

Volume 5, Issue 8-2007

August 2007

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

WALLY RETIRES!

See page 32

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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About this Journal

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.).



American Plum (*Prunus americana*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



On the Cover

Two *Ceanothus thrysiflorus* (Blueblossom) frame this driveway, the entrance to the nursery. Their small clusters of blue flowers are always abundant each year.

We captured them in this photo at the height of their bloom. The Pacific Rhodie at right provides high contrast to the bright blue color.

Everyone loves this view with the two *Ceanothus* sentinels nodding their heads to bid them greetings and adieu as they drive in and out of the nursery.

Blueblossom is a fine evergreen shrub, reliably lovely year round. Its small shiny dark green leaves are particularly pleasing, and when the flowers arrive they are rarely without the accompaniment of adoring bumblebees!



Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



Rare plant puzzle



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Name this plant!

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

“Back in 1934 they thought I was a goner. As it turns out, I was just hiding. Though you may never see me, I’m still around here and there. I’m a doggone good looker and Berry Botanically rare!”

We’ve hidden the answer to this month’s puzzle somewhere in this issue. Look carefully and you may find it!

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal’s puzzle:

Collinsia parviflora
(Small-Flowered Blue-Eyed Mary)
(found on page 28)

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

Use water wisely--here's some ways to get double duty when you water. Make every drop count. Pavement does not need water so make sure you don't waste any on it with sprinklers that overshoot their mark.

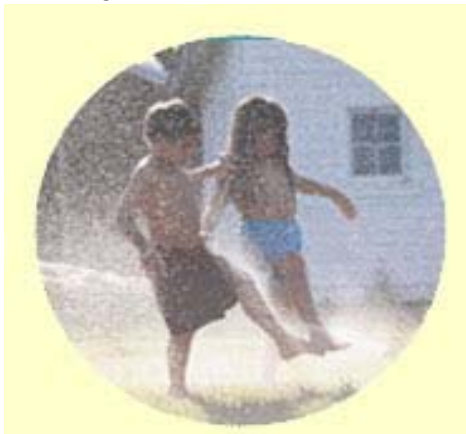
1 – Water watch! When days are dry and the sun is hot, watch new plants for signs of stress. Provide shade in the heat of the day, water early in the morning if needed. If you water too late in the day you'll only attract slugs and mildew.

2 – Cooling trick--get double the benefit when you water by opening the windows of your house near the watered area. The air will be cooler there. If you place a fan in the window it will bring that cooler air indoors. (Careful not to aim the water to go inside the window!)

3 – Did you ever run through the sprinklers when you were a child? Don't tell anyone but it is every bit as much fun for grownups as it is for kids. If your clothes get a little wet, they'll dry in no time on hot days and cool you off as well. If you're shy about leaping and racing about you can hand-spray your plants and 'accidentally' squirt yourself. Nobody will ever know.

4 – Beat the heat by spraying trees near the house with water in the afternoon but not in direct sun. The entire mass of the tree will be several degrees cooler, another time to open windows in the vicinity.

5 – If you have those rolls of reed or bamboo fencing placed about your yard, they will appreciate a good spray at least once a week. Their lifespan will be much longer if you replace the moisture they naturally lose. The same goes for wicker furniture as long as it is not painted.



6 – Add any yard trimmings or unwanted greenery to your compost. If you have weeds that make seeds, you can put them in a black plastic bag and leave them in the sun until well cooked. The heat will render the seeds unviable.

7 – When washing anything outdoors (cars, tools, rugs, whatever), do it where plants can benefit from the runoff. Washing on the driveway only sends the water down the drain instead of where it'll do some additional good. Of course, use only products that are biodegradable.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Squirrel news on the internet: I've just learned about what is (from a squirrel's viewpoint) a totally ridiculous website dedicated to a totally ridiculous idea: Sugar Bush Squirrel. This is an Eastern Gray squirrel who was rescued and now is being held captive by a two-legged person who is obviously not running with a full load of nuts. She is dressing up this poor little squirrel in costumes and taking her picture. Now I've seen some pretty crazy stuff but this beats them all. I am not going to even tell you where you can see this nonsense but if you search for Sugar Bush Squirrel you'll find it. Talk about exploit! I cannot imagine!

Now here's a real humdinger from ananova.com: An elderly German couple were forced out of their home when a family of squirrels moved in and chased them off.

Heinz Steinhäuser and his wife Brunhilde, from Verden in Lower Saxony, were kept out of their house for almost two hours.

They eventually had to call the fire brigade to reclaim their home from the squirrel pair and their three offspring.

Steinhäuser said the family of squirrels slipped into the house when he went outside to pick up his newspaper and they had chased his wife out.

When firemen arrived, the squirrels hid in the bed and other

furniture before the five officers were able to catch them one-by-one, often by dismantling much of the furniture to corner the animals individually.

Can you believe? The poor little squirrels! This sounds so silly. No squirrel in their right mind would go into a two-legged nest on their own free will. We will look, sure. But go in? Are you nuts?

This is from slashdot.org (News for nerds: Stuff that Matters): In the July 20 issue of the Washington Post, columnist Al Kamen reports that the BBC has translated a story headlined 'spying squirrels,' published in the Iranian newspaper Resalat on the use of trained animals to conduct espionage against their country:

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Sparky's Corner, continued

'A few weeks ago, 14 squirrels equipped with espionage systems of foreign intelligence services were captured by [Iranian] intelligence forces along the country's borders. These trained squirrels, each of which weighed just over 700 grams, were released on the borders of the country for intelligence and espionage purposes.' According to the story the squirrels had 'GPS devices, bugging instruments and advanced cameras' in their bodies. 'Given the fast speed and the special physical features of these animals, they provide special capabilities for spying operations. Once the animals return to their place of origin, the intelligence gathered by them is then offloaded. . . .' Iranian police officials captured the squirrels before they could carry out their assignments.

Oh, for Pete's sake. There's a lot more. If you need a good laugh, search for 'squirrel news.'

So here's my message: Do not believe any of this stuff. Squirrels are just quick and cute little furries that eat nuts and berries and have a good time. We don't scare old two-leggers out of their houses and we don't do spy work.

We do have picnics though. We don't bother with tablecloths and the other accoutrements two-leggers use, we just grab our food and eat it right there where it's fresh. Sometimes we scamper up a tree and eat in the clouds. Sometimes we hunker down and eat on the ground. It depends on what's going on and how safe and secure we feel.

We think picnics are good for you. Have one. When's the last time you ate outside in the fresh air? Take your lunch out on the patio or have a snack on the swing. And of course you must have some sweet tea or lemonade while you are in the hammock or even a mint julep. An handful of berries is so delicious when you plunk yourself right down on the ground beside the bush. Take a break--have a picnic!



Picnic by roadside, Esquesing
September 19, 1925
M.O. Hammond

*Your friend,
Sparky*



Staying Green

Simple ways to boost your budget and your green factor.



Weave small rugs from the sturdy leaves of this native perennial. Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), Photo by JoAnn Onstott

These easy at-home energy savers will instantly improve your home's energy-efficiency, and save money on your utility bill. A quick trip to the home improvement or hardware store ([or the garden!](#)) will set you on your way.

Weatherizers

We usually think of weatherization in winter but the same tricks that keep heat inside in winter will keep the cool inside in summer.

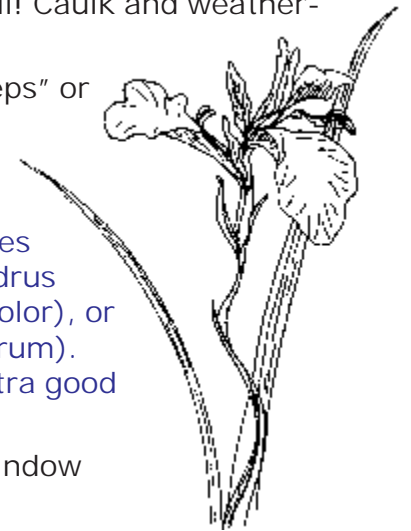
The gaps around the windows and doors in an average American house are the equivalent of a 3 foot by 3 foot hole in the wall! Caulk and weather-strip to seal off these air leaks.

- o Stop air from escaping under doors with "sweeps" or "shoes" attached to the bottom.

Make a door snake to plug air leaks--good for doors, windows, anyplace where air can slip through. Fill with native Sweet Grass, Myrtle leaves (*Umbellularia californica*), Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Ocean Spray flowers (*Holodiscus discolor*), or Rocky Mountain Juniper sprigs (*Juniperus scopulorum*). These fragrant natives will give your snake an extra good smelling oomph!

- o Use window putty to seal gaps around loose window panes.
- o Cover bare floors with padded rugs for added insulation.

Woven mats work well to keep your tootsies cool and they are long lasting. Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) shown at left and Oregon Iris (*Iris tenax*) shown above at right, are particularly good materials for weaving mats. They get softer as they age.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Staying Green, continued

- o Look for other air leaks you can seal, such as those around plumbing penetrations or ceiling-mounted lighting fixtures.
- o Better yet, call an energy rater who can test your house for hidden leaks. Many utility companies will do this for free.
- o One of the very best ways to weatherize your home is to use the benefits of your landscape to keep your living space comfortable.

Big trees on the south and west sides of your property will lower the inside temperature without spending a dime.

Shrubs surrounding your home kept trimmed to a 1-foot air space between the building and the shrub provides a natural buffer, sort of like an invisible bubble, that discourages the general temperature from reaching your home yet does not encourage rot or bugs to crawl into the structure.



Door snake stuffers:
Fragrant flowers of
Oceanspray (*Holodiscus*
discolor) and leaves of
Myrtle (*Umbellularia*
californica)



An aromatic shrub beneath your bedroom windows freshens the room as the night breezes flow in. And if you choose one with thorns it is a perfect deterrent for intruders!



Nature's
most
ferocious thorns are found on the Devil's Club (*Oplopahax horridus*), a shade loving deciduous shrub sporting hard thorns that may break off and stay under the skin! Flowers are insignificant followed by big sprays of bright red berries. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Staying Green, continued

Compact fluorescent bulbs

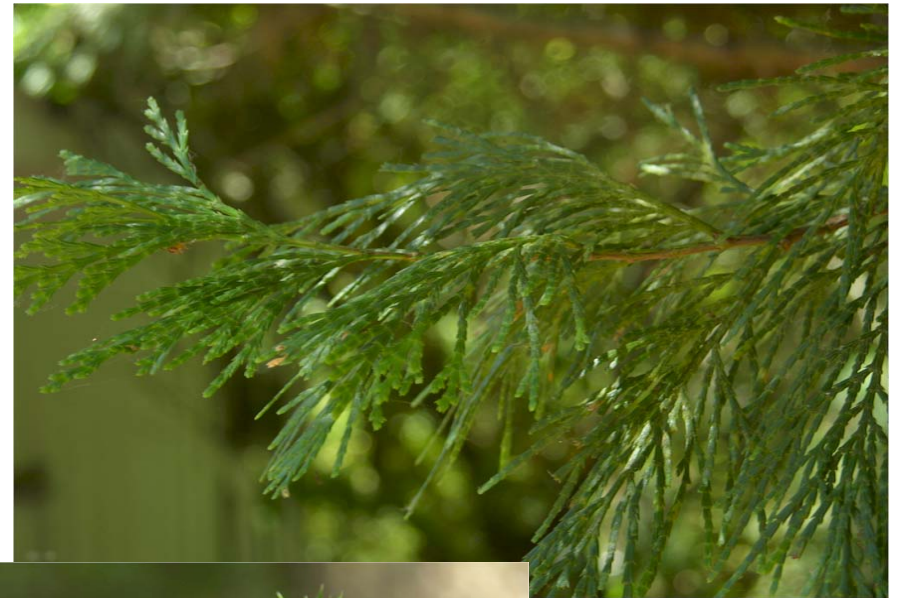
Lighting accounts for about 15 percent of household energy use. If you swap the five standard light bulbs you use most for energy-saving compact fluorescents, you can save roughly \$60 each year on electricity. Make sure you use EnergyStar compact fluorescents, which are tested for quality and longevity.

I traded all the bulbs in my home with compact flourescents over 5 years ago and the only one I've had to replace was actually broken when one of the cats kicked the lamp to the floor. I leave the lowest wattage lights on 24/7 in the kitchen and the living room. My electric bill is considerably lower since I've switched to these bulbs.

Unlike incandescent bulbs, compact flourescents do not give off as much heat. There are full-spectrum compacts as well as tube lights that you can use to light up your indoor plants without fear of burning them!

Specially made plant lights are available and expensive but regular bulbs rated with the right amount of color work fine. (iVillage's Garden Web has a good discussion on this at <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/load/lights/msg080732543269.html>). Perfect for starting shrubs and perennials from cuttings in the winter. Also excellent for starting plants from seeds.

Some natives take a long time for those seeds to sprout and a winter beneath a flourescent bulb is very economical energy, provides good steady light and does not emit carbon dioxide.



Native trees with aromatic foliage: Top, Incense Cedar (*Calodectrus decurrens*).

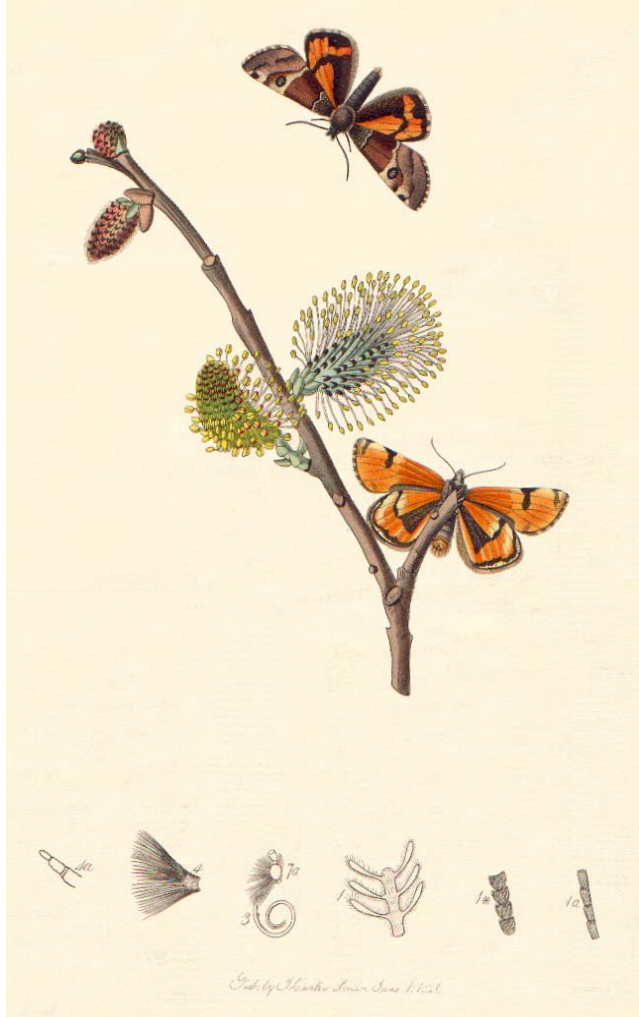


At left, Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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Staying Green, continued



Small branches of Northwest Native willows (*Salix* family)--old botanical print above left--and Vine Maples (*Acer circinatum*)--photo by JoAnn Onstott, above right-- are superb materials for weaving door mats, water heater blankets, screens for privacy or shade, lampshades, etc. Quick to grow and easy to work with.

Water Heater Blankets

Bundle up your water heater to limit heat transfer. Keeps the air around it cooler in summer and the water inside warmer in winter.

Make an attractive water heater blanket from thin willow whips woven together ala basket weave. A fun late summer project that will save money by insulating your water heater as well as making it more attractive. These materials are also fine for mats outside the door for wiping feet on.

Fresh Filters

Keep your air-conditioning and heating systems properly maintained by changing air filters and keeping air conditioner coils clean.

Tuck a sprig of good smelling native plant leaves into your air filter for an extra fresh scent.

Low-Flow Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

Replacing old models with new low-flow designs prevents the energy used to heat water from going down the drain by not using so much water.

Another way to save on water is by using native plants in your landscape. They are naturally acclimatized to your region--they've spent centuries getting used to living there!



Article from the Natural Resources Defense Council. Our commentary in blue.



Escaped Ornamentals

The down side of non-native plants

Kirsten S. Traynor
Frederick County Master Gardener Program

Since people started gardening, they have transplanted plants they admired into new places. Some of those plants adapted well to their new habitat. Unfortunately, a few adapted too well — in their new home these non-native plants are able to spread rapidly, becoming exotic invasives that choke out native flora.

While many people realize multiflora rose, kudzu and Canada thistle are invasive, they may not recognize the danger of some plants available in garden centers and nurseries.

Canada thistle
Cirsium arvense



Native plant alternatives



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Instead of Canada thistle, why not use a NW native perennial? If it's pink you're yearning for, the Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is long lasting and lovely. It can be dried or pressed for crafting.

Lavendar daisy shaped flowers abound on the Willamette Valley Fleabane (*Erigeron decumbens*). This one is rare in nature and hard to find in nurseries. That's why we featured it this month as our 'mystery plant.' Surprise! More commonly found are the Pacific or Douglas Asters (*Symphyotrichum chilense* or s. *subspicatum*).

Photo by Jennifer Rehm



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Escaped Ornamentals, continued

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*), the centerpiece of many butterfly gardens, is a serious problem in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It is also causing some havoc in America in states such as Washington and Oregon. In those regions it has been found growing up to 10 feet high from a crack in the side-walk and outcompeting Douglas fir seedlings in reforestation efforts far removed from any home garden.

If you already have a butterfly bush in your garden, you need not race to the garden shed to pull out your largest pruners. Just keep an eye on your flowering beauty and tend to it. If you want to be extra vigilant, don't let it go to seed. If you absolutely must have one blooming in your garden, look for cultivated varieties, not the straight species. Be aware research is still being conducted into cultivated varieties.



Butterfly bush
Buddleia spp. L



Native plant alternatives, continued

There are scads of native shrubs that are every bit as attractive to butterflies than non-native ornamentals. The Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) is also very much adored by hummingbirds. Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), any of the Oregon Grapes (*Mahonia*), and of course the Ceanothus are all good:

- Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
- Buckbrush (c. *cuneatus*)
- Deerbrush (c. *integerrus*)
- Red Stem Ceanothus (c. *sanguineus*)
- Snowbrush (c. *velutinus*)

Red Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Escaped Ornamentals, continued



Bradford pear
Pyrus calleryana

Another misplaced beauty that transforms the drive along I-270 into a magnificent display of white blossoms in the spring is the beloved Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). All those wonderful white flowering trees were not planted by a beautification board. So how did they come to be there?

The Bradford pear came into existence when the U.S. Department of Agriculture was looking to improve the rootstock of our commercial pear trees. They imported over one hundred pounds of *Pyrus calleryana* seed into the United States in 1918. From among this seed stock the Bradford pear was developed, a marvelous, fast growing and elegantly shaped tree with the added benefit that it was self-sterile and so did not produce fruit.

But things were too good to be true. The Bradford pear had one huge shortcoming: Branches form a narrow crotch with the trunk, making them extremely weak. After approximately 20 years of growth, just as a Bradford pear starts to reach its greatest splendor, it easily breaks apart in a thunderstorm or from a coating of ice.

To improve the Bradford pear tree and rectify this problem, a series of new callery pear trees were developed and introduced that did not suffer from this narrow crotch problem. Suddenly, the self-sterile Bradford pear was not alone! Now it could cross-pollinate with all these new callery pear trees. This previously "sterile" tree now started to produce fruit. While very small in size, the quantity of fruits made up for any lack in girth. It is these fruits, probably eaten by birds, which caused the tremendous spread of hybrid callery pears sprouting on every hillside.



Native plant alternatives, continued

Right, though the fruit are not large, Serviceberry produces abundant dark purple-black fruits that are so delicious they are grown as a produce crop in Canada. This shrub is covered in fluffy white flowers in spring. Photo by JoAnn Onstott.

Left, if you want a fruit tree, the American Crabapple should be more than adequate for your needs. The flowers are followed by little sour apples that make delicious jelly.



Escaped Ornamentals, continued

A second tree weed management programs all over the United States battle is the inappropriately named tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This tree, often incorrectly referred to as stinking sumac, grows along highways, in disturbed areas, in the rocky outcroppings of fields and anywhere else its prolific seeds seem to land.

Tree of heaven was originally introduced from China as an ornamental tree. You might know it from 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.' It certainly flourishes in city landscapes. I have even seen it growing two stories up on the side of a stone building and in a neglected gutter. This tree is easy to spot come winter when the leaves have all fallen. It has a smooth, gray bark with little white markings. As a seedling, it grows almost straight up with one or two branches also growing upward. One of the most recognizable features is the smooth, red brown bark of its branches.



Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima

Often there will be one or two larger trees surrounded by a legion of these straight and erect seedlings. If you happen to see this tree on your property, do not cut it down. When this tree is cut down, it goes into self-protection mode, sending out dozens of shoots that can sprout up quite a distance away, it seems as far as 50 feet. It will also resprout from the stump.

Native plant alternatives, continued



As my friend, Art, can attest, practically anything is better than the Tree of Heaven. His family bought an old farm with a bonus: Tree of Heaven everywhere!

If you want something unusual and discovered in China, we suggest the Dawn Redwood. Originally a NW native and thought to be extinct, it was rediscovered in China in 1941. It has since been re-established here in its native land.

The foliage turns bronze-gold and falls in autumn. Most distinctive and beautiful in the landscape.



Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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Escaped Ornamentals, continued

I try to avoid using chemical means whenever possible, but sadly the only realistic means to deal with tree of heaven is with herbicides. Your local county weed management program can give you detailed information on how to combat this pesky plant using a simple method called "hack and squirt."

Two Web sites that provide more information are www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/aiall.htm and www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Pages/Tree_of_heaven.htm.

For more information on escaped ornamentals and possible native plant replacements, a good resource is the Maryland Native Plant Society Web site: www.mdflora.org. See their article on invasive non-natives at <http://www.mdflora.org/publications/invasivesframe.html>.

This article is from the Emmitsburg Pennsylvania Master Gardener's website, www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/. The Native plant alternatives commentary was written by Jennifer Rehm.



Native plant alternatives, continued



Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree) is native to China and it is the oldest known living tree. It is said that some specimens live 1000 years. It is not good for a shade tree, having open, airy shape but it is most attractive because of it's lovely fan-shaped leaves which are yellow in autumn.

Female plants will flower after 20 years if there is a male tree nearby for pollination. The fruit is called 'stinky' by some but the nut inside is considered a delicacy in China.

Photos by JoAnn Onstott.



A Summer Layabout

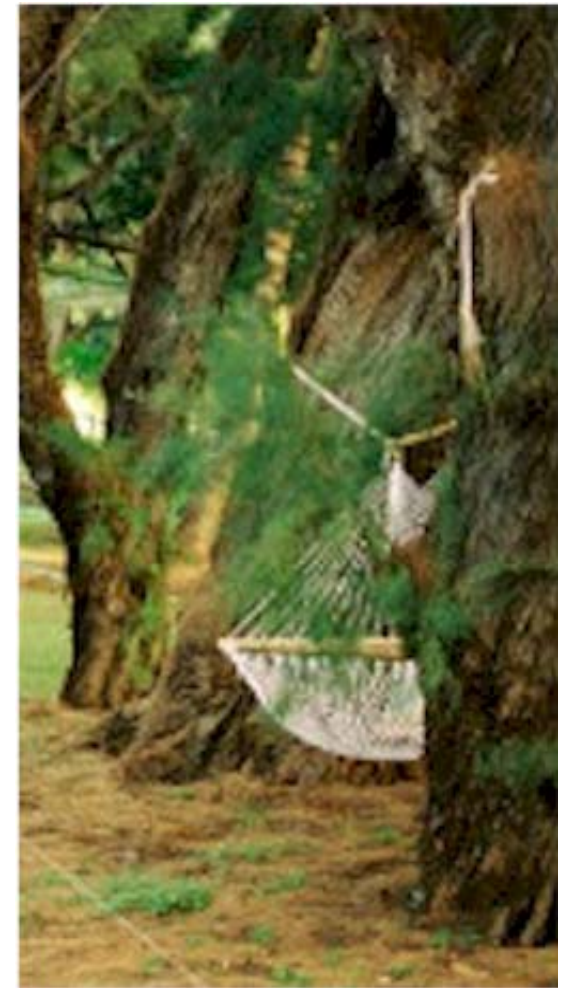
Almost nothing in the world beats a real hammock for summertime relaxing. We're talking about the kind made out of rope or heavy twine, not the canvas sort (though they do have their uses, I suppose).

- ~They stretch and contract to fit each body perfectly.
- ~The mesh allows air to flow freely all around.
- ~That breeze on the backside is so cooling!
- ~You can scoot your head up towards one end and read a book.
- ~You can lie smack in the middle and nap.
- ~You can put your feet close to the end, a great way to elevate them.
- ~You can sway back and forth like a child in a cradle.
- ~You can sit crosswise and push yourself with your feet for a regular swinging motion.
- ~Or you can hang both your head and your feet off the sides for a different perspective.



These maples are 100 years old!

We did not have a hammock when I was young. We had a rope swing though. Later on my dad made us a whole swingset with two swings, a trapeze bar and a slide. He buried the legs in the ground and cemented them in and I'm telling you, we had some grand old times seeing who could swing the highest. The daredevil set would jump out right at the apex of the pendulum but after a few skinned knees we either got better or gave up on the idea. When we swung really high we could see over the neighbor's fence (always a treat). That swingset was the hit of the neighborhood.

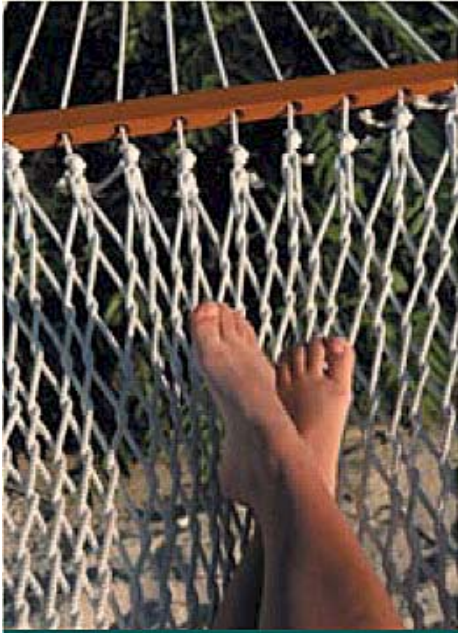


"The past should be a springboard and not a hammock." Irving Ball

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A Summer Layabout, continued

Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) in the background.



But, alas, there was no hammock. I think the reason was we had no big trees. The idea of a free-standing hammock had not caught on, I guess.

So, for the ultimate hammock experience you need a couple of hefty trees. What kind? I never thought you'd ask.

Personally, I prefer a deciduous tree for the hammock because I like to plant flowers under them for some spring interest until it's time to hang up the hammock. After all, one doesn't really want to be lying around in a hammock when it's raining or snowing. It's a summertime treat.

The big maples are good hammock trees. Not the Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), it's too spindly though a wonderful and very durable tree and best in color. No, the hammock the Douglas (*glabrum*), the grandidentatum) (*Acer macrophyllum*).

show for fall
maples for
Bigtooth Maple
(*Acer*
grandidentatum)
Bigtooth (*Acer*
or the Big-Leaf



*When he tells his love in passionate plea,
Vowing to serve her faithfully.*

Hammock allows you into the realm of doing nothing for an undetermined amount of time and feeling real good about it

[➔ More ➔](#)

A Summer Layabout, continued

Oaks are grand hammock trees. The evergreen Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) is perfect for a dry, well-drained site, sun or part shade. Does not want too much water or fertilizer and absolutely no insecticide or fungicide. It demands a natural environment (so should we all!).

Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) is the biggest by nature, once growing in broad swathes through the Willamette Valley but now much less so due to encroaching people.

California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) is a handsome oak with superb fall color. It is fond of acidic, sandy or gravelly soil and a quick grower if you're in a hurry.

If you have a moist site, the Oregon Myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*) is a wonderful tree for your hammock. Its lovely fragrance will enhance your lying about as summer breezes ruffle its leaves.

Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) in background



California
Black Oak
(*Quercus kelloggii*)



Such a lovely spot to dream away a summer afternoon

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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A Summer Layabout, continued



The Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*) is the Pacific Northwest standard-bearer and also quick to show some size. It is likely to reach around 200 feet tall and may live 1000 years or more. Doug Fir likes full sun and a good layer of mulch in the fall. The lower branches may have to be trimmed up to fit your hammock beneath, but the aromatic foliage will be a soothing curtain around you.

Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

If you're really in a rush for a good hammock tree, the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) could be your best choice. It grows 3 to 5 feet a year! This famous tree populates the Redwood Forest along the California coast line, and though it is not well represented in the northern part of Oregon it will do quite well here. Allow for some substantial growth. It can get up to 300 feet tall and 25 feet in diameter.



Attaching the hammock: alternatives to nailing a big eye hook in the tree. Note the bottom one is simply cleverly tied rope.

*I like the funny pattern the hammock makes on my skin when I get out...
it looks like a waffle tattoo...
theres no hiding that you've been hammocking...*

➡ More ➡

A Summer Layabout, continued

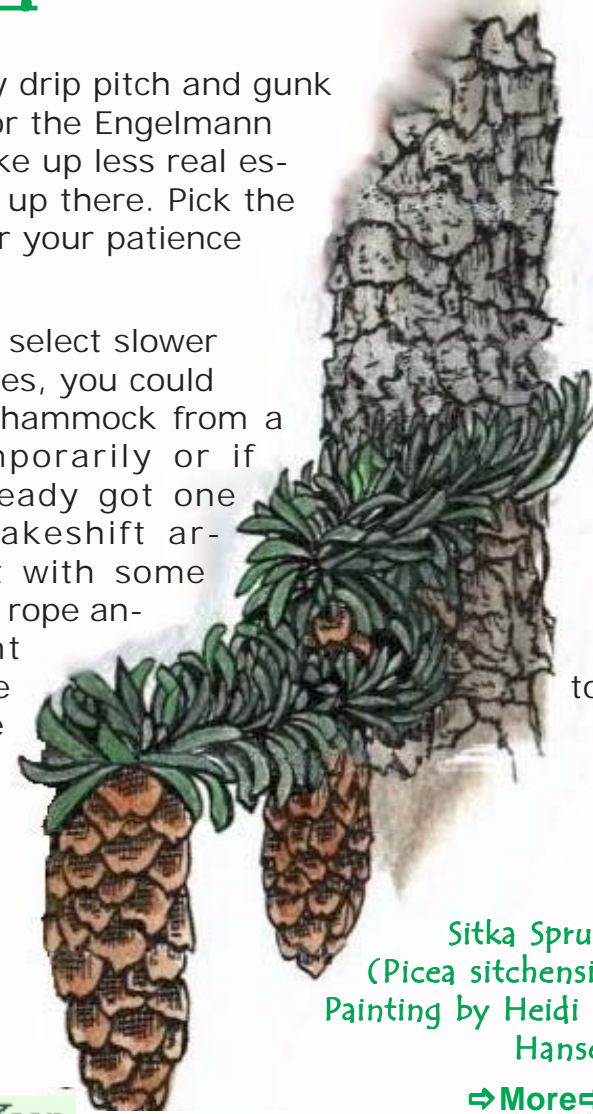
Northwest native cedars are a bit too 'weepy' for hammock hanging as they may drip pitch and gunk up that lovely rope work. Instead, consider the Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) or the Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). They are more slender forms than the cedars so take up less real estate but just as beautiful. Engelmann is a slow grower and Sitka will shoot right up there. Pick the best one for your patience level.



These are Mayan hammocks. Tropical zones have used hammocks for centuries, sometimes with mosquito netting and sometimes without. We suggest you find out under what conditions hammocks are made before buying from an unknown source.

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability. Sam Keen

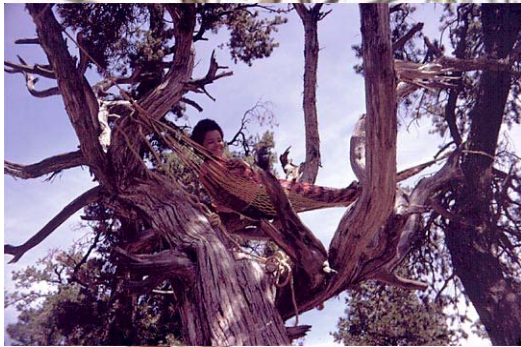
Should you select slower growing trees, you could hang your hammock from a stand temporarily or if you've already got one tree, a makeshift arrangement with some poles and a rope anchor might even suffice hold up the other end.



Sitka Spruce
(*Picea sitchensis*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

⇒ More ⇒

A Summer Layabout, continued



If you have
a little bitty
hammock and
a lot of driftwood

Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) is another native tree with excellent hammocking capabilities. The sparkling white 'flowers' will beckon you at just the right time to set up your summer haven.

Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) can grow up to 5 1/2 feet a year and the buds of its catkins are very fragrant. Butterflies find this deciduous tree quite attractive. It does float off seeds though so be aware there will be an annual wispy cotton 'shower.'

With all these choices beneath which to hang your hammock, how can you possibly get by without one? Plant now and you'll be swinging in the breeze in no time!



If you have
only one tree,
two poles and
a rope

The hammock was developed in Pre-Columbian Latin America and continues to be produced widely throughout the region, including among the Urarina of the Peruvian Amazon. Though it is unknown who invented the hammock, many maintain that it was a device created out of tradition and need. The English language derivation of hammock and various European equivalents is borrowed from the Spanish *hamaca* or *hamac* around 1700, in turn taken from a Taíno culture Arawakan word (Haiti) meaning "fish net."

From Wikipedia.org

⇒ More ⇒

A Summer Layabout, continued

Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota

Over my head, I see the bronze butterfly
Asleep on the black trunk,
Blowing like a leaf in green shadow.
Down the ravine behind the empty house,
The cowbells follow one another
Into the distances of the afternoon.
To my right,
In a field of sunlight between two pines,
The droppings of last year's horses
Blaze up into golden stones.
I lean back, as the evening darkens and comes on.
A chicken hawk floats over, looking for home.
I have wasted my life.

— James Wright
(1927 - 1980)



Bad choice for hammock tree (beautiful flowers but falling fruit):
Western Crabapple (*Malus fusca*) Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

Good choice for hammock tree (wonderful fragrance):
Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



State Flowers

The official flowers of all 50 of the United States

This country has 50 states and each one has an official state flower. Look how many are also native to the Northwest! It is a small world. This painting of *Lewisia rediviva* (Montana's choice) was done by Heidi D. Hansen.



State Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Alabama	Camellia	Camellia
Alaska	Forget Me Not	Myosotis alpestris
Arizona	Saguaro Cactus Blossom	Carnegiea gigantea
Arkansas	Apple Blossom	Pyrus coronaria
California	California Poppy	Eschscholtzia californica
Colorado	Rocky Mountain Columbine	Aquilegia caerulea
Connecticut	Mountain laurel	Kalmia latifolia
Delaware	Peach Blossom	Prunus persica
Florida	Orange Blossom	Citrus sinensis
Georgia	Cherokee Rose	Rosa laevigata
Hawaii	Pua Aloalo	Hibiscus brackenridgei
Idaho	Syringa - Mock Orange	Philadelphus lewisii
Illinois	Purple Violet	Viola
Indiana	Peony	Peony
Iowa	Wild Prairie Rose	Rosa pratincola
Kansas	Sunflower	Helianthus annuus
Kentucky	Goldenrod	Solidago altissima
Louisiana	Magnolia	Magnolia
Maine	White pine cone and tassel	Pinus strobus, linnaeus
Maryland	Black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta
Massachusetts	Trailing-Arbutus	Epigaea regens
Michigan	Apple Blossom	Pyrus coronaria
Minnesota	Pink and white lady's-slipper	Cypripedium reginae
Mississippi	Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora
Missouri	Hawthorn	Crataegus

[➔ More ➔](#)

State Flowers, continued

Recently we lost a great advocate of wild flowers, Lady Bird Johnson. She has been called one of the most important figures in preserving a part of the natural history of the United States. She most certainly deserves this accolade. She was a true Texas flower.



Photo from the LBJ Library



Photograph from Jenn's Texas Adventures (<https://webspace.utexas.edu/jan752/TX/bluebonnets.htm>), with permission from ITS, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712-1110.

State Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Montana	Bitterroot	<i>Lewisia rediviva</i>
Nebraska	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>
Nevada	Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>
New Hampshire	Purple lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
New Jersey	Violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>
New Mexico	Yucca flower	<i>Yucca glauca</i>
New York	Rose	<i>Rosa</i>
North Carolina	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
North Dakota	Wild Prairie Rose	<i>Rosa arkansana</i>
Ohio	Scarlet Carnation	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>
Oklahoma	Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>
Oregon	Oregon Grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>
Pennsylvania	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Rhode Island	Violet	<i>Viola</i>
South Carolina	Yellow Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>
South Dakota	Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla hirsutissima</i>
Tennessee	Iris	<i>Iridaceae</i>
Texas	Bluebonnet	<i>Lupinus</i>
Utah	Sego lily	<i>Calochortus gunnisonii</i>
Vermont	Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Virginia	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Washington	Coast Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>
West Virginia	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>
Wisconsin	Wood Violet	<i>Viola papilionacea</i>
Wyoming	Indian Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja linariaefolia</i>

This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Now that the nursery is up for sale, I may soon be free to pursue other adventures during those many hours each month I have enjoyed writing for Wally's website, composing the monthly journals and creating various screensavers, calendars, garden notebooks and other items found in the "gifts from Wally" section of our site.

I might devote some time to another website if I find the right avenue.

I will definitely work on my own website which has been mostly neglected during it's two months of existence. (www.chillirose.com)

I plan to finish a children's book I began a year ago.

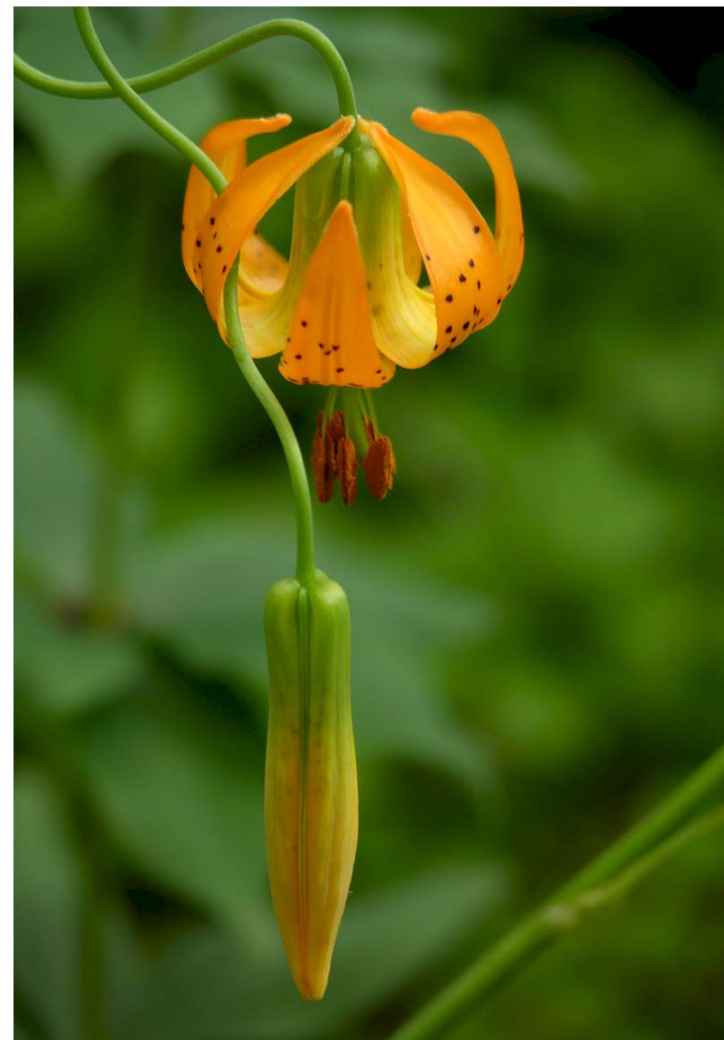
My father has a plethora of stories about the old days when he was a boy growing up during the depression, when he left home to be a cowboy and other tales. My family has been after me to put these into a book and I will do that.

I have also been having fun with my camera on occasion and there is a particular type of photograph I want to take this year.

Gardening will remain important to me, particularly native plants and anything that flowers.

I will not be bored, have not been so for most of my life. There are too many interesting things going on for boredom to take any import for me.

But I will miss working with Wally. How often he would call me and say "I am thinking about adding some interest in the display gardens. Give me some ideas, let your mind roam, just broad thoughts particularly about teaching children in gardening." These calls were like setting light to a firecracker--something about the way he conveyed his thought sparked my creative side. Out to the hammock I'd go to start the thoughts coming, and I'd have a list for us to discuss in a day or two.



This photo of our native Tiger Lily (*Lilium columbiana*) is so charming--the bud's stem twined in the petals of the flower is purely delightful. It's just another of my friend JoAnn Onstott's photos from an artist's view.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

This & That, continued



Another of JoAnn's photos, this one of Wood's Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) makes my mouth water. I love this Northwest native perennial for a groundcover. The flowers are so pretty and the fruit is intensely flavored. It is deciduous so the leaves come back afresh each spring.

These requests were just one of the gifts Wally gave me during our partnership. The very idea of someone asking me to dream was such a treat! From him, I learned to give my children and grandchildren just this gift. Their eyes sparkle when I say "how do you think I should decorate my fish pond?" (That one was for Madeleine.) Or "I'm thinking of building a fire pit but I don't know how. What do you think?" (That one was for Russell.)

Oh, there were other gifts as well. Sometimes he'd start talking about Doug Firs and how Lewis and Clark came to know about them. Or his love of Trilliums in their little nun habits. Or how good Huckleberries taste. From Wally I saw the romance of plants and learned to appreciate the long history of natives. When he described the way the Willamette Valley once was like a giant park full of Garry Oaks with wildflower meadows I could see it in my mind.

I hope someone will come to adopt the nursery and make it their own, someone who knows the personal touch cannot be surrendered, that the nursery's uniqueness can be preserved by a new master gardener who deeply loves native plants and understands the crucial part they play in keeping our corner of the Pacific Northwest rustic and natural. I hope this simple native plant nursery remains available for all the gardeners who enjoy it.



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.



Siskyou Lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ 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.



Lewisia columbiana var. *columbiana*
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ More ⇒

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323>

Oregon's Clean River Agency website full of wonderful information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants at

River Corridor and Wetland Restoration

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

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

Soils

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

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

Soil Science Society of America

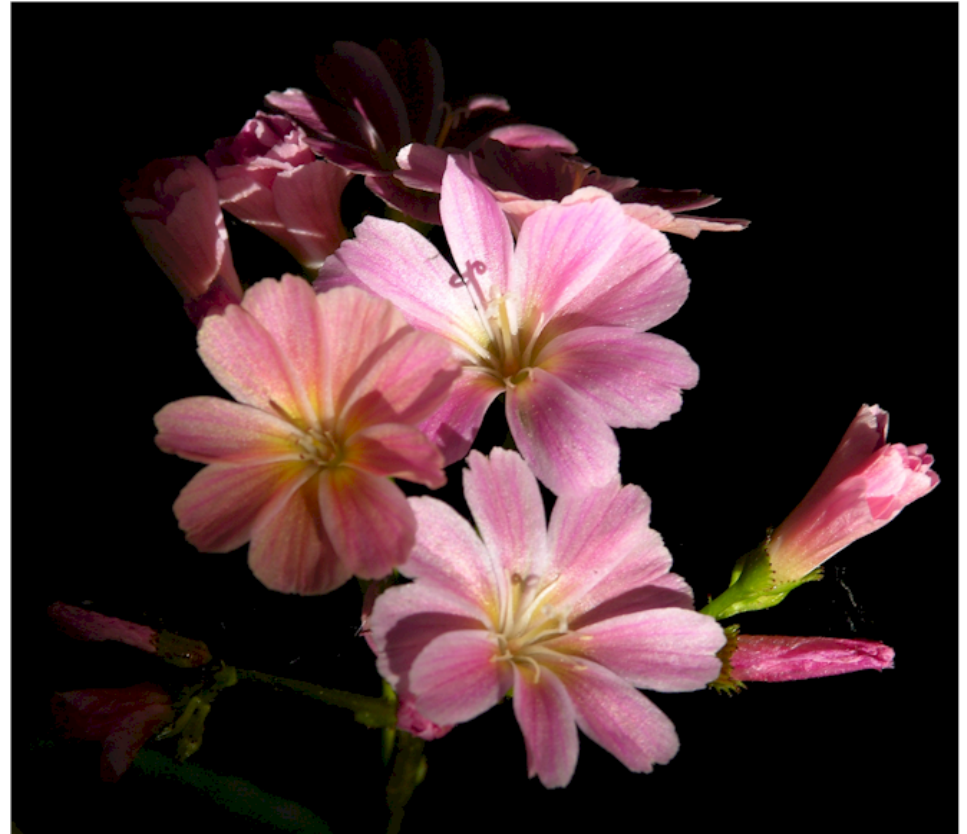
<http://www.soils.org/>

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

Woody Plant Seed Manual

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

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



Lewis (variety unknown)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Personal notes from Wally

There arrives in every person's life a time to change, to turn to a new leaf and begin writing a new song. For some, that time is anticipated with joy and breathless waiting. For others the time is dread, kept at bay for as long as possible behind a door not willingly opened. I have reached one of those times and for me, it is a mix of bright future and dark sadness. Yet it is time to open the door and step through.

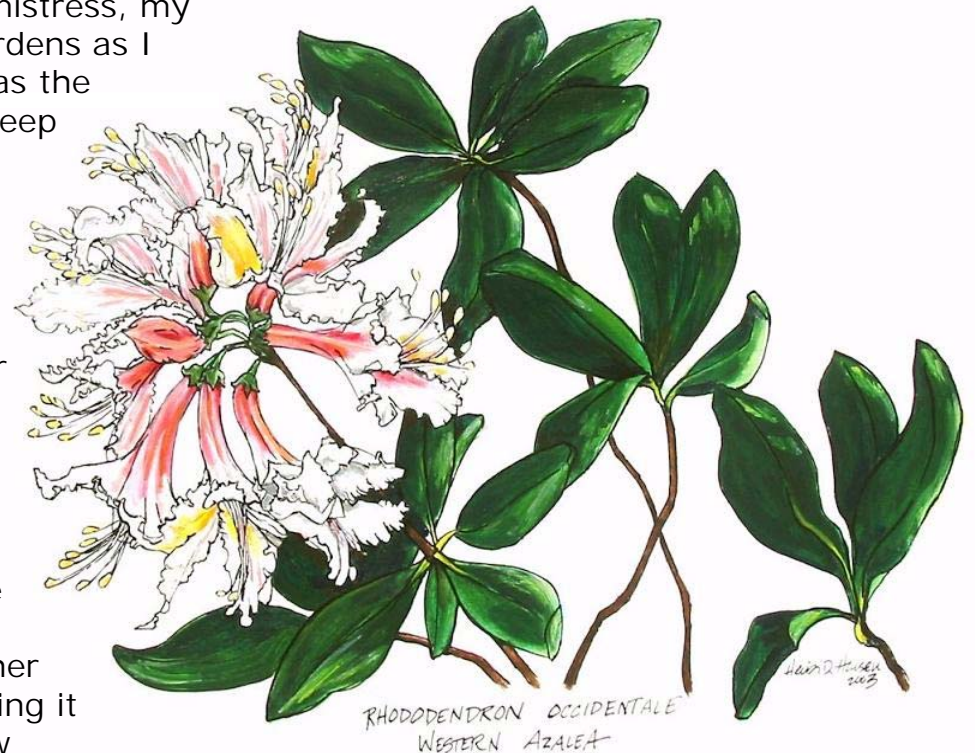
The nursery that bears my name has been my muse, my mistress, my way of life to wake each morning and pass through the gardens as I greet the day. Then in the evening, I stroll through again as the sun sets. Goodnight, sweet trillium. Goodnight, old oak. Sleep well, little huck. Such a glorious way to see the time pass.

'Tis to be no more. I have tarried far longer in this idyllic grove than I should have. It is time to break with my avocation and go at long last into the autumn of my life. My good wife has waited long enough and beckons me to join her as she sits in the garden swing. We will put up our feet and watch the clouds go by and remember our travels and travails as we enjoy our golden years together.

They call it "retirement." I will call it, sadly, "goodbye."

When you come again to the nursery in September, remember kindly the old man within whose dream you are walking and greet with kindness and anticipation the new master of this garden. For it is my fondest hope that another gardener will step forward and continue this odyssey, making it his or her own. Our Northwest native plants deserve a new champion!

I leave you with words from one of my favorite poets, Joyce Kilmer, a poet, journalist, editor, lecturer, soldier. He was born 6 December 1886, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, died 30 July 1918 near Seringes, France, at the Second Battle of Marne, at the age of 31.



Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*)
My daughter, Heidi D. Hansen, painted this beautiful piece for me in 2003.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Personal notes from Wally, continued



Old Poets

by Joyce Kilmer

(For Robert Cortez Holliday)

If I should live in a forest
And sleep underneath a tree,
No grove of impudent saplings
Would make a home for me.

I'd go where the old oaks gather,
Serene and good and strong,
And they would not sigh and tremble
And vex me with a song.

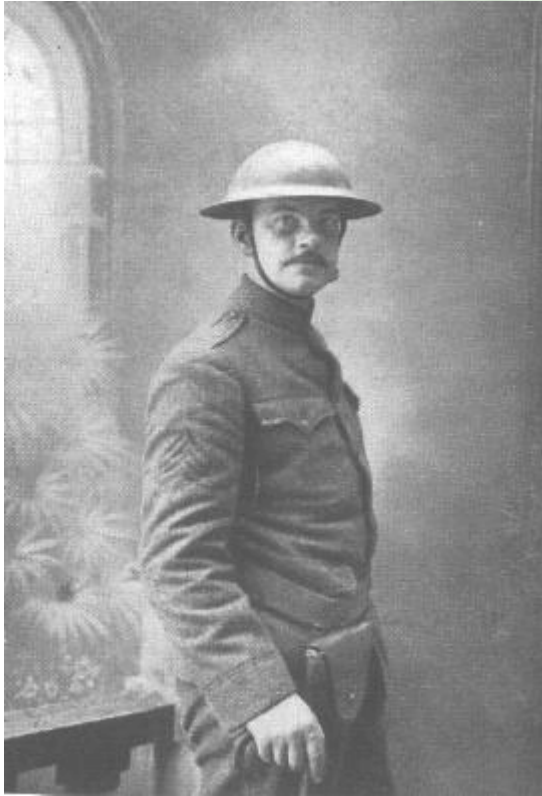
The pleasantest sort of poet
Is the poet who's old and wise,
With an old white beard and wrinkles
About his kind old eyes.

For these young flippertigibbets
A-rhyming their hours away
They won't be still like honest men
And listen to what you say.

'Summer Memoirs'
Another of my favorite paintings. It was done for
me by my daughter, Heidi D. Hansen, in 2004

⇒ More ⇒

Personal notes from Wally, continued



Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, as a member of the 69th Volunteer Infantry Unit, circa 1918

The young poet screams forever
About his sex and his soul;
But the old man listens, and smokes his pipe,
And polishes its bowl.

There should be a club for poets
Who have come to seventy year.
They should sit in a great hall drinking
Red wine and golden beer.

They would shuffle in of an evening,
Each one to his cushioned seat,
And there would be mellow talking
And silence rich and sweet.

There is no peace to be taken
With poets who are young,
For they worry about the wars to be fought
And the songs that must be sung.

But the old man knows that he's in his chair
And that God's on His throne in the sky.
So he sits by the fire in comfort
And he lets the world spin by.

*Goodbye my friends,
and 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



**Western Dog Violet
(*Viola adunca*)**

Photo from FSFED

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!



Yellow Violet (*Viola glabella*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott