

Volume 9, Issue 3A-2012

Amended Edition

March 2012

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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

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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.).



Trillium ovatum from Deepwood Press



On the Cover: Native Easter Lily

Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)

The White Trillium

Trillium graceful, Trillium white,
Star of the woodland, Lady of light
Lo, how she proudly
Stands in the glade,
Tri-sceptred sovereign,
Queen of the shade.
Stately she rises,
Slender-stemmed, tall,
Gracious response to Spring's early
call,
Lifting three leaf-arms
High from the sod,
Gazing with pure face up at her god.

-Milena Matcska



For Wally



March in the native garden



A word about birds: It is not necessary to furnish houses for birds to rear their young. But it is nice to honor our feathered friends by giving them ready-made homes and feeders and such. These houses are made from imaginatively used recycled materials by a group called To Make You Smile. Read their inspiring story at <http://tomakeyousmile.com/>

Pearls of northwest native wisdom freshly gleaned from the internet

1 – “Take advantage of breaks in the wet weather to weed and till. If you can get this soil prep work done now, you will be able to plant whenever you want. Postpone it too long, and wet weather or tall weeds can delay planting for weeks.” — Rose Marie Nichols McGee, Nichols Garden Nursery, Albany, Oregon. Read more: www.motherearthnews.com/What-To-Plant-Now-March-Pacific-Northwest-Gardening-Region.aspx#ixzz1o63tWJgs

2 – Pull back winter mulch from flower beds. Spread it around trees, shrubs and vegetable gardens and work it into the soil. Put that composted material to good use!

3 – Clean out water features in your landscape. Get your bog gardens, ponds, rain gardens and bird baths prepared for their starring roles in the wildlife habitat or outdoor rooms.

Tips 2 and 3 are inspired by Better Homes & Gardens, www.bhg.com/gardening/gardening-by-region/pacific-northwest/march-tips-the-pacific-northwest/

4 – Prepare for the annual onslaught of slugs. My favorite slug fighters, of course, are the birds that come a-calling. There are many other environmentally and economically friendly ways to deal with slimers such as slug hotels. Instructions and slug tips in our March 2004 Journal at www.nwplants.com/information/emag/vol2-3.pdf, pages 6 - 7.

[⇒More⇒](#)

March in the native garden, continued

5 – Divide crowded perennials and overgrown rhubarb clumps. Replant only the outermost, young sections of perennial clumps in replenished soil. Discard the old, woody centres. From Slugs and Salal, www.slugsandsalal.com/tasks/march.html

6 – Plant bare-root roses, shrubs and perennials. From OregonLive.com, www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2012/03/four_things_to_do_in_your_paci.html

7 – Visit Soos Creek Botanical Garden, 29308 132nd Ave. SE, Auburn, WA, provides a diversity of gardens for the public to enjoy, including inspirational gardens based upon international, regional, and historical gardens, while providing education and conservation of horticulture, the environment, and history. For more information, visit www.sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org or call 253-639-0949.

8 – In the very near future (depending on the weather), one of the most delicious wild mushrooms will begin to bloom. The Morel (Morchella) mushroom season starts in early spring which is just about here. In the Pacific northwest, they start coming up first in mountainous regions where they are closer to the sky, and then they bloom at lower and lower elevations until the range includes the valleys. I've had them come up in my yard here in Salem, Oregon. As with other types of wild mushrooms, there is great danger in identifying and also in preparing Morels for the table. Picking mushrooms is not a job for the novice. Just accidentally brushing past some types of wild fungi can kill. But dining on Morels is among the world's finest gourmet treats. Learn how from a pro!



Photo: www.northernbushcraft.com/mushrooms/blackMorel/notes.htm



Mystery plant puzzle



Update: No resolution on this mystery plant yet so I'm leaving it up for another month. Maybe by the end of March it will have sprouted leaves or flowers!

This tree is in my new garden and I'm not sure what it is. The rhodie in the background needs no introduction but the tree has me, well, stumped (pun intended).

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

Send me an email (nwplants@gmail.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
Luke Kishpaugh
Dave Whitehead



Wildlife Corner

Out back with the animals

Squirrels and birds are continuous visitors. There are four squirrels in residence, we're hoping there will be babies this year. The four family members are doing incredible feats of flight from birch to rhodie to feeders and back. One of them has a tail so bushy it is almost bigger than his body. Two have tails with much sparser fur. The fourth's profile is in question. When all four are together out by the feeding stations, they (so far) are moving so fast they are hard to follow. If we have a few days of milder weather I will sit out on the deck quietly in hopes of capturing digitals.

The birds are increasingly diverse. We still have robins and jays and chickadees in plentiful numbers. There are quite a few little tiny dark birds unidentified as yet. Employing our binoculars and Audobon field guides should give us some names eventually. At least two species are entertaining us with their songs. We just might catch some of that on tape to help searching out their proper monikers.

We are hoping to attract some hummers. They are so beautiful and they do a famous job of keeping down some of the bug populations. With luck and sufficient development, the planned pond will be self-sufficient--a little eco-system that will provide necessary functions in the wildlife habitat. The hoped-for hummers could actually take charge of any mosquitos that attempt invasion. If they don't come, we may have to rely on bats. Personally, I would like to have both hummingbirds and bats.

An issue with neighborhood cats has come to the fore of the fauna population. There are five regulars: a glossy black that resembles a miniature panther, a black and white tiger stripe, a fluffy charcoal gray, a tuxedo patterned gentleman, and a medium-long haired orange monster whose face reminds me of a has-been boxer. It may be his facial expression and not physical fact. We see this last one every day and Maggie roused him out from under the lower deck last week. I think he's living there. Our trusted handyman is going to block off entrance to this deck with cement blocks next week. That ought to do it.



Remembering a Gardening Muse

Dulcy Mahar: Northwest Freelance Writer

Doing the up-front research for our website is such a rewarding task. Each time I sit down with my library of native plant books and emails from websites to which I subscribe (read about these starting on page 12) and my friend, Google, something truly inspiring appears. Rarely is this planned, more often it is stumbled upon quite by accident.

It was during one of these sessions that I searched the internet for “march northwest gardening” and somehow wound up reading an old column by Dulcy Mahar, a freelance writer who died July 2, 2011. As many of you may know, Dulcy wrote a weekly column for Homes & Gardens of the Northwest since their first issue on March 27, 1997. Some of her prior work graced The Oregonian's Living section for many years.

This is a partial summary of ‘my’ introductory column, “Eight old-fashioned flowers add charm to the garden.” Three of the eight plants she wrote about are native to the Pacific northwest:

Bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*). “If poets were designing a flower, they couldn’t have come up with something better, both in design and name.”

Columbine (*Aquilegia*), now has cultivars of many colors but the original species were red with yellow.

Violet (*Viola*). Dulcy suggested planting these lovelies “beneath a garden bench to make a sweet-scented rest stop.”



Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Gardening Muse, continued

Read the original column in its entirety at www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2012/03/dulcy_mahar_eight_old-fashione.html



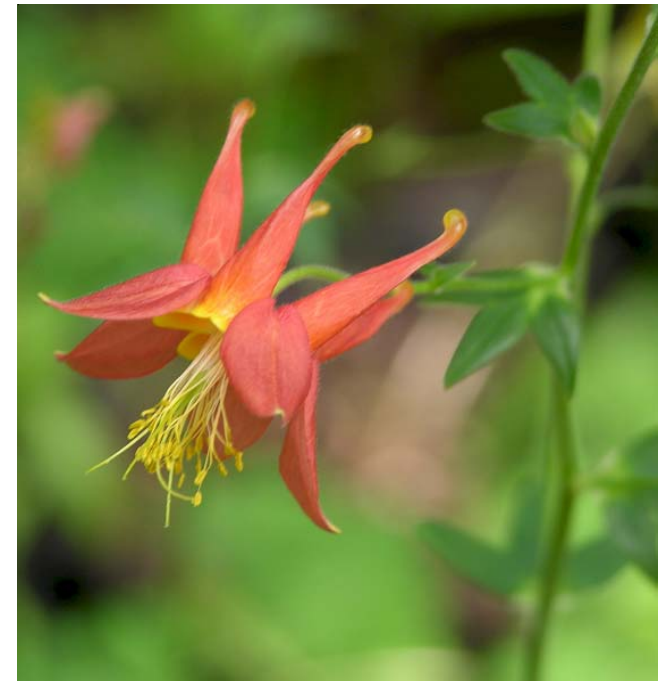
Viola adunca (Hookedspur Violet)
Photo from U.S. Forest Service

Another of her columns, this one titled "Coping with gardening's darker side: When depression sets in over some gardening failure, chocolate can help" is my favorite I think. She describes a disorder she claims is known as the "horticultural depressive-manic cycle." She says this dark side of gardening has cycles and sides to be on the lookout for. For instance, she thought April was a "particularly dangerous month. It's plant sale month."

I can certainly relate to that. Since treatment, I have learned to stay away from garden sales until about June or July. By then the danger is much less and there will probably be mark downs caused by the nursery folks being stricken with the disorder when ordering the spring stock. Visiting a nursery when one is caught up in the mania of the first sunny day in spring, the cart can become overfull in no time at all and the

disappearance of those glorious sunbeams about the time the plants are unloaded at home and a good rain begins to fall brings on such a depression only chocolate can lift it.

Another phase described by Dulcy is the "plantsman's compulsive-obsessive behavior." There is "deep and fickle infatuation," the "delusional phase," both of which may need a visit to the "Depraved Gardeners Wing of the Betty Ford Clinic."



Aquilegia formosa (Red Columbine)

[⇒More⇒](#)

Gardening Muse, continued

Oh, there is much, much more to learn from Mrs. Mahar's freelance legacy on gardening. (Her husband, Ted Mahar, is said to be working on a book of her columns.) The advice and information she shared are as valid today as they were the day she wrote them. I will not spoil the discoveries for you--just fix yourself a cup of hot chocolate and settle down for a rousing good read. Begin here: www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/dulcy_mahar_columns/.

And keep an eye out for the announcement of husband Ted's book. Prose like this must never be forgotten.

Here are the cherries on top of this story:

Barbara Ashmun, in The Portland Tribune's Features Column on July 20, 2011, titled "**Dulcy Mahar leaves a lot of love behind.**" Ms. Ashmun shares her personal memories of Dulcy. It is a glance into the heart of the woman and her spirit:



www.portlandtribune.com/features/story.php?story_id=131042713597597100

Rita A. Leonard writing for The Bee on August 2, 2011, describes the touching way Dulcy's neighbors in the Garwick district at the south end of Sellwood honored her passing by placing many pairs and foursomes of pink flamingos in their yards. See the story at www.thebeenews.com/news/story.php?story_id=131209239907155000

Pink flamingos. The original design for this kitschy yard art was from Don Featherstone. Reproductions have his signature embossed on the bird's body. Not ready to commit to the birds? Rent them at www.thepinkflamingo.com/Flamingos_For_Rent.html



"Local garden writer Dulcy Mahar and her cat enjoyed a quiet moment among her plants. Mahar, who died July 2, 2011, will be remembered for her love of gardening." Barbara Blossom Ashmun

Photo and caption from The Portland Tribune, www.portlandtribune.com/features/story.php?story_id=131042713597597100



Free Stuff In Your eMailbox

Newsletters, events and gardening columns

What's more fun than getting free stuff? Being a little of an adventurous bent, I find a surprise plant in my garden to be a joyful discovery. The origin of these botanical items is never proven: perhaps a seed dropped by a passing bird, maybe it's a forgotten food cache of a local squirrel, and sometimes it's a gift from a garden fairy. Because these plants aren't part of the garden plan, identification may take over a year.

Aside from bonus plants, many businesses, organizations and at least one very special native plant expert regularly provide all sorts of garden info for free. The selection of these gifts is wide. To subscribe, most offer easy to use forms on their websites where you can sign up or, if you change your mind and no longer wish to receive them, you can also unsubscribe. The sources of these offerings are reputable, spam-safe, and your private information is not shared. Here are some I personally receive regularly.

Portland Audubon Society



Audubon Society of Portland promotes the understanding, enjoyment, and protection of native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest. Inspiring people to love & protect nature since 1902.

Download the monthly newsletter, The Warbler, in PDF format.

Sign up to receive BirdWord in email:

<http://audubonportland.org/>



Just hatched robin with soon-to-be brothers or sisters. Photo by Daniel Marquard.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

Columbia Land Trust & Portland Audubon Society



A cooperative venture of the Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon Society about their Backyard Habitat Certification Program's eNewsletter and other topics of interest to native plant aficionados.

This is a Portland program aimed to remove aggressive weeds, create wildlife habitats and garden responsibly.



The February 2012 issue includes:

- Plant sales
- Volunteering
- Workshops and classes
- Resources
- Events

Use the form to receive updates by email at the left side of their pages, near the bottom.

<http://www.columbialandtrust.org/>

Left: Columbia Land Trust has just completed acquisition of nearly 1,000 wetland and forest acres along the Columbia River near St. Helens. Lush and diverse, a former cattle ranch/dairy farm, entrusted to CLT by a family that had owned and loved the property for six decades.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

Two websites lead a host of others with news and information about Earth Day. Though April 22 is the official day we celebrate this expansive work, we are all aware that every day is important, every day we follow the footsteps laid before us by the many environmentally responsible pioneers who started the work 42 years ago.

Earth Day Network



Learn what the EDN is doing right now, educate yourself and your family. To stay in tune, enter your email address in the box provided at the top right on their pages.

2012 is the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day. The theme this year is Mobilize the Earth.

www.earthday.org



Earth 911



The Nation's Premier
Environmental Resource

Earth911 is an environmental services company that addresses solutions for products' end-of-life for both businesses and consumers.

Weekly newsletter features news, events and ways you can be kinder to our planet.

<http://earth911.com/signup/>

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Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

Clean Water Services

Clean Water Services is a water resources management utility committed to protecting water resources in the Tualatin River Watershed. Nearly 520,000 customers enjoy clean water and healthy rivers and streams through innovative wastewater and stormwater services, flood management projects, water quality and stream enhancement projects, fish habitat protection and more.

Among other things, this website offers a Native Plant Finder. Go to www.cleanwaterservices.org/Residents/ToolsAndTips/NativePlantFinder:



The image shows a screenshot of the 'Native Plant Finder' tool. It features five columns of icons and checkboxes. The first column has a tree icon and checkboxes for 'Tree', 'Shrub', 'Ground Cover', 'Fern', and 'Grass'. The second column has a purple flower icon and a checkbox for 'Flowering'. The third column has a green leaf icon and checkboxes for 'Deciduous' and 'Evergreen'. The fourth column has a shovel and fork icon and checkboxes for 'Dry Soil', 'Moist Soil', and 'Wet Soil'. The fifth column has a sun icon and checkboxes for 'Full Sun', 'Partial Sun', and 'Shade'. At the bottom left is a button labeled 'Find my plants!'.

<input type="checkbox"/> Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowering	<input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Sun
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrub		<input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Moist Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Sun
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover			<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade
<input type="checkbox"/> Fern				
<input type="checkbox"/> Grass				

Pick your categories and you'll get a list of native plants to fit your needs.

Although there are approximately 450 known native plants in the area, the database here only has 50 plants. But it's a good start if you are considering going native.

Also available here is information about invasive plants to help you avoid augmenting the foothold over which these bad boys currently reign here in our wonderful Pacific northwest.

Monthly newsletter, Clean Water Connection – Clean water news you can use. Sign up on their home page at www.cleanwaterservices.org/

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Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

Marion Soil & Water Conservation District



Marion Soil & Water Conservation District

ABOUT PUBLICATIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS RESOURCES PROJECTS EVENTS

The Marion SWCD is a local government agency that works to protect, enhance, and improve the natural resources in Marion County through education, technical assistance and grants.

**Your Partner
in Conservation**

Marion County's SWCD is an active resource for native plant gardens, wildlife habitats, rain gardens, and a cooperative program that pairs up gardeners and landowners searching for sources of local, free, organic fertilizer, with livestock owners and managers that have excess fresh and composted manure. Subscribe to the quarterly newsletter, Conservation Insider, here: www.marionswcd.net/index.html.

Next weekend (March 9 - 10) is the annual native plant sale. "New this year are Native Wildflower Seed packets from Heritage Seedlings' "Tough and Tenacious" mix for \$3.00."

Location: Bauman Farms

Address: 12989 Howell Prairie Road Northeast, Gervais, OR

Date: March 9 & 10, 2012

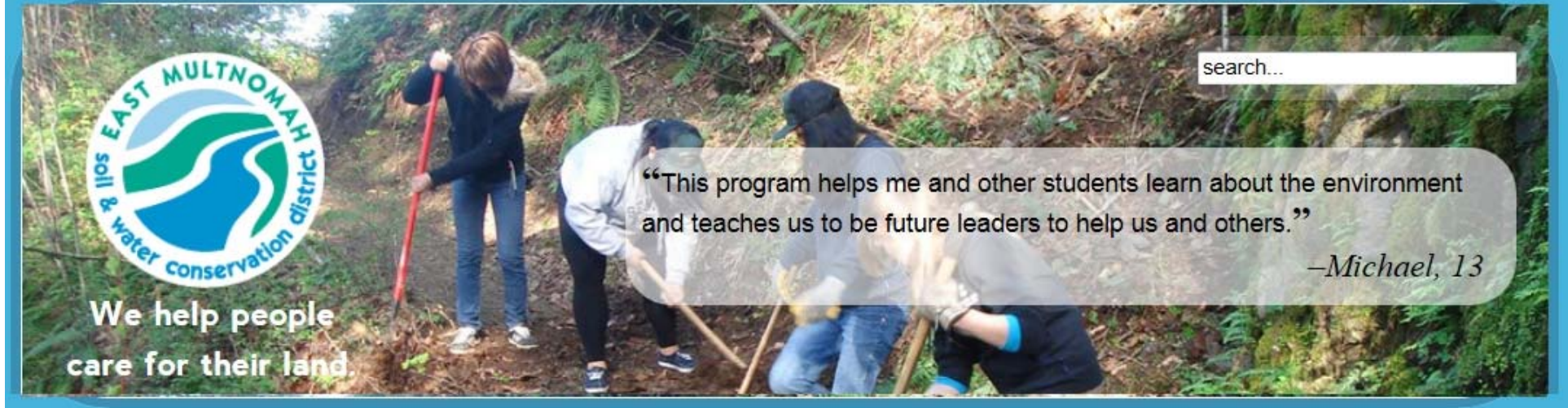
Time: Friday 10am - 6pm & Saturday 9am - 1pm

Get details here: www.marionswcd.net/districtevents.html. Proceeds from the sale fund 2 scholarships for students studying Natural Resources.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District



East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a unit of local government serving Multnomah County east of the Willamette River, led by an elected board of directors, the work is entirely on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy. There are free workshops on naturescaping, rain gardens, and invasive weed identification and control. Native plant information is an integral part of their goals.

Register at the website address below for emails about:

- Annual native plantsale reminder
- Naturescaping and rain garden workshops and tours
- Small landowner workshops and tours
- Weed watchers/invasive weed identification and control trainings

www.emswcd.org/contact-us

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

North Coast Gardening



One of my favorite websites, this gardening site by Genevieve Schmidt is entertaining and so much fun I think even non-gardeners will enjoy it. There is nothing ho-hum about this gardening guru. She's one of a kind. Go, see for yourself.

Among the gardening topics on which this website touches (and there are a lot of them!), there are reviews of new items available. For instance, a recent note featured a new book by Katie Elzer-Peters titled *The Beginner's Illustrated Guide to Gardening*. High marks on this one, excellent gift for friends interested in growing their own paradise.

Other out of the ordinary ideas: DIY pallet gardens, green roof birdhouses, branch hooks, chicken gardens. With these unusual ideas, there is no such thing as 'etc.' Imagine an article titled "When bad names happen to good plants." An example is *Camellia crapnelliana*--can you say that with a straight face? From February 6, 2012 Monday Miscellany: "The Drunken Botanist, Organic Eggs, Top Perennials, Garden Eyesores and (O joy!) Free Reading."

And do check out January 26, 2012 Wildlife Miscellany: Trends, Native Plant Books and Carole Brown at Beautiful Wildlife Gardens has a list of garden trends she hopes will take off this year.

Subscribe to the newsletter right at the top of the pages: www.northcoastgardening.com/. It's a sure cure for boredom.

[⇒More⇨](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

Coastal Invasive Plant Committee



COASTAL INVASIVE
PLANT COMMITTEE

From British Columbia, this website has excellent info about the invasive plants that plague the west coast. The opening paragraph reads, "Did you know that invasive species are considered to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity world-wide, second only to habitat loss? Or that in Coastal BC existing invasive non-native (alien) plant infestations are estimated to be in the tens of thousands?"

Do we have your attention? This site is the 'meat and potatoes' about invasive plants. No frills, no pretty nonsense, just plain old in-your-face facts and actions.

Start at the home page (www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/), click on Invasive Plants and then Priority Plants. The plants in this list are action categorized as Prevent, Eradicate, Contain or Control. Each plant is linked to a page with photos, description detail, where they may be found and what to do if you find one. Familiarize yourself with them. Teach your children. Tell your friends. It's a job for every single one of us and it will take that much to right these wrongs.

Topics in the newsletter include:

- CIPC news and updates
- Upcoming events
- People in action
- Regional news
- International news
- Resources and tidbits

*Sincere thanks to Brian for
introducing me to this site.*

Subscribe to E-News via link at the bottom of the home page under Take Action.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Free Stuff In Your eMailbox, continued

This week in the woods

Saving the best for last, this is what I love to read just before bed. I've written about it before--it never gets stale. This week in the woods is an inspiring and informative sort of journal written by Rob Sandelin, Naturalist, Writer, Teacher (and occasional musician) in Snohomish County. Walk with Rob and see the woods through his eyes. His latest email came yesterday and these are the topics he touches:

Pink Salmon reproduction - hiding their eggs, how the eggs hatch, what the young fish do.

Willows are blooming - insects such as the Dance Fly that are attracted by the pollen.

River Otters - reproductive trick, new born pups and how the mothers feed them.

Indian Plum - how to tell the male plants from the females, bugs that enjoy their pollen.

Bumble Bees - breaking from hibernation, what they do and where.

Swallows and other birds returning in spring.



Rob has changed the format of his emails so they now include photos - hooray! His camera work is superb.

He writes about all the wild things: plants, wildlife, sights and sounds. Always fresh, he renews my love affair with nature every time I find a new message in my email box.

Find a link to his email at <http://share3.esd105.wednet.edu/rsandelin/NWnature/NWNature.htm>

Sign up. Read with morning coffee, afternoon tea, or evening nightcap. De-stress and learn how to better enjoy our beautiful wild world. Sweet dreams!



Trilliums of the Northwest

Annual Notes on our Native Easter Lily

Right now in the Pacific northwest, thousands of trilliums are preparing to bloom. The Royal Horticultural Society:



"Trilliums grow from a rhizome, emerging in March or April, flowering, setting seed and dying down from July to October. Most trilliums are fully hardy."

Generally, here in the Pacific northwest, the flowering period of this genus occurs from the end of March through the end of May. Unless their corms are destroyed, they return each year. With well-established colonies, they multiply in proportion to the number of plants present though it takes many years for each new seedling plant to produce its first flower. Make no mistake: if you start with three plants you will have a long wait to see a fourth plant grown from seed materialize. Much faster is the growth from corm. In fact, a plant that splits off from the mother corm may even bloom the first year.

Ever since the Corps of Discovery (1804-1806) led by Captains Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific coast and were introduced to this forest darling, it has been a source of intrigue for all sorts of venues and various projects focused on

Western Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *ovatum*)

[⇒More⇒](#)

Trilliums of the NW, continued

trillium have been done around the globe. Some are research, some are experiments to see the environment where species grow best, some are new installations where new trillium gardens are being developed.

The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture by Thomas H. Everett: "Garden and Landscape Uses. Trillium are ideally adapted for woodland and rock gardens and for tucking among deep-rooted shrubs where conditions similar to those the plants know in the wild are approximated. It is expecting too much to plant them close to vigorous surface-rooting shrubs or where they must compete for moisture and nourishment with the roots of such trees as maples."

Suggested designs are generous drifts in open woodlands or groups of three to twelve. Deep, fairly moist soil with truly generous proportions of leaf mold or other organic debris and is acid rather than alkaline.

The New York Botanical Garden's Plant Talk: Inside the New York Botanical Garden column titled Planting Trillium in the Native Plant Garden•describes the very exciting work being done there. The writer of this work from November 2011 noted that the Native Plant Garden had been closed for the past year while a full-scale redesign was being done. Guided by the garden design firm, Oehme van Sweden, who worked with the Chicago Botanical Garden and the United States National Arboretum, the plan for this currently revamped garden is to develop several different native habitats including wetland, a large pond, a meadow and a large woodland area where the trillium are now being planted.



The Oehme van Sweden design for NYBG's Native Plant Garden

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Trilliums of the NW, continued

In preparation for planting, the soil in various sections were amended with truckloads of compost and leaf litter. Hills and valleys are now in place with pathways graded to create accessibility for wheelchairs under rules of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Once the soil and topography was ready, the woodland area is receiving natural growth regions of Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) which is evergreen, with Closed Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) which blooms in October and Hairy Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*), a smaller sized plant than the more usual Common Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*). Along with this grouping, mature rhizomes of Great White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) are planted, rather than seedlings. They should flower next year. The planting scheme is putting these native woodlanders in clumps of 11 to 17 plants to produce a thick covering of flowers next spring.

Wonderful details about the actual planting steps for a proper start:

"Before they began planting, my colleagues forked the soil and added compost so that it was nice and workable. The rhizomes had long roots, so the gardeners held their trowels in a reverse direction (with the blade facing toward their bodies) and stabbed into the soil as if they were wielding daggers. Once the trowel was deep in the soil, they pulled it toward them to create a six- to seven-inch-deep hole.

"They then dangled the roots into the hole and positioned the rhizome so that it rested about three inches below the soil line before filling it in. And while three inches is the suggested depth for planting trilliums, know that these wildflowers will ultimately settle much deeper into the soil once they have established themselves.

"The cause behind the trillium's deep settling is in its contractile roots, which grow to a certain depth before beginning to pull the plant down into the soil. The roots do this as a protective response to deter foraging animals from digging them up during the winter months, when deer and the like are looking for something nutritious to eat.



Marginal Wood
Fern by Chhe and
Closed Gentian
from D. Gordon
H. Robertson

[⇒More⇒](#)

Trilliums of the NW, continued

"After my colleagues had finished planting a clump of trillium, they covered the area with a few inches of finely shredded leaf mulch. By the end of the morning they had planted 120 trilliums in the area and were expecting another shipment of rhizomes, increasing the number to an impressive 300. We expect to see a flourishing collection of these elegant white beauties when the Native Plant Garden reopens in 2013."



Trillium parviflorum
(Sessile Trillium)

This careful attention to detail when planting trillium can be followed by home gardeners to claim as much success in our gardens as these professionals will no doubt realize in this awesome new public garden.

Propagation

From "Trilliums" by Chrys Gardener, Master Gardener: "It is also possible to propagate trilliums from seed, although it takes a lot of patience since the plants will not flower for four or five years. Collect seeds when the strophiole (the ant-attracting appendage) has turned from white to russet brown. Often the seeds ripen before the capsule splits, so occasionally pinch open a capsule and check the seeds for ripeness. The seeds should be sown immediately, or stored in damp peat moss and refrigerated until sowing. Sow the seeds in a shady outdoor seedbed enriched with lots of humus. Keep the seed bed evenly moist throughout the growing season. The seeds will not germinate this first season since they need to overwinter in order to break their dormancy. The following season they will produce a single rudimentary leaf, and should be left undisturbed. The third year they will produce a single ovate leaf, and when the plants go into dormancy in the summer, they can be carefully lifted and moved into containers or a nursery bed. By the fourth year they will produce their characteristic three leaves, and if everything goes well, they will produce another set of leaves and finally a flower in their fifth year.

"This spring when you see a glorious patch of trilliums carpeting the woods, remember the role of the ants in helping to spread these plants, plus the five or more years it took each plant to reach flowering size, and give a bow to Mother Nature as the ultimate gardener." From Cornell University Cooperative Extension, <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/chemung/agriculture/publications/trillum.pdf>

[⇒More⇒](#)

Trilliums of the NW, continued

From *Planting The Future* by Rosemary Gladstar and Pamela Hirsch: "It is also possible to propagate trillium from rhizomes. If you are using this method, it is important to obtain cuttings with a bit of originating soil. The reason for this is quite interesting. Trillium has small, smooth hairless roots that grow downward from its rhizome. In many species roots have root hairs, which allow the plant to more easily absorb required nutrients.

"It has been noted, however, that plants without root hairs, such as trillium, often require the presence of a microscopic fungus called mycorrhizae in the soil. The mycorrhizae have a symbiotic relationship with the plant that facilitates the plant's process of obtaining nutrients from the soil, just as root hairs do. It appears that trillium requires these mycorrhizae to grow well. Planting a section of trillium rhizome in a soil lacking in mycorrhizae may not result in healthy growth. Ask for some of the earth surrounding the rhizome to take home to mix in with existing soil before planting."

From Royal Horticultural Society on Trillium: "Established clumps can be lifted and divided as the foliage dies back. Ensure each piece of rhizome has at least one bud and some roots. Lateral buds can be encouraged by scoring. To do this, scrape back the soil after flowering and score around the base of the terminal bud with a sharp knife. By the following year this will often result in several lateral buds or offsets that can be detached and grown on.

A variation on the technique is to remove the terminal bud entirely with about 2.5cm (1in) of rhizome and replant. New lateral buds will form on the rhizome remaining in the ground."



Trillium rhizome

Research of another sort:

An EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) Extramural Research project titled "Individual growth rates and population demography of white-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) across gradients of light, fertility and deer browse pressure." (EPA Grant Number: U915650) This project ran from August 1, 1999 through August 1, 2002.

Investigator Thomas P. Rooney based this project in the University of Wisconsin under a federal grant. The object of the study was to determine the effects of deer browsing on the large white-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) to discover answers to four specific questions:

1. Do trillium respond to damage from deer browsing by over or under compensating in growth, and what effect do soil quality, amount of light and the normal reproduction aspect of the plant have on this compensation?
2. Why do deer select particular plants on which to browse?
3. How does browsing affect population structure and growth of trillium relative to other environmental factors?

.....more.....

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Trilliums of the NW, continued

The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture by Thomas H. Everett gives a bit more detail on this topic: "Vegetative propagation can sometimes be achieved by very careful division of the rhizomes at about the time the foliage is dying or by controlled injury to the rhizomes. At the end of the growing season, when the foliage is dying, scrape away the surface soil until the upper part of the rhizome is exposed, then cut off its top at the ring that shows the line of demarcation between the new pointed bud and the older part of the rhizome, and backfill with soil. By the following spring, few to many little rhizomes will have formed, and these can be removed the succeeding fall. If a second decapitation of the original rhizome is done slightly lower down, a second crop of young rhizomes may be obtained the following year. An alternative, less drastic measure is to notch the bulb. To do this expose its top, as in preparation for decapitation, but instead of slicing it off, just remove a narrow, wedge-shaped tongue of tissue from one side or around its circumference at the line separating the new growth, or, if the tuber is horizontal, from along its top, and recover with soil. With reasonable luck, almost as many young rhizomes will develop as result from the decapitating procedure, and without missing a season of bloom. Vegetative propagation is the only way of increasing stocks of the double-flowered variety of *T. grandiflorum*.



Western Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum*)

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Research of another sort, cont'd:

4. What does the loss of trillium populations change in their genetic diversity?

The method selected by Mr. Rooney to learn the answers was to establish 27 different plots in northern Wisconsin and the western part of Michigan's upper peninsula. The study plots included specific height and distance between the three-leafed, white-flowered trillium and location of all one-leafed trillium. There were 2000 plants in the plots being monitored. Factors measured were soil, light and browsing pressure in each plot.

In 1998, four more plots were added to study defoliation to mimic various instances that were done by the deer.

Though this is an interesting idea for research, I don't see any useful results for home gardeners. I had hoped some information on discouraging deer from eating our trillium. Perhaps further studies will be more directly applicable.

Trilliums of the NW, continued

C. Colston Burrell has written a fascinating report titled *Obsession and Exploitation: The Cultural History of Trillium*. Beginning: •"Between trilliums and humans have existed since indigenous peoples employed their medicinal powers." Quoting William Shakespeare in "A Midsummer Night's Dream,"

"Yet mark'd I where the bolt of Cupid fell
It fell upon a little western flower,
Before milk-white, now purple with love's wound..."

Western Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum*)

Taking his stance on the subject: "Trillium are featured on stamps, and their perfect symmetry is abstracted into logos, symbols and art. Trillium are called wake robins in New England because they herald the return of spring and the reawakening of the earth much as the first robins do. Their name commemorates the seasons and is exploited to sell products and housing developments."

I find this essay/expose to be informative, engaging, intriguing and hilarious. Use your own judgment.

Colston Burrell's author profile in Timber Press, He is "a garden designer, award-winning author, photographer, naturalist, and teacher. He grows hellebore species and hybrids alongside natives and other treasures in his garden in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Charlottesville, Virginia."

Fascinating!

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



Trilliums of the NW, continued

Western Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum*)

Thanks to these sources:

Cornell University Cooperative Extension,
www.counties.cce.cornell.edu/chemung/agriculture/publications/trillum.pdf

Planting The Future by Rosemary Gladstar and Pamela Hirsch

Royal Horticultural Society on Trillium,
www.apps.rhs.org.uk/advice/search/Profile.aspx?pid=341

The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture by Thomas H. Everett

The New York Botanical Garden website: www.nybg.org/plant-talk/2011/11/tip-of-the-week/planting-trilliums-in-the-native-plant-garden/

Harvard papers in botany, Volume 1, Issues 8-10: • "Trillium species reach flowering size in a minimum of seven to ten years (Case, 1981b, 1988; Ohara), but a few species mature more rapidly (e.g. *T. rivalie* in three or four years; Nesom & La Duke)."

Obsession and Exploitation: The Cultural History of Trillium, C. Colston Burrell, www.mtcubacenter.org/images/symposium-files/Burrell-Cole.pdf

Oehme van Sweden Landscape Architects, New York Botanical Garden Native Garden plan, www.ovsla.com/intheworks_nybg_newnativegarden_bronx_ny.htm

See previous articles about trillium in these issues of our journal:

April 2004 <http://www.nwplants.com/information/emag/vol2-4.pdf>

March 2007 <http://www.nwplants.com/information/emag/vol5-3.pdf>

March - April 2010 <http://www.nwplants.com/information/emag/vol8-2.pdf>

Wally's newsletters

July 2001 http://www.nwplants.com/information/newsletters/newsletter2001_07.html

March 2002 http://www.nwplants.com/information/newsletters/newsletter2002_03.html



An Issue of Copyright Infringement

Making Amends

It came to my attention recently that, in this journal issue published in March, 2012, I had inadvertently misused a copyrighted image I had found on the internet. The notice of copyright on the home page of the artist's website is distinct and in plain language:

"All content and graphic copyright 2003-2013 - Joanne Osband - Coloring Out of The Lines - All rights reserved. No part of this website may be reproduced without written permission from the copyright holder."

The illustration of the painting I used did not have a visible copyright notice, but there is a link right below the image that says, "Inquire about this work." The link opens an inquiry form that does carry a copyright notice.

Additionally, the footer on each page of this website includes this statement, "Copyright © 2013, Joanne Osband. All rights reserved."

Had I followed the rules of due diligence that I adopted decades ago, I would have seen this notation and either contacted the artist for permission to use the image or, failing that, I would have used an image that was not restricted by copyright. Unfortunately I did not use my own standard practice of verifying the status of the image prior to use as mandated in the U.S. Copyright Act.

Of all the available ways to handle this issue, the artist who painted "Sign of Spring," Joanne Osband, elected to send me an email regarding my non-compliant use of the painting. She requested I fix the problem. I offered this remedy which Joanne approved:

- I will write an explanation of what has happened, what copyright laws are, why we must comply and with an apology to you
- I will repost the corrected journal
- I will write a piece for the website's home page to introduce the edited journal.

The following pages contain the information I agreed to provide toward making amends for using Joanne's illustration without her prior permission.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

An Issue, continued

The website, Copyright United States Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov/>), contains the current laws, information on how to comply and why. (Coincidentally, April 24, 2013, is World Intellectual Property Day. See the Copyright Office's lecture series and other ways they are educating us all about this law at <http://www.copyright.gov/copyrightmatters.html>.)

Intellectual Property of our own works is something we all own. Other people's Intellectual Property is owned by them. Protecting our own ideas, writings, songs, paintings, information on our web sites, etc. is not difficult.

"Copyright protection subsists from the time the work is created in fixed form. The copyright in the work of authorship immediately becomes the property of the author who created the work. Only the author or those deriving their rights through the author can rightfully claim copyright."

"Copyright Secured Automatically upon Creation."

"The way in which copyright protection is secured is frequently misunderstood. No publication or registration or other action in the Copyright Office is required to secure copyright. There are, however, certain definite advantages to registration."

"The use of a copyright notice is no longer required under U. S. law, although it is often beneficial."

But with today's technology, the ability to reach out to the entire world with our cell phones, computers, tablets, etc. enforcing the copyright laws is harder than ever before. It may take only a second to copy an item, a few moments to copy an entire book.

In most cases, copyright infringement is a civil matter between people rather than a criminal one in which a public entity takes on the infringer. The difference has to do with the scope of the alleged infringement and the details. The current laws offer a range of remedies from notification and communication between parties to huge fines and/or jail sentences.

If desired, you may put a notice of copyright on your work. Though this is not necessary, it can be helpful to others to have the copyright statement available on your creations.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

An Issue, continued

Form of Notice for Visually Perceptible Copies.

The notice for visually perceptible copies should contain all the following three elements:

1. The symbol © (the letter C in a circle), or the word Copyright, or the abbreviation Copr. and
2. The year of first publication of the work. In the case of compilations or derivative works incorporating previously published material, the year date of first publication of the compilation or derivative work is sufficient. The year date may be omitted where a pictorial, graphic, or sculptural work, with accompanying textual matter, if any, is reproduced in or on greeting cards, postcards, stationery, jewelry, dolls, toys, or any useful article; and
3. The name of the owner of copyright in the work, or an abbreviation by which the name can be recognized, or a generally known alternative designation of the owner.

Example: © 2011 John Doe

About the copyright symbol

The Copyright Symbol Webpage (<http://www.copyrightauthority.com/copyright-symbol/>) has many resources and how-tos for using this symbol.

A different kind of copyright licensing: Creative Commons

Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org/about>) is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools.

These free licenses provide a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative work — on conditions of your choice. CC licenses let you easily change your copyright terms from the default of “all rights reserved” to “some rights reserved.”

Creative Commons licenses are not an alternative to copyright. They work alongside copyright and enable you to modify your copyright terms to best suit your needs.

I hope this article has helped to raise awareness and to make the concept of copyright a little easier to understand.



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

My garden has begun to show the bulbs and herbaceous perennials that went into hibernation before I claimed residence here. Yep, it's that time so long awaited. Besides the unidentified tree (see the mystery plant, page 7), little sprouts are poking up in places no herbage was expected.

The woman who planted it all had placed cement blocks and odd bricks and curious pieces of driftwood in what seemed nonsensical configurations all around. Now that the sleeping plants are rising from the earth, it all begins to make perfect garden design.

There will be no changes to the existing landscape until next spring--I refuse to give in to urges to add the natives for which I yearn. The birds need those strawberries and hucks, the snowberries and of course that hazelnut, I tell myself. It is true, they will enjoy them once they are planted. But it is impossible to know what treasures would meet an accidental early demise should I give in to the siren song of my gardening muse.

Maggie is just as curious as I am, but her investigations into each new leaf have too much enthusiasm for these tender newbies. She insists on many more "business trips" than before and often has no real "business" to take care of. It never fails, a sunny day brings at least twice as many little walks than do rainy days. She was totally gobsmailed by the snow we woke to on Tuesday, first time her little feet walked on white frozen ground. By the second trip out it was old news. (She's a quick learner.)



Bunchberry
(*Cornus alaskensis*)

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

This & That, continued

I've been singing the trillium song out beside the Doug Fir. No one has answered yet. The deciduous ferns are coming up, the evergreens are prepared. If no trilliums show up I will plant Bunchberry (*Cornus unalaschensis*) in that area this summer and then put in the trilliums a bit later. There is a space about 8 by 10 feet in back of the existing shrubs that will be a natural for a small woodland garden.

I thank C. Colston Burrell for his magnificent study of trillium and for bringing Mary Oliver's poem into my book of treasures.



Her majesty at 8 weeks. Four pounds of dynamite and pure love.

Loving the earth, seeing what has been done to it,
I grow sharp, I grow cold.

Where will the trilliums go, and the coltsfoot?
Where will the pond lilies go to continue living
their simple, penniless lives, lifting
their faces of gold?

Impossible to believe we need so much
as the world wants us to buy.
I have more clothes, lamps, dishes, paper clips
than I could possibly use before I die.

Oh, I would like to live in an empty house,
with vines for walls, and a carpet of grass.
No planks, no plastic, no fiberglass.

And I suppose sometime I will. Old and cold I will lie apart
from all this buying and selling, with only
the beautiful earth in my heart.

Mary Oliver, *Why I Wake Early* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2004)

Until next time,
Jennifer



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.

American Bonsai Society

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

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.

www.birdchick.com/

CalPhotos

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

www.elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/

Cornell University online grafting course

From the Dept. of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell U. Kenneth W. Mudge, Assoc. Professor of Horticulture

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 for suggesting this site be included in our list of botanical web resources. (See her photos on Flickr and her website at www.webhome.csc.uvic.ca/~msanseve/)

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/



Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) by Finetooth taken at Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail in Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Portland, Oregon

[⇒ 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/

Forest Types of the United States

Maps of the most common forest types.

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

Julie's Backyard Journal

Blog by insightful gardener

www.backyardjournal.wordpress.com/

ModernBackyard

Landscape architecture provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online.

www.modernbackyard.com

The Native Plant Network

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

Noxious Weed Control

Search function, can be shown in text only

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

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Invasive list, how to report invasives

www.oregon.gov/OISC/



Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) Walter Siegmund

[**⇒More⇒**](#)

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

River Corridor and Wetland Restoration

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/

Soil Science Society of America

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

www.soils.org/

Starflower Foundation

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

www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/#starflower

USDA PLANTS Database

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

www.plants.usda.gov/

Washington Native Plant Society

Appreciate, conserve and study our native plants and habitats

www.wnps.org

Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

Excellent photography and trail guides.

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/



Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) Walter Siegmund

