra formosa*	clodius parnassian	-
lomatium, fernleaf	*Lomatium dissectum*	anise swallowtail	-
cinquefoil, slender	*Potentilla gracilis*	-	purplish copper, two-banded checkered skipper
checkermallow, meadow	*Sidalcea campestris*	-	w. coast painted lady, common checkered skipper, two-banded checkered skipper
checkermallow, rosy	*Sidalcea virgata*	-	w. coast painted lady, common checkered skipper, two-banded checkered skipper
strawberry, broadpetal	*Fragaria virginiana var. platyphylla*	painted lady	gray hairstreak
Nootka rose	*Rosa nutkana*	w. checkerspot	gray hairstreak, w. checkerspot



Red-Tailed Hawk in tree at sunset
Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Rosy Checkermallow (Sicaldea virgata)

The Plight of Fender's Blue

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Endangered Fender's Blue

Endangered Fender's Blue butterflies face a double dilemma.

First, their caterpillars will eat only Kincaid's lupine, a threatened plant that is disappearing. Second, non-native weeds are crowding out the nectar plants the adult butterfly feeds upon.

Kincaid's lupine and the other plants the butterfly needs are found in upland prairie habitat in the Willamette Valley. Only scattered patches of that habitat still exist. The butterfly has disappeared from many of the patches that remain.

The Oregon Zoo raises Fender's Blue butterflies to be released in the small patches of upland prairie habitat that remain. Other partners in this project are working to restore the habitat with the plants the butterfly and its caterpillar need.

(From the Oregon's Zoo's Winged Wonders website (www.oregonzoo.org/Butterfly/main.htm)

It is no wonder the Butterfly Conservation Initiative (www.butterflyrecovery.org/) has chosen to use this photograph at left and the painting below as part of their official logo.

BFCI
The Butterfly Conservation Initiative

This is our Fender's Blue Butterfly with Kincaid's Lupine. Such beauty is in danger of disappearing at the same rate it's natural habitat is going, going, gone.

Kincaid's Lupine
Photo courtesy of USFWS

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

The official status of this beautiful and rare butterfly and the two main plants in it's natural habitat

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Species Profile for Kincaid's Lupine (Lupinus sulphureus (=oreganus) ssp. kincaidii (=var. kincaidii)) lists states in which the Kincaid's Lupine is know to occur as Oregon and Washington. The only USFWS Refuge in which the Kincaid's Lupine is known to occur is Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. The current listing of this plant is threatened, date listed as January 25, 2000.

This status came after a proposed endangered status for Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens (Willamette Daisy) and Fender's Blue Butterfly (Icaricia icariodes fenderi) and a proposed threatened status for Kincaid's Lupine was presented on January 27, 1998.

The final ruling (direct quote):

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are designating critical habitat for the Fender's blue butterfly (Icaricia icarioides fenderi), Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii (Kincaid's lupine), and Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens (Willamette daisy) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Approximately 3,010 acres (ac) (1,218 hectares (ha)) for Fender's blue butterfly in Benton, Lane, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, Oregon; 585 ac (237 ha) for L. sulphureus ssp. kincaidii in Benton, Lane, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, Oregon, and Lewis County, Washington; and 718 ac (291 ha) for E. decumbens var. decumbens in Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, and Polk Counties, Oregon, fall within the boundaries of the critical habitat designation.

The two plants the USFWS designates as critical habitat for Fender's blue butterfly. Above at left, Kincaid's Lupine and at right, Willamette Daisy

Answer to our Plant Puzzle: Surprise! This little sweetie is the Collinsia parviflora (Small-Flowered Blue-Eyed Mary) and it's photo was taken by Susan Vernon@www.nps.gov. Did you recognize it?

le becomes effective on November 30, 2006.

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

A PRIMER: How to build an upland prarie

Actually, that's just my name for it. This is the text of the USFWS rule as published in the Federal Register, but it can be considered a complete list of the northwest native plants to include in a prarie.

Think "What will my yard become after I quit mowing grass and allow it to naturalize." (You can help this action along by putting in some of these plants yourself while you wait for nature to take over--and it will. Here again the old rule of 'build it and they will come' applies.)

This is a voluminous document but the location of the part within it that we are interested in right now is here (you could actually go to the Library of Congress and ask for this and you'd get the part we are going to quote):

[Federal Register: October 31, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 210)]
[Rules and Regulations]
[Page 63861-63910]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:**fr31oc06-14**]
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
50 CFR Part 17
RIN 1018-AT91

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Fender's blue butterfly (Icaricia icarioides fenderi), Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii (Kincaid's lupine), and Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens (Willamette daisy)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

Self-Heal (Prunella vulgaris var. lanceolata)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Read the entire text of this portion of the document at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2006_register&docid=fr31oc06-14

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

Brodiaea congesta
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

We skip the beginning here and start at the good part, midway on Page 63863 but this is a wonderful and detailed document that could be used word for word to make your prarie so think about reading the first part. Don't worry, it does not start on page 1. To make it easier, we've put the plant names in blue.

Various descriptions of prairie habitats have been published over the years and they usually vary in their division of communities and the dominant species present in each community (Jackson 1996, p. 2). We describe two habitat types, wet prairie and upland prairie, and define these by describing the plant communities reported co-occurring with the Fender's blue butterfly, Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii, and Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens. Upland prairie (including oak savanna) habitat occurs on well- drained soils and is characterized by a short grass stature dominated by native bunch grasses and forbs (Wilson 1998a, p. 2; Wilson et al. 2003, p. 79). Wet prairies are seasonally flooded ecosystems occurring on both poorly drained soil types and well-drained soils where shallow bedrock impedes drainage (Wilson 1998b, p. 1). Although wet prairie soils dry out during typical summer droughts, they have soils with hydric characteristics (i.e., soils formed under conditions of water saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough to develop anaerobic conditions) that support facultative or obligate wetland plant species (Wilson 1998b, p. 1).

Fender's blue butterfly and Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii

The Fender's blue butterfly and Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii populations primarily occur on early seral (one stage in a sequential progression) upland prairie habitat with plant species including but not limited to: Achillea millefolium (common yarrow), Aster hallii (Hall's aster), Brodiaea congesta (Brodiaea), Bromus carinatus (California brome), Calochortus tolmiei (Cat's ear, Tolmie star-tulip), Carex tumulicola (splitawn sedge), Cirsium callilepis (fewleaf thistle), Danthonia californica (California oatgrass), Elymus glaucus (blue wildrye), Eriophyllum lanatum (common woolly sunflower, Oregon sunshine), Festuca californica (California fescue), Festuca roemeri (Roemer's fescue), Fragaria virginiana (Virginia strawberry), Geranium oreganum (Oregon geranium), Grindelia integrifolia (gumweed), Lomatium nudicaule (barestemmed desert parsley), Luzula campestris (wood rush), Prunella vulgaris (common selfheal), Sanicula crassicaulis (Pacific blacksnakeroot), Sidalcea virgata (rose checkermallow and dwarf checkerbloom), Silene hookeri (Hooker's silene), and Wyethia angustifolia (California compassplant) (Wilson 1998b, pp. 2-7; Kaye in litt.a, p. 2). Many of these associated species are considered indicators for upland prairie habitat (Schultz et al. 2003, p. 65; Wilson et al. 2003, p. 79).

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Fender's Blue, continued

Oceanspray (Holodiscus discolor)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

The Fender's blue butterfly habitat requirements include a larval host plant (i.e., Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii, L. arbustus (spurred lupine), and L. albicaulis (sickle-keeled lupine), native forbs for adult nectar sources, and native grasses that comprise short- grass upland prairies (Wilson et al. 1997, p. 3; Schultz 2001, p. 1008). These requirements are considered essential to the survival and conservation of these species (Wilson et al. 2003, p. 79). Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii is a primary larval host plant for the Fender's blue butterfly and is utilized by the butterfly for oviposition (laying eggs) and as a larval food source (Schultz et al. 2003, p. 64; Wilson et al. 2003, pp. 73, 77). Adult Fender's blue butterflies use nectar sources in wet prairie habitat that occur near their host plant habitat. The Fender's blue butterfly is more vigorous in full sun conditions (Schultz et al. 2003, p. 68), which are important for adult butterflies to seek out nectar, search for a mate, oviposit, and disperse (Severns in prep. Manuscript, pp. 1, 3, 13-19). The Fender's blue butterfly appears to have limited dispersal ability, with most dispersing adults likely remaining within approximately 1.2 miles (mi) (2 kilometers (km)) of their natal lupine patch (Schultz 1998, p. 284). The maximum dispersal distance reported for the Fender's blue butterfly is 2 mi (3.2 km) (Severns 2004, p. 4).

Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii habitat is generally described as prairie or open areas, and this species is typically unable to survive prolonged periods of shade (Wilson et al. 2003, p. 79). However, populations of L. sulphureus ssp. kincaidii occurring in Douglas County, Oregon, have been documented as occurring in atypical habitat for the species (Barnes 2004, p. 102). The Douglas County populations are in wooded areas with canopy cover ranging from 50 to 80 percent (Barnes 2004, p. 102) and dominated by species such as: Arbutus menziesii (Pacific madrone), Arctostaphylos columbiana (hairy manzanita), Calocedrus decurrens (incense cedar), Calochortus tolmiei (Cat's ear, Tolmie star-tulip), Canadanthus modestus (giant mountain aster),

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

Ceanothus cuneatusa (buckbrush), Cerastium arvense (field chickweed), Cynosurus echinatus (bristly dogstail grass), Daucus carota (Queen Anne's Lace, wild carrot), Dichelostemma capitatum (bluedicks), Festuca californica (California fescue), [[Page 63864]] Festuca roemeri (Roemer's fescue), Fragaria vesca (woodland strawberry), Hieracium albiflorum (white hawkweed), Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray), Lathyrus polyphyllus (leafy pea), Lonicera hispidula (pink honeysuckle), Pinus ponderosa (ponderosa pine), Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir, Doug fir), Quercus kelloggii (California black oak), Rubus ursinus (California blackberry), Sanicula crassicaulis (Pacific blacksnakeroot), Symphoricarpos albus (snowberry), Torilis arvensis (spreading hedgeparsley), Toxicodendron diversilobum (poison oak), Vicia americana (American vetch), and Whipplea modesta (common whipplea) (Friedman in litt.a, p.1; Friedman in litt.b, p.1).

Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii is a low-growing herbaceous perennial with large individual plant clones (Wilson et al. 2003, p. 73). Excavation efforts indicate that above-ground vegetation 33 feet (10 m) or more apart can be interconnected by below-ground stems. The species is long-lived with lateral growth rates, suggesting that some plants could be several decades old (Wilson et al. 2003, p. 73). Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii clones are scattered in patches across the prairie habitat and intermixed with several other prairie- associated plant species. Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii is a primary larval host plant for the Fender's blue butterfly and is utilized by the butterfly for oviposition (laying eggs) and as a larval food source (Schultz et al. 2003, p. 64; Wilson et al. 2003, pp. 73, 77).Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens

Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens grows in wet prairies occurring on relatively impermeable soils. Wet prairie habitat supporting Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens is typically defined by the plant species co-occurring with the plant including, but not limited to: Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernalgrass), Aster curtus (white-top aster), Aster hallii (Hall's aster), Brodiaea coronaria (crown brodiaea), Camassia quamash (common camas), Danthonia californica (California oatgrass), Deschampsia caespitosa (tufted hairgrass), Festuca arundinacea (tall fescue), Grindelia integrifolia (gumweed), Holcus lanatus (velvet grass), Horkelia congesta (Sierra horkelia), Saxifraga integrifolia (bog saxifrage), Lomatium bradshawii (Bradshaw's lomatium), Luzula campestris (wood rush), Panicum capillare (witchgrass), Potentilla gracilis (slender cinquefoil), Prunella vulgaris (common selfheal) and Sisyrinchium angustifolium (narrowleaf blue-eyed grass)

Kincaid's Lupine. Photo courtesy of Benton County Government

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

(Clark et al. 1993, p. 18; Clark et al. 1995a, p. 1, 1995b, p. 1; Jackson 1996, p. 14; Clark 2000, p. 3). Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens also grows in upland prairies as previously described (Clark et al. 1993, p. 18; Clark et al. 1995a, p. 1; Jackson 1996, p. 18; Clark 2000, p. 3).

Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens typically occurs where woody cover is nearly absent and where herbaceous vegetation cover is low in stature relative to the surrounding areas (Clark et al. 1993, pp. 21, 22). Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens is a low-growing (6-24 inches (in) (15-60 centimeters (cm))) herbaceous perennial occurring in clumps of genetically identical ramets (i.e., a vegetatively reproduced copy of the parent plant) that are typically patchy in distribution across the prairie habitat (Clark et al. 1993, p. 23). These plants are intermixed with several associated species which are considered indicator species for the prairie habitat (Clark et al. 1993, p. 18).

Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Fender's blue butterfly, Lupinus sulphureus ssp. Kincaidii, and Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens populations historically functioned as metapopulations in the more widespread prairie habitat (Jackson 1996, p. 20; Liston et al. 1995, p. 318; Schultz 1998, p. 285; and Severns 2003a, p. 221). Currently, most populations of these species are isolated from neighboring populations, and interactions between populations are thought to be rare events (Jackson 1996, p. 6; Schultz 1998, p. 286; Severns 2003a, p. 222). Recovery will require reestablishing connected populations by restoring habitat networks (Kaye, in litt.b, 2005, p. 1; Schultz et al. 2003, p. 61; Severns 2003a, p. 227). In this document, we define "habitat networks" as prairie habitat that can support connected populations and function as metapopulations.

And so on (and on, and on, ...)

This is enough quoting for now but do look at this document when you have some time or get bored on a rainy afternoon. You can skip the parts that are enclosed in parenthesis, for the most part. That's where legal documents put their cites--the exact location of what publication where you can find what the writer is quoting or relying on for facts. For myself, if I don't skip these parts my eyes glaze over and I go to sleep in less than 5 minutes. It's a matter of taste I suppose.

⇨More⇨

Fender's Blue, continued

Well, that's what you can look forward to if you decide to let your land (size is irrelevant) turn into a prairie.

You can see some of the very few remaining natural prairies at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge on Highway 22 near Dallas Oregon. It's a 2,492 acre spot that includes "farmed fields rolling oak-covered hills, grass fields, and shallow wetlands." (USFWS site www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13587) You may spot Bald Eagles in winter and of course Canada Geese for which this refuge was begun. There are also 30 species of mammals, 8 species of amphibians and 10 species of reptiles living here. But Baskett Slough hosts the largest remaining population of Fender's blue butterfly.

A more close-up look at Deer Creek Park in Gopher Valley where Cronin Creek and Deer Creek get together. The 30 acre park is in Oregon's Willamette Valley 11 miles southwest of McMinnville or 2 miles northeast of Sheridan on Hwy 18, turn north onto Gopher Valley Road and continue north 5.5 miles to the signed gravel road leading to the park.

Lupines in a field with Cow Parsnip
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

These are probably the two best places to see established prairie habitats and both still attract Fender's blue. Consider them as the photograph in a cookbook when you're planning to make a dish you've never heard of before. You may also think of them as the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. When your yard looks like that, you're there.

Photo of Deer Creek Park, courtesy of Yamhill County Parks

Let freedom (from mowing) ring!

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

Dwarf Mountain Ash
(Sorbus scopulina)
Bright red berries follow clusters of white flowers.
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

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.
http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=32142

Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus)
Glistening white berries follow little pink bells.
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇨More⇨

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia [berberis] aquifolium)
Bright yellow blooms are followed by dusky deep blue berries--delicious!
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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 http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=40355

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

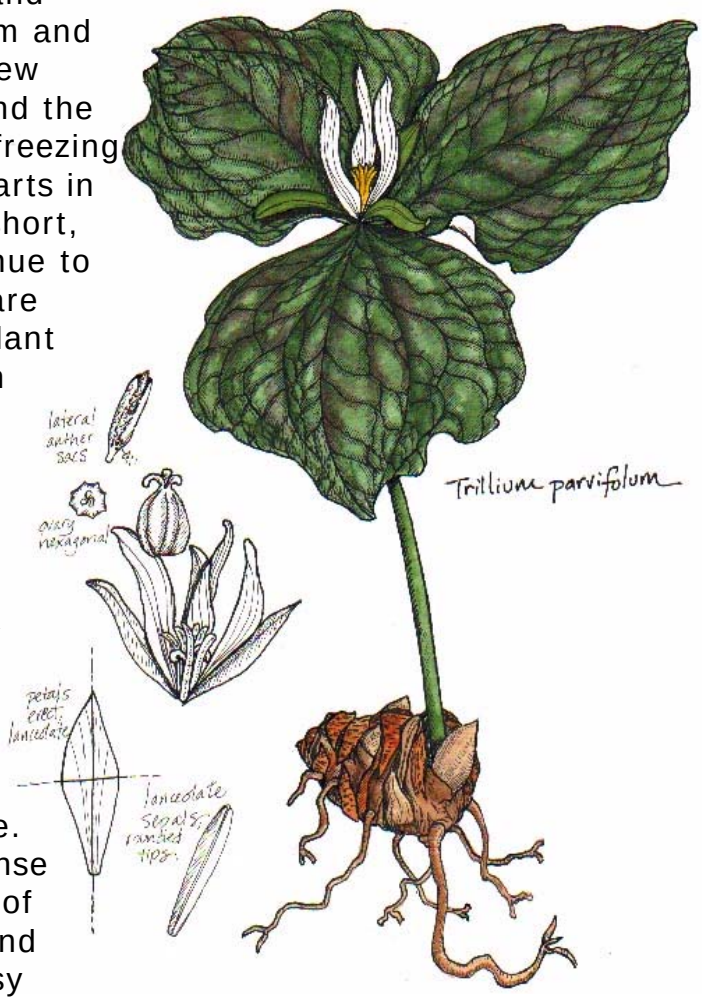
http://www.soils.org/
Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

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.

Personal notes from Wally

My trilliums have died back for the summer and I have been digging and processing the rhizomes. After blooming and setting seed, the old stem and leaves decay. Beneath the soil, where the stem joins the rhizome, a new "primitive" stem forms and grows about an inch. Growth then stops and the trillium awaits the winter cold. By February, after months of cool and freezing weather, the "dormancy" in the rhizome is broken, and new growth starts in late February. At this time of the year, I store the rhizomes, with the short, white primitive stem, in slightly damp peat moss. The roots will continue to grow all summer in the slightly damp peat moss. Generally, trilliums are planted out in September or October. However, it might be better to plant out in July, thus giving the roots longer to establish. I think I will soon offer boxes of 10 rhizomes, packed in damp peat moss and shipped priority mail (2 days anywhere USA.) If interested, watch my Home Page.



Painting by Heidi D. Hansen.

Trilliums are my lifelong favorite. As a depression kid in Washington State, near the Canadian border, way out in the country, we called Trilliums "Easter Lilies." I loved those trilliums, along the damp, shady creek bottoms. I picked them for my Mother, who always was so thankful! I rediscovered the magic of trilliums 11 years ago, here in Oregon. One day I was exploring a nearby deep gulch with a small stream. Growth was very dense and in late March, between the high conifers and the lower vine maples, my passage was nearly impossible. I struggled under and over and thru the intricate vine maples. The dense overhead leaves created a twilight zone. Suddenly I caught a glimpse of a flash of white ahead. Curious, I crawled toward this "white" object and suddenly came upon a huge Western Trillium – beautiful, perfect glossy green slightly mottled leaves and stunning white petals. Such a striking, beautiful symbol of Spring and Beauty and Renewal – a composite feeling of all that is good and worthwhile and joyful and eternal.

⇨More⇨

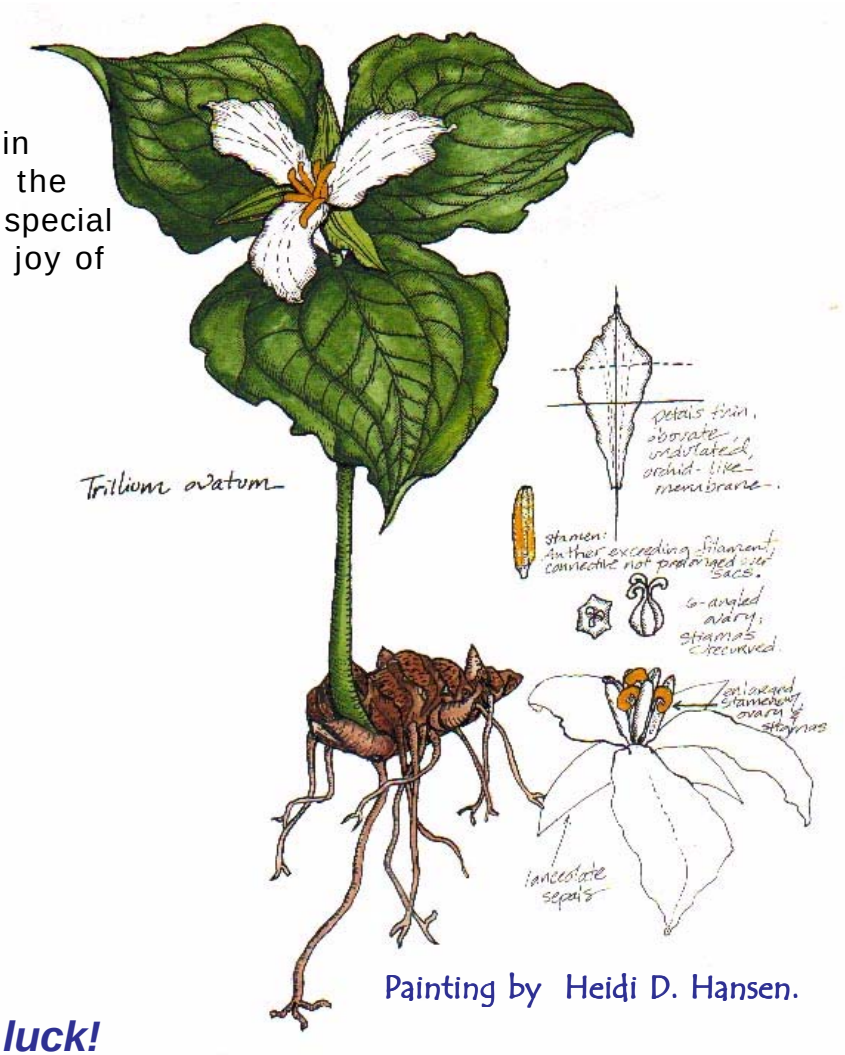
⇨More⇨

Personal notes from Wally, continued

Most of us consider the large, beautiful, traditional lilies (the ones that smell so sweet) as the traditional Easter Lily. I guess I am different. I associate those lilies with sadness and mourning – funerals. To me, the Trillium is the true Easter Lily for those of us in the Northwest or even in the Northern Hemisphere (no trilliums in the Southern Hemisphere). These have been called the Trinity Lily, of special meaning to those of the Christian Faith. But all Faiths share in the joy of Spring and renewal – the Trillium is a universal symbol.

Great Western Trillium
Trinity Lily, Easter Lily
(Trillium ovatum)

First Flower to break free of Winter's Grasp!
You awake from winter slumber,
And hint at warmer days to come.
Three leaves, three petals, three sepals!
To those of Christian Faith, The Trinity Lily.
To all Faiths, a sign of Spring renewal -
Of Continuity, Assurance, Spirituality
For brief days, your pure white petals,
Glossy green leaves and delightful form,
Brighten and comfort and awaken -
A world struggling out of winter's grasp -
Your prim, proper, starched white habits
Of some ancient forest order,
Soon give way to faded pink and red,
And then to vanish, as plump seed pods form,
To ensure new generations yet to come
Of eternal beauty and eternal values.



Painting by Heidi D. Hansen.

Good luck!
Wally

NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED

In November 2010, Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants Native Plant Nursery and Gardens closed permanently.

Many thanks to all our gardening friends for your interest in the native plants of the Pacific northwest. It has been our pleasure to serve you.

www.nwplants.com

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!

Hairy Manzanita
(Arctostaphylos columbiana)
Beautiful native evergreen shrub. Hardy and highly drought-tolerant.