

RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME GARDENS IN WESTERN OREGON

NOTES

- Common names are those most used in Kruckeberg (1996), Link (1999), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001).
- Scientific names and authors courtesy of Scott Sundberg, Oregon Flora Project, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU (<http://www.oregonflora.org/OFP>)
- Description, characteristics, and comments from Elias (1980), Kruckeberg (1996), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and Cullina (2000, 2002). Size categories for trees (tall to small) according to Elias; categories for shrubs (large to very small) according to Hightshoe (1988) scale.
- Drought tolerance assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), Bell et al. (2001), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Drought-tolerant

- Light requirements assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Sun



= Part shade/sun



= Shade

- Wildlife value assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001), Cates et al. (2002), Lamb and Allen (2002), Lamb et al. (2002), Olsen and Allen (2002), Neill (2001), and Pyle (2002).



Food source for native butterfly caterpillars



Nectar source for butterflies



Food source, shelter, or nesting sites for birds



Nectar source for hummingbirds



Shelter for native amphibians or reptiles



Food source for native wildlife or rodents



Among species considered to be the most valuable wildlife plants by ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001) reference



Recommended for wildlife meadow garden by ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001) reference

SHRUBS

AZALEA, WESTERN

Rhododendron occidentale (Torr. & A. Gray)

A. Gray

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub, 6–8' or more. Flowers in summer, white to pale rose with yellow spots, fragrant with musky scent.

From Oregon's southern coast. Selected color forms available. Species often used in azalea breeding programs.



BLUEBLOSSOM (CALIFORNIA LILAC, MOUNTAIN LILAC)

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus Eschsch.

Large shrub or small tree, 6–20'; evergreen. Fine, lustrous foliage. Numerous clusters of pale blue to deep lilac-blue flowers in summer.

Hardest of the wild lilacs, fast-growing. If planted in wet spots, can be subject to disease. Cultivars available.



CURRENT, RED-FLOWERING (BLOOD CURRENT)

Ribes sanguineum Pursh

Mid-height deciduous shrub, 8–10' or more. Many upright stems from the base. Gray-green leaves. Pendant, red flower clusters in late winter. Black fruit with powdery bloom.

Blooms emerge before foliage. Rapid grower. Selected color forms and varieties available in shades of red, pink, and white.



DOGWOOD, CREEK (RED-OSIER DOGWOOD)

Cornus sericea L. (*C. stolonifera*)

Mid-height, deciduous, multitrunked shrub or small tree, 6–16'. Reddish bark, flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers, followed by white or bluish berries.

Great for winter interest. Control size by cutting tallest trunks at base every 2–4 years. Vigorous colonizer. Look for native forms of this widespread species.



ELDERBERRY, BLUE

Sambucus mexicana (*S. cerulea*) C Presl ex DC.

Large, deciduous multistemmed shrub or small tree to 15' or more. Flat-topped clusters of yellowish-white flowers, followed by gray-blue, waxy, berrylike fruit with bloom.

Tolerates dry sites. Fast-growing, will colonize. Edible fruits.





ELDERBERRY, RED *Sambucus racemosa* L.

Large, deciduous, multistemmed shrub or small tree to 20'. Bushier than blue elderberry. Compound leaves. Pyramidlike, elongated clusters of creamy-white flowers followed by bright red berrylike fruit.

Prefers moist sites. Vigorous colonizer.



HUCKLEBERRY, EVERGREEN *Vaccinium ovatum* Pursh

Mid-height evergreen shrub to 15'. Glossy, dark green leaves, bronze new growth. Profusely flowering; small, pinkish-white, bell-like flowers in clusters, followed by shiny purplish-black fruit.

Slow-growing, may require additional moisture during establishment. Good foliage for cut flower arrangements, edible fruits. Cultivars available.



HUCKLEBERRY, RED (RED BILBERRY, RED BLUEBERRY) *Vaccinium parvifolium* Sm.

Mid-height deciduous shrub, 3–12'. Thin, light, bluish-green foliage. Inconspicuous greenish flowers followed by salmon-egg to bright red berries in early summer.

Plant in soil rich in organic matter such as composted fir bark; in nature, often found rooted in old stumps. Edible berries.





INDIAN PLUM (OSOBERRY)

Oemleria cerasiformis (Torr. & A. Gray ex Hook. & Arn.)

J.W. Landon

Small deciduous tree or large multibranched shrub, 15–20'. Pendulous clusters of green and white flowers emerge in late winter. Pendulous purple fruits by early summer.

Can sucker from the base. Best used in informal or woodland gardens.



MANZANITA, BRISTLY OR HAIRY

Arctostaphylos columbiana Piper

Large evergreen shrub 10–15'. Gray-green, hairy leaves. Reddish-brown, flaking bark. White, bell-like flowers followed by red fruits in summer.

Good for south- or west-facing sites. Best in sandy, well-drained soils. Cultivars available.



MOCK ORANGE, WESTERN

Philadelphus lewisii Pursh

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 10'. Masses of fragrant, bright white flowers in long clusters in late spring.

To control size and keep flowers low on the shrub, prune oldest individual canes to the base after flowering. Highly recommended for the shrub border; considered to be best ornamental mock orange in U.S. Cultivars available.



NINEBARK, PACIFIC OR WESTERN *Physocarpus capitatus* (Pursh) Kuntze

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 8' or more. Leaves resemble maple. Small, white flowers in dense 2–3" clusters in late spring. Rose-brown fall color.

Older stems have shredding bark. Best used in moist locations.



OCEANSPRAY, CREAMBUSH *Holodiscus discolor* (Pursh) Maxim.

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub, 4–15'. Tiny, creamy white flowers in large, pendant clusters in June. Deeply lobed pleasing foliage with golden fall color.

Slow-growing when young, can be difficult to establish. To control size, prune largest stems at the base. Requires well-drained soil. Spent fruit remains on shrub until following season.



OREGON GRAPE, CASCADE (LONGLEAF MAHONIA) *Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa* Pursh

Very small, spreading, broadleaf evergreen shrub to 2'. Dull green compound leaves. Bright yellow flowers on long stalks, followed by blue fruit.

Can be slow to establish. Slowly spreads, making an elegant tall groundcover for part to full shade. Edible berries.



OREGON GRAPE, TALL (GRAPE HOLLY)
Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium Pursh

Mid-height, broadleaf evergreen shrub, 8–10' or more. Spiny, glossy compound leaves with bronze-copper new foliage. Clusters of golden-yellow, urn-shape flowers. Blue fruit with bloom.

State flower of Oregon. Edible berries. Many cultivars available, including dwarf forms.



RHODODENDRON, PACIFIC (COAST RHODODENDRON)
Rhododendron macrophyllum D. Don ex G. Don

Large evergreen shrub or small tree to 25', usually shorter in cultivation. Reddish-brown, scaly bark. Leathery, shiny gray-green foliage. Showy white to pink flowers.

Has classic look of rhododendron. May require additional water because of mountain or coastal origin. Cultivars available.



ROSE, NOOTKA
Rosa nutkana C. Presl.

Mid-height, deciduous thorny shrub to 10'. Large, solitary soft-pink flowers to 2–3". Purplish, pear-shape or round hips.

Best native wild rose for gardens. Vigorous colonizer.





SALAL
Gaultheria shallon Pursh

Small evergreen shrub, 3–5'. Lustrous, dark green leaves. Pinkish showy flowers, purplish berries.

Spreads underground to form thick colonies; often used as high groundcover. Edible berries. Good for dry shade.



SERVICEBERRY, WESTERN
(SERVICEBERRY)
Amelanchier alnifolia (Nutt.) Nutt.
Ex M. Roem.

Large deciduous shrub or small tree, multitrunked, 10–25'. Attractive silver bark. Small leaves with yellow to orange fall color. Compact clusters of small, white flowers. Reddish-purple to black fruit.

Slow-growing, can form thickets.



SILK-TASSEL, WAVY-LEAVED
Garrya elliptica Douglas ex Lindl.

Large evergreen shrub or small tree to 20'. Grayish-green, leathery leaves with wavy margins. 6–12" pendulous catkins in late winter.

Native to southern Oregon coastal areas. Male plants considered to be more highly ornamental. Many cultivars available.





SPIREA, DOUGLAS' (HARDBACK, STEEPLEBUSH)
Spiraea douglasii Hook.

Mid-height, multistemmed deciduous shrub to 11' or more. Gray-green leaves with silvery white undersides. 3" pyramid-shape clusters of purplish-pink to deep rose flowers fading to pink, then turning brown after seed production.

Although will survive in dry areas, does best in moist soil. Vigorous spreader.



SPIREA, SUBALPINE OR MOUNTAIN
Spiraea splendens (S. densiflora) Baumann ex K. Koch

Very small, multistemmed, deciduous shrub to 2' or more. Small, dark green leaves. Vivid pink to purple flowers in cauliflower-shape clusters.

Requires moist, cool soil conditions.

