Oregon Plant Guide

Big Leaf Maple
Acer macrophyllum



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Simple, Opposite, Lobed, Palmate
Facts: Big Leaf Maple trees can grow up to 80 feet tall! This is the largest Maple tree species in North America. Big Leaf Maples produce winged seeds called **samaras.**

Butterfly Bush
Buddleia davidii



Plant Type: Shrub, Invasive
Leaves: Simple, Opposite, Elliptical
Facts: Butterfly Bushes are considered an invasive species in Oregon. These shrubs are native to Asia, but you will find them in Oregon in yards, gardens, and parks. Like their name, the shrubs attract pollinators, especially butterflies, because of their nectar supply. However, none of Oregon's native caterpillars will eat the leaves of the Butterfly Bush. This shrub can also outcompete our native flowering shrubs since it grows quickly and can produce up to 40,000 seeds on one flower spike. Currently, people are allowed to plant butterfly bushes, but the flower spikes must be cut off before seeds can develop and be released.

Oregon Plant Guide

Blue Elderberry
Sambucus nigra



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Compound, Opposite, Serrated Edges
Facts: Blue Elderberry can be found in open forests and valleys. It produces small white flowers and edible blue, waxy berries. The berries can be used for pies, jams, and wine. Birds and pollinators also use Blue Elderberry as a food source.

California Black Oak
Quercus kelloggii



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Pinnately Lobed, Pointed Lobes
Facts: California Black Oaks can be found in sunny open habitats. Acorns produced by these trees are used as a food source for a variety of mammals and birds. Many of Oregon's Indigenous Peoples such as the Takelma people in Southern Oregon relied on this important food source.

Oregon Plant Guide

Common Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Opposite, Round/Oval/Elliptical
Facts: Common Snowberry can be found along stream banks, moist thickets, and forests. This shrub produces white berries that can stay on the shrub through the winter, providing an important food source for birds and mammals.

Douglas Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Needles, Individually Attached
Facts: The Douglas Fir is the state tree of Oregon. It produces cones that have a 3 pointed tail on each scale. These cones provide a food source for small mammals and birds. The tree itself can also provide cover for wildlife. Douglas fir trees are also used for lumber and Christmas trees.

Oregon Plant Guide

Douglas Spirea
Spiraea douglasii



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Edges Smooth at the bottom and Serrated at the top
Facts: Douglas Spiraea grows in open areas of wet meadows, bogs, streambanks, and lake margins. The flowers and dense growth attracts a variety of wildlife, including deer, butterflies, birds and other small animals. Douglas Spirea flowers can sometimes be found in flower arrangements, and they are also considered a wetland **indicator species**.

English Ivy
Hecera helix



Plant Type: Ivy, Invasive
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Palmately Lobed, Smooth Edges
Facts: English Ivy was introduced to North America by Europeans in the 1700s as an ornamental plant. Since this ivy grows as a dense mat, it can block the sunlight, preventing native understory plants from growing and surviving. English Ivy can also cause tree damage by overtaking trees and weighing heavily on tree branches, causing them to break. The ivy leaves and berries are also toxic to humans and cattle.

Oregon Plant Guide

Himalayan Blackberry
Rubus armeniacus



Plant Type: Shrub, Invasive
Leaves: Compound, Alternate, Palmate Leaflet Arrangement
Facts: The Himalayan Blackberry was introduced to Oregon in the 1920s from the Himalayas for berry breeding and crop production. Himalayan Blackberry grows in dense thickets and can take over stream banks, outcompeting native plants. Without native trees and shrubs along stream banks there is less shade to keep the waters cool and the bank can erode into the water since it no longer has the deeper roots of native plants to hold it in place. Himalyan Blackberry also can prevent wildlife movement or even trap wildlife and domestic species.

Incense Cedar
Calocedrus decurrens


Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Scales
Facts: Incense Cedars can be found along streams, but are more common in drier habitats since they are adapted for droughts and fire. Incense Cedars have thick bark adapted to resist surface fires. In the past, Incense Cedars were used to make pencils since they were easy to sharpen. Indigenous peoples used Incense Cedar leaves for stomach problems, colds, and as a food spice. Bark fibers were used for basketry and twine.

Oregon Plant Guide

Oregon Grape (Tall)
Mahonia aquifolium



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Compound, Alternate, Pinnately Pointed Leaflets
Facts: Oregon Grape is Oregon's state flower. It produces bright yellow flowers and blue berries which are edible. There are a few different species of Oregon Grape that include Tall Oregon Grape, Low Oregon Grape, and Creeping Oregon Grape. Tall Oregon Grape tends to have shinier leaflets than the other two species. Oregon Grape is a food source for pollinators, birds, and humans. The berries can be made into jams or wines. The roots of this shrub are bright yellow and were used for making dyes by Indigenous People.

Oregon Ash
Fraxinus latifolia


Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Compound, Opposite, Leaflets have Smooth Edges
Facts: The Oregon Ash is the only native tree in Oregon with compound leaves. It grows in moist habitats, usually near a waterbody. In the fall, Oregon Ash trees produce seed clusters and the leaves turn yellow. Indiginous peoples used the wood of these trees to make canoe paddles and digging sticks.

Oregon Plant Guide

Oregon White Oak
Quecus alba



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Pinnately Lobed, Rounded Lobes
Facts: Oregon White Oak grows on dry, rocky slopes and in open savannahs. Oregon White Oaks produce acorns that are an important food source for mammals and birds, especially when food is scarce in winter or after a wildfire. Many indigenous peoples also used acorns as a food source, including the Kalapuyans of the Willamette Valley.

Pacific Ninebark
Physocarpus capitatus



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Serrated Lobes, Pointed Leaf Tips
Facts: Pacific Ninebark is found along streams, in wet meadows, coastal marshes and at the edges of moist woods. This shrub can grow up to 12 feet and has shredded-looking bark. Pacific Ninebark produces clusters of white flowers that are pollinated by native bee species.

Oregon Plant Guide

Ponderosa Pine
Pinus ponderosa



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Needles, Attached in Groups of 3
Facts: Ponderosa Pines can be found in moist and dry forests in Oregon, but are more common in dry forests since this tree species is adapted for droughts and fires. Ponderosa Pines have cinnamon colored bark that often looks like jigsaw puzzle pieces. The seeds of its cone provide food for small mammals and birds. Older Ponderosa Pines often have a vanilla scent in the bark cracks from their sap.

Queen Anne's Lace (add hemlock warning)
Daucus carota



Plant Type: Forb, Invasive
Leaves: Compound, Alternate, Lobed, Feathery Leaflets
Facts: Queen Anne's Lace is also known as Wild Carrot. Queen Anne's Lace is invasive because it can outcompete native plants since it is large and fast growing. It can also ruin or diminish crops such as grasses, hay, christmas trees, and carrots. This plant can also be mistaken for **Poison Hemlock**. Queen Anne's Lace has hairy stems and fuzzy undersides of their leaves while Poison Hemlock has a smooth stem with purple blotches and smooth leaves.

Oregon Plant Guide

Red Elderberry
Sambucus racemosa



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Compound, Opposite, Serrated Edges
Facts: Red Elderberry grows in moist sites such as shady or open forests, streambanks, and moist clearings. Red Elderberry shrubs help prevent erosion and can help restore habitat since this shrub can grow in soils with heavy metals. The seeds of red elderberries are considered poisonous, but cooked berries can be made into wines, sauces or jellies.

Red Flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Serrated Edges, Rounded Lobe Tips
Facts: Red Flowering Currant is mostly found in dry, open woods. The red and pink flowers produce nectar for pollinating insects and hummingbirds. The berries produced by this shrub are a food source for small mammals and birds. The berries were also eaten by some indigenous peoples, but they are not considered tasty.

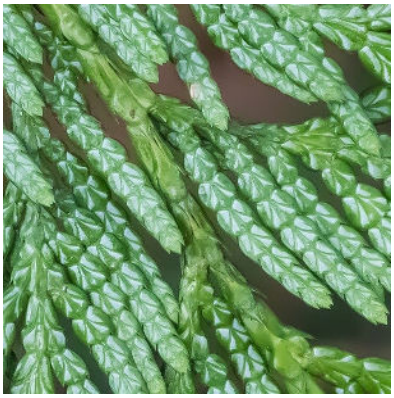
Oregon Plant Guide

Twinberry Honeysuckle
Lonicera involucrata



Plant Type: Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Opposite, Elliptical
Facts: Twinberry is found in moist, open forests, streamsides, and habitat edges. The berries are shiny, black “twin” berries surrounded by purplish-red bracts. Indigenous Peoples used the juice of the berries to paint the faces of dolls and for basketry dye. Twinberry is pollinated mainly by insects and a variety of bird species feed on the berries.

Western Red Cedar
Thuja plicata



Plant Type: Tree, Native
Leaves: Scales
Facts: Western Red Cedars are found in moist habitats such as riparian areas, stream banks, and wet ravines. For many pacific northwest Indigenous Peoples, Western Red Cedar is one of the most important trees. Western Red Cedars were used to build long houses, canoes, totem poles, and much more. The bark was also used to make rope and basketry.

Oregon Plant Guide

Willow (multiple species)
Salix spp.



Plant Type: Tree or Shrub, Native
Leaves: Simple, Alternate, Long and Narrow
Facts: Willows grow in moist soils and can be found in wetter habitats such as stream banks and wet meadow edges. Willows grow quickly and are often planted along stream banks to prevent erosion. Indigenous Peoples used willow bark medicinally to relieve pain. Willow bark contains salicin, which was the original aspirin chemical. Willows are a food source for moose, deer, beaver, and pollinator species.