

Volume 8, Issue 1-2010

January-February 2010

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A (Usually) Monthly Web Magazine

**Streamside Gardening  
with free trees**

**Friends on the Web**

**... And More!**

Published by Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens



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## **Friends on the web.**

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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.).



Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) awakening in spring  
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](mailto:nwplants@gmail.com) Some articles (and pics) might deal with propagation, culture, diseases, restoration, reclamation, fertilizers, etc.





# On the Cover

## Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*)

The luscious stems of this mature Sword Fern are up to 5 feet long! One of my favorite plants, this evergreen beauty easily fills a shady corner of the garden where few plants will grow.

Original Peoples used the fronds to make a soft place to sleep. They lined baskets when gathering small items such as huckleberries or wild strawberries. Placed atop coals, they allowed food to steam without burning.

If the fronds become tattered, simply cut them off right above the ground. New ones will soon fill in the space.

Add some fronds to a bouquet to take it from ordinary to magnificent.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

# To Do List

## Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1** – Plant bare root now. Take advantage of bare root sales. Add to your garden the smart way--bare root plants are way more economical than potted ones. This is the easiest form for new plants. It's easy on the gardener and easy on the plant.
- 2** – Trim last year's stems from perennials.
- 3** – Inspect and clean bird houses, feeders and baths so they'll be ready for this year's inhabitants.
- 4** – Start seeds indoors now. They'll be ready to transplant outdoors when the ground dries enough and the last frost has occurred.
- 5** – Watch for slugs and snails. With the first sunny days they'll come calling. There are lots of home-made methods to get rid of them. The most simple, of course, is to let the birds have them. Or use a slug hotel, beer saucer, or any other way to assist them in drowning themselves.
- 6** – Prepare to attend this year's Wildflower Show in Glide, Oregon. It runs only two days, April 24-25, 2010. A must see for wildflower lovers.



Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)  
Photo by Jennifer Rehm





# Mystery plant puzzle



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Test your native plant knowledge--identify this northwest native. 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](mailto: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  
Nancy Whitehead  
Pat Opdyke



# Sparky's Corner

## A special message from our frisky contributor



Love the sun! We've already had our first race and I won! Grandma said she never saw anybody run as fast as me in her whole life. I think she maybe put it on a bit thick but who's complaining. She calls me her little sparkplug.

Did you know hazelnuts are still good after being buried for two years? My buds and I accidentally found one of old Mr. Snorters' food caches. It had 4 hazelnuts, 2 acorns and something we could not tell what it was.

We showed the goodies to him and he said we could have them. He said they were probably no good anymore. We ate them and he was wrong about that--they were scrumptious! We didn't tell him though. We didn't want him to feel like a dummy. Nobody likes that and he is a very nice old guy.

The two-leggers are working hard every day. We can't figure out exactly what they are doing but it looks like fun. They dig up plants and stick them all together in buckets. Then other plants that are already out of the ground, they fill up pots and stick them in there.

That does not make sense to us. I mean, if they just want some plants out of dirt and others in dirt, why don't they just leave them where they are? Confusing behavior but then, who can understand two-leggers. They sure do have their own ideas.

Gotta go--we're having another race while that good old sun is shining.

Your friend,

**Sparky**



# Friends on the Web

**From time to time**, I do a little searching on the internet to find websites and articles mentioning Wally or the nursery. There are scads of sites that include the nursery in their lists of resources for native plants. While these are not the primary object of my pursuit, they often are the introduction to other native plant aficionados.

Recently as I researched an article on late blooming natives, I stumbled upon a few sites of interest to share with you.

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is a group of gardeners who have included our nursery in their Local Native Plant Resources booklet.

The Hardy Plant Society of regon

*Begun in the 1970's when Marvin Black, a Seattle Horticulturist while on a gardener's exploration discovered Great Britain's Hardy Plant Society. Upon his return to the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Black generated much interest in the concept among his gardening friends. They staged the first Pacific Northwest Hardy Plant Society Study Weekend at Edmonds Community College. By 1985 gardeners in Oregon tired of travelling to Seattle for garden events and the HPSO was born.*

See their website at **[www.hardyplantsociety.org](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org)** for more information about this group. The booklet of local native plant resources is found at **[www.hardyplantsociety.org/local\\_native\\_plant\\_sources.pdf](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org/local_native_plant_sources.pdf)**. I am going to print myself a copy to keep in my car for those spur of the moment jaunts.



Wally wrote an article for this group (see the article at **[www.conserveh2o.org/resources/non\\_RWPC\\_resources/Article\\_WallaceHansen.pdf](http://www.conserveh2o.org/resources/non_RWPC_resources/Article_WallaceHansen.pdf)**) titled Northwest Native Ornamental Gardening Without Summer Watering (The Green, Green Grass of Home). Here is the intro:

*Author Wallace W. Hansen is a Professional Industrial Engineer with a life long interest in and a hobby of Northwest Native Plants since the early 1930's in rural Whatcom County, WA. After too much inter-time zone travel as an Engineer, Wally started the Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery and Gardens about 15 years ago, near Salem, Oregon. Wally is a leading supplier of Northwest Native Plants and a key source of Native Plant Information His email is [plants@nwplants.com](mailto:plants@nwplants.com) and his web site is [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com).*

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## Friends on the Web, continued



Portland Online has a beautiful poster entitled Gardening With Native Plants which you can see online at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?a=40355&c=50367](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?a=40355&c=50367), and we are included in the list of sources for native plants and seeds. This was reported from my last foray but it is still available and still beautiful.



The Pacific Northwest Lily Society serves Alaska, far western Canada, Washington, Idaho and Oregon. They are a regional affiliate of the North American Lily Society. The nursery is included in their resource list with this description:

*This is a small regional Northwest grower who carries only Northwest native plants, and occasionally has lilies for sale. (Lilies must be picked up at the nursery, no shipping.) The species available for 2005 are L. columbianum, L. pardalinum, and L. washingtonianum. Even if you do not buy any lilies, check out the impressive list of Western native plants listed. Many of these would be wonderful companions for naturalized beds of lilies*

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# Friends on the Web, continued

## Julie's Backyard Journal

A self-classified amateur gardener, Julie writes a lovely, insightful blog. As I skimmed through it, planning to come back when I had more time, I found this quite by accident:



### **Memorial – Wallace W Hansen**

*I just learned that Wallace W Hansen, the founder of the Northwest Native Plant Nursery that has his name, passed away. The news was in a note attached to the monthly newsletter announcement. I knew that Mr. Hansen was ill but the news is still a shock and makes me sad.*

*I never met him and I never visited his nursery but still he has had more influence on my love of native plants than anyone else. His site was such a wonderful mix of scientific information, real world discovery and ethnobotany. The lovely hand drawings of the plants that he provided often made identification much easier than photographs do because they capture the variability of the plants.*

*If the garden and web site weren't enough, every month he published a newsletter. Each month came a cornucopia of plant information, wildlife news, photos, drawings, recipes and poetry. It put the home and garden magazines to shame and resonated with a true love for the outdoors and the beings we share our world with.*

*I am happy to know that there are people who continue his legacy, both the nursery and the newsletter. Do visit the site and maybe order a plant to honor an amazing man. The nursery site is in the links on this site.*

 **The discovery of this website was a complete surprise and a very welcome one. It is not often one finds such an unexpected gift. You can be sure I will check in on Julie's journal from time to time. Find her at [www.backyardjournal.wordpress.com](http://www.backyardjournal.wordpress.com)**

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# Friends on the Web, continued



The **Native Plant Salvage Foundation** is a non-profit charitable organization, formed to support the hands-on educational work of the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project, which includes:

- Preserving native vegetation
- Protecting water resources & wildlife habitat
- Recovering & replanting native plants to restore habitat and promote the benefits of native plants

This is a very 'roll up your sleeves and get dirty' bunch of folks who rescue native plants in danger of destruction on land scheduled for clearing due to development.

 **Note: We are often invited by government or private sector developers to perform this same service in Oregon.**

NPSF offers excellent information on shoreline living, rain gardens and more. See their website at [www.nativeplantsalvage.org/index.php](http://www.nativeplantsalvage.org/index.php) for upcoming events. They are in Washington but they include the nursery in the list of native plant resources.



Dedicated to moving native plants and naturescaping into mainstream landscaping practices. We are listed as a resource in Salem and surrounding area with this notation:

*Wide selection of native trees, shrubs and smaller plants, including ferns and perennials. Call for open times.  
M (mail order), R (retail), W (wholesale)*

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## Friends on the Web, continued

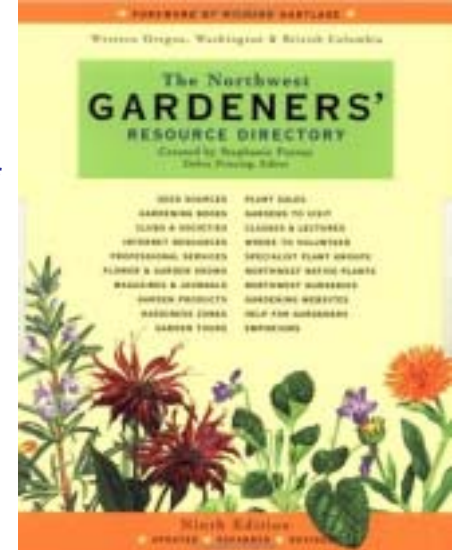
Corvallis' **Gazette-Times** posted a book review in July 2004 on a wonderful resource book, "The Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory."

Of this superior publication, the reviewer wrote:

*The directory was the brainchild of Bellingham, Wash., writer Stephanie Feeney, who wrote, updated and published eight issues of this guide for more than a decade, beginning in the late 1980s. Sadly, Feeney died of cancer at the end of 2000, but she passed on her love of gardening and her zeal for cataloging the vast network of related organizations, nurseries, Internet resources, publishers, societies, books and more to Debra Prinzing, a Seattle-based writer and master gardener who updated the ninth (and most recent) edition, published by Sasquatch Books (\$24.95, paper) in 2002.*

Several entries were quoted in the review, including this one:

*Wallace W. Hansen, Nursery and Gardens (2158 Bower Court S.E., Salem, OR, 97301; phone: (503) 581-2638); Web site: [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)): A great selection and a 5-acre display garden filled with native plants. Easy-to-navigate Web site that includes terrific articles on native plants, color photos and more.*



Local garden designer, Beth Young, regularly uses Pacific northwest native plants in her designs. On her website, **[www.bygardendesign.com](http://www.bygardendesign.com)**, she shares her recommendations for "Good Plant Sources."

*Having difficulties finding that specified plant at the local nursery? Here are some sources that might be of help.*

*Wallace W Hansen's Northwest Native Plants 2158 Bower Ct S.E. Salem, Oregon 97301  
(503)581-2638.*

*Mail-order and retail.  
Large selection in a  
woodland setting.  
eMail:  
nwplants@gmail.com*



# Beth Young

G A R D E N D E S I G N

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# Friends on the Web, continued



## Rainy Side Gardeners

This website has been a favorite of gardeners for years, always fresh and interesting. Visit their informative site at **[www.rainyside.com](http://www.rainyside.com)**.

I found the following comments about Wally in their forum:

From Lisa A, posted: Jul-29-2009

*Wally Hansen, a wonderful man, a passionate proponent of native plants and a successful nurseryman, passed away on July 14th. Read the heartfelt obituary that appeared in The Stateman Journal.*

*Wally retired some years ago due to health reasons but his children stepped in and have kept Wallace W Hansen's Northwest Native Plants nursery going. A few years before Wally retired, fellow Rainy Sider Carolyn took a group of us to his nursery. We had such fun discovering treasures to take home. Among the plants I purchased are a tree-form *Arctostaphylos columbiana* (hairy manzanita) and several *Goodyera oblongifolia* (rattlesnake plantain). I'll think kindly of him each time I view them and be grateful for his passion for native plants.*

From JeanneK, posted: Jul-31-2009

*Great obituary on Wally. Thanks for posting, Lisa. My whole front garden is filled with wonderful plants from Wally's. I couldn't pass up a *Arctostaphylos columbiana* (hairy manzanita) or the *Goodyera oblongifolia* (rattlesnake plantain) either. Both plants did well for the first couple of years but then died. Maybe too much water for the manzanita? All the other plants including Oregon Grape, Madrone, *Garrya Elliptica*, huckleberry oak (*quercus vaccinifolia*), the sadler's oak (*quercus sadleriana*) and many others are doing very well, even through the searing heat wave we just had.*

*I am always on the website, checking things out. What a great resource!*

*Thanks, Wally. Rest in Peace!*

From HarleyLady, posted: Jul-31-2009

*He sounds like a wonderful man and great plantsman and I know he will be greatly missed by many. I'm sorry I didn't have the opportunity to know him.*



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# Friends on the Web, continued



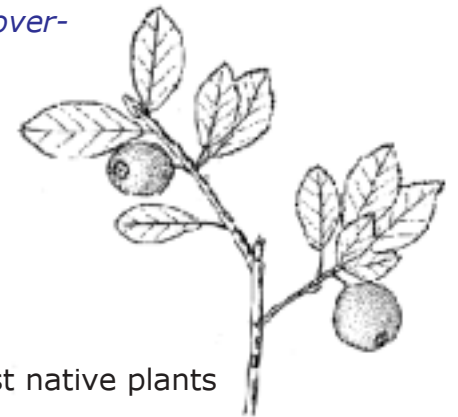
## Mother Nature's Tasty Mt Hood Edibles

*Visiting The Villages of Mt Hood gives you a taste of fresh-air mountain living. For a delicious flavor to match, try sampling some of Mt. Hood's wild edible plants. Within minutes of The Villages, you can be gathering food in the rich alpine landscape. Here are a few of the natural delicacies you might like to try. Do take great care in identifying your wild foods, eat only those of which you're 100% sure, and please don't over-harvest – take only enough for yourself.*

Near the end of this article, I was delightfully surprised to see the nursery listed as a 'grow your own' foraging resource:

Wallace W. Hansen  
Native Plants of the Northwest  
Native Plant Nursery & Gardens  
Edible Northwest Natives

(Find a link to our edibles site on our home page at [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)) See this article at [www.mthoodmagazine.com/2008-09/9-native-plants.htm](http://www.mthoodmagazine.com/2008-09/9-native-plants.htm) for an extensive list of northwest native plants that are fit for the most discerning chef's table.



**Though I've not yet sampled The Village's hucks, strawberries, or other native fruits, I did find (and eat) my very first morel mushroom near there. Some friends and I had been out searching for this gourmet delight for hours when I decided to sit down on a handy log to rest.**

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# Friends on the Web, continued

The the others came back telling of their disappointing hike. Listening to their tale of woe, I sat on my stump with elbows on knees and chin on my fists, sad for no morels but basking in the welcoming sun. I happened to glanced down at my feet. At first I thought it was a hallucination but it was not. It was a whopping huge morel almost 12 inches tall!

“Look!” I cried out--“Look, look look!” Seeing this perfect example gave the others their ‘morel sight’ and they began jumping around spotting more. We were in a little morel paradise. Following the standards set down centuries before by the Original People, we took only what we would eat that evening, allowing the rest to wait for the next mushroom hunter’s delight.



The nation’s oldest nonprofit conservation group:

*Our mission, to grow a healthier world with trees, is met through programs such as Famous & Historic Trees that help people understand how trees benefit us all-environmentally, socially, and economically. Our many efforts on behalf of trees include tree planting, urban forestry, environmental education, community-based forestry, and the Famous & Historic Trees program. American Forests also maintains the official listing of the largest-known specimen of each of 822 tree species in the U.S.*

*Our Famous & Historic Trees program brings history alive by propagating and selling the offspring of trees connected to famous people, events, and places. From George Washington to Johnny Appleseed, Walt Disney to Ray Charles, our trees witnessed the birth of our nation-and all aspects of its history thus far. Planting a tree is an investment in the future!*

This site does not mention Wally or the nursery but shares our common desire to preserve and promote the use of native plants.



# Living Streamside

## Does a stream flow past your yard (or through it)?

I once had a woodland backyard which ended at the banks of a small stream. There was a huge old maple tree there and I often used that wonderful tree as a backrest as I watched the stream flow past, around rocks, pausing in little pools before continuing its travel to join a much larger stream a mile or so downward.

I took responsibility for the care of this stream, as I considered it to be a great treasure. I removed all the trash that had been thrown there and ripped out every bit of ivy and blackberry and other undesirables. Once cleaned of careless human detriment, the native ferns and grasses and other water-friendly plants returned and flourished.

For the past several years, the City of Salem, Marion County and other environmentally tuned agencies have lent a helping hand to those of us so fortunate to live along the beautiful streams which meander through Salem and Marion County. Both city and county call their assistance the "Free Tree Program," and that is exactly what their programs do--provide a select group of northwest native plants without cost to those who live streamside or who would like to donate some time to creeks and streams. Local native plant nurseries partner with these programs so that the trees, shrubs and perennials can be provided at no cost to those who participate in the program.



These big rocks keep the stream from encroaching on the banks and washing the landscape away.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued



Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) A tough, sturdy northwest native that does not mind shade. It sometimes chooses to grow erect and at other times is more of a vine. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Last year in the city's program, more than 1500 trees and shrubs were distributed to about 240 participants. This year the distribution should begin near the end of February.

The purpose of the program is to enhance the habitat, lower stream temperatures, and reduce erosion along streams within the City of Salem by using native plants which are an important part of the local natural ecosystem, providing a critical link for insects, birds, and other species that have evolved together.

According to staff at local native plant nursery, the city purchases the plants at a reduced, negotiated cost, the nursery distributes the plants, and the home owners install them, so everyone contributes something.

Last year, one nursery offered to sell additional plants at the negotiated price to claimants of free plants, and in fact about 10% more plants were sold, extending the size of the program by 10%.

In the past, letters have been sent to as many as 1500 streamside property owners. Plants are claimed first come, first served.

For more info, see **[www.cityofsalem.net:80/Departments/PublicWorks/Operations/StormwaterServices/Pages/FreeTreeProgram.aspx](http://www.cityofsalem.net:80/Departments/PublicWorks/Operations/StormwaterServices/Pages/FreeTreeProgram.aspx)**

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# Living Streamside, continued

This year each claimant can receive up to 7 plants from among the species big leaf maple, red osier dogwood, red flowering currant, Douglas spirea, vine maple, Indian plum, and nootka rose.

The following excerpt is from Marion County's website([www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/waterquality/Free+Tree+Program.htm](http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/waterquality/Free+Tree+Program.htm))

**Find a location:** Look for waterways lacking shade cover and bank stabilization, and waterways in need of habitat improvement. This could be your own property or public land.

**Request Plants:** Determine which plant species and the number of plants needed (Maximum of 5) and then contact Matt Knudsen at (503) 365-3187 or [mknudsen@co.marion.or.us](mailto:mknudsen@co.marion.or.us) .

**Plant Pick-Up:** Plants may be picked up at specified locations.

**Maintenance:** All plants, even natives, should receive continual maintenance for increased survival rates. Maintenance consists of watering during the dry summer months and reducing competition by removing invasive non-native plants.



Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) usually grows at the edge of the forest where it meets meadow, road or stream. Forming dense thickets providing shelter and nesting sites for birds.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

## Why give Free Trees?

*Reducing Temperature*--Planting trees and shrubs along rivers and streams shades waterways, reducing stream temperatures. High water temperatures allow for bacteria, overloading of nutrients, and unwanted organisms to inhabit the waters we fish and swim in. Too many nutrients makes it difficult for marine life such as fish to live and reproduce.



This section of stream is in need of a make-over. Note the erosion taking place at the back of the photo. The Himalayan blackberries have quite a foothold in the foreground. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

*Erosion Control*--Trees and shrubs are also important along streams and rivers to stabilize banks. Rainstorms or even the natural river flow can erode bank sides so sediment and debris to enter the waterways. Trees and shrubs soak up precipitation before it can run off and cause erosion. Too much sediment and debris harms aquatic life, takes more resources to remove for the Oregonians downstream that use water for drinking.

*Natural Filter*--Vegetation acts as a natural water filter, removing toxins from the soil and polluted ground water before it enters surface water.

*Providing Habitat*--Waterways are prime habitat where wildlife can find drinking water and an abundance of food. Planting more trees and shrubs will provide more food and shelter for wildlife.

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# Living Streamside, continued

## PNW Native Plants for the Streamside Garden

### Willamette Valley (WV) Shopping List

When you garden along streams, remember that the groundwater table is shallow enough to interact with the roots of your plants; this is particularly true nearest the stream itself. Parts of your garden may also be periodically flooded. Native plants that grow naturally in or very near water ("at the water's edge") are adapted to conditions very close to or actually in the stream. Other plants are suitable for drier areas above the actual water table.

#### Tips:

- Native plants that do well near the stream often like to have "wet feet" at least during the rainy winter months. To help the young plants become established, remember to water them during the summer dry months for the first few years.
- If the area does not flood, 2-4 inches of mulch will help keep plant roots moist; any flooding will wash away mulch layers.
- Large trees provide shade to help keep the water cool, protecting fish and other wildlife. Shrubs provide additional wildlife habitat, shade and garden interest. The herb layer provides protective ground cover and seasonal interest.
- Ferns and fern-like plants look particularly "at home" in streamside gardens.



Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

## Trees for the Water's Edge

White alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) 40-50 ft, full sun, nitrogen fixer, tolerates poor, wet soil, was once the dominant alder in the Willamette Valley, butterfly host.

Red alder (*Alnus rubra*) 40 feet or more, full sun, nitrogen fixer, tolerates poor, wet soil, more common in mountains but thrives in the Willamette Valley, butterfly host.

Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) tall (100 ft or more over time) graceful evergreen that prefers moist soil conditions, shade or part shade, butterfly host.

Western crabapple (*Malus fusca*), small deciduous tree to 40 ft, fragrant white/pink flowers in spring, yellow to reddish-purple fruit that may hang on over winter. Full sun/part-shade, slow growing, may form thickets, butterfly host.

Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) 50 ft or more, full sun/part-sun, tolerates seasonally wet areas or "wet feet", compound and deciduous leaves, can be "messy" in a garden setting.

## Trees for Drier Areas

Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), deciduous tree to 100 ft. or more, lobed dark green leaves, acorn fruit, full sun, well-drained soil, little or no summer water, butterfly host.

Big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), deciduous tree to 50 ft or more, sun/part shade, large leaves, yellow fall color, butterfly host.

Ferns work here to hold the stream bank in place.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

Vine maple (*Acer circinnatum*), small deciduous tree with graceful arching form (if grown in shade) to 15-30 ft., leaves bright yellow-green with yellow or red fall color, butterfly host.

Bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), deciduous tree to 50 ft, reddish bark, fragrant clusters of white spring flowers, bright red fall fruits, yellow fall color, full sun/shade, butterfly host.

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*, Willamette Valley form), tall evergreen conifer to 100 ft or more. Buff-colored bark, long needles in bundles of 3, large cones. Willamette Valley form historically grew near streams, full sun to part sun, butterfly host.



Douglas Spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*) grows quickly to 3 -4 feet and spreads rapidly, thus rendering invaluable erosion prevention. It will tolerate seasonal flooding, protecting the stream banks from leaching into the water and widening the water flow unnaturally.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*) small deciduous tree to 30 ft, silver bark, black berrylike fruit, butterfly host.

## Shrubs for the Water's Edge

Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), one of many species found in the Willamette Valley, large shrub to 20 ft tall and wide, deciduous, host to many kinds of butterflies.

Red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), deciduous multistemmed shrub to 16 ft tall and wide, reddish bark adds winter interest, flat-topped clusters of white flowers, followed by white or bluish berries, sun/part-sun, butterfly host.

Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*), multistemmed deciduous shrub to 8 ft or more, leaves resemble maple, clusters of white flowers in late spring, older stems have shredding bark, sun/part shade, butterfly host.

Douglas spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), multistemmed deciduous shrub to 11 ft, gray green leaves with pyramid-shaped clusters of pink flowers, turning brown after seed production. Sun/partshade, spreads underground to form colonies, butterfly host.

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# Living Streamside, continued

## Shrubs for Drier Areas

Tall Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*), broadleaf evergreen shrub to 10 ft, spiny, glossy and compound leaves with bronze-copper new foliage, clusters of yellow urn-shaped flowers and blue fruit, sun preferred, butterfly host.

Cascade Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*), small, spreading, broadleaf evergreen shrub to 2 ft, compound leaves and bright yellow flowers, followed by blue fruit. Can be slow to establish, spreads slowly, part to full shade, butterfly host.

Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), deciduous shrub to 10 ft, upright stems growing from the base, gray-green leaves, pendant red flowers in clusters attractive to hummingbirds, black fruit is a bird favorite, sun/part shade, butterfly host.

Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*), deciduous thorny shrub to 10 ft., some forms more spreading than tall. Large solitary pink flowers up to 3 inches across, attractive hips, vigorous colonizer for sun/part shade, butterfly host.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*). Small spreading deciduous shrub to 3-4 ft with blueishgreen foliage. Small flowers, white berries persist through winter to provide winter food for birds, sun to shade but more berries in the sun, butterfly host.

Mill Creek now runs through Mission Mill Museum in Salem, Oregon. From 1889 to 1962, the creek water was diverted through the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill to power a huge turbine used to produce fine wool fabrics. Read about this local treasure and its two histories at [www.missionmill.org](http://www.missionmill.org).

Photo courtesy of Samuel John Klein. See his blog, The ZehnKatzen Times, at <http://zehnkatzen.blogspot.com/>

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# Living Streamside, continued



Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) large, deciduous multistemmed shrub to 20 ft. tall and wide, bushier than blue elderberry, compound leaves, inflorescences of small flowers in a pyramid shape, bright red berries, butterfly host.

Osoberry/Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), multistemmed shrub to 20 ft, pendulous cluster of white flowers in late winter followed by purple fruits in summer, can sucker from the base to form colonies, Sun/part shade.

Blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*, also known as *S. cerulea*), large multistemmed shrub or small tree to 15 ft or more. Flat-topped clusters of white flowers followed by clusters of blue fruit. Fast-growing, can form colonies, sun to part-shade, butterfly host.

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), multistemmed deciduous shrub to 10 ft, masses of fragrant bright white flowers in late spring, sun/part shade.

This Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) is doing its best to stabilize the soil at the bank of the stream. Although the water runs rapidly in this section, the rocks and plant material keep the stream within its natural bounds. I hope someone eradicates that blackberry before it chokes out the plum!

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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# Living Streamside, continued

## Flowering herbaceous Plants for the Water's Edge

Cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Widespread species growing in stagnant or slow moving water, full sun, flowering stalks resemble a cat's tail, forms dense colonies.

Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*) Spectacular bulb with spikes of blue flowers to 2 ft or more in May, requires winter wet and summer dry.

Deschampsia (*Deschampsia caespitosa*). A native ornamental grass that grows in winter-wet but summer damp or drier locations. Most cultivars are of European origin so look for local species at native plant nurseries or sales.

Yellow monkey flower (*Mimulus guttatus*). Bright yellow flowers in early summer/late spring on plants with pale green foliage to 3 ft., spreads vigorously, sun/part-sun.

Skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*). Grows submerged in shallow water or very moist soil, yellow spadix on the inflorescence and large leaves provide striking garden accent, sun/partshade.



Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*). Grows in shallow water with muddy bottom, has attractive, large arrow shaped leaf, white flowers. Will not survive around nutria because they eat the plants.

Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) flower. Perhaps the geese will scare away any marauding nutria that come a hunting for delicious 'Duck Potatoes.'

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

## Flowering herbaceous plants for drier areas

Goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), herbaceous perennial to 6 ft., fernlike foliage and plumes of white flowers in early summer, resembles astilbe, requires some summer water, both male and female plants available.

Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), many native species available, herbaceous perennial 1-3 ft., depending on the species, bright orange-yellow flower in plumes in summer, reseeds freely and spreads underground, full sun, butterfly host

Douglas aster (*Aster subspicatus*), spreading herbaceous perennial to 3 ft, blue/purple flowers mid to late summer, full sun, butterfly host

Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), herbaceous perennial to 16 inches, small blue flower with yellow eyes, grass-like leaves, sun/part shade.

Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), sturdy columbine to 3 ft with yellow and red flowers in May/June, full sun/part shade, butterfly host.



(Left) Although we cannot see the near side bank in this photo, the far side bank looks unkempt and possibly losing soil. At right, the Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*) is a lovely bloomer that works well beside a creek. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

Wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Delicate fern-like foliage to 12 inches or more, with pink heart-shaped flowers, shade/part shade, will go dormant in the summer if not watered, butterfly host.

Oregon iris (*Iris tenax*) Native iris with purple flowers to 14 inches, blooming in May, spreads slowly to form clumps, full sun/part shade, self-seeds.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) herbaceous perennial to 3 ft., fern-like foliage, white, flat-topped flowers nurture butterflies, full sun, spreads slowly to form patches.

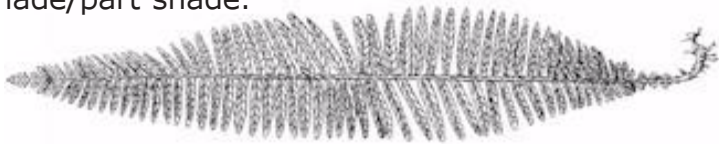
Stream violet (*Viola glabella*). Yellow flowers on plants to 5 inches, can spread slowly to form groundcover if allowed, good as garden accent, shade/part-shade, butterfly host.

## Ferns

Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), deciduous fern to 5 ft, prefers moist areas in part shade, finely divided light green foliage.

Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), statuesque evergreen fern to 5 ft, new foliage in March. Sun to shade.

Deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Dark green foliage, to 1.5 ft., separate stalks bear spores in summer, shade/part shade.



In this stream vs. land battle, the stream is winning. That muddy mess at the left side will be even more obliterated as time passes. The opposite side is holding its own better due to the plants which are stabilizing the bank. This spot is in Bush's Pasture Park. As described in the Oregon Link writeup:

Pringle Creek meanders through the eastern portion and a section is retained in its natural state with various species of trees, shrubs, ferns and a wildflower garden area.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued

## Groundcovers

Bearberry or kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), prostrate woody groundcover with trailing branches to 6 inches, leathery evergreen leaves, sun/part shade, well-drained soil, butterfly host.



Though not the most beautiful of bridges, this makeshift tunnel connects the banks of the stream without jeopardizing salmon that come back here to spawn.

Photo courtesy of the Stream Team, Thurston County Washington's volunteers who take on aquifer problems such as stormwater, polluted streams, alien plant invasions along Washington water bodies.

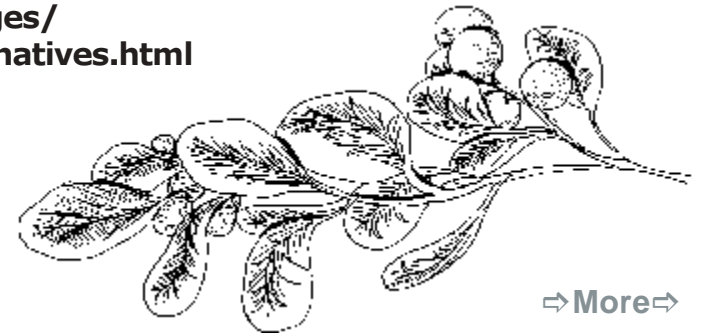
Wood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), rapidly spreading groundcover to 8 inches, cloverlike leaves, white or pink flowers, prefers moist shade.

Inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), deciduous groundcover to 2 ft, delicate foliage with bright yellow fall color, spreads underground, shade/part-shade, resembles epimedium.

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), spreading deciduous groundcover to 5 inches, bluish green foliage, white flowers, red "tasty" fruit, sun/part-shade, butterfly host

Dunes strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), spreading evergreen groundcover to 9 inches, thick cloverlike leaves, white flowers, red fruit, sun to part-shade, butterfly host

Prepared by Linda McMahan, OSU Extension Service Yamhill County. For more information visit the website at [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/gardening\\_natives.html](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/gardening_natives.html)



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# Living Streamside, continued

## From Marion Soil & Water Conservation District Guide for Using Willamette Valley Native Plants

### Why Use Native Plants?

Native plants are an important part of the local natural ecosystem. They provide a critical link for insects, birds, and other species that have evolved together. Native plants can also provide a variety of benefits such as:

- streambank stabilization: roots from native plants help hold soil and slow erosion.
- easy care and water conservation: native plants are adapted to the local soil types; they thrive in Willamette Valley climate of high rainfall in winter and low rainfall in summer, if grown in the correct location.
- beautiful landscaping: many native plants have attractive flowers, foliage, winter twigs, fall color, and produce a unique landscape.
- food and cover for wildlife: migrating birds, waterfowl, and threatened and endangered species use the plants for food and cover. Fish feed on the aquatic organisms that consume leaves and twigs dropped in the water.
- pollution filtration: surrounding land uses can contribute pollution such as sediment and soil, human and animal waste, and toxics such as oil and car exhaust fumes, to a stream.

A buffer strip of native plants can reduce the impact of surrounding land uses on the stream.

Many, if not all, of these objectives can also be accomplished with careful selection of nonnative plants. The use of native species is a conservative approach to ecosystem restoration and enhancement.

**See the rest of this article at [http://marionswcd.net/downloads/education/native\\_plantings/native\\_planting\\_guide\\_along\\_streams.pdf](http://marionswcd.net/downloads/education/native_plantings/native_planting_guide_along_streams.pdf)**



This Great Lakes region streamside has been cleansed of invasive weeds. Next, a 10 inch wide strip of cocoa fiber was laid on the bare ground to help stabilization while the seeds of all these wildflowers sprouted and spread their roots. The bottom photo was taken exactly one year after the top view. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Living Streamside, continued



## 12th Street Bioswale

### Bioswale Treats Stormwater in South Salem

As part of the City of Salem's increasing efforts to improve stormwater quality, the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bioswale has recently been brought on-line. Begun in 2007 as a retrofit of an unused right-of-way strip along 12<sup>th</sup> Street, the new 270-foot bioswale is now treating a portion of the stormwater runoff from 16 acres of nearby residential development.

### What is a bioswale?

A bioswale is a vegetated channel that treats polluted stormwater runoff from nearby surfaces such as roads and rooftops. Although a bioswale may look similar to a ditch, it is specially designed to provide natural water treatment by utilizing the filtering action of native plants and the soil. While a ditch is designed to convey water quickly, a bioswale has a wider bottom and gentle slope that allows excess flow to infiltrate and sediment to settle out. Native water-loving plants cover the bottom of the swale, trapping pollutants and encouraging infiltration through the soil.



Bioswale photo courtesy of  
City of Salem

[www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/PublicWorks/Operations/StormwaterServices/Pages/12thStreetBioswale.aspx](http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/PublicWorks/Operations/StormwaterServices/Pages/12thStreetBioswale.aspx)

Bioswale made beautiful. Imagine this unusual treatment done with native plants! Photo courtesy of Puget Sound American Planning Association

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# Living Streamside, continued

Do you live and garden along a stream?



From Oregon State University's Extension Service for Yamhill County at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/eco-gardening/streamside-gardening>

This beautiful streamside garden illustrates the epitome of a natural stream coexisting in harmony with the home and its inhabitants.

Careful planning and ecologically sound use of plants native to the area creates an environment pleasing to view and incredibly simple to maintain.

The Streamside Gardening program was funded by a grant through Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and is part of OSU Extension Sea Grant and the OSU Department of Horticulture.

The following tools are available online at no cost.

## FACT SHEETS AND VIDEOS

- Your Garden, Our Shared Watershed
- Wildlife Friendly Streamside Garden
- Pacific NW Native Plants for the Streamside Garden
- How to Care for Bare Root Plants
- Invasive Plants

## SAMPLE LANDSCAPE DESIGNS FOR STREAMSIDE GARDENS

- Plan 1: A design for gardens near streamsides with steeper banks and dryer soils
- Plan 2: A design for gardens near streamsides with average sloped banks and mixed wet and dry soils
- Plan 3: A design for gardens near streamsides with gradually sloped banks and wet soils

## POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS on planting streamside gardens

- Controlling Invasive Plants in Streamside Gardens
- Native Plants for Streamside Gardens in Western Oregon
- Stream Ecology for Gardeners
- Landscape Principles for Streamside Gardeners

In the background, Douglas Spirea print by  
Louis Van Houtte, 1846

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# Living Streamside, continued

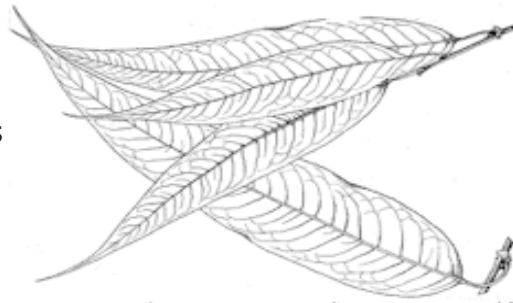
## CLEAN WATER TIPS

Do the right thing

See the articles listed here on KOIN's website,  
[www.mobile.koinlocal6.com/content/watershed/healthystreams/default.aspx](http://www.mobile.koinlocal6.com/content/watershed/healthystreams/default.aspx)

### Healthy Stream Articles

- Anatomy of a Rain Garden
- How To Build A Rain Garden
- Streamside Plants for Willamette Valley Wildlife
- Stream Care Tip 10: Create a Healthy Stream Buffer
- Stream Care Tip 9: Get Your Motor Running
- Stream Care Tip 8: Get out! Organic stuff is Bad?
- Stream Care Tip 7: Get a Grip on Pets
- Stream Care Tip 6: Get Smart With Suds
- Stream Care Tip 5: Get Gentle on Roofs
- Stream Care Tip 4: Get soft—Reduce Impervious



### PDF Library: Healthy Streams

#### How Healthy Is Your Stream

Stream Care Tips

#### Invasive Plants

- Be Aware of Garlic Mustard
- Look Out For Invasive Weeds
- 2009 West Multnomah Weed Brochure
- Knotweed
- Invasive Plant Poster
- Weeds of Concern

#### Habitat

- Homeowners Guide to Protecting Frogs
- Living Streams Poster
- Lower Columbia River Quality and Salmon Report

#### Rural Living

- Small Acreage Landowners
- Managing Streams With Buffers
- Protecting Streams From Erosion
- Rural Conservation Tips



Arrowwo Willow  
(*Salix lasiolepis*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott





# This & That

Notes from Jennifer

This past Friday marked a personal milestone for me. It was my birthday and I retired from my day job of 15 years. Someone sent an appointment notice to my cell phone on which popped up right at 5 pm when I was driving away:

***"Free at last!  
Free at last!  
Thank God Almighty,  
we are free at last!"***

I don't know which friend sent these words from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *"I have a dream"* speech, but it gave me exactly the state of mind I needed at that moment.

I've set foot on the long-awaited path to the rest of my life. Plans include:

--Much more time working with our web site and the Journal. Till now, the webmaster has been worn only in my home office. Some of that will still occur, but a few hours a week I'll be writing at the nursery. I want to meet our gardening friends, chat a little and learn new view-points.

--Daily sessions at the therapy pool. It's been difficult to get in enough water time and juggle a full time career.

--Daily visits with my mother. She is a delight. She's over 90 and we like to do things together.

And the rest of the time? I'll be in the garden.

Until next time,  
*Jennifer*



Photo by "Bird Chick"  
Sharon Stiteler  
[www.birdchick.com](http://www.birdchick.com)

# Useful Native Plant Resources 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. We wish to thank them for this public service.

---

## **American Bonsai Society**

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

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

## **Birdchick**

Hundreds of photos of birds, bees, butterflies and other friendlies. Sharon Stiteler shares the joys of birding as well as insights on rabbits. Read about her birding trip to Panama!

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

## **CalPhotos**

Over 33,000 plant images from the University of California, Berkley

[www.elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/](http://www.elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/)

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

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

[www.instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html](http://www.instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html)

## **E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia**

Beautiful site, volunteer-driven. "A comprehensive picture of the plant and fungal biodiversity of British Columbia. Many thanks to Mary Sanseverino (aka Calypso Orchid) for suggesting this site be included in our list of botanical web resources. (See Mary's photos on Flickr and check out her website at [www.webhome.csc.uvic.ca/~msanseve/](http://www.webhome.csc.uvic.ca/~msanseve/))

[www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/)

## **Fire effects on plant species**

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

[www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/](http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/)

⇒ More ⇒

# Useful Native Plant Resources, continued

## **Flora of North America Web Site**

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

**[www.hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/](http://www.hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/)**

## **Forest Types of the United States**

Maps of the most common forest types.

**[www.forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm](http://www.forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm)**

## **Growit.com Rooting Database**

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

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

## **Julie's Backyard Journal**

Blog by insightful gardener

**[www.backyardjournal.wordpress.com/](http://www.backyardjournal.wordpress.com/)**

## **ModernBackyard**

Landscape architecture provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online.

**[www.modernbackyard.com](http://www.modernbackyard.com)**

## **The Native Plant Network**

**[www.nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/](http://www.nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/)**

## **Northwest Plants Database System**

From Washington State University and WSU Clark County Extension PNW Plants, this database has 481 categorized plants and 1458 images.

**[www.pnwplants.wsu.edu](http://www.pnwplants.wsu.edu)**

## **Noxious Weed Control**

Search function, can be shown in text only

**[www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml)**

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# Useful Native Plant Resources, continued

## **Portland Bureau of Environmental Services**

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

[\*\*www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323\*\*](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323)

## **River Corridor and Wetland Restoration**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

[\*\*www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/\*\*](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/)

## **Soil Science Society of America**

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

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

## **Starflower Foundation**

Founded in 1996 by Ann Lennart to assist with creation, rehabilitation, and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities in the Washington area.

[\*\*www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/#starflower\*\*](http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/#starflower)

## **USDA PLANTS Database**

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

[\*\*www.plants.usda.gov/\*\*](http://www.plants.usda.gov/)

## **Washington Native Plant Society**

Appreciate, conserve and study our native plants and habitats

[\*\*www.wnps.org\*\*](http://www.wnps.org)

## **Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area**

Excellent photography and trail guides.

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

## **Woody Plant Seed Manual**

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.

[\*\*www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/\*\*](http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/)



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**Left: Grand Fir (Abies grandis)  
Right: White Fir (Abies concolor)  
Two trees botanically close  
but visually quite different**



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Photo by JoAnn Instott

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**(Foreground) Scouler's Willow  
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(Background) Bleeding Heart  
(Dicentra formosa)**

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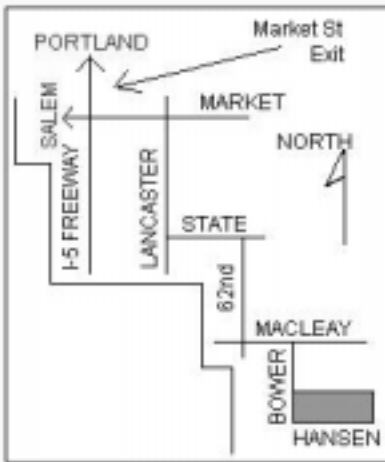
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I offer a unique resource – probably the largest collection of native plants in one location in the Northwest. Over 200 species in containers are available 12 months of the year, plus Bare-Root and “Balled & Burlapped” plants in the Fall & Winter. You can create a wonderful native plant garden on a small city lot or on a larger acreage. Use natives for specimen and demonstration gardens in parks and around schools and large buildings. Natives are tough, often drought resistant – this is their home – they love it here! Many have delicious fruit – many attract wildlife – animals, birds, and butterflies.

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This delightful, peaceful Native Plant Nursery/Garden is located about five miles East of Salem, Oregon, on five acres of Doug Firs, Cedar, Pine, and ancient Garry Oaks. This central Willamette Valley location is an easy drive from anywhere in the Northwest. If you are interested in Natives, a tour of the Nursery/Gardens is well worthwhile (improve your plant identification skills). My nursery and gardens have often been referred to as an “Arboretum” of plants of the Pacific Northwest. You will be inspired and encouraged in your own gardening.

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