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July 2009

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



Bugs, Bees....

And more!

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Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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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.).

Mountain Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium membranaceum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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.

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).



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



We have been hearing some grumbles about squirrels from the two-leggers who visit the garden. Some of the remarks are true-- we admit we bury our food for winter just about any old place we like, we make a lot of racket when something bad is happening, we steal food from birdfeeders.

But each of these complaints has a good side, too. We don't cause much damage when we bury food and if we don't get around to eating it, very often new trees sprouts can be found in spring. We call these squirrel gifts.

About the noise--if we see a predator stalking innocent prey we sound the alarm. We save many birds that way. After we have adopted the two-leggers who live in nests near ours, we have such a siren call when strangers come around, it's almost better than those alarms you pay for.

As for bird feeders, we get rid of the stale food so fresh food can be put out. That's a good thing.

WikiAnswers.com says about the benefits provided by squirrels:

Squirrels create a variety of plants, mixing them and moving them around. They are the gardeners of the earth.

Barbara B. Picon, in her 1999 article, A Talk on the Wild Side, for Beauty and the Beast www.squirrelsanctuary.org/beauty_and_the_beast.htm, notes:

From a gardener's perspective squirrels do little damage to a garden but are very good at digging up bulbs. When a squirrel is searching for food in the soil it may dig up some bulbs or roots and take a couple bites before realizing that it is not edible. Squirrels keep trees healthy by pruning and eating harmful bugs and grubs that would otherwise infest a tree and cause it harm.

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Sparky's Corner, continued

Barbara also gives this list of trees that serve as food for squirrels:

Oak, acorns, hickory, beech, maple, black walnut, hornbeam, pine, black gum, flowering walnut, mulberry, sweetgum, fungus, spruce, cherry, blackberry, tulip tree and elm.

Police called in over joke about squirrels

From Scary Squirrel World article, Hook, Line 'n' Sinkers, www.scarysquirrel.org/special/movies/hooksinker/ from Thisislondon.co.uk - 10.04.07

Now, just when you thought police over-reaction had reached its height, we present the couple investigated for joking about squirrels.

Colin and Jenny Harrow were visited under suspicion of cruelty to animals after sending a spoof letter to their local paper.

The Cumberland News had published an article claiming that incomers from the South were releasing grey squirrels in the area - which prides itself on being one of the last bastions of the red squirrel population.

The Harrows, who used to live in Devon, sensed an anti-southern bias in the story and decided on a light-hearted response.

Mrs Harrow, 59, wrote: "We would like to inform any interested parties that we (formerly southerners) have just returned to our cottage with a crate full of wild grey squirrels from Epping Forest which we would be happy to supply to any other "outcomers", homesick for the South and in need of the odd grey squirrel to make them feel at home."

Shortly afterwards, there was a knock at the door of the couple's home in the Lake District village of Thackthwaite, near Penrith.

Two officers from Cumbria Police informed them they were investigating claims of squirrel abuse, checking whether hapless rodents were being kept in crates after several complaints from members of the public.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Sparky's Corner, continued

The last point I would like to make in our defense is this: We are super-duper smart! Here's what a friendly two-legged named Eddie posted on BirdForum:

Saw a cat stalking a squirrel that was up the telegraph pole opposite my house. The squirrel was taking the mick big time. It kept coming down the pole until it was just within reach of the cat, then as soon as the cat moved it shot back up. I watched for about half an hour until the squirrel got bored and jumped into a tree near the pole and was off leaving the cat wondering what in the world had happened.

Your friend,

Sparky

A few words from Jennifer:

The Urban Dictionary defines "squirrel" as:

Innocent looking race of world-dominators, planning to take over the world lead by the oversquirrel.

WikiAnswers adds these other uses for the word "squirrel:"

- Squirrel (DHT), a web-caching system
- Squirrel (programming language)
- Squirrel (peanut butter), a Canadian brand of peanut butter
- The Squirrels (TV series), a UK sitcom from the 1970s written by Eric Chappell
- Squirrel Systems, a seller of restaurant management software and systems
- Squirrel SQL Client, a database administration tool
- SquirrelMail, a web-based e-mail client
- The nickname of Eurocopter AS350, a light transport helicopter
- The Squirrels, a Seattle pop band
- Secret Squirrel, a cartoon character
- "Squirrels" is the derogatory name used by the Church of Scientology for Free Zone (Scientology) and others who practice Scientology without going through the official organization
- Squirrel Horn confectionary - A British manufacturer of candy, best known for its famous floral gums.
- Squirrel (debate), a term in debating jargon



Mystery Plant Puzzle

We're going to skip this feature for this issue only. It will be back next time to test your native plant identification skills. Instead, I thought you might enjoy these photos of Wally holding up bare root plants. He asked me to come out and take his picture and it was a pleasure to do so.

Jennifer



Good Bugs

Friends, not Foes

Special thanks to Washington's Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County for their Good Bug information. www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/yard/problems/goodbugs.cfm?entityID=100&ModeID=632&grp=biorem

Assassin Bug, Family Reduviidae

Counteracts: Caterpillars

How to recognize: This aptly-named, vicious-looking bug is about 1/4 to one inch long, with a cone-shaped head and wide curving beak. They may cause a painful bite to a human if captured. Some species squeak if caught. Females lay single eggs in cracks, under rocks or in other sheltered spots in summer, and new adults emerge around the following June. There is only one generation per year.

Benefits: Assassin bugs are voracious predators of many garden pests including flies, mosquitoes, beetles and large caterpillars.

Fun fact: Adult and nymph assassin bugs stab their prey with long, pointed "beaks" that are held folded under their bodies while not feeding.

Other notes: A related family of smaller predatory insects that wait for their prey on flowers are called ambush bugs.



Bald-faced hornet, Family Vespidae

Counteracts: Cranefly

How to recognize: These insects resemble a yellow jacket but are larger, up to 3/4 inch in length. They are mostly black, with a white face and white markings on the tip of the abdomen. They build large paper nests that can measure up to 14 inches in diameter and 24 inches long!

Benefits: They eat many pests including crane flies and other flies. They also eat yellow jackets. They may also act as pollinators of some plants.

Concerns: If the nest is disturbed, these hornets will sting humans.

Fun fact: Often called "insect hawks" because they pounce upon pests.



Cranefly larvae



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Good Bugs, Continued

Beneficial nematode

Examples: BioSafe, Scanmask, Biovector, Nemesis. Effective Against Crane fly larvae (leatherjackets), flea larvae, root weevils.

Counteracts: Crane fly

When To Use: Nematodes should be applied during the late spring to to fall months when larval pests are present and soil temperatures are warm enough. BioSafe requires at least 55 degrees F. For crane flies, monitor first in early April by removing several one foot square areas of sod, tearing them apart, and counting the number of grubs. If more than 25 grubs per square foot are found, you, can use nematodes if soil temperature is high enough. For flea larvae, apply to lawn areas in summer if flea populations require it and indoor flea controls are not sufficient. A second application may be needed after 6 weeks to 2 months. For root weevils, apply in spring after soil temperatures warm. A second application is suggested in late summer or fall.



How To Use: Product must be purchased new each year and used by the date on the container. Dry formulations must be mixed with water as directed and applied with a sprayer or a watering can as indicated on label. Sprayers work best for lawn applications, watering cans are fine for smaller applications. Do not apply until soil temperatures reach required temperatures. Do not apply in direct sunlight. Store product as directed, avoiding temperature extremes. Water the soil thoroughly before applying, and keep moist throughout the six weeks nematodes are active in the soil. Nematodes will die if there is either too much or too little water.

Benefits: Non-chemical control is not toxic to humans, pets, or beneficial insects. Effective against a number of serious pests that live in the soil.

Concerns: Cool soil temperatures prevent early application in spring for Crane fly. For summer flea control, lawn must be kept watered, and fleas must also be controlled on pets and in indoor areas with other methods. Product is fairly expensive. Effectiveness not as high as chemical controls but is adequate to reduce damage below levels that threaten plants.

Crane fly--looks almost exactly like a mosquito on steroids. Contrary to popular belief, these are not 'mosquito hawks' and they do not eat mosquitos. They are just very clumsy giant bugs that lay eggs in lawns.

I decided not to show a photo of Nematodes because they are really ugly tiny worm things.

I bought some from a local nursery supply place. They were in a glassine envelope and could not be seen with the naked eye. After I viewed them with a microscope I knew nobody would like to see them.

If you're determined to take a look just google 'nematodes' and you'll see what I'm talking about. Hey, I put worms on my fishhook with tweezers.

Good Bugs, Continued

Bumble bee, *Bombus spp.*

Provides benefit: Pollination

How to recognize: Large and lumbering, black and yellow bumble bees measure up to one inch in length. These fuzzy insects make a loud droning buzz as they fly somewhat awkwardly from flower to flower. Bumble bees nest in soil or leaf litter where a single queen lays 8 to 12 eggs in spring and continues to lay eggs through the summer.

Benefits: Emerging workers are able to fly in very cool weather, making them a very valuable pollinator of a variety of plants.

How to attract: As these bees nest in soil and leaf litter, try to leave a section of your yard undisturbed. A little "wild" place in your yard can offer a haven for many other beneficial insects that would otherwise be killed by tilling and mowing. Provide native flowers, as they are a primary food source.

Fun fact: There may be as many as 40 species of bumble bee in the Western U.S.



Centipede, Class Chilopoda

Counteracts: Slug/snail

How to recognize: This long (1/2 to three inches) many-legged creature is light brown to black in color and moves quickly. Centipedes have only one pair of legs per segment. Millipedes, which are important in compost decay, have two pairs per segment. Both prefer moist areas in the garden and compost piles.



Slug--ugh

Benefits: Centipedes prey on pests and insects in the soil including slugs, worms and fly pupae. Centipedes kill their prey with venom, and their bite is moderately painful (although not dangerous) to humans.

How to attract: As with ground beetles, low-till gardening can maintain the populations of centipedes.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Dragonfly, Damselfly, Order Odonata

Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: There are more than 80 species in Washington. They can be identified by their long narrow body, their large compound eyes and the four transparent wings. There is variation in color. Sizes range from one to two inches. The larvae are found in water.

Benefits: They eat mosquitoes, aphids and other pest bugs.

How to attract: Dragonflies and damselflies have decreased considerably in abundance as the wetland areas where they live have dramatically decreased. Want dragonflies? Don't fill in that marshy area. Better yet, enlarge it, or dig your own pond.



Green lacewing, Chrysopa spp.

Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: Adult green lacewings have delicate, light green bodies; large clear wings; and bright golden or copper colored eyes. They are 1/2 to 3/4 inch long. The larvae are small, grayish brown, and narrow and they have pincerlike mandibles. Eggs are found on plant stems and foliage; they are

laid singly or in small groups on top of fine, silken stalks.

Benefits: Lacewing larvae and adults feed voraciously upon aphids and other small insects, insect eggs, and spider mites. They also eat leafhopper nymphs, whiteflies and small caterpillars.

How to attract: Plant flowers that produce pollen and nectar. Adults are mobile, but lay eggs where they stop to eat.

If you buy: Success with lacewing eggs or larvae may require practice. Hold eggs at room temperature until the larvae begin hatching, then sprinkle them on plants (about one to five per square foot of garden space).



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Good Bugs, Continued

Ground beetle, Family Carabidae

Counteracts: Cutworm

How to recognize: While shapes and colors may vary widely, they are usually shiny.



Cutworm

Some are very ferocious-looking, but they are not known to bite people. Black is a common color, sometimes with a metallic sheen of another color on their wing covers. Most ground beetles feed at night and hide in the soil or under debris during the day. Adult beetles range from 1/8 to one inch long.

Benefits: These very common garden insects feed on many soil-inhabiting pests such as cutworms and root maggots. Some types eat slugs and snails.



How to attract: You probably don't need to attract these common beetles. Unless it's discouraged with pesticides, the species that is right for your garden will find you. Low-till gardening techniques can save the lives of many soil-dwelling ground beetles. Objects to hide under, such as logs, boards or flat stones, will help keep ground beetles in your garden.

Honey bee, *Apis mellifera*

Provides: Pollination

How to recognize: Adults measure 2/3 inch long and are fuzzy, with gold-and-black striped bodies and transparent wings. Honey bees can often be identified by the balls of yellow pollen they carry on the backs of their legs.

Benefits: Honeybees are important pollinators of many plants.

How to attract: Grow flowering plants. Encourage wild honey bees. Because the spread of mites has seriously reduced honey bee populations, the wild honey bees that are left are even more important.

Fun fact: Pollinators are estimated to be worth \$8 billion to our economy! Many other insects are pollinators as well.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Hover fly/Syrphid fly, Family Syrphidae

Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: The adults have bodies with black and yellow stripes. While they look like bees or wasps, they don't sting. They range in size from less than ¼ inch to ½ inch.

Benefits: Although not all are directly beneficial, many hover fly larvae prey on aphids, mealybugs and other small insects. Adults must feed on nectar before they reproduce, so are good pollinators.

Fun fact: These flies are called "hover flies" because they hang in one spot like a helicopter when they fly.



Lady beetle, Family Coccinellidae

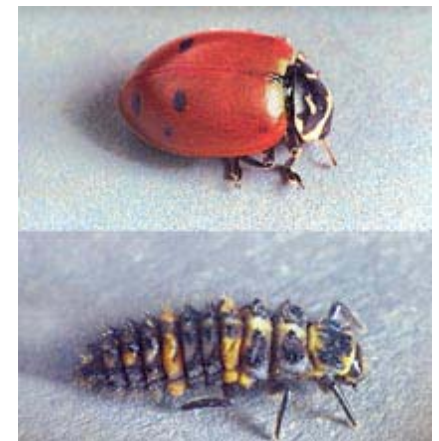
Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: Most people know an adult lady beetle (lady bug), but the larvae are most valuable. The larva is soft-bodied and alligator-shaped with black and orange markings. Each species has a distinct pattern.

Benefits: Both larvae and adults feed on soft-bodied insects such as aphids, mealybugs, scale insects and spider mites as well as insect eggs.

How to attract: Plant flowers that produce pollen and nectar (dill, angelica). Allowing weeds (dandelion, wild carrot, yarrow) can help too. You could also spray a combination of whey and yeast on plants as a food source.

If you buy: We don't recommend buying lady beetles for pest control: most often they won't stay in your garden when released. The best thing is to attract lady beetles, or other insect predators, to your yard.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Mason bee, Hoplitis producta

Provides: Pollination

How to recognize: Slightly smaller than a honeybee, these gentle, non-aggressive insects resemble house flies more than honey bees. They are deep blue-black in color and have no stripes.

Benefits: Mason bees pollinate apples, cherries and other tree fruit. They are active between apple blossom and cherry blossom season, then die out by summer.

How to attract: Provide them a home. Drill holes 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter and 3 to 6 inches deep into wooden boards or blocks. Attach boards to a house or post near where you have seen the bees. Some protection from rain is a good idea. Position boards facing morning sun. Place homes by early spring, preferably by April 1.



Parasitic wasp, Order Hymenoptera, many spp.

Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: Too small to be noticeable, these miniwasps don't sting people or pets. They range in size from the smallest insect known (about 1/50 inch) to about one inch, although most are on the small side. These parasites reproduce by laying their eggs in a pest host (adult or egg). The immature wasp feeds inside and kills its host. A round hole can be often seen where the adult parasite has chewed its way out.

Benefits: Different species may attack aphids, whiteflies, and butterflies or moths, such as cabbage loopers and hornworms.

How to attract: You need to have some of the prey around to be able to sustain populations of the parasite.

If you buy: Many are available for sale to home gardeners. Examples are *Encarsia formosa*, which attacks greenhouse white flies, and *Trichogramma* species, which attack many caterpillar pests.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Predatory mite, Order Acarina

Counteracts: Spider mite



How to recognize: Adult mites are tiny, about half a millimeter in length, and are beige to reddish tan. They resemble pest mites but are faster moving and have fewer hairs.

Benefits: Predatory mites are valuable predators of pest mites such as spider mites.

How to attract: There is no great way to attract mites. Since you probably already have some, don't discourage them with pesticides.

If you buy: Predatory mites naturally occur in large numbers in the Northwest. Since you probably already have mites in your garden, it may not make sense to buy new ones for outdoor use. However, they may be useful for greenhouses and indoor plants. They are especially effective against spider mites. You can purchase predatory mites at many garden stores.



Rove beetle, Family Staphylinidae

Counteracts these pest: Aphid

How to recognize: These fascinating insects may resemble a tiny scorpion when they hold the tip of their abdomen up in the air. They are fast moving and measure 1/10 to one inch long.

Benefits: Depending upon species, rove beetles prey upon aphids, springtails, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, fly eggs and maggots. They also eat and help break down decaying organic material.

How to attract: Create a "wild" area of your yard where leaves are allowed to pile up, the grass isn't mowed, and the soil isn't tilled. This can give these and many other insects a haven.

Fun fact: Rove beetles are often seen hanging around dead animals but they're not scavengers. They're actually waiting for their prey, such as flies and maggots.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Soldier beetle, Family Cantharidae

Counteracts: Aphid

How to recognize: Approximately 1/2 inch in length, the adult soldier beetle has a narrow, black abdomen and bright red head or thorax. The soldier beetle larva is various shades of orange with black markings.

Benefits: Soldier beetles prey upon aphids, caterpillars, grasshopper eggs and beetle larvae, among other insects around the garden.

How to attract: Since some soldier beetles feed on nectar, you may be able to attract them with flowering plants.

Fun fact: Soldier beetles are nicknamed leatherwings because of their soft, clothlike wing covers.

Spider, Order Aranaea

Counteracts: Harmful insects and other pests

How to recognize: Spiders aren't insects at all. They can be identified by their eight legs and two-part body. Although there are hundreds of species of spider in Washington, they all share this trait. Spiders are far more beneficial than they are dangerous. Most spiders are shy and harmless to humans.

Benefits: Spiders are the most important predators on insects, killing more than all other predators combined. They feed on a broad variety of pest insects year-round.

How to attract: You probably already have an abundance of spiders. You can provide spider habitat by covering bare dirt with mulch, creating a "wild" area in your yard, planting dense shrubs and coniferous trees, and providing a water source such as a pond.

If you are concerned about spiders in your home, sealing off your living space from the crawlspace, garage, floor voids and unfrequented storage space will help. House spiders and outdoor spiders are not the same species.



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Good Bugs, Continued

Tachinid fly, Family Tachinidae



Counteracts: Cabbage looper

How to recognize: Resembling house flies, tachinid flies are 1/3 to 1/2 inch in length and may be brown, gray or black in color. Some species are very hairy.

Benefits: There are many species of tachinid flies; many are parasites of pest caterpillars including cutworms, codling moths, tent caterpillars, cabbage loopers and gypsy moth larvae.

How to attract: Adults feed on nectar, so plant flowers as well as herbs in the Umbelliferae family such as dill, parsley and Queen Anne's Lace.



Yellow jacket, Family Vespidae

Counteracts: Caterpillar pests

How to recognize: Adult wasps are 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, with characteristic yellow and black stripes and transparent wings.

Benefits: Yellow jackets and other wasps are predators of caterpillars, flies and beetle grubs.

Concerns: Yellow jackets are often feared for their sting, which is a hazard to people who are allergic. Some yellow jacket species are more likely to sting and scavenge at picnics than others. The scent of pears is a sting signal for yellow jackets.

How to attract: Think about that nest in your yard: Does it really have to go? If the yellow jackets are not interfering with the lives of people in the area, leave the nest alone and get great pest-control and pollination benefits.

Other notes: To occupy yellow jackets during a picnic, place raw meat or a fish head away from the picnic (over a bucket of soapy water).



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Good Bugs, Continued

Extension Service Garden Hints from OSU

Learn to tell the good bugs from the bad with OSU's online guide

CORVALLIS, Ore. - You can teach yourself to identify beneficial predators in your garden with a hand lens and a new photo-illustrated guide to natural enemies.

A new guide has been published by the Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon Tilth called "A Pocket Guide – Common Natural Enemies of Crop and Garden Pests in the Pacific Northwest" (EC 1613-E). The publication includes macroscopic photos of many types of natural predators in their various life stages, along with identification and observation tips.

It is available online for no charge at: http://ipmnet.org/Pocket_Guide_of_Natural_Enemies.pdf

Once you know the beneficial predators you want, plant the right plants. Research in OSU's Department of Horticulture showed that some plants are better at attracting natural predators of pests in Oregon. Cilantro, yarrow, wild buckwheat, white sweet clover, tansy, sweet fennel, sweet alyssum, spearmint, Queen Anne's lace, hairy vetch, flowering buckwheat, crimson clover, cowpeas, common knotweed, caraway and black locust have been proved to attract natural enemies of plant pests into an area.

Cilantro and sweet alyssum are particularly effective in attracting hoverflies, whose larvae are voracious aphid predators.

Note from Editor: Neither Cilantro nor Sweet Alyssum are native to the northwest. However, they are annuals and they are not invasive. And if you love Mexican food, you probably already have a pot of cilantro growing on your patio! (If you don't grow your own cilantro, this could be just the reason to start. Both these plants smell divine--another good reason to grow them. An alternative is to experiment with some of the very aromatic natives such as Sweet Gum, Vanilla Leaf, Hairy Manzanita, Incense Cedar, Ocean Spray, Labrador Tea, Nootka Rose, Fringecup, Oregon Myrtle.



Summertime Blues



Our cover flower

This beautiful blue Alpine Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis alpestris*) is Alaska's state flower.

The five petals surround a tiny yellow picot with pale blue lines radiating from the center like a little star.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Summertime Blues, continued

Flora Danica Alpine Forget-Me-Not by Royal Copenhagen

Flora Danica: A Royal Porcelain Service

Of all the magnificent services from the 18th century, the Flora Danica porcelain service is the only one still in production. This magnificent service was created in what has since been named the Golden Age of porcelain. Today it is still considered one of the world's most luxurious services.

In 1790, 15 years after the company was established in 1775, and in the midst of the era called 'the Golden Age of porcelain' Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory began to produce a very special service.

It is said that it was commissioned by the Danish King, Christian VII, who wanted a porcelain service so beautiful and rare that it would gain a place among the Russian Empress Catherine II's large porcelain collection. But then the Empress died in 1796 before the great work was finished. The service therefore remained with the Royal Danish Household and today belongs to H.M. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

60 years went by before yet another Flora Danica Service was made at the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory. The occasion was the Danish Princess Alexandra's wedding to the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII of England. The service was to be a wedding present from Danish women to their Princess. This service is today part of the English Queen Elisabeth II's collection at Windsor castle.

Of the original 1802 pieces of Flora Danica porcelain 1530 still exists. HM Queen Margrethe II still uses part of the 200 years old service on special occasions.



Native to the northwest, this lovely blue flower was selected for the porcelain dinner service created for Danish King, Christian VII
See their website at www.floradanicaonline.com/

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Summertime Blues, continued

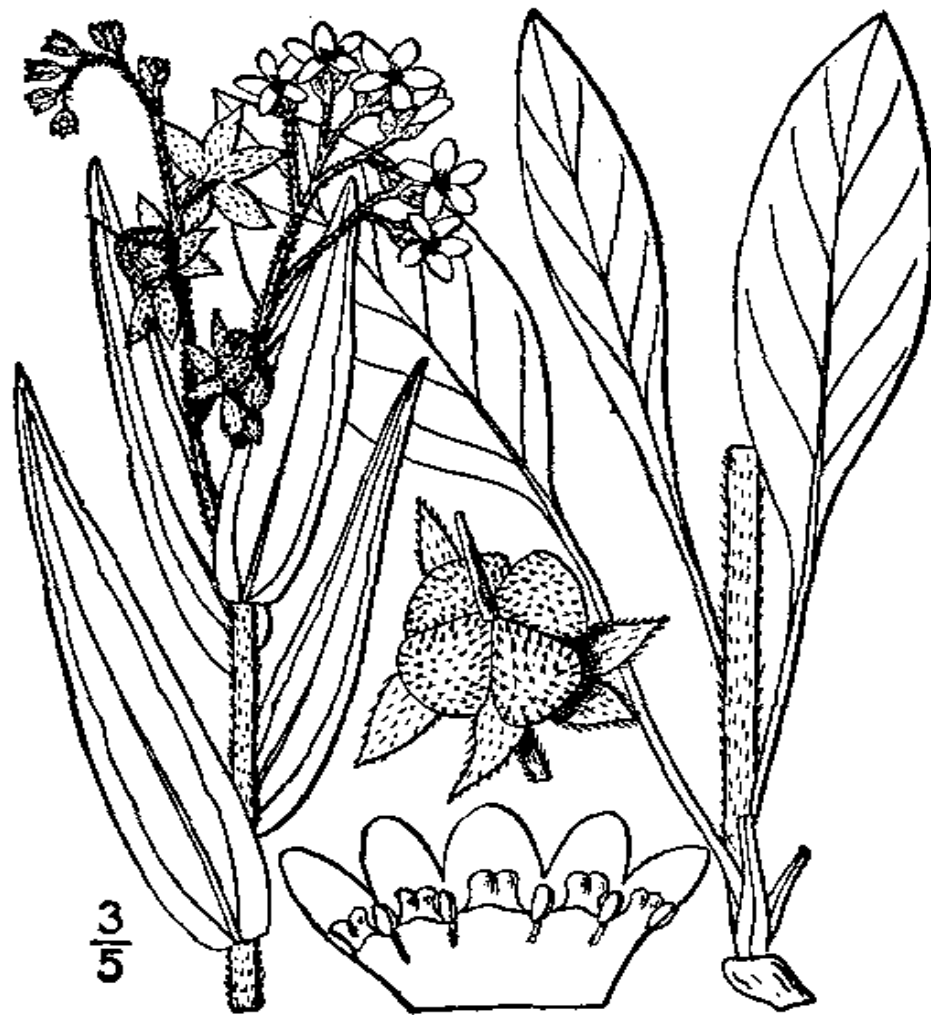


Grand Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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Summertime Blues, continued

Cynoglossum officinale L. Hound's-tongue. Gipsy Flower.



Cynoglossum officinale L. Sp. Pl. 134. 1753.

Biennial, pubescent; stem erect, leafy to the top, stout, usually branched, $1\frac{1}{2}$ '-3' high. Basal and lower leaves oblong or oblong-lanceolate, slender-petioled, sometimes obtuse, 6'-12' long, 1'-3' wide; upper leaves lanceolate, acute or acuminate, sessile, or the uppermost clasping; racemes several or numerous, bractless or sparingly bracted, simple or branched, much elongated in fruit; pedicels 3''-6'' long; calyx-segments ovate-lanceolate, acute; corolla reddish-purple or rarely white, about 4'' broad; fruit pyramidal, about 5'' broad, each of the 4 nutlets forming a side of the pyramid, flat on their upper faces, margined, splitting away at maturity, but hanging attached to portions of the subulate style.

In fields and waste places, Quebec and Ontario to Manitoba, South Carolina, Alabama, Kansas and Montana. Often a troublesome weed. Naturalized from Europe. Native also of Asia. Called also dog's-tongue, rose

noble. Canadian or dog-bur. Sheep-lice. Tory-weed. Wood-mat. May-Sept.

From Britton & Brown Illustrated Flora - 2nd Edition (1913)

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Summertime Blues, continued

Menziesii's Larkspur (*Delphinium menziesii*)



This native beauty grows on coastal bluffs, among spring-wet grasslands, meadows and lower mountain slopes. It is perennial, flowering in late spring in the West Gorge, the Siskiyou, and the cascades. I've found it a few times at roadside and at the edge of a grove of Garry Oaks.

Botanical print by Bonnie Hall. See Benson County Hospice www.bentonhospice.org
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Summertime Blues, continued

Ordinarily the Erythronium (Fawn Lily) blooms before the Camas. I noticed the two blooming together alongside the road as I went past Bush's Park in Salem.
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



"Camassia" by Leonard Thompson. The use of crackled batik wax over-painted with a graded wash of paint produced the textured background effect.



Swarming Bees

Bee swarm delays Astros' victory over Padres

Swarm chases players off field with two outs in ninth inning

This kind of press tends to give those of us non-beekeepers the shivers and scare us as far away from bees as we can get. Swarming bees are not an unusual event. A good friend of mine has been visited by a swarm twice in as many years. The last time, she took photos of the beekeepers' procedure for removal and prompted me to research what this whole swarming thing is about. The following article explains the whys and the whats quite well.

Dealing with Honey Bee Swarms

From Iowa State University Horticulture and Home Pest Nesx

This article was published originally on 5/25/2005

Honey bees are valuable and provide tremendous benefits, specifically pollination, honey and wax. However there are times and places where honey bees create an annoyance and a nuisance, and for sting-sensitive individuals, a health threat. One such incidence is when honey bees swarm.

Swarming is a natural part of the development of a honey bee colony. Swarming is a method of propagation that occurs in response to crowding within the colony. Swarming is an advantage to the bees but is a distinct disadvantage for beekeepers. Consequently, beekeepers manage hives to reduce the incidence of swarming to the extent possible. Swarming usually occurs in late spring and early summer and begins in the warmer hours of the day.

Honey bee swarms may contain several hundred to several thousand worker bees, a few drones and one queen. Swarming bees fly around briefly and then cluster on a tree limb, shrub or other object. Clusters usually remain stationary for an hour to a few days, depending on weather and the time needed to find a new nest site by scouting bees. When a suitable location for the new colony, such as a hollow tree, is found the cluster breaks up and flies to it.



*Houston, we have a problem!
Hundreds of bees flying in the garden--a good time to skedaddle!*

[⇒More⇒](#)

Swarming Bees, continued



Honey bee swarms are not highly dangerous under most circumstances. Swarming honey bees feed prior to swarming, reducing their ability to sting. Further, bees away from the vicinity of their nest (offspring and food stores) are less defensive and are unlikely to sting unless provoked.

In most situations when a honey bee swarm is found on a tree, shrub or house you do not need to do anything. Swarms are temporary and the bees will move on if you patiently ignore them. Stay back and keep others away from the swarm, but feel free to admire and appreciate the bees from a safe distance.

Only if a serious health threat is present because of the location of the swarm, such as in a highly traveled public area, should you need to do anything with a cluster. An experienced beekeeper may be willing to gather the swarm and relocate it for you. Note that most beekeepers do not do this because they want the swarm; swarmers often have diseases and parasites that will be difficult to manage. Beekeepers that are willing to relocate swarms do so as a public service and may rightfully charge a fee.

As a last resort, you can spray a swarm of bees with soapy water or synthetic insecticide. Wait until after dark if possible. Soapy water sprays (up to 1 cup of liquid dishwashing detergent in a gallon of water) are preferred because the bees die peacefully; aerosol wasp and hornet sprays are more likely to irritate and agitate the bees before they die, increasing the chances of being stung. Spraying a honey bee swarm is a risky operation because of the large number of bees.

- Donald R. Lewis, Department of Entomology

See the University's website at www.ent.iastate.edu/

The swarm has settled and quietly rest while deciding on what to do next. In the meantime, our gardener has contacted the bee's owner who happens to live next door and who will arrive shortly with help to relocate the swarm into a new beehive.

⇒ **More** ⇒

Swarming Bees, continued

In our own story, the neighbor beekeeper brought over an empty hive on which he'd sprayed some lemon (bees love this scent) and coaxed the mass of bees to move into the new beehive.

Our gardener relates her thoughts on the bees and what may happen next:

It was really cool seeing them massed together like that. When they're like that, they're completely safe, and you don't have to worry about being stung. They're full of honey, fat and happy and completely docile, so you can get really up close and personal.

Last Friday another of his hives swarmed and settled onto my cherry tree in the back yard. They're too high up, and he couldn't get an empty hive close by. He thought they might simply fly off and find some other place to start a hive, but after four days, they're still in my tree.

He thinks they may build a cone right there. It's really an interesting process, and it doesn't make me a bit nervous having all those bees next door. They love all the plants I have such as my lavender "field" and all the flowers in front.

If you are visited by a swarm of bees and you don't happen to have a handy beekeeper next door, there are apiarists who will come and remove the swarm for you. Some of them charge for this, some of them are glad to get the bees and do not charge. You can also leave them be and, like our friend, see if they build a hive in your tree!

If you take the last suggestion, do study up so you can be friendly with the bees. They are most helpful because they carry pollen from one bloom to the next and you could find a way to borrow some of that honey!



Above, preparing the beehive.
Below, shaking the bees into the box.



See: U.S. Beekeepers for Swarm Removal, www.ebeehoney.com/swarmremovalmap.html

[⇒More⇒](#)

Swarming Bees, continued

These two are very professional in their dealings with the friendly bees



They carefully brush the stragglers into the beehive and spray honey water on bees and their new home.



A gentle tap of the beehive on the garden bench helps to get the bees inside. At last, the final frame is replaced and the lid is closed.

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Swarming Bees, continued

So what happened to the Astros and the Padres?

Ap Associated Press updated 6:24 p.m. PT, Thurs., July 2, 2009

SAN DIEGO - It was the kind of late-inning buzz that none of the players had experienced before. The Houston Astros — who once had the “Killer Bs” (a nickname for several of the players whose names began with a ‘B’)— found themselves waiting out a 52-minute delay in the top of the ninth inning caused when a swarm of bees took over left field at Petco Park. It certainly gave a new meaning to getaway day.

The drama began when San Diego’s Kyle Blanks noticed some bees floating around his head (he’s allergic to bees). It ended when a beekeeper obliterated a ball of bees that followed a queen bee under a ballgirl’s jacket that was slung over the back of a chair down the left-field line.

The umpires stopped the game at 3:09 p.m. Five minutes later, both teams were cleared from the field. The beekeeper arrived at 3:56 p.m., quickly did his job to applause from the fans that remained, and the game resumed 5 minutes later.

Head groundskeeper Luke Yoder thinks they were regular honey bees. Groundskeepers thought about putting a trash can over the chair, but didn’t want to take the chance in case they were Africanized honey bees.

And the game? The Astros beat the San Diego Padres 7-2.

Bee swarms can be daunting but stay calm and:

---Do call a beekeeper (find one close to you on the website of U.S. Beekeepers for Swarm Removal, www.ebeehoney.com/swarmremovalmap.html)

--Do not stop, drop and roll (that’s for fires)

--Do not spray, poke or otherwise disturb the bees

--Lastly, this hint from a beekeeper in Seattle: Don’t expect a beekeeper to recover a swarm 100 feet up a pine tree. Those bees, they’re God’s bees now. If He wants them He can come and get them. I have neither wings nor parachute but I do have a morbid fear of death.



Honey Bee on Sunflower
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Last week our beloved gardener, philosopher, and friend found the end of his trail here on earth. It had been almost two years since he began to forget where he had put something, what he did yesterday, where he was going and what name belonged to a face.

His days were not barren, though. His children were constantly around him, talking and laughing and sharing their love. He was never alone unless he wished to be and even then, someone was always nearby to answer his call.

He went out and about every day. He and his daytime companion went out to eat, to church, to parks, to physical therapy, just everywhere. It became a familiar site, Wally in his wheelchair and his friend supplying the muscle power, strolling along. People at the places they visited often greeted them warmly and, though his memory was gone his wit lingered. He'd ask them how they liked their jobs. He'd ask if they were happy. He'd ask someone to take a picture with the camera he wore around his neck.

I learned later on that he called these outings "honkey tonking."



Western Trillium (Trillium ovatum) Most beautiful of all native flowers, this is the common trillium of the Northwest.

What level of decadence have we reached when we can call this miracle of nature 'common.'

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[**⇒More⇒**](#)

This & That, continued



I went into Fred Meyer one recent day after work and there was Wally and friend, cruising through the store, noticing every single thing as he passed by. I was so glad to see him! It had been quite a while.

I went over to say hello and shake hands with him. His face lit up in greeting. I told him my name and that I did the website for the nursery, hoping to spark a second of recognition. I'm not sure he understood that part, but he knew I was a friend.

We shared a moment of smiles together. I did not keep him long, but before we parted he patted my arm and told me to keep up the great work I was doing, that it was important.

Names were not an issue in this chance meeting, the glow in his eyes expressed it all as his companion gently pushed him along on their journey.

Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)
Each plant has a single stalk bearing three large leaves. About Easter time, a large white flower with three petals opens from a small stem above the leaves.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

This & That, continued

I will hold dear the talks we had as the years passed: the stories he told of his childhood in Canada learning about nature and her laws, his descriptions of trilliums and how the huckleberries tasted as he savored their summer sweetness plucking them from the bush straight into his mouth. His knowledge of the wilderness, the plants and animals, even the pebbles on the ground--it was as though he had actually been there when the great expedition of Lewis and Clark came through. He seemed to have first hand acquaintance with Thomas Jefferson Howell, Jane Colden and Asa Gray, botanists of olden times.

Wally's writings during the first couple of years of our web work together were so inspiring! The romantic way he wove the plant lore and poetry together. When he turned the writing over to me, I was not sure I could do it. He'd tell me to "just do it the 'Wally way' with old English spelling and mystery and wonder at the magnificence of these native creations." I studied his older essays and listened closely as he taught me to love the plants, even the ones without flowers.

It was about four years ago that he quit writing altogether and bequeathed the keeping of the website to my hand. It was a struggle to live up to his example but he never doubted me. A reader once told me Wally was her perfect image of a man--his knowledge of plants and his love of poetry. He was without equal.




Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)
As it ages, the flower becomes a pleasing purple colour. It requires seven years for this trillium to grow from seed to flower.
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

This & That, continued

As we take leave of our friend, our garden's master, let us keep the memories close and teach others to treasure our native plants. In this way we can thank him for giving us the gift of knowing the wild things.

Jennifer




So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart.
Trouble no one about their religion;
respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours.
Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.

Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.
Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.
Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend,
even a stranger, when in a lonely place.
Show respect to all people and grovel to none.

When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living.
If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself.

Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools
and robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled
with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep
and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.
Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.



Chief Tecumseh (Crouching Tiger) Shawnee Nation 1768-1813

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. We thank them for this public service and we add to the list when we discover a website to include.

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.



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Early summer blooms

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.



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Fall Color

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.

Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

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

Excellent photography and trail guides.

Woody Plant Seed Manual

<http://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.



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Ripe Fruit--Superb!

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Photos by JoAnn Onstott



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Huckleberry
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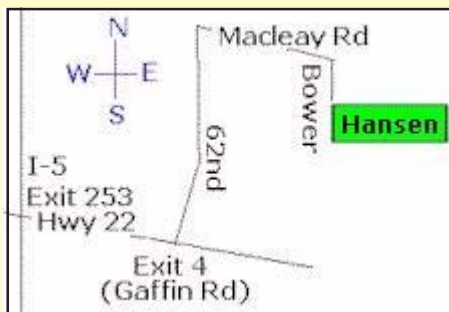
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to Bower Ct, right (south) to end
of short road on the left..



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