

Volume 7, Issue 12-2009

December 2009

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



Season's Greetings

Published by Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

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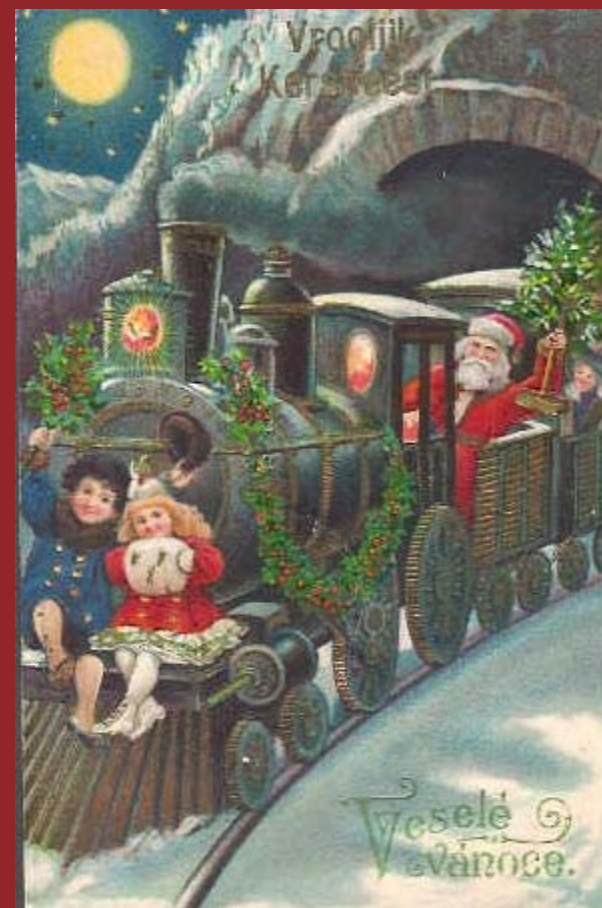
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About this Journal

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.).



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



On the Cover

Arbutus "strawberries"

Photo by
The Intercontinental Gardener,
*"an uprooted but not rootless
gardener writing about all things
connected with gardens."*

"For me, "Gardening in not a passion, it's an obsession", even if I would like to add garden history and design to the same sentence. I have studied garden history, designed gardens, written about them and of course, had my own gardens. I was born in Finland, have lived in Canada, Sweden, and Australia. In June 2008 I moved to Seattle, in Washington, USA. I'm married to a Swedish-Australian and have two fantastic daughters."



Many thanks to Liisa for allowing us to use this beautiful photo on the cover of this month's NW Native Plant Journal. See her blog at www.intercontinentalgardener.blogspot.com/



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1 -** Bare root trees and shrubs: plan where they will go and prepare the area. Plant as soon as they are available.
- 2 -** Prune deciduous shrubs and trees. While the leaves are gone, you can see the structure. Pay attention to crossing branches that can rub against one another causing harm to both. Clean up old cuts or breaks by pruning close to the trunk or branch to prevent infestation of insects.
- 3 -** Move tender potted plants to protected spaces.
- 4 -** Put the compost heap to bed. Spray with water if it is dry, then cover the top with tarps. If the pile is in an exposed area, it's a good idea to allow the tarp to drape down the sides and fasten with rope or bungees. Allow for some air movement but enclose enough to encourage cooking.
- 5 -** Continue taking cuttings for propagation.
- 6 -** Consider furthering your botanical education. Oregon State University now offers complete Master Garden Basic Training you can take in the comfort of your home. Take a look <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/master-gardener-online/>. The winter session has two options available. The session begins on January 11, 2010 and registration is now open.
- 7 -** Looking for good source of free fertilizer? Marion County's Soil and Water Conservation District has a Manure Exchange Program that pairs community members searching for sources of free local organic fertilizer with livestock owners and managers that have excess fresh and composted manure.



"Winter Garden"
Painting by Kristiana Parm



Mystery plant puzzle



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Test your native plant knowledge--identify this northwest native tree. The reward is simple but very satisfying: You will be included in our list of Official Plant Detectives.

Send me an email (NativePlantLady@nwplants.com) with the correct botanical name of this plant.

Good luck!

P.S. Do you have a plant you'd like to identify? Email it to us and we'll show it here on our mystery plant puzzle page.

Official Plant Detectives

Jerry Murray

Sabrina Kis

Carol Hiler

Mike Burns



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



WINTER!!

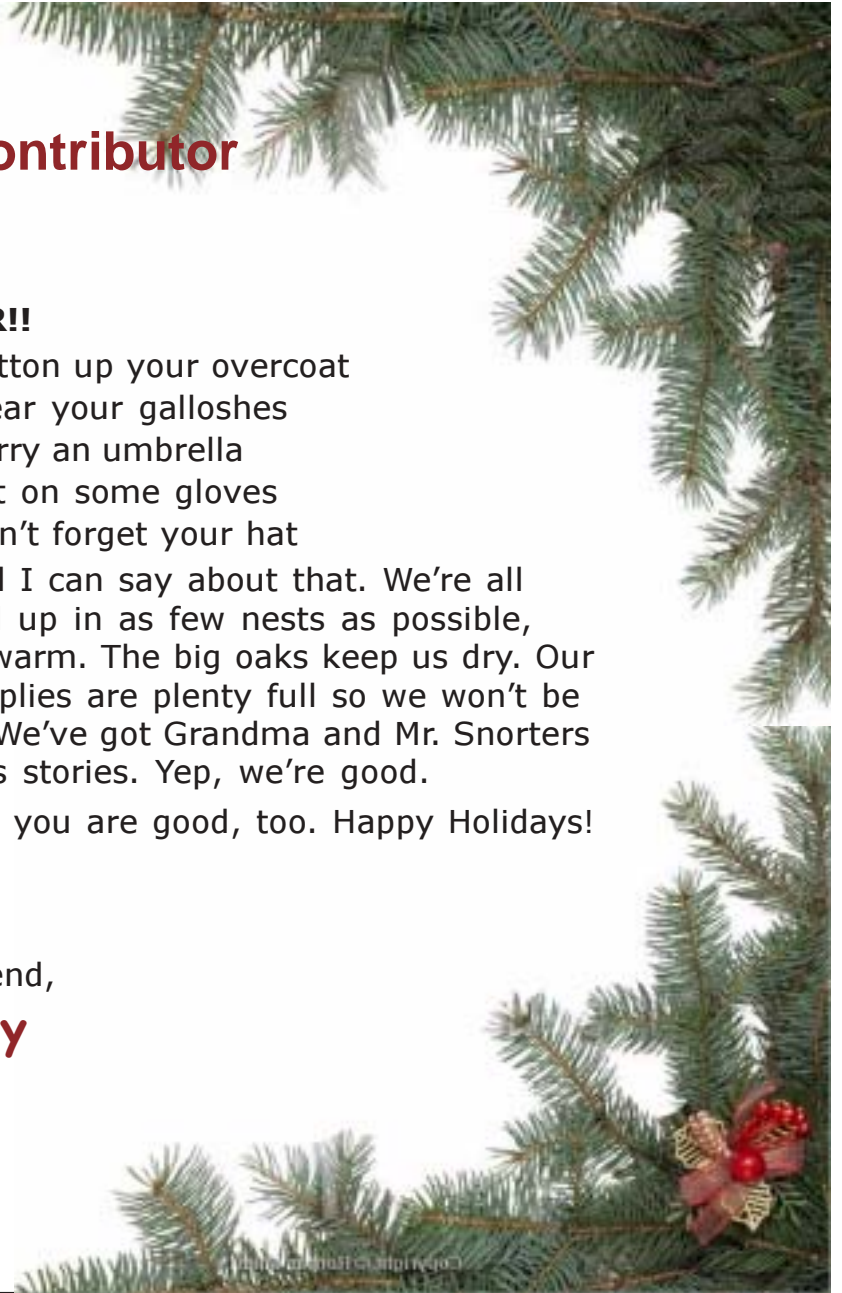
Button up your overcoat
Wear your galloshes
Carry an umbrella
Put on some gloves
Don't forget your hat

That's all I can say about that. We're all snuggled up in as few nests as possible, staying warm. The big oaks keep us dry. Our food supplies are plenty full so we won't be hungry. We've got Grandma and Mr. Snorters to tell us stories. Yep, we're good.

We hope you are good, too. Happy Holidays!

Your friend,

Sparky

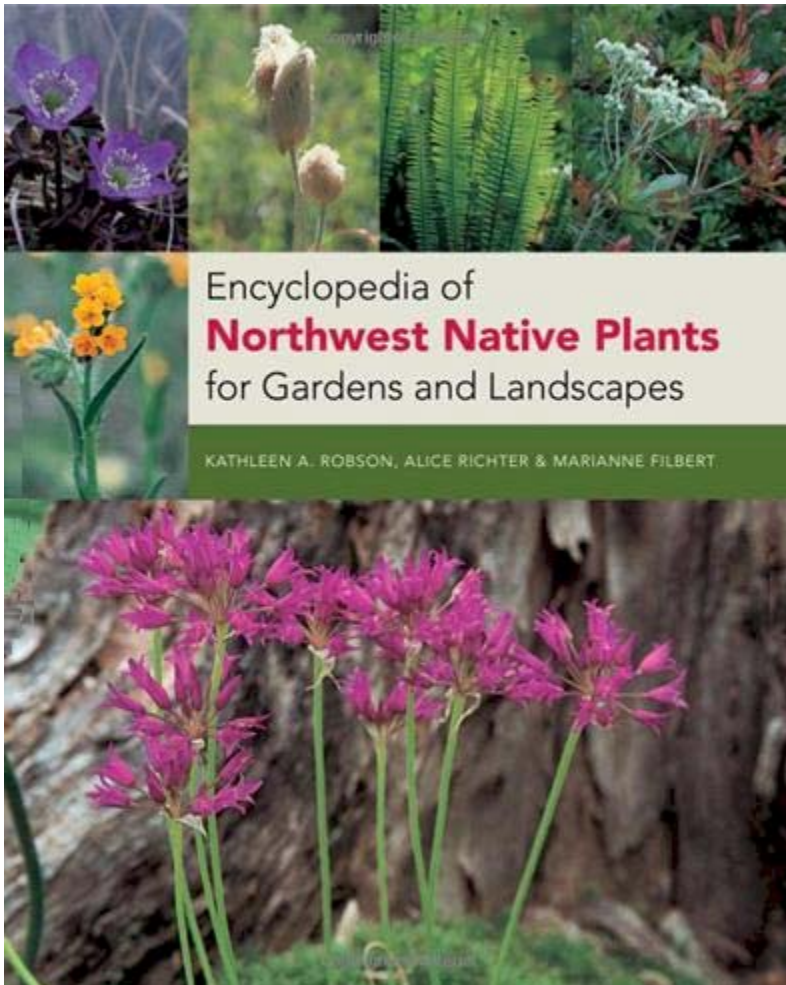


Recommended reading

Armchair gardening at its best

Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes

Authors: Kathleen Robson, Alice Richter and Marianne Filbert



"Whether looking to create a low-maintenance garden that requires little water in summer or to create a haven to attract birds, butterflies, and other native animals, gardeners and conservationists will find much value and interest in this impeccably presented publication." Library Journal (Library Journal)

"Loaded with good suggestions on how best to use natives in our gardens." Valerie Easton, Seattle Times

Publisher Timber Press describes the book: *"This comprehensive reference describes plants native to the Pacific Northwest—ferns and conifers; annuals, perennials, and grasses; and flowering trees and shrubs that populate and define this distinctive region. Featured are some 530 subject species that occur naturally from southwestern Alaska to Oregon's border with California, and from the coast east to Idaho, plants that are not only beautiful ornamentals but important components of habitat diversity.*

"Illustrated throughout with nearly 600 eye-popping color photographs and original pen-and-ink drawings, the book is smartly separated by plant type into five encyclopedic sections. Detailed descriptions include recommendations for cultivation and siting, from streambanks to parking strips, and lists suggesting natives for particular garden situations or themes—arid or sodden; hedgerows and meadows; hummingbird and rock gardens—concludes the book.

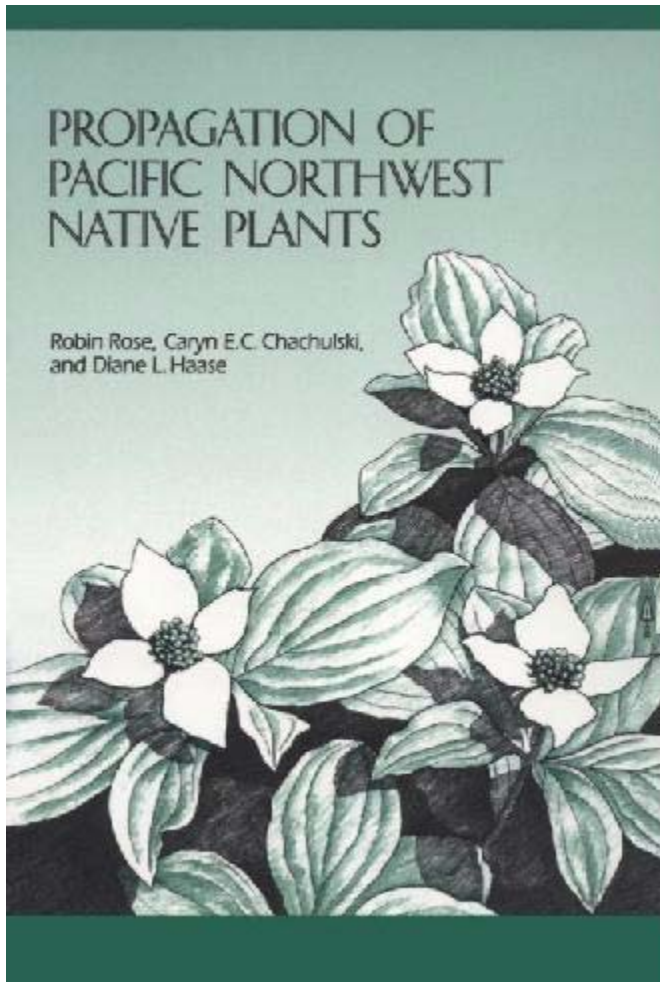
"Gardeners and conservationists alike will find much of value and interest in this impeccably presented and illustrated regional resource, which is sure to become a classic on the subject."

[**⇒More⇒**](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants

Authors: Robin Rose, Caryn E. C. Chachulski and Diane L. Haase



From the introduction by Tom Landis and Diane Haase:

"Plant propagation is both a science and an art. Specific technical skills must be acquired through innate ability or experience, and often require a certain "feel." Good plant propagators are said to have a "green thumb." Successful propagators must not only be able to reproduce the desired plant species but to do so economically and consistently.

"From general techniques to specific how-to's for "forbes, grasses, shrubs and trees, in 1998 this book was the first publication of its kind (although Robin Rose did publish a 'manual' on this subject two years earlier, Jennifer). It was designed for nursery professionals and home gardeners."

A review by a reader:

"Very good book that will be out of print soon!, August 9, 1998

Excellent reference book for anyone who grows or plans to grow native plants. Will likely go out of print. Highly recommended for the native plant lover or nursery grower. Unusual book."

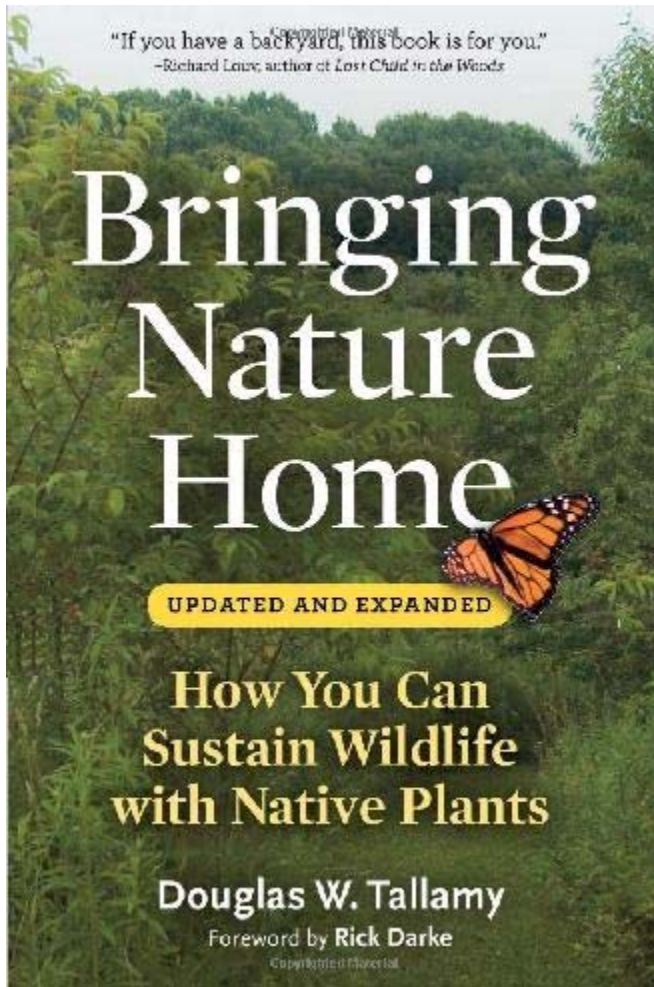
Fortunately, the reader's prediction did not come true. The book is still available.

[**⇒More⇒**](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy.

"How you can sustain wildlife with native plants."



A revised and updated edition for 2009, this book from Timber Press gives a broad view of gardening with native plants, not only in the northwest but in the US and across the globe.

Reviews are plentiful:

"If you have a backyard, this book is for you."

—Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods

"If you cut down the goldenrod, the wild black cherry, the milkweed and other natives, you eliminate the larvae, and starve the birds. This simple revelation about the food web — and it is an intricate web, not a chain — is the driving force in Bringing Nature Home." —The New York Times

"Provides the rationale behind the use of native plants, a concept that has rapidly been gaining momentum. The text makes a case for native plants and animals in a compelling and complete fashion." —The Washington Post

"An informative and engaging account of the ecological interactions between plants and wildlife, this fascinating handbook explains why exotic plants can hinder and confuse native creatures, from birds and bees to larger fauna." —The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

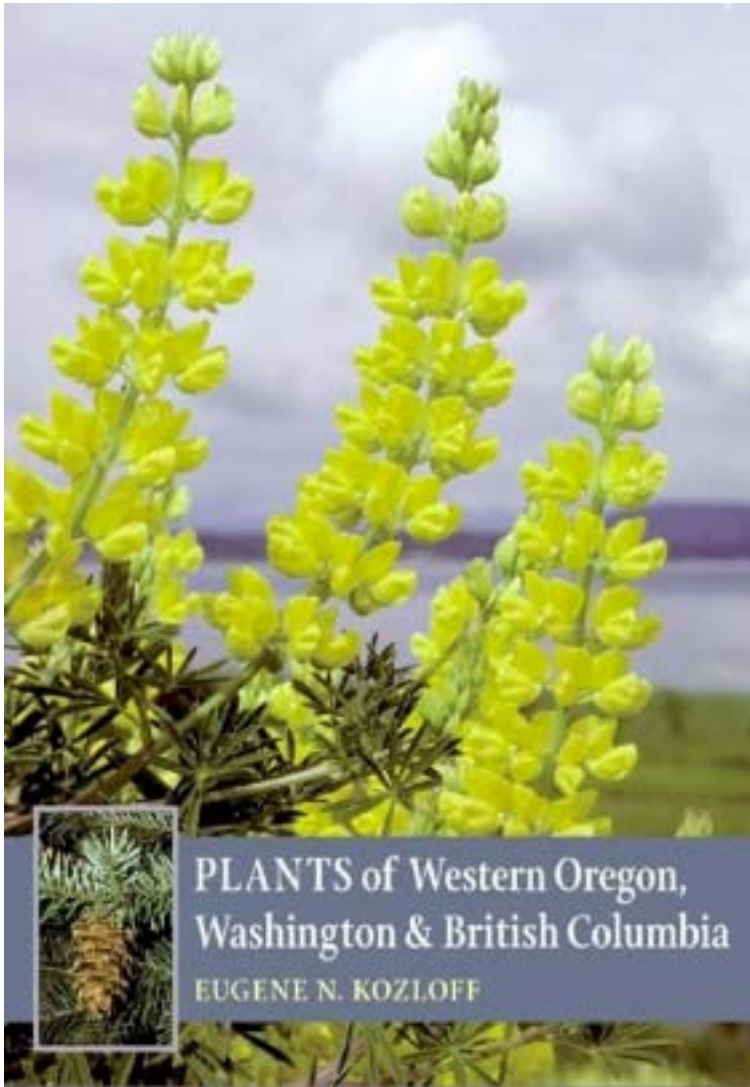
"If you've always thought planting natives was simply p.c. — a peripheral option favored by vegetarians and erstwhile hippies — the honeymoon's over. The stakes are the biodiversity of the world." —Ketzell Levine, ketzell.com

"Tallamy illustrates well how gardeners have contributed greatly to tipping the environment off balance and how they are equally able to turn the trend." —Statesville Record & Landmark

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Plants of Western Oregon, Washington and British Columbia by Eugene K. Kozloff



Timber Press describes this book:

"A great resource for botanists, native plant enthusiasts, ecologists, conservationists, and amateur naturalists who desire a comprehensive, up-to-date, and well-illustrated book for the identification of plants of the Pacific Northwest."

"This is the definitive guide to the rich and varied plant life of the region, from the ocean shore to the crest of the Cascades, from British Columbia south through the Klamath Mountains of southwestern Oregon and the Siskiyou in northwestern California."

"Its botanical coverage is complete, including plants native to the region as well as those that have been introduced and become naturalized."

"More than 2500 species are fully described, with user-friendly keys and more than 700 color photographs and 350 line drawings to facilitate successful identification."

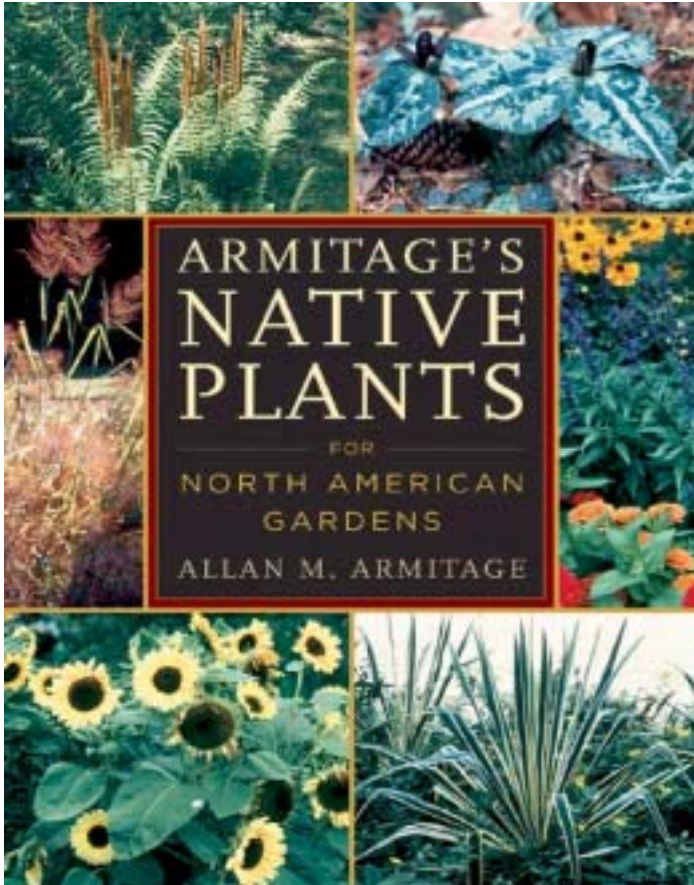
About the author:

"Eugene N. Kozloff, professor at the University of Washington, does his research at Friday Harbor Laboratories. An authority on the natural history of the Pacific Northwest, he has written numerous books on the flora and fauna of the region."

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens by Alan M. Armitage



Description by publisher Timber Press:

"The popularity of native North American plants has soared in recent years, for many good reasons.

"Whatever draws you to native plants, you'll find no better or more authoritative guide than Allan Armitage. Widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost horticulturists, Armitage describes more than 630 species and cultivars of perennials, biennials, and annuals that are native to the United States, bringing to each plant a wealth of practical knowledge and the full weight of his experience and expertise.

"Each entry includes a general description of the plant plus essential data you need to grow it successfully, including habitat, hardiness, correct garden site, maintenance, and propagation — all in a clear, easy-to-use format.

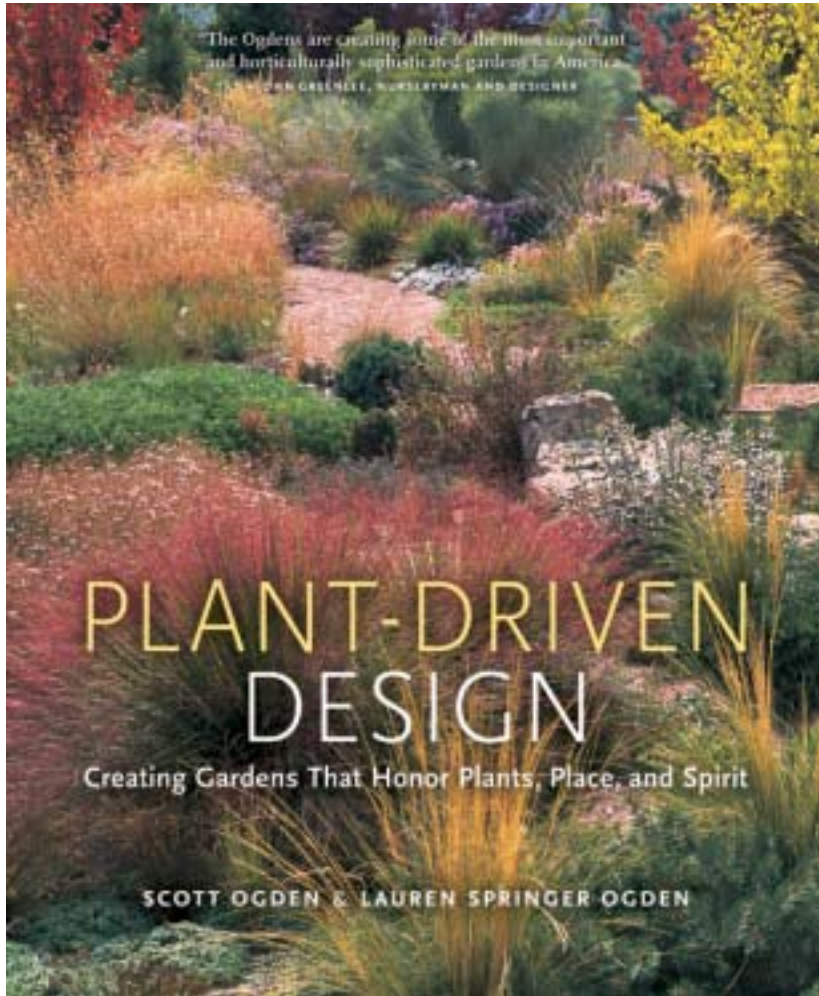
"Whether you are a native plant enthusiast or simply wish to use plants that work in the landscape, you'll find everything you are looking for in this readable, information-packed volume."

[**⇒ More ⇒**](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Plant-Driven Design by Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden.

"Creating Gardens that Honor Plants, Place and Spirit."



"For too long, garden design has given pride of place to architecture, artifice, and arbitrary principles. The results? Soulless landscapes where plants play subordinate roles."

"With passion and eloquence, Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden argue that only when plants are given the respect they deserve does a garden become emotionally resonant. Plant-Driven Design shows designers how to work more confidently with plants, and gives gardeners more confidence to design. The Ogdens boldly challenge design orthodoxy and current trends by examining how to marry plantsmanship and design without sacrificing one to the other."

"Supported by extensive lists of plants adapted to specific purposes and sites, Plant-Driven Design explores how plants interact with place. In addition, the authors' experience gardening and designing in a wide variety of climates gives their perspective a unique depth. In ideas, scope, and detail, this book both embraces and transcends regionality. By reclaiming gardens as a home to plants, this groundbreaking work will restore life-affirming vitality to garden design and profoundly affect how we understand and experience gardens."

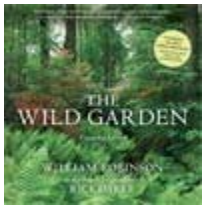
From Timber Press, www.timberpress.com

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Recommended reading, continued

Other books by Timber Press

Timber Press is a Portland, Oregon, publisher of books on gardening, ornamental and edible horticulture, garden design, sustainability, natural history and the Pacific Northwest. They have a great many books on ecologically sound principles of gardening which are natural partners with plants native to our area. Here are three:



The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition by William Robinson and Rick Darke with new chapters and photography by Rick Darke. Rick Darke proves that Robinson's groundbreaking vision of the wild garden is a model for truly sustainable landscapes. William Robinson's revolutionary book, *The Wild Garden*, envisioned an authentically naturalistic approach to gardening that is more vital today than ever before. First published in 1870, *The Wild Garden* evolved through many editions and remained in print through the remainder of the author's lifetime (1838–1935).



The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn by John Greenlee and Saxon Holt. If there's one lesson every homeowner must learn, it's this: The traditional lawn is a huge, time consuming, synthetic-chemical sucking mistake. The time has come to look for new ways to create friendly, livable spaces around our homes.

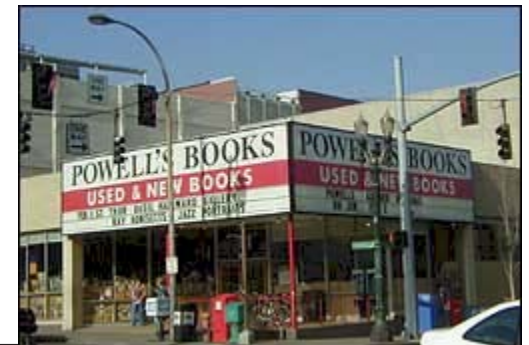


The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It By Valerie Easton. Do you ever lament that you'd love to be able to garden more, but just don't have the time? The demanding pace of modern life leaves little space for the pleasures of gardening. On the other hand, gardening itself could be the culprit: elaborate, traditional perennial borders; water-hungry or disease-prone plants; needy lawns; and high-maintenance plants that require staking or clipping all suck up precious hours.

Great local bookstore: Powell's

From humble storefront beginnings in 1971 on a derelict corner of northwest Portland, Oregon, Powell's Books has grown into one of the world's great bookstores, with seven locations in the Portland metropolitan area, and one of the book world's most successful dot-coms (www.powells.com), serving customers worldwide. There are rare books, used books, just-released new books, and everything in between. They buy books, they sell books, they will search for a special book you can't live without. Visiting Powell's is educational, inspirational and just plain fun.

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Recommended reading, continued

Native Plant Society of Oregon: More than just a great read



The Native Plant Society of Oregon is a group of folks who are just wild about native plants. A regular membership costs just \$18 a year. Membership for a whole family is \$24.

The NPSO bulletin is published 11 times a year. It is mailed to members, and issues since 1996 are available in PDF form on their website.

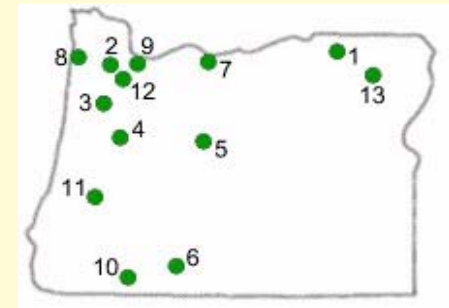
Members also receive an annual copy of *Kalmiopsis*, the journal of NPSO. It features in-depth articles about Oregon's native vegetation and flora, botanical history, book reviews, presentations of NPSO Fellows, and more. It is mailed to members and subscribers. All issues can be accessed here in PDF format. A cumulative index is also available.

Besides these wonderful and informative publications, NPSO membership offer many other benefits: Monthly chapter meetings with interesting speakers, programs, and workshops; field trips to see unusual land forms and uncommon plants; and the Annual Meeting at a beautiful location to celebrate the blooming of the wildflowers.



A gift of membership in NPSO can be enjoyed all year, from the aforementioned reading material to outings with other native plant lovers. For more information, visit their website at www.npsoregon.org/membership.html.

Native Plant Society of Oregon Chapters



	Chapter	Center of Activity
1	Blue Mountain	Pendleton
2	Cheahmill	McMinnville
3	Corvallis	Corvallis
4	Emerald	Eugene
5	High Desert	Bend
6	Klamath Basin	Klamath Falls
7	Mid-Columbia	Mosier
8	North Coast	Tillamook
9	Portland	Portland
10	Siskiyou	Ashland/Medford
11	Umpqua Valley	Roseburg
12	Willamette Valley	Salem
13	William Cusick	La Grande



Got some great native plant photos? Contest open to everyone. Entry deadline January 10, 2010. See www.npsoregon.org/photocontest.html



Arbutus menziesii: Pacific Madrone

A fascinating tree native to north-western edge of North America

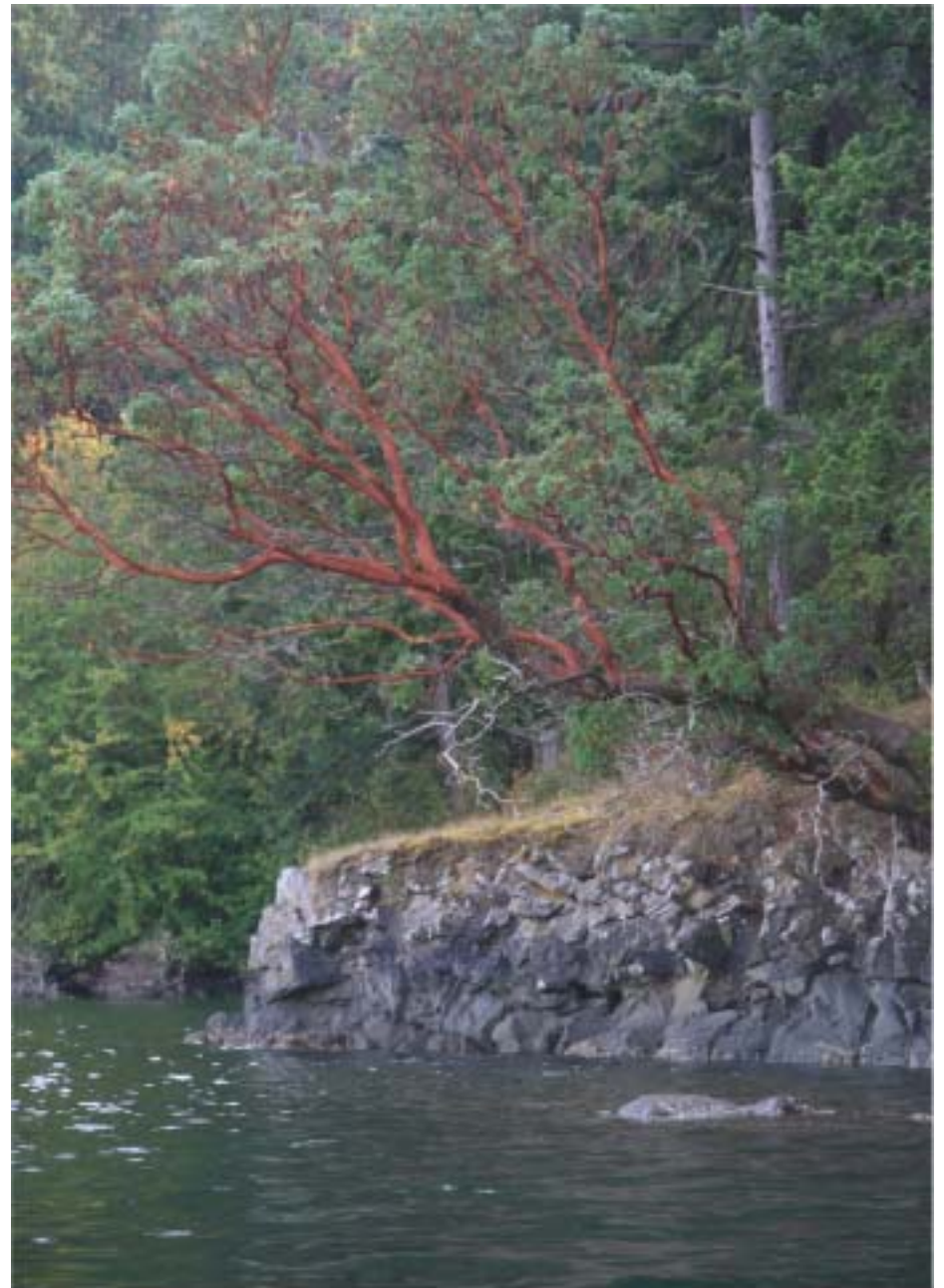
This unusual tree has always held my interest from the time I first noticed it as a small child.

It changes dramatically throughout the year, but the one constant feature is the bark. Young trees have smooth bark that is sort of khakki shade but deeper. As the tree grows, the branches begin to twist and bend in never-repeated shapes and the bark turns a dark cinnamon color on the outside. But the outer bark begins to split and peel and drop curlique ribbons as the inner bark is revealed. The buttery lime innermost core is of great contrast to the outer bark, often with two or three layers of darkening colors between the inside and the outer layer.

Each Madrone is distinctly unique from all others. They twine up inside other trees they choose to grow beside. They will hang off a cliff at such an angle one wonders how they keep from toppling right off. Encouraged by strong winds in the coastal regions along the western edge of the continent, they create even more unusual shapes.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)



Arbutus menziesii, continued

Some gardeners are said to use this tree for bonsai but I find that very curious since it is so picky about being monkeyed with. Successfully relocating a Madrone taller than 2-3 feet high onto impossible. Although they can be propagated from seed or cuttings and grown in pots until transplanting, when they reach 1 gallon pot size it is time to put them in the ground.

The strong, leathery leaves will shade the ground around the tree, discouraging growth of understory plants. Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) is an exception and grows quite well beneath *Arbutus menziesii*.

Usual companions to Madrone are typically an overstory of Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), TanOak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) and Macrone share the secondary canopy in varying proportions.

Madrone commonly intermingles with Pacific Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *garryana*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *ponderosa*).

Other neighbors are chosen as we follow the coastline southward. See details at www.plants.usda.gov.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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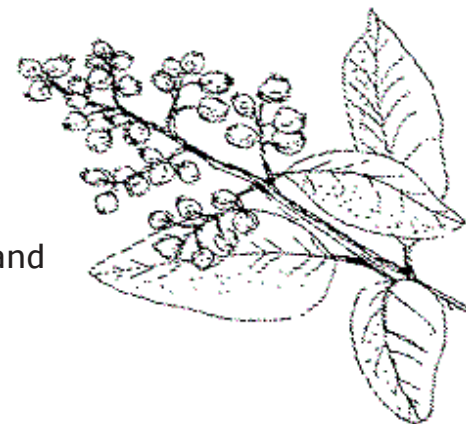


Arbutus menziesii, continued

Aside from the persnickity attitude towards being moved, this tree enjoys a lot of sunshine and absolutely insists on good drainage. For soil, it can be shallow and rocky, loam, granite, shale and clay loam. The soil is the main



determining factor of the tree's appearance. Lush foliage wants richer soil. Madrone provides its own mulch with the peeling bark and leaf droppings. Birds usually remove the berries before they fall, but the little flowers give the mulch another color and texture.



Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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Arbutus menziesii, continued



Shiny
deep
green
leaves,
white
bell
shaped
flowers.

Photos by
JoAnn
Onstott

Peeling
bark,
twisted
limbs
growing
out at
odd
angles.

⇒ More ⇒



Arbutus menziesii, continued

The main branches of this tree seem to be attempting to run away as new branches grow up the center.

Ladybug closeup, looking for culinary delights on the very young stems.



Photos by
JoAnn Onstott

Once used by First Nation people for medicinal purposes, the strong and colorful Madrone wood is now being used as flooring material.

⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Arbutus menziesii, continued



Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is native to the relatively narrow strip of land at the extreme western side of North America (indicated by grey color).

Photo by
JoAnn Onstott

These two trees growing side by side are pictorial evidence of the easy compatibility Madrone shares with the upper story trees - a natural harmony.

⇒ More ⇒



Arbutus menziesii, continued



Photo by Jennifer Rehm

(Right)
Young
tree, well
estab-
lished, has
distinctly
different
bark than
the mature
trees
we've seen
in the
preceding
pages.

(Left)
Plentiful
bloom is
the harbin-
ger for a
large berry
harvest
later in the
year.

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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Arbutus menziesii, continued

We conclude our photographic look at Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) with this closeup of the berries. The deep blue sky in the background imparts a vibrant contrast to the red/orange of the fruit. Very appetizing! In a short time, the birds will come: American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Band-tailed Pigeons, Varied Thrushes and Quail. Earlier in the year, the white flowers will have been visited by hummingbirds.

If you've got a sunny spot in your yard, consider planting Pacific Madrone, either singly or in a small group as they often grow in the wild.

Photo by Calypso Orchid.
See more of this talented
photographer on
[flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/calypsoorchid/)



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Winter is a natural time for visiting friends and family. It's a quiet time, and gives opportunity for reflection on the year that is waning and planning for the new year on the horizon.

I think we are more quiet because we tend to bundle up and moving around breaks the cocoon we've wrapped around ourselves.

That is certainly true of many animals. Some go the full course and hibernate in caves deep inside the earth. Some just pile up together and share body heat.

I love looking at the trees when their leaves are gone. Their shapes are distinctive to their species and their bark is easy to inspect. The Madrones, of course, are colorful. The Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) are stark white and the native plants retain that white color much more readily than hybrids. The bark of Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) comes off in small pieces that can be lifted with a fingernail. Kids like to peel off pieces and try to figure out what they look like (clouds, dogs, Elvis...).

But my favorite thing in winter is snow and lots of it. Snow seems to be one of those things we either love or hate--no middle ground. I think it's good but only for a few days. When it gets to be a mess and pipes break and those beloved native plants are damaged, that is time for the snow to go away.

I wish you all the merriest of holidays filled with love and peace and joy.

Until next time,
Jennifer



Paper Birch (*Betula Papyrifera*)
The tree had been cut down and the
bark began to peel in large pieces.
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Useful Plant Databases on the Web

Here is a good collection of web data bases and other gardening topics that will be useful to professional growers and all native plant gardeners. This list began from a flyer Lawyer Nursery published in 2002 grew from there. I wish to thank them for this public service.

American Bonsai Society

www.absbonsai.org/

The bonsai organization for North America, including Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Birdchick

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.

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>

A distance learning approach from The Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell University Kenneth W. Mudge, Associate Professor of Horticulture

Fire effects on plant species

www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/

USDA, Forest Service site summarizes and synthesizes research about living organisms in the United States—their biology, ecology, and relationship to fire.



⇒ **More** ⇒

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

Flora of North America Web Site

<http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/>

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, 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.

Growit.com Rooting Database

www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm

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

ModernBackyard

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.

Noxious Weed Control

www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml

Search function, can be shown in text only

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323

Information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants.



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Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

River Corridor and Wetland Restoration

www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

Soil Science Society of America

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

Starflower Foundation

www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/#starflower
Founded in 1996 by Ann Lennart to assist with creation, rehabilitation, and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities in the Washington area.

USDA PLANTS Database

<http://plants.usda.gov/>
Searchable for common or botanical name, shows origin, range and status

Washington Native Plant Society

<http://www.wnps.org/>
Appreciate, conserve and study our native plants and habitats

Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

www.westernwildflower.com/
Excellent photography and trail guides.

Woody Plant Seed Manual

www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/
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.



Wallace W Hansen Native Plants of the Northwest

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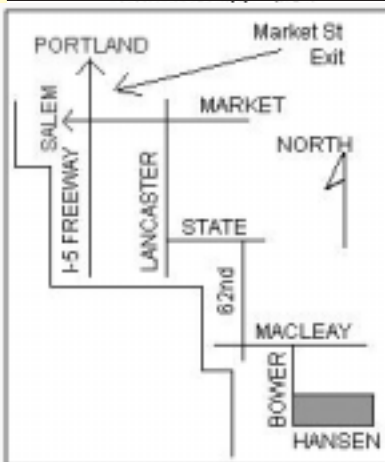
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