

Volume 5, Issue 7-2008

July 2008

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

**NW native reds, whites
and blues**

**Teaching our children about native
plants and the three R's**

And more.....

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

In Every Issue

About this Journal.....	3
On the Cover.....	4
Garden chores to do now.....	5
Sparky's Corner.....	6
Notes from Jennifer.....	29
Native Plant web Resources.....	31



Features

Teaching our children	
Gardens and the 3 R's.....	8
Visit a recycling center	
How to find one, what you'll see..	12
Bright whites	
Native light for your garden.....	14
Got the blues?	
Blue flowered natives.....	21
Red hot blooms	
3rd color in our patriotic tribute..	25

Grand Hounds-Tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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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.).



Red Monkeyflower
with Vintage Postcard



On the Cover

Red Monkey Flower (*Mimulus cardinalis*)

This native plant is a showstopper in any garden. The luscious petals making a little 'monkey face' are truly scarlet and in this photo they look like velvet. They are, in fact, sort of velvety to the touch.

One of the Rainyside Gardeners (see their website www.rainyside.com) says:

"The plant spreads by rhizomes and in wet areas where it thrives, it forms good size 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."

This photo appears on another website, the blog by Professor Connie Boardman who graciously gave her permission to include it in this month's journal. See what she's up to at www.boardmanbio.blogspot.com/. She is an admitted fan of native plants.

Photo by Professor Connie Boardman



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1 – Keep a sharp eye out for hot weather stress, especially in the first year of any planting. Until those roots can get firmly established you will need to tend them carefully. Provide shade and water if needed.
- 2 – Divide iris and other early blooming perennials.
- 3 – Container plantings will probably need watering, especially if the pots are small.
- 4 – Attract birds by providing fresh water. They'll repay you by eating bugs and slugs and of course the entertainment value is immeasurable.
- 5 – If you have a pond, put some small feeder goldfish in to eat those mosquitos. You won't need to feed the fish or tend them in any way. Not into fish? You can use specially made little bales of alfalfa instead--just float them in the pond.
- 6 – Do not prune azaleas or rhodies after mid-July. They are setting buds for next year's blooms.
- 7 – Mulching will hold moisture and deter weeds as well as cooling the ground and the whole area (including the surrounding air). 🌳



Fireworks Alert

Fireworks abound throughout this month. Here's a few tips:

- Water your garden the evening of July 4.
- Protect pets from trauma--keep indoors, play some background music.
- Have water handy just in case of wayward pyrotechnics.



Sophie and her high tech ear protection.

Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Skippidee doo dah! That's my favorite tune. My buds and I sing this sometimes when we are jumping around in the garden. Grandma sings with us. She says it's a song from when she was a young squirrel girl. She's always happy when the sun shines and the nights are not too chilly. She says cold weather hurts her bones but in the olden days she could run and jump up a tree faster than anybody. Now she just sort of pokes along. She leans on things sometimes too, and spends more time in the nest than she used to do.

She's still way more frisky than old Mr. Snorters. Now there's a slow poke if ever there was one. He talks more than Grandma does but she does a lot more talking than moving. Do you think when we get old we talk more because we can't move as well?

Sometimes one of the two-legger gardeners brings along her dogs. One is just a kid and the

other one is an old guy. The younger one runs around in circles and tries to catch us (what a silly dog-- squirrels are faster than anything on earth except maybe cheetas). The old one only runs about half as fast but he barks all the time he's running. I can't tell if he's telling the pup to slow down or if he actually thinks by making all that racket he's moving faster. Maybe he doesn't see so good anymore and he really does believe he's fast. Like he figures that if at least his voice can keep up with the puppy then some part of him is fast and they're even.



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Sparky's Corner, continued

All this heavy thinking is making my head hurt. I'm going to go ask Wally what he thinks about this. Now that he's retired he's got lots of time for chats and boy, is he smart! All this time I never knew he could understand squirrel language but he does. Maybe he learned it after he got retired.

Oh, betcha didn't know I understood 'retired,' being a squirrel and all. But I figured it out. It means you don't have to get up early unless you want to. Squirrels don't get retired, it's just a two-legger thing. It also means you can wear whatever clothes you feel like and you don't have to follow the two-legger eating rules anymore.

See, it seems to me that two-leggers all eat on a schedule and they all do it at the same time until they get retired. So non-retired two-leggers eat about as soon as they get out of their nests, then they do it again when the sun is straight up and then about an hour before the sun goes to the other side. And they have special kinds of food for each of these eatings. But retired two-leggers eat whenever they want to and they can eat anything at all.

As it turns out, retired two-leggers are more like squirrels. Which is probably how come Wally learned the language. But I'm telling you, if that big old two-legger starts jumping up trees I'm going to move my nest someplace else. He is big! He probably won't but just in case I'm going to pick out a different tree. Maybe one of those old Doug Firs up the hill.....

Well, I'll see you next time.

Your friend,

Sparky

P.S. If I move I'll tell you
where my new tree is.

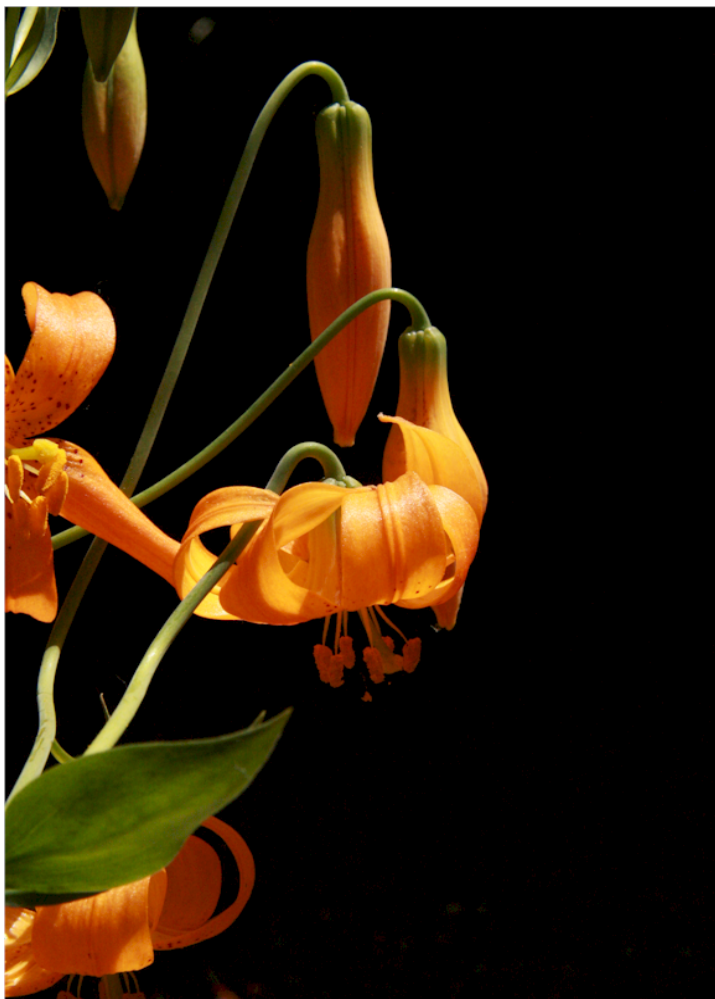


I hope this little two-legger
doesn't light all those bangers in
the garden! I better tell everybody
to watch out!!!



Teaching Our Children

Easy ways youngsters can learn about native plants and the 3 R's



ROOOAAAAR

Tiger Lily (*Lilium columbiana*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Native Plant Gardens for Kids

Combinations of plants to capture a child's fancy. Depending on the age and interests of the child, these gardens may be more fun than ordinary plants. Many of our native plants have common names that describe their appearance or habit. Set aside an area of your yard for one of these special designs. Add decorations to go with the theme. Help the kids make tags with each plant's name.

Wild Animal Garden

Tiger Lily (*Lilium columbiana*)
Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
Wolfberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)
Monkey Flower (*Mimulus guttatus*)
Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Magic Garden

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*)
Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium* var. *canescens*)
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa* ssp. *formosa*)
Silk Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)
Hooker's Fairybells (*Prosartes hookeri*)
Smith's Fairybells (*Prosartes smithii*)

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Teaching Our Children, continued



Perfume Garden

Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
Pink Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*)
Hooker's Evening Primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima*)
Evergreen Yellow Violet (*Viola sempervirens*)

Perfuming the evening air! Hooker's Evening Primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Berry Fields Forever

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana* var. *platypetala*)
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Black Gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*)
Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Dwarf Huckleberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*)
Grouseberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*)

Red, ripe and ready to eat!
Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Teaching Our Children, continued

Kids can Re-use, Reduce and Recycle--it's fun!

Let's Trade Party

A new idea for getting new toys and school clothes. Often a child will outgrow a toy or clothing before the 'new' has worn off. Usually those items go into the donation box or are handed down without involving the original owner in the transaction. What if, instead of Mom or Dad cleaning out the closet or toybox, the kids were asked to do that? And what if kids of the same age were allowed to trade those items for others they like better? This could be an event in a Sunday school class, a family get together or a neighborhood party. Definitely it should be attended by grown-ups to make sure the trades are equitable. And a few rules should be established before hand. Like a limit of the item's worth, like whether or not changing minds is allowed after the deal is struck, etc.

Family Tag Sale Outing

Have you ever taken a child to a yard sale? How about incorporating an hour or two some afternoon to giving each kid a little pocket change and attending a tag sale as a family? Let the little ones shop and pay for their selected treasures while you stand aside and supervise. You will want to take note of what the child is picking out in case they take a hankering to a dangerous tool or something else inappropriate to their age. Here again, some rules are needed. For instance, stress that looking does not include your hands--if you are really interested in something it's OK then to pick it up and look it over. Running, yelling and other playground behavior is saved for, well, playgrounds. Make sure each child has a place to store their money (a pocket or wallet or coin purse) and giving each a bag in which to put their purchases is wise. Limit the time for this or everyone will be too tired to behave. That happens to me sometimes.

Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Teaching Our Children, continued

Recycle City

The EPA has an online guide that teaches the 3 R's to kids in their own language. It's called Recycle City and there are great graphics illustrating the points and providing more interest. This site does not condescend to kids just because of their ages, instead it takes the approach that we're all capable of learning how to do our part to care for our planet. There are print versions of everything that saves paper if you want to go that route instead of online.

There are activities for teachers and students, examples of ways to make your city cleaner, a Dumptown Game, all free. See their website at www.epa.gov/recyclecity/



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



Other website with good ideas on this same subject:

www.kidsactivities.suite101.com/article.cfm/teaching_kids_about_recycling

www.disney.go.com/disneyeducationalproductions/
www.ecochildsplay.com/2007/11/26/teaching-kids-about-trash/

Here's an excerpt from this last site:

Where is "away"? That's the question I asked my Environmental Sustainability students today. When you throw something away, where does it go? Here were some of the answers they wrote down:

"Away is throwing your stuff across town to a junkyard."

"Your trash gets burned."

"Away is a big hole that is dug in the ground."

"Out of St Louis, somewhere."

"Away is the landfill."

Hmmmmmm. Where do you think "away" is? 

Visit a Recycling Center

See for yourself where “away” is!

I began recycling in earnest when the Marion County Extension Service offered the very first Master Recycler class. My two best friends and I signed up and were accepted for this unique and most welcome opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of recycling. In our applications, we were each required to state the reasons we wanted to be a part of this class. My reasons were simple: I knew I was not caring for the Earth as well as I could and I wanted to learn how to do better. I especially wanted to teach my children by my example.

We had in-depth classroom training and lots of trips to various places where different materials were recovered and made into other items. We learned about the importance of sorting. We visited the in Brooks where garbage that is not fit to be made into anything is burned and made into energy instead of becoming part of a landfill. Experts in some of the relevant fields came and spoke to us about their part of the process.

The promise we made when we made it into the class was to return the education to the community which had given us this information. Each of us contracted to give at least 30 hours to demonstrating composting, worm bins, making paper. We showed the types of plastic refuse that could be made into landscape timbers and mattresses and shoes, along with these end products.

I hope someday to feel I've done all I can to lessen or eliminate the amount of waste I create. But I doubt that day will ever come. There is always more to do!

If you get a chance to become a Master Recycler, I urge you to do it. If not, go visit a recycling center in your area. The website www.recyclingcenters.org/Oregon/ has a listing of them all. Put in your zip code and see the list. There are 15 just in my zip! Go see for yourself. You will be amazed, I promise. See the next page for an example of one center to visit.



Oregon Stonecrop flower *Sedum oregonum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Visit a Recycling Center, continued

Cascade Recycling Center

<http://www.wmnorthwest.com/cascaderecycling/>

Plastic Recycling



Plastic Recycling

everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green.®

Ignore the chasing arrows! Recycle only plastic bottles, jugs and dairy tubs.



“Why don’t you accept all plastic items that have recycling arrows on them?”

The number inside the recycling arrows on many plastic items generally identifies the type of resin used in making the product.

However, some items with the same number inside the arrows cannot be recycled together because they are manufactured using a different heating and molding process. (For example, markets that accept #1 plastic bottles, don’t want #1 plastic cups.)

In addition, the cost of collecting, sorting and remanufacturing some items exceeds the value of the recycled plastic. And so many plastic items cannot currently be recycled, even though they have recycling arrows imprinted on them.

Only plastic bottles, jugs and dairy tubs. To avoid confusion and contamination, ignore the numbers and remember: Put only plastic bottles, jugs and dairy tubs in your curbside recycling container. If it isn’t a bottle, jug, or dairy tub, and it can’t be reused, it goes in the garbage.

Please remove all caps and lids from plastic and glass containers. They are not recyclable.

Clean plastic bags can be reused and are accepted for recycling at many grocery stores.

Clean styrofoam packing peanuts and bubble wrap are accepted for reuse at many mail houses. Call the Peanut Hotline, 1 800 828-2214, for the nearest site or business that accepts clean leftover packing peanuts for reuse.



Bright Whites

Native light for your garden

From the tiny Inside-Out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*) to the platter-sized Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), these native perennials will add sparkle to even shady landscapes. There are white flowers on trees and shrubs as well!

Just as wearing white clothing reflects heat, keeping us cooler in summer, white blooms in the garden have the same effect. They reflect both sunshine and moonlight, sharing the brightness even in the shadiest spot.

We begin with Inside-Out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), a vigorously growing groundcover that prefers shade. The pixie-like dangling white flowers look somewhat like Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*) with their recurved petals. Plant beneath deciduous trees or shrubs where the fallen leaves in autumn provide natural mulch for this unusual plant.

Inside-Out Flower
(*Vancouveria hexandra*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bright Whites, continued

Spireas have been a favorite landscape shrub for centuries. There are many cultivars but none out-shine the original natives.

This is the Shiny-Leaf Spirea (*Spirea betulifolia* var. *lucida*) and it is as attractive to ladybugs and other beneficial insects as it is to gardeners. And that's not its only good feature. The foliage has pleasing fall color and it stays on the shrub for much of the winter.

A slow to moderate grower, Shiny-Leaf Spirea (also called Birchleaf Spirea) is at home in the eastern Cascades to the prairies in USDA zones 5-8. It withstands erosion and wind by its long taproot which anchors it to the earth. Its short stature (reaching only about 3 feet at maturity) makes it a fine plant for layered designs. Plant a tree in the back, use a taller shrub in front of the tree, then this Spirea and put shorter perennials in front of that, creating a stair-step effect which will change with the seasons. A completely different design: plant several Shiny-Leaf Spireas circling a tall tree. Lovely!

Choose a sunny site for this shrub. It will require no pruning for years, if ever.

Shiny-Leaf Spirea
(*Spirea betulifolia* var. *lucida*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bright Whites, continued

The native Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is a most distinguished tree, treasured for its unique beauty year round.

A broad-leaf evergreen reaching 30 to 70 feet tall when fully grown, there is nothing common about this elegant tree. The large dark green leaves clothe the smooth cinnamon brown branches all year. In fall, some of the older leaves turn deep red as new leaves take their place. The creamy white clusters of bell shaped flowers have a pleasant aroma. When they have gone by, small red berries offer delicious food for birds and other wildlife. The trunk and branches usually twist into attractive forms with the added interest of peeling bark.

Growing in poor soil on dry bluffs, Pacific Madrone often curves around conifers to reach the sun.

Select your planting site carefully, though very hardy the Madrone will not appreciate being moved.

Pacific Madrone
(*Arbutus menziesii*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



[⇒More⇒](#)

Bright Whites, continued

Bunchberry (*Cornus unalaschensis*) is another low-growing native, this member of the dogwood family is between 2 and 8 inches at maturity.

Naturally occurring in shady, moist areas with acidic soil, Bunchberry has sweet rosettes of spring-sprouting leaves which are soon topped with a four-petalled dogwood flower. The blooms are followed by very red berries--edible and considered an important food source by native peoples before grocery stores and produce stands appeared everywhere.

In fall, the leaves are red to bronze in striking color combinations. Particularly beautiful when some of those red berries remain.

Bunchberry is quite hardy and does well between USDA zones 2-9. A quick growing groundcover, it can gain 2-3 feet in one year! Can be divided easily as the branches will root where they come in contact with the soil.

Bunchberry
(*Cornus unalaschensis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Bright Whites, continued

There is nothing false about the beauty of False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*). Usually found in the wild beneath conifers, it does not require them to thrive. Indeed this showy perennial is exceptionally easy to grow and very hardy in USDA zones 3-8.

The stems are about 3 feet tall, gracefully slender with pairs of six inch leaves marching along the length and ending with a plume of frothy white flowers which have an appealing scent. The leaves are edible and a fine addition to salad or soups or steamed greens. Red berries follow the flowers and are favored by wildlife.

Plant False Solomon's Seal in a moist, shady site where it will gladly share space with native ferns.

Native peoples respected the medicinal qualities of this plant, making root tea for upset stomach and other digestive ills. Leaf tea was used to quiet coughs or applied topically for itching or rash.

False Solomon's Seal
(*Maianthemum racemosum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bright Whites, continued

Considered a shrub, the American Cranberry Bush often grows quickly up to 8 - 12 feet. Sometimes confused with the cultured Snowball, this native has flatter clusters of flowers and each little blossom has a bright yellow center.

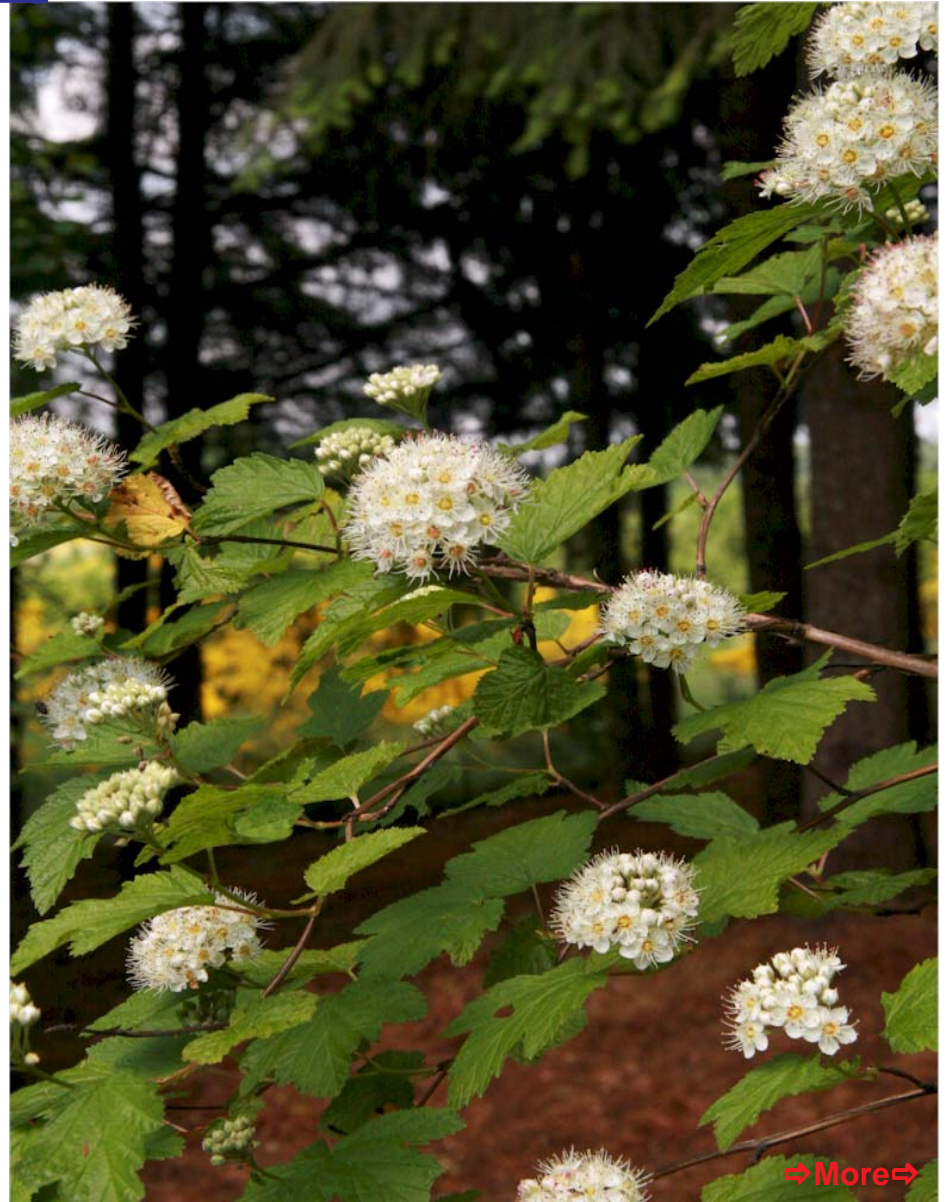
The fall color of this shrub is outstanding, considered by some to even outshine the most famous autumn native, Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*). The leaves are very nice all year but come October they change from ordinary green to scarlet to carmine to really really red. If you plant where the afternoon sun will land, you may think this bush is on fire!

The edible berries are rich in vitamin C but if you're not quick the wildlife will eat them before you have a chance to sample.



Choose a planting spot that has some moisture and receives full to partial sun. Native from Oregon through Canada, American Cranberry is very hardy in USDA zones 2-7.

American Cranberry Bush
(*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Bright Whites, continued

There are lots of other white-blooming trees, shrubs and perennials native to the Northwest. The plants we've selected for this issue of our journal were mostly freshly captured by our staff photographer, JoAnn Onstott, and her amazing camera skills.

Just a few examples of more natives with white flowers:

- Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
- Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
- Red Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*)
- Snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*)
- Western Clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)
- Wood's Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)
- Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

The white-blossomed winner for fragrance is, hands down, the Mock Orange (*Philadelphus menziesii*). It's a deciduous shrub from 4 to 10 feet tall, extremely resilient and adapts to most soil and light conditions. Very drought tolerant, thriving in USDA zones 5-10. Take a whiff of those late June blossoms and you will be convinced--blue ribbon fragrance!

Mock Orange
(*Philadelphus menziesii*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Got the blues?



Mahala Mat
(*Ceanothus prostratus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Blue flowered natives

Blue is the gentleman's most-often selected color, according to long standing custom. We may not want to wear blue every day but during blooming season these native shrubs will change your attitude about having the blues.

In June, the Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) seems to be flourishing on every corner. Such a refreshing change from all that spring-time pink! But if you're looking for something a bit unusual, the Blueblossom's smaller cousin could be the answer.

Mahala Mat is a very prostrate plant. Growing only inches tall it hugs the ground in a respectable spread with small, sturdy, gently serrated leaves along its brown branches.

Native to the high and dry mountains from Washington, through Oregon and into California, sometimes venturing into Idaho and Nevada.

If your climate is not too hot, provide good drainage and Mahala Mat will thrive.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Got the blues?, continued



Mahala Mat
(*Ceanothus prostratus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

A different shade of blue than Mahala Mat, the beloved Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) varies its color slightly as the tight clusters of tiny flowers develop into full bloom.

Blueblossom is easy to grow and looks good in the landscape year round. The shiny evergreen leaves are disease and pest resistant and not a bit fragile.

Planting site characteristic is not specifically required by this native. It does equally well in sun or shade, moist or dry, even coastal winds cause no ill effects.

Is there a downside? Lest you fall for thinking this shrub is your blue heaven, there is one fact to consider: Blueblossom is relatively short lived. Whereas some *Ceanothus* varieties may be as old as your grandmother, Blueblossom often expires after 10 or so years. This could be a thumbs down or you could think of it as an opportunity to change your mind! Or you might simply replace it with a young specimen if it quits before you're tired of it.

Blueblossom
(*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Got the blues?, continued



No study of native blues would be complete without mention of Camas. There are two varieties growing here in the northwest: Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*) which is followed about a month later by Great Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii* ssp. *suksdorfii*).

Wands of beautiful blue star-shaped flowers rise on strong straight stems from grass-like leaves and they bloom from the bottom to the top.

Native peoples since time immemorial have prized the bulb from whence this cobalt colored flower emerges. May is the month of the Camas moon and celebrations center on this dietary delicacy. Its sweet flavor is enhanced by roasting over oak fires before the small bulb is savored slowly as is its due.

Fields of Camas which were once religiously respected have been, for the most part, demolished by careless handling and the encroachment of expanding humanity.

Should you find such a field, do not pick the flowers as they give nourishment to the precious bulb. Simply quietly admire their beauty.

Common Camas
(*Camassia quamash*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Got the blues?, continued



Grand Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) has large leaves that begin sprouting from the forest floor in February. Then from their center the flower stalk grows with dark purple little round buds. As the buds open they change from purple to brilliant blue with a delicate white ruffle surrounding the deep purple eye. There are many clusters of flowers along the 12 to 30 inch stem.

What a surprise to find this brightly colored native in the shady moist woods! I spied one this spring as I toured country roads in Benton County. My attention was captured by some Spring Queens and Fawn Lilies. I stopped to admire them and as I stooped to take a closer look I noticed a speck of blue a bit farther into the woods. Moving aside the grasses and shrubbery I peered through the opening and saw one Grand Hound's Tongue flower stem. As my eye travelled further I realized I was at the edge of an entire colony!

Cynoglossum grande's common name is said to come from the leaves which are thought to resemble the tongue of a hound-dog.

This perennial plant occurs from British Columbia to the California coast in USDA zones 7-9.

There are more native blues here in the Northwest. Discover some for yourself!

Grand Hound's Tongue
(*Cynoglossum grande*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Red-hot blooms

The third color in our patriotic tribute

The wild side of the plant kingdom offers a good many red fruits and more than a few red flowers. For our July focus on the native red, white and blues we'll show just a sample. Once again our candidates come from JoAnn's latest collection.

Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) is a delicate appearing perennial whose blooms gambol through other plants along the edges of clearings along the Pacific coast from Alaska through Baja California and east into Utah. Little princess flowers with upturned peticoats and nectar filled crowns dangle in groups up to 20 from a single stem, irresistible to butterflies and hummers.

Take care to water well during the first year and you will reap the reward of thriving plants for years and years. Red Columbine spreads well through seeds that form after the blooms have faded.

When you select the site for your first Red Columbine, remember the more sun, the redder the bloom. Like so many of our native plants, this one prefers cool feet for it's warm heart.

Red Columbine
(*Aquilegia formosa*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Red-hot blooms, continued

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia grandiflora*) is found on the open canyon grasslands in areas such as the lower Clearwater and Snake River Canyons.

The 3-tipped yellow bracts encircling the flower head are often colored maroon on the tips.

This is a self-seeding perennial, but if you gather seeds to plant, strew them shallowly or just under a light cover of mulch. The seeds need a little light to germinate. Sew them in early spring or fall in well-drained soil of no particular kind. Blanket Flower will not bloom well unless it has plenty of light--at least six hours a day.

If you want continuous bloom, clip off the dead flowers and this robust native will give you lots of color from mid-june until frost.

Excellent as a cut flower. extremely drought resistant.

Blanket Flower
(*Gaillardia grandiflora*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Red-hot blooms, continued

Red Monkey Flower's (*Mimulus cardinalis*) native distribution just barely covers the southern part of Oregon and we claim it as a northwest native.

It likes shady, wet places but will do fine in a dryer clime. It forms good size colonies with its rhizomes and will also spread by seed.

Bees do most of the pollination of other Monkey Flowers, but this red perennial relies on friendly hummingbirds for that task.

I think that's why we like it so much as a container plant. It lures the hummers closer so we can watch them more easily. You must admit it does make a colorful container. This gardener chose non-natives for companions but a completely native planting might include a Mahala Mat (*Ceanothus prostratus*) and Bunny Tails or Hare's Tail Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*).

Red Monkey Flower
(*Mimulus cardinalis*)

Photo by Kerri from her blog
www.colorsofthegarden.blogspot.com/



⇒ More ⇒

Red-hot blooms, continued

Rotten Meat?

Red Trillium is a beautiful flower with a less than beautiful odor. Many wildflower enthusiasts claim that this flowering beauty smell like rotting flesh. Although humans may not find this smell attractive, flies are drawn to these brilliant red blooms.

The deep red color and putrid odor resemble decaying meat and attract flies who feed on pollen of these flowers. Typically, no nectar is produced in fly-pollinated flowers. This carrion-scented flower is also known as "Stinking-Benjamin" or birthroot.

Aren't you glad this stinker is not native to the Northwest? Very showy plant but oh, my--what a fragrance!

Red trillium
(*Trillium erectum*)

Photo by Thomas G. Barnes, USDA PLANTS
Database. U.S. Forest Service website,
Celebrating Wildflowers, [www.fs.fed.us/
wildflowers/pollinators/flies.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/flies.shtml)



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Isn't it funny that a small child can play all day with a block of wood?

He might step up on it and pretend it's a ladder,
he might use it to pound a rock into the ground,
he may decide it's a steamboat and float it in the sink.

He may need a short chair and decide it's just right for that.

Then he might become a brain surgeon and operate on his teddy bear upon this wooden operating table.

He might serve a freshly prepared dinner there for his mother when he invites her over to eat.

It could serve as a canoe as he paddles down the Nile in search of alligators.

It could be the latest design in spaceships or the fastest race car in the whole wide world.

He could paint it with mud for a new finish.

The imagination of a child has no boundaries until a grownup tells him something is silly or impossible or ugly.



[⇒More⇒](#)

This & That, continued

I've rained on a child's parade at least once in my life, I'm sure of it. But I sincerely hope I never do it again.

There are times when one does not know what to say. Like when the 3 year old brings you a crayoned piece of art he's just spent 15 minutes painstakingly creating as he lay on the floor with his little tongue sticking out of his mouth trying to get it just right. One look at his face and you can see how important it is that you say the right thing. Mind you, he has no idea what that right thing is any more than you do. But he's hopeful that you will get it right.

You peer thoughtfully at the circles and jabs and odd little lines. You have no idea what it is. Probably he doesn't either. If you say it's beautiful he'll think you have a screw loose because that is not the right thing. If you ask him what it is, he can't answer. I don't believe it's important to identify exactly what it is.

But I now know exactly what to do. I finally learned after 2 children and 4 grandchildren and at last my little almost 3 year old great grandson gave me that first creation and I knew.

I gravely looked it over and then with as much sincerity as I could express in two words I said, "Thank you." And that was just right. He did not expect me to rant and rave or stick it on the front of the refrigerator. He just wanted me to see it and to thank him for the gift of love he had presented to me on that single piece of paper.

Enough. It's hot and I'm ready for a nice cool drink of water and a nap.

Jennifer

**"I can wear a hat or take it off, but either way it's a conversation piece."
Hedda Hopper**



Photo by Jennifer Rehm



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

Birdchick

<http://www.birdchick.com/>

Hundreds of photos of birds, bees, butterflies and other friendlies.
Sharon Stiteler shares the joys of birding as well as insights on rabbits.

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.



Wood's Strawberry
(*Fragaria vesca*)

⇒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.



Yarrow
(*Achillea millefolium*)

⇒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.



Red Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium parvifolium*)



Evergreen Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium ovatum*)



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!



Sidalcea



Tiger Lily (*Lilium columbianum*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott



Twinflower