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# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

Organically grown, <sup>p13</sup>

Reprise of Wally's Newsletter  
July -- August, 2004

It's lily time!, <sup>p18</sup>

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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.).

Tiger Lilies  
(*Lilium columbianum*)  
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



**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 Wally via e-mail at [nwplants@gmail.com](mailto:nwplants@gmail.com). Some articles (and pics) might deal with propagation, culture, diseases, restoration, reclamation, fertilizers, etc.



# On the Cover

## Pacific Rhody (*Rhododendron Macrophyllum*)

Native to California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, this is one of our most dramatic native shrubs.

There are a goodly number of plants in this family but the Pacific Rhody is especially prolific in Oregon. It was first cataloged by Archibald Menzies in 1792.

Menzies was born in Scotland to a family 'keenly interested in botany and gardening' (From American Journeys). His great appreciation for plants led him to an appointment to George Vancouver's expedition to the Northwest--a most exciting adventure indeed!

As the expedition sailed to their NW destination, they stopped at the Cape of Good Hope, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii before they set foot on North American soil.

The number of plants Menzies collected is in the thousands, but few have been as widely adopted as this NW native.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

# To Do List

## Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden



**1** – Be careful about using fertilizer for the rest of the year. You do not want to stimulate growth that will put tender growth at risk from early frosts.

**2** – Get rid of weeds along paths, roads, etc before they go to seed. Cut and haul away, burn (careful!), kill with mild Round Up (nothing stronger), rent some goats, or whatever.

**3** – Collect seeds of native perennials, shrubs and trees. Dry a bit, label and store and process later as appropriate. As we have discussed many times, some seeds can be planted directly in the fall, other must be treated to break dormancy.

**4** – Keep watering young plants through August and maybe a bit in September, but then taper off to prepare the plants for first frost.

**5** – Start planning fall plantings! Mostly plant in late September and October. The ground is warm and even though deciduous plants lose their leaves, the roots will grow and get ready for Spring, 2001!

A good candidate for dividing, creating 2-3 plants when there was just one. Northwest native perennials such as this one get an energy boost when you separate their root balls and put a nice helping of composted material in the planting hole before settling the plant back in the ground. Plant the divisions in new spots or in containers for sharing with friends or neighbors.

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# Mystery plant puzzle

**It's back--an opportunity to expand your knowledge of plants native to the northwest!**



This photo is from a reader who asked for help in identification. Later, she found a possible answer. We think she is right but would love to hear from you. Do you know the botanical name? Such a pretty bloom just packed with charm!

See the answer in our next journal, along with this plant's story and favored growing zones.

Send me an email ([chillipepper6@comcast.net](mailto:chillipepper6@comcast.net)) with the correct botanical name of this plant. We'll list the botanical sleuths in our next journal.

**Good luck!**

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

This lovely photo is from Sabrina Kis



# Sparky's Corner

## A special message from our frisky contributor



One of the two-leggers at the nursery was singing a song the other day about the times a'changing and it explained what's happening just perfectly.

We have a little rain, lots of sunshine, cooling evenings. For a while there, we were all so hot we didn't do much jumping and running and general messing about. But lately there are times most days when we feel like being more active.

Grandma doesn't run anymore, she hardly even jumps! Neither does Mr. Snorters. She says this is what happens when you get mature. I never thought much about being mature and I'm not too sure I want to do that if you don't have fun. But she says she has plenty of fun puttering around and does what she calls 'sashaying about.' I asked her what that means but though she talked quite a bit about it I still didn't get it so I went to Mamma's nest and asked her.

Now, my mom is super smart and she has books that explain stuff. Don't ask me where she got them. I have no idea. But she's been speaking two-legger language my

whole life and just lately is teaching me how. The books are all in two-legger but I can't read yet.

So, she looked up 'sashay' and here's what she found:

- a. To walk or proceed, especially in an easy or casual manner.*
- b. To strut or flounce in a showy manner*
- c. To perform the chassé in dancing.*
- d. To move in a sideways manner.*

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

# Sparky's Corner, continued

Is that cool or what! She said this one two-legger word could mean any of these things. She said Grandma probably meant the first one but she said as far as she could tell Grandma really does the second one.

Momma showed me a little bit of what these look like. I tried each one out and I agree. Grandma does strut and flounce, especially in the morning when she's wearing that hat with the flowers on it.

I showed my buds all the different kinds of sashay (except the chasse--even Momma didn't know what that was). We had so much fun sashaying! Some of us are better than others at it. We most especially like moving in a sideways manner. However, there is great danger if you do this when running up a tree. I found out the hard way. I had to hold off on the sashaying for a while afterwards. Well, really I just took a nap.

Well, that is about all I can say today. I do recommend the sashaying if you get bored or if you have a nice hat.



*Your friend,  
Sparky*

The best treat in the garden right now! Those fruits are delicious and make your belly happy. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



This is the 'moving sideways sashay.' Don't try it when you're running up a tree. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# Old becomes new

## The NW's most famous shrubs

By Wally Hansen

### **Pacific Rhododendrons & Western Azaleas- Beautiful Natives!**

These two related species really represent the beauty of the Northwest. One is evergreen, one is deciduous. Use these two plants generously in your native gardens and larger projects.

#### Rhododendron macrophyllum (Pacific Rhododendron)

These beautiful and sturdy evergreen shrubs get to 10 ft and larger. They thrive from British Columbia to Northern California and part way up the Cascades, perhaps to the 1000 ft level. Sun or shade but seem to prefer light shade, often on the edge of heavily forested areas. Large clumps of pink-purple flowers. This is one of my favorites. You Northwest folks should use this Rhodie as your basic larger evergreen shrub. This Rhodie is a "sprouter." If the above ground portion is cut off or burned, it will sprout again - like the mythical Phoenix Bird that arises from the ashes!

Save seeds and grow your own. Collect fresh in the fall and sow at once on a bed of damp, fine peat moss. Do not add any peat moss cover but keep covered with plastic until the seeds germinate. You can also propagate by cuttings or layering.

Pacific Rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇨ More ⇨](#)

# Old becomes new, continued

The Japanese Root Weevil likes Rhodies. Watch for neat square notches in the leaves. This is caused by the insect form of the root weevil - notched leaves may be unsightly but not serious damaged. - The real trouble-makers are the grubs that hatch from the eggs that the flies deposit in the soil at the base of the shrub. These nasty little varmints eat up the roots and may "do in" the plant. Orthene is the best spray for the fly in July and August. To go after the grubs, I suggest beneficial nematodes when the soil is 50 degrees or warmer. They can be purchased in packages, contained on small sponges. Put the sponge in water, stir and pour about one quart around each plant. These beneficial nematodes eat up the grubs.

Use these fine native Rhodies for hedges and borders and in dense clumps at attractive spots in your gardens.

## Rhododendron occidentale (Western Azalea)

This is the deciduous cousin of the Pacific Rhodie, but not quite so hardy. Found from Southwest Oregon to Southern California. A loosely branched shrub to 10 ft. Beautiful white flowers, tinged with pink. Will grow in sun or shade - probably very light shade the best (a little more sun than Pacific Rhodie.) I grow from seed, treated almost the same as the Pacific Rhodie, above.

The Western Azalea is a beauty in its own right but also serves as a parent for many lovely hybrids. As you look at the many hybrid azaleas in "regular" garden stores, remember that in many, the "blood" of the Western Azalea runs strong and deep. Why not have the original beautiful charmer in your garden? What a delightful companion to the native Pacific Rhodie.



Western Azalea  
(*Rhododendron occidentale*)  
Photo by Professor Wilbur Bluhm



# A Summer Destination

## Besides flying fish, Seattle has much more to see!

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition is one of the featured exhibits at this northwest museum, but there is another area whose siren call is attracting native plant aficionados (as well as ordinary gardeners!): The UW Herbarium. As described on their website ([www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/collections/herbarium/index.php](http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/collections/herbarium/index.php)):

*"The University of Washington Herbarium (also known as WTU) is an international resource for research into the diversity, distribution and ecology of Pacific Northwest vascular plants, non-vascular plants, fungi, lichen, and algae. With over 600,000 specimens currently in the collections and between 5,000-10,000 specimens added annually, WTU is one of the largest herbaria in the region."*



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# A Summer Destination, continued

The Burke hosts several online databases which are vast and includes image collections as well as descriptions and historical information.

Arachnology

Archaeology

Ethnology

Genetic Resources

Geology

Herpetology

Herbarium

Mammalogy

Ornithology

Paleontology

In the Herbarium database, you can search for a particular plant by common name, botanical name, family or genus. Very user friendly, this herbarium is definitely a work in progress and is likely to remain so for many generations to come. Set aside an hour or two to investigate this fantastic online resource. It will be time well spent.

Special areas of interest are covered in these field guides.



The museum website has something of interest for all ages. There is a site for kids that makes learning fun. It was developed especially for kids ages 6 to 12. There is a coffee shop for snacks, there are pathways to displays, and all areas of the Burke is accessible by wheelchair. Include a visit to the Burke when you next go to Seattle. Great fun!



# Organically grown

By Wally Hansen

## Native Plants As Food For Early Native Americans



Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

As you learn about Native Plants, as you appreciate their beauty and dignity, you might begin to wonder which of these plants were used as food by the early Native Americans. The answer is interesting and may enhance your appreciation of our Pacific Northwest Plants.

Early Native Americans in Western Washington and Western Oregon lived on fish, game, insects, roots, berries and nuts that abounded here. The game, fish and insects are another matter. Here is my list and comments on native plants eaten by early Native Americans, gathered from research and tempered by experience.

This is a multifunctional plant:

1. Fast growing bramble will sprawl to cover a bare corner or can be tied up along a fence.
2. Large red-purple flowers are beautiful in the landscape.
3. Fruit is edible, sometimes tart--each plant tastes a little different from the others.
4. Good addition to a wildlife habitat.



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# Organically grown, continued

Bittercherry (*Prunus emarginata*) — fruit: OK if starving.

Blackcap (*Rubus leucodermis*) — fruit: quite nice - a raspberry.

Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) — fruit: fair for dessert!

Bracken Fern — new shoots: a main food - you can survive!

Camas, mostly *C. quamash* but some *C. leilichtlinii* — root: boiled and baked, starch like a potato: good.

Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria affinis*) — bulb: same as Tiger.

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) — fruit: fairly good.

Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) — Don't mix with Giant Cow Parsnip==Deadly Poison!

Dwarf Huckleberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*) — fruit: tasty.

Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) — fruit: small but good huck flavor.

The bronze colored leaf is from the Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

The acorn is that of the California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)



Bittercherry (*Prunus emarginata*)

covered with fruit which Wally describes as "OK if starving." Birds give it a much different rating. Imagine the flowers that preceded this generous harvest—each clump of fruit began as the example at left. Fruit photo by Rory Nichols. Flower photo from the University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences (SAFS)



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# Organically grown, continued



New shoots of Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Service Berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) — fruit: nice.

Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) — new shoots: will keep you alive during a famine (starvation diet).

Tarweed ( *Madia*) — Burn off tar and use seeds for food: (Good??)

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) — fruit: good with cream.

Tiger Lily (*Lilium columbianum*) — bulb: nutritious but not very tasty.

Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) — roots: Lewis & Clark ate Wapato and Elk meat when in Oregon.

Wild Carrot — roots: never tried this one.

Woods Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) — fruit: small but very tasty.

Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) — Never tried this.

Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) — acorns: OK.

Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) — nuts: tasty.

Little Wild Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) — fruit: what wonderful pies!!

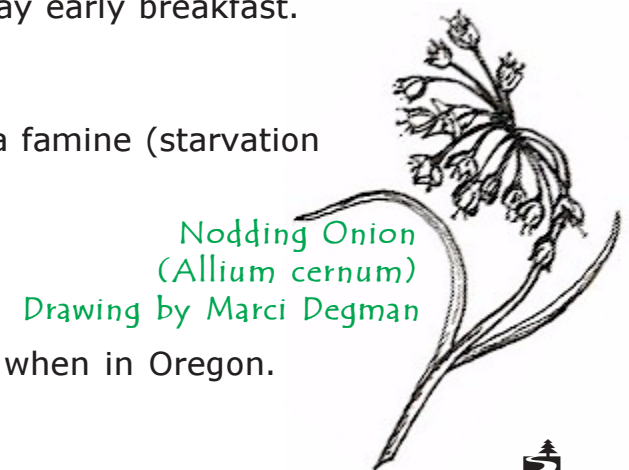
Mountain Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) — fruit: the very best!

Native onions (*Allium*) — whole plant: OK, typical onion.

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*) — berries: tart & seedy, but good.

Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*) — fruit: tart but OK.

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) — fruit: good for Sunday early breakfast.



Nodding Onion  
(*Allium cernuum*)

Drawing by Marci Degman

# Easy plant propagation

By Wally Hansen

## Semi-hardwood cuttings in July and August--there is still time!

Semi-hardwood cuttings are usually taken in late June, July and August. These cuttings are taken as the new growth hardens. If you go too late into the summer, you will not get enough roots to survive through the winter.

I suggest you try some of these Native Shrubs: Blueblossom, Clematis, Salal, Ocean Spray, Honeysuckle, Mock Orange, Nine Bark, Crabapple, Choke Cherry, Cascara, Rhodies, Red Flowering Currant, Roses, Elderberry, Spirea and Snowberry.



Select clean new growth stems and collect in early morning when cool. Cut a section of stem with two or more buds or leaves on the stem. The lower cut is just below a bud and the upper just above a bud. Strip off all but 1 or 2 leaves on top. The base end of the cutting is dipped in rooting hormone and then "stuck" in a tray containing a moist mix of pumice or sand and peat moss.

Red-Flowering Currant  
(*Ribes sanguineum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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

In the background:  
Self-Heal or Heal-All  
(*Prunella vulgaris* var.  
*lanceolata*)

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# Easy plant propagation, continued

Have an arrangement to keep the plants constantly moist (nearly 100% humidity) and in a position to receive sunlight (but do not overheat). You can achieve 100% humidity by rigging an enclosed plastic environment, or misting frequently by hand or through controlled misting nozzles.



Semi-hardwood cuttings must have frequent "misting." Be patient. It takes weeks for roots to develop. Don't keep pulling out plants to see if they have roots. You can tell if roots are developing if you tug gently on the stem and there is resistance.

Unidentified wild rose  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Casca or Buckthorn  
(*Rhamnus purshiana*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Maybe this involves a lot of attention and why not just buy the plant? Well, it is like going fishing. You spend hundreds of dollars for \$3.00 worth of fish - there are some things that are not measured in dollars and creating a new plant with your own hands and skills may well be worth the effort!

# It's lily-time!

By Wally Hansen

## Seductive beauties of the Northwest - Tiger Lilies and Leopard Lilies

In the early Spring, the Trilliums bloom in the damp forests - drifts of beautiful white, prim and proper little Nuns - members of some mysterious woodland order with strict rules and behavior codes.

In the summer the forest and prairie mood changes and the seductive Tiger Lilies and Leopard Lilies flaunt their stunning beauty in warm, flashy colors - shameless little hussies inviting the bees to visit them - how I love them!

**Tiger Lilies (*Lilium columbianum*)** can get 8 ft tall, but in my garden they are much shorter. Each stem can have from 6 to 10 pendulous turk's cap blossoms in wonderful yellow to orange red colors with spots. The lower leaves are whorled and the upper leaves are scattered.

This is a hardy plant, found on both sides of the Cascades from British Columbia to California and into Idaho and Nevada, Large white segmented bulbs. I propagate by breaking off bulb scales and placing in plastic bags with some fine pumice and a herbicide powder. Then I keep in the warm house and watch every week. Many send out small roots and then, with extreme loving care, you have a new plant.

You will need to wait several years for blooming size. Seeds germinate well, but it takes several years again to grow up. Native Americans in the Northwest dug and ate these bulbs, Spring, Summer and Fall. They were boiled or roasted and sometimes dried after cooking for winter use.

Leopard Lily (*Lilium pardalinum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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# It's lily-time!, continued



**Leopard Lilies (*Lilium pardalinum*)** are found in SW Oregon. They are not as hardy as Tiger Lilies, but sooooo beautiful.

Again, they have pendulous turk's cap blossoms - orange red to crimson with deep maroon spots. Can get to 10 ft tall, but not in my gardens. I propagate these just like Tiger Lilies - a rather slow process

Both of these native lilies are hard to find. I grow some but not enough for demand. I am trying to increase production. Try to find locally - if you find someone with large stocks, please let me know also. Best bet is to find plants and get permission to collect the seeds.

Plant in the fall in a peat moss soil, dampened and covered with plastic to keep from drying out. Plant as soon as the seeds are ripe. May take two years to germinate. If you have bulbs, you can break off a few segments when the bulb is dormant and proceed as I mentioned above. The bulb will still grow OK.

If you have either of these lilies growing in your vicinity, please send me an email and tell me the town or county. I am trying to understand the distribution of our Tiger & Leopard Lily population.

Note from Jennifer: Though Wally never learned as much as he wanted about these luscious plants, we'd still love to hear of experiences any of you have had with them. Send email to [nwplants@gmail.com](mailto:nwplants@gmail.com).

**Tiger Lilies (*Lilium columbianum*)**  
Photo by Rory Nichols



# About that deer problem.....

By Wally Hansen

## Following up on keeping deer out of your gardens

In an earlier issue, I discussed the common problem of keeping deer out of your native plant gardens.

In the early Spring I needed to protect an area about 100 ft by 200 feet from a gang of bold deer. I use this gravel area to place plastic pots containing various native plants for the Summer growing season. The area is irrigated by overhead sprinklers, on a daily basis.

I found a catalog from a company named Gempler's in Wisconsin. They advertised a 7 ft high black tough plastic netting, nearly invisible, at about \$50 for a 100 ft roll. I bought enough rolls of netting and then located 10 ft steel posts. We drove these into the ground 2 ft, at 15 ft intervals and rigged two gates of the same netting.

Results? So far, very very good. The deer will not jump this "fence", the top of which is 8 feet above the ground. The netting is not ugly and hardly noticeable. Two employees installed the "fence" in three hours. (You need some device to pound in the tall steel posts.

I hope this helps some of you who have fought this battle for a long time. Maybe your local garden or farm store carries this material.

*This early morning visitor to Bower Court seemed satisfied with the fallen apples and did not bother the plants.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott*



# Beautiful northwest evergreen!

By Wally Hansen

## Modoc cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*)

Photos by JoAnn Onstott



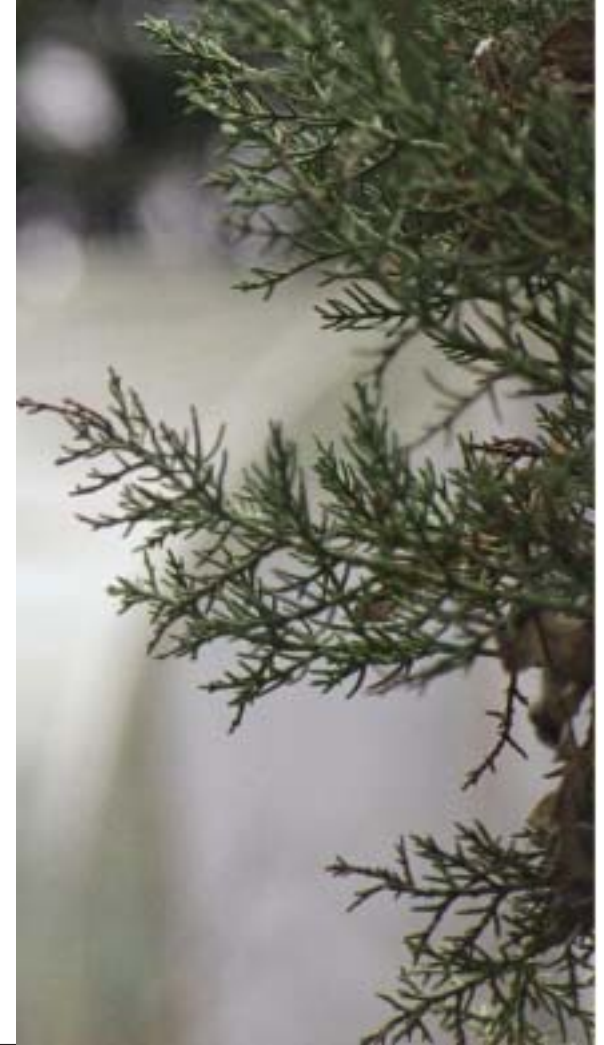
*Cupressus bakeri*, often called Modoc Cypress, Baker Cypress and Siskiyou Cypress. This is the only cypress that I know of, that gets into Oregon.

This rare tree is found only in small, isolated areas in Southwest Oregon and in Northern California. Most garden folks have never heard about it. To get to the Oregon sites, one must hike in.

Modoc refers to a tribe of American Indians in SW Oregon - there were some flare-ups earlier between the Modocs and the White Settlers.

Modoc Cypress is a beautiful tree, about 50 ft tall and a foot or so in diameter. The foliage is beautiful - a sort of gray green, hard to explain color. Open, spreading branches with aromatic twigs. Modoc cypress likes well drained soil. It's usual home is in the 3000 to 7000 ft level.

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# Beautiful northwest cypress!, continued



Modoc Cypress reproduces by seed only. The cones are unique. They only open from heat or very old age. Seeds are dropped from the cones to the ground, months after a fire. Reproduction in natural areas occurs only after fires - a crop of seedlings shoot up after a fire occurs every 20 - 50 years. The mother trees probably die in the fire. What a survival mechanism, what a design, what a plan!

This photo showing the Modoc Cypress bark was taken by Susan McDougall @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

This native likes sun - no shade please! And do not overwater small seedlings.

I hope some of you will grow this rare native! It will be interesting and important to get some stands of this unique tree, established in other Northwest areas.

Another photo by staff photographer, JoAnn Onstott, a branch of a young tree.



# Personal notes from Wally

Wally wrote this article for the July - August 2000 edition of the newsletter that was the precursor of our current Northwest Native Plant Journal.

Summertime! The Gentle Season! The frenzied energy of Spring has given way to a gentle, reflective mood. Enjoy your gardens, large or small, especially in the cool of the evening. Savor the moment - the fleeting hour. Gardens soften life. Gardens evoke memories of childhood, perhaps a childhood that never really was as we remember. Somehow, the emotions, feelings, imagination, mystery and wonder as we became aware of our world, lingers on. Maybe it is good -healthy to revisit and remember and renew. We cannot be a child again, but can we in some way renew and enrich our lives in our gardens?

I have a four year old Grandson, Ethan - a city boy (lives in an apartment). Last week he visited here at my nursery and gardens. He is a very gentle boy. Somehow, when here, he became a country boy.

He went into a wilder part of my gardens and soon brought me, ever so gently and careful in his tanned little hands, two baby hummingbirds. We, of course, hurried to the nest - (how sharp his eyes to ever see the nest!) - on a stout Himalayan Blackberry vine, camouflaged so skillfully! The inside of the nest was built by a master builder - soft down, seamless, clean, perfect. Ethan gently put the baby hummingbirds back, in the nest while the Mama swooped overhead. The babies were so fat they filled the small nest to the brim!



This baby hummingbird is probably older than the two Ethan found, but they are so tiny even when fully grown it's hard to tell.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

# Personal notes from Wally, continued

Afterward, I thought of that wonderful poem by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 - 1892). The Barefoot Boy. Let me quote a few lines:

*"Blessings on thee, little man,  
Barefoot boy with cheek of tan!  
With thy red lip, redder still, Kissed by strawberries on the hill:  
Oh, for boyhood's painless play,  
Sleep that wakes in laughing day,  
Health that mocks the doctor's rules,  
Knowledge never learned in schools,  
Of the wild bee's morning chase,  
Of the wild flower's time and place . . . "*

I hope the child in you never goes away - keep some of the wonder of the little girl or the little boy with you always. We never really grow up, you know. Gardens both bring us close to nature and the good things of life and renews our sense of awe and mystery of youth which is also a part of reality.

As our amazing scientists unlock genetic codes and some of life's mysteries, more mysteries and wonders appear! The more we know, the less we know. Learn all you can of science and pure knowledge but keep a strong hold on that other part of your being that may be found in your gardens - that deeper part that reaches back into the womb of time.



Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

# This & That

*A few notes from Jennifer*

Lazy days, cooler nights, a little rain here and there. The last summer holiday is just a few days away. Children are picking out their supplies for the new school year. Plants in our gardens are still hanging on to summer but hedging toward autumn at the same time.

The dogwood tree at right was putting on a show in July with a second bloom on some branches. Others were sporting ripe seeds. Eventually the 'petals' will all fall and the centers will change to their red color when they're ripe.

There are other native trees, shrubs and even a few perennials that will do an encore before finally giving in to the fall weather. It's a special gift some plants choose to bestow on the gardeners who care for them.

Speaking of gifts, about a month ago I got an email from a fellow plant lover who had noticed some photos in our journal that were incorrectly labeled.

He took the time to explain where I went wrong and give me the right names for the plants. He also gave me a brief botanical lesson and some resources to aid in the research I do before writing articles and web pages.

What a kind and generous thing to do! I always enjoy hearing from visitors to our website or who read the journal. But this gentleman went the extra steps to help make our publications better. On the following page are a few excerpts from that email.



Tree photo by Rory Nichols,  
flower photo by JoAnn  
Onstott, seed photo by Jennifer  
Rehm

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

# This & That, continued

Here is a part of the email from our gardening friend, describing what was incorrect and some resources for refining our botanical knowledge:

*On p. 22 of the latest journal, Cynoglossum grande, our native west-side hound's-tongue is an excellent landscaping plant. It reproduces moderately from self seeding, and provides a very early flower display (beginning here in Eugene in late March - early April) when the only other local natives flowering are osoberry and red-flowering currant.*

*Cynoglossum officinale, however (p. 23), is a different plant. It is a state listed noxious weed and is quarantined for sale in Oregon. See: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml>*

*On p. 19, on the list from the OSU Department of Horticulture web site of good plants to attract good bugs, there are some invasive species listed. Though not yet listed by ODA, they might be soon: fennel (very invasive along roadsides in N. CA and now in OR, and into meadows such as at the top of Skinner Butte in Eugene), black locust (see NPSO list mentioned below), Queen Anne's lace and hairy vetch (both widely established, and there are good native alternatives for both!*

*I recommend Douglas Tallamy's recent book, Bringing Nature Home, as a great "key" to understanding why native plants and native insects are important. Although he is from Delaware, and thus, some natives in his area are not native here, the principles still apply very well. A truly great book!*

*A good source for what invasives in the southern Willamette Valley (and applicable to the mid-Valley, and probably works well in the north) is downloadable at [emeraldnps.org](http://emeraldnps.org). There are also free downloadable booklets for native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.*



Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Great information! I'll add the suggested sites to our resource list. I think I'll get that book for my botanical library. It's hard to have too many books.

Until next time,  
**Jennifer**



# 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.



Lemon Lily (*Lilium parryi*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## **American Bonsai Society**

[www.absbonsai.org/abs\\_home.html](http://www.absbonsai.org/abs_home.html)

## **Birdchick**

[www.birdchick.com/](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**

[www.bonsaiweb.com](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**

[www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/](http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/)  
USDA, Forest Service site.

⇒ **More** ⇒

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

## Flora of North America Web Site

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

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, and morphological characteristics of all plants native and naturalized found in North America.

## Forest Types of the United States

<http://forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm>

Maps of the most common forest types.

## Forestry index

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

## Growit.com Rooting Database

[www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm](http://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](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.

## Noxious Weed Control

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml>

Search function, can be shown in text only and the text size is adjustable for easier reading



Sanddune Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued

## Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

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

[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/](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

[www.soils.org/](http://www.soils.org/)

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

## USDA PLANTS Database

<http://plants.usda.gov/>

Searchable for common or botanical name, shows origin, range and status

## Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

[www.westernwildflower.com/](http://www.westernwildflower.com/)

Excellent photography and trail guides.

## Woody Plant Seed Manual

[www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/](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.

Pyramid Spirea (Menzies' spirea)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Lemon Lily (Lilium)



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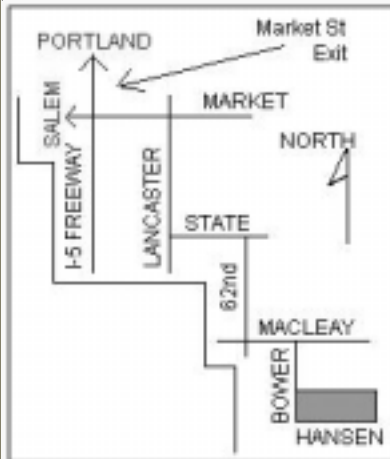
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