

Volume 9, Issue 10-2012

October 2012

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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Western yellowjacket p10

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.).



Cornus sericea ssp. *occidentalis* (Creek Dogwood)



On the Cover:

Cornus sericea ssp. stolonifera (Red-Osier Dogwood)



Native throughout northern and western North America from Alaska east to Newfoundland, south to Durango and Nuevo León in the west, and Illinois and Virginia in the east.

Known as red willow, redstem dogwood, redtwig dogwood, red-rood, American dogwood, creek dogwood, and western dogwood.

Enjoys damp soil, such as wetlands.

The branches and twigs are dark red if planted in sufficient sun.

Fall color ranges from bright red to purple. Flowers are small, dull white clusters. Fruit is a small round white berry.

Easily reproduced by cuttings, a low cost solution for large scale plantings.

October in the native garden

Chores that must not be put off until tomorrow



A — Fall planting season encourages a new living hedge, a cutting garden or wildlife habitat.

B — Serious cleanup is the way to spend outdoor time now. Clipping back spent perennials, gathering remnants from bulbs gone dormant, picking up jetsam and flotsam cast off from trees and shrubs. Add these materials to the compost bin for a fine boost in next spring's garden.

C — Continue to water whatever needs it. Here in Oregon's Willamette valley, we've not seen more than a few drops of rain since July. Plants that are drought resistant may need a helping hand.

D — Prepare for sudden evening chills, possibly frost already. Have covers ready for tender plants added to the garden this year. It usually takes a year for these youngsters to fend for themselves. Old sheets, curtains, or appropriately sized cardboard boxes work fine. A personal favorite are cast off gathered skirts or dresses for temporary coverings are excellent.

E — Divide perennials now. Expand the garden by planting new divisions, put some in pots for sharing with friends, create or revamp container gardens for portable beauty. To overwinter containers, corral them in a sheltered area and fill in spaces between and surrounding the group with leaves, straw, or other plentiful material.

F — Plant bulbs now! Natives, of course.



Art glass cattails created by Scott Chambers. See more of his work at www.seekerglass.com/artists/chambers/biography.htm

Mystery plant puzzle



See more views
on next page.

Last month's mystery plant from Dawn remains unnamed. Her description:

"an unusual volunteer plant growing in my water garden in Mason County Washington State. I have never seen anything like this woody shrub with leaves beholding what appears to be a red berry imbedded in the leaf."

Can you help put a name to this plant? Send me an email (star@chillirose.com) with your answers-- botanical names, please.

Correct answers will get your name added to the Official Plant Detectives.

Good luck!

Official Plant Detectives

Jerry Murray
Sabrina Kis
Carol Hiler
Mike Burns
Nancy Whitehead
Pat Opdyke
Luke Kishpaugh
Dave Whitehead
Elaine Sawyer



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.

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Mystery plant puzzle, continued



Wetland mystery plant from Dawn. Can you identify? Send an email with botanical name to star@chillirose.com



Wildlife Corner

Stock up--winter is coming!

It is an incredible phenomenon, how quickly a bag of natural peanuts can disappear when squirrels are packing away food for winter fare. Hardly any time passed after the nuts were distributed before our squirrels returned to us. First a single squirrel ventured forth and sampled a few nuts. Then he scampered off with an excited look on his face only to return shortly thereafter with his compatriots. Let the party begin!

Odd, I had not noticed this behaviour pattern before in squirrels. We recently had a very sudden influx of little black sugar ants. They were quite numerous and typically busy at their task. On following their trail, we found the object of their trek: in an upper cupboard there was a plastic bag of cake flour that had not been closed securely. Each ant climbed into the bag, gathered all they could carry and whirled around promptly to make the return trip to their nest. Such earnest dedication to the neighborhood wellbeing!

Painting by Carl Bender titled
"Acrobat's Meal - Red Squirrel."

Red Squirrel or Douglas Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*) is a pine squirrel, a small tree squirrel found in the Pacific coastal states and provinces of North America.



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Wildlife Corner, continued



Douglas Squirrel on Loop Road in Washington Park at Anacortes, Washington. Photo credit: Walter Siegmund

It is sometimes known as the Chickaree or Pine Squirrel, but since Chickaree is also used for the American Red Squirrel and Pine Squirrel for the genus *Tamiasciurus*, these alternative names are better avoided. The Native Americans of Kings River called it the "Pillilooet", in imitation of its characteristic alarm call. (From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Squirrel)

Douglas_Squirrel

After placing a goodly portion of my borax/sugar mixture in an old salt shaker reserved for this purpose, we watched as the ants collected around this new feast. Leaving them to their own devices, we went about our own projects. The next morning there were no living ants remaining in this area of the kitchen. Quite a few had climbed into the salt shaker though. We left it as it was and monitored throughout the next few days. We saw scouts coming to the cabinet, reconnoitering quickly and then heading back to where they came from to report their findings of "no food to be found" to the rest of their pack.

I think the squirrels were following this same behaviour pattern with the peanuts. I'm calling the scout "Shoeless Joe" from now on.



Western yellowjacket

Late summer hazard

Yellow jackets are wasps with black and yellow or white markings on heavy bodies. Their homes are built either suspended above or below the ground. They are mainly gray and resemble heavy paper or grayboard like the stuff cereal boxes are made from.

In yellowjacket society, there are a great many workers who hunt for insects, carrion or rotting fruit--anything sugary or meat. They take the food back to the nest where nest-based members await. At the center of the colony is the queen who has one job: laying eggs. She starts the nest in spring with a few eggs and raises them to adult workers. Once the workers are fully functional the queen stays in the nest and grows the colony to hundreds or even thousands, each generation going right to work to feed the nest.

By late summer, these active insects are more and more cranky as hot, dry weather becomes the norm. The overly populated nest is so crowded, nobody is in a good mood. It is the time these venomous flyers are most dangerous. They will sting any human or other animal they meet, no provocation necessary. If they cross paths with unwitting victims they will vent their aggression by stinging repeatedly. Unlike honey bees, yellowjackets are fast and furious and inject poison with every sting. (Bees are one-time stingers.)

When autumn comes around, the nests have a fine crop of new queens and consorts. When the first frost comes, most workers and queens leave the summer nest looking for a spot to give protection against the winter cold. They lay over, waiting for spring when they'll begin the cycle of new nesting. It is at this time of year the danger of stings is gone.



Western yellow jacket queen.
Photo credit: Eugene Zelenko

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Western yellowjacket, continued

"There are three points to remember, Penhallegon says. Only new queens survive the winter, these queens almost never reuse the previous year's nest the following spring, and in certain regions, there are professionals who may collect yellow jackets to collect the venom for pharmaceutical use. Your local county office of the OSU Extension Service may be able to refer you to these collectors."



Western yellowjacket

Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University. Bugwood.org

Living in harmony with the western yellowjacket can be tricky and dangerous. Honeybees are, for the most part, non-violent. Not so with the yellowjacket. If their nest site does not interfere with enjoyment of the garden, it is possible to stay out of their way. However, if they have selected a spot where human activity occurs, a more aggressive stand may be decided upon.

Above all else, safety must come first. You may decide to call in a professional who knows how to handle removal of the nest. There are also folks who collect the venom of yellowjackets for pharmaceutical use. Your local extension service can help with contacting them.

If you decide to deal with this dangerous situation, here are a few tips:

Workers are inside the nest at night and are relatively calm, especially if the weather is chilly.

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Western yellowjacket, continued

There are insecticides in aerosole form that squirt up to 20 feet so you can stand at a distance to aim the liquid into the nest opening. There are organic sprays, some using mint oil, which will do the insects in without poisoning the environment.

To somewhat control the 'jackets instead of going for the nest, traps work quite well. Some are glass and quite lovely. Some are plastic and usually bright yellow. Either style is used with an attractant that synthetically replicates hormones or rotten fruit, or a small piece of rotting fruit, fruit juice or meats can also be used. The insects come inside the trap for the bait and can't find their way out. Place the trap in a location to draw the 'jackets away from where people congregate so the insects will be lured out of the vicinity.

Many people are allergic to the venom of 'jackets. This sensitivity may be specific to this insect or you may be sensitive to honeybees as well. A reaction can be life-threatening and should be addressed immediately.

Know thy enemy—a primer on yellow jackets, Author: Carol Savonen, Source: Ross Penhallegon, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/node/467>

Yellow jackets inspire a variety of responses, by Kym Pokorny, The Oregonian, Published: Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 8:00 AM, http://blog.oregonlive.com/kympokorny/2011/08/yellow_jackets_inspire_a_varie.html

Bee or Yellow Jacket Sting from Oregon Health & Science University for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, www.ohsu.edu/xd/health/services/doernbecher/patients-families/health-information/md4kids/symptom-index/bee-or-yellow-jacket-sting.cfm



Western yellowjacket nest hung in the rafters of a garage.
Photo credit: Fritz McCann



Looking for autumn color?

Fall Colors 2012

The U.S. Forest Service has expanded their website for fall colors this year. You can choose the national forest or the state you are interested in and get details about what you can see. There is information about fire danger and/or ways the service is currently using fire to promote healthy regrowth in the area. There are guided hikes and activities, access to recreation passes, even contact information about the forest in which you are interested. Here's the introductory paragraph to this excellent resource:

"Coming soon to a forest and grassland near you. Thank you for visiting the U.S. Forest Service's 2012 Fall Colors Web pages. We have some very useful tools to help plan your adventure to see fall trees and wildflowers this autumn. And there are fun things for the kids to do as well. As the Fall season progresses, check back regularly for new and exciting content!"

Check it out: www.fs.fed.us/fallcolors/2012/index.shtml



Vine Maple
(*Acer circinatum*)
Photo credit:
Corey Lewellen



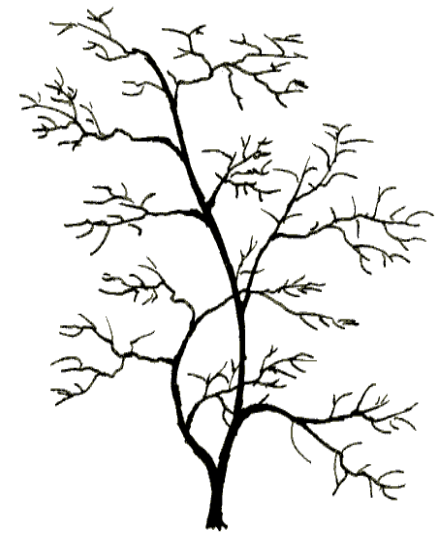
Vine maple photo book

Fall's best native tree captured by camera



If you've taken a ride to the Oregon countryside or foothills in autumn, you have probably noticed the famous vine or small tree commonly called Vine Maple.

Botanically named *Acer circinatum*, this hardy beauty is the smallest northwest native maple.



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Vine maple photo book, continued



To distinguish between Vine Maple and its close relative Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*), count the lobes dividing the leaf margin. If the number is between 3 to 5 instead of 7 to 9 then you have a Douglas Maple.

As well, the Douglas Maple has greenish-yellow flowers and samaras that are oriented in more of a "V" shape.

Vine
Maple



Douglas
Maple



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Vine maple photo book, continued



From the canyon bottoms and talus slopes of the eastern Cascades to the rich forest understory of the western Cascades, from open alluvial terraces to clear-cuts and burn areas, Vine Maple persists in coniferous and hardwood forests from low to middle elevations.

It may be found as far north as southern Alaska and as far south as northern California, and ranges from the eastern Cascades west to the Pacific coast.



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Vine maple photo book, continued



A magical property allows this species to root itself into the earth where branches unite with the forest floor.

In some cases colonies of vine maple grow into thick tangles, causing even the hardiest of cross country travelers to curse its obstacle course of branches.

Trappers referred to the vine as "devil wood."



Metal sculpture by
Walt Mendenhall

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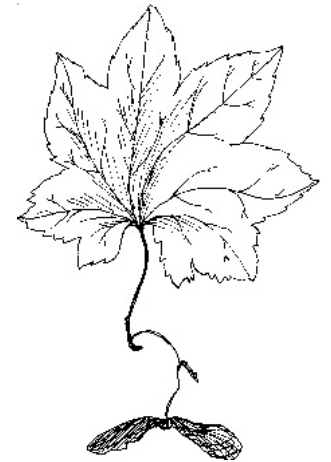
Vine maple photo book, continued



The bark is usually smooth, but is also finely fissured at times.

New growth and branchlets are a soft green while older growth becomes reddish-brown.

Another tip for identification is the species' twigs which characteristically end in two buds.



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Vine maple photo book, continued



In the shade of a dense tree canopy, Vine Maples grow into sinuous bodies of twisting branches that reach toward breaks in the overstory.

Growing until they are too heavy to stand upright any longer, the arcing branches stroke the forest floor then again begin to raise in search of the sun.

In an open setting, the creeping shrub may also become a small tree with a squat trunk that reaches up to 25 feet in height although usually they stop at 10 - 15 feet.

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Vine maple photo book, continued



Their low water requirements makes Vine Maple attractive in xeriscapes. The plant's USDA hardiness zone rating ranges from 7 to 8.

You may plant this species in the shade, but for more spectacular fall colors plant in a more open, sunny locale.

This is one plant that can withstand the extremes of full sun.

Vine Maple likes moist well-drained soil in a pH range of 5.5-7.5, but is adapted to many soil types including clay and sandy loams as well as rocky talus soil.

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Vine maple photo book, continued



Native Americans used this plant to make bows, frames for fishing nets, snowshoes, and cradle frames.

They burned it for firewood, and carved cooking tool, bowls and platters.

They taught the early settlers to boil the bark to make a tea for colds.

It's branches were useful for cradle swings and to make scoop nets to take salmon.

Known by Native tribes as the "basket tree," they crafted beautiful and long-lasting baskets with the long straight stems.

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Vine maple photo book, continued



This native is found in many ecotypes and provides a bounty of edibles for wildlife.

The seeds, buds and flowers are nutriment for song birds, game birds, and mammals.

Deer and elk forage on the leaves and bark; elk continue feeding on the buds and bark in the barren winter.

The simple flowers provide delectable nectar for bees and butterflies.

The leaves are fodder for brown tissue moth and polyphemus moth larvae.

Birds often gather Vine Maple's leaves and stems for nesting materials.

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Vine maple photo book, continued

In landscapes, little seedlings with two leaves can be found around more mature trees. These can be potted and grown up quite easily. As with most young plants, they will need watering, but sparingly during their first summer. After they are planted out, they will only require water rarely when they are established.

Another good way to propagate this variety of maple is by layering. This is done by burying part of a live branch that is still attached to the tree.



In early spring, pick a branch of the parent tree that reaches the ground and has a generous foot or two to spare. Gently bend the branch into a "U" shape (it should crack slightly--if it does not, scrape the bottom side with a knife).

Stake down this branch so that the bottom of the "U" where the crack or nick is and bury that part in 3-6 inches of soil. You can use rooting hormone on the crack if desired. It's not usually necessary. Leave this portion of the branch buried until rooted.

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Vine maple photo book, continued



Photo by Rory Nichols

If started in early spring, you should have good roots by late summer. At that point, the new plant can be severed from the parent and planted out into the landscape. Layering is easy to do and has an excellent chance of success.

Seeds are difficult to grow, but it is possible to get new plants in this fashion. Seeds should be collected in September to October when they are drying out and turning brown. Sow immediately, where you want the new plants or in pots. Again, water them sparingly for the first summer and then only as absolutely necessary.

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Vine maple photo book, continued



Below: Vine Maple flower (Acer circinatum)
Photo credit: Walter Siegmund



I made a little poem once,
About the maple tree,
The vine maple, we call her;
She's very good to see,
Because she flaunts her colors early,
And her clothing is so gay;
She "coquettes" through all the woodland,
In a fascinating way.

She wears a dress of brightest green,
When other trees are dark,
She puts on spring leaves early,
And she draws the singing lark;
She's lightly clad in summer,
But with first hint of fall
She dons her yellows and her reds;
She sets the styles for all.

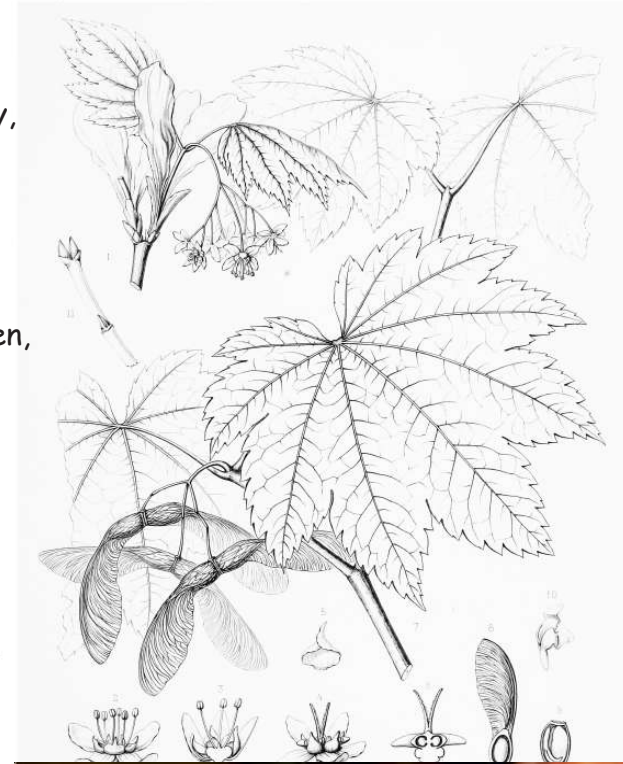
A printer took my poem,
And at first I read with pain,
That he had made a slight mistake
And printed my vine vain;
But as I read it over,
My wrath was quickly spent,
For a coquette she really is,
And "vain" was what I meant.

When you see her in the forest,
You'll agree with me;
She's the flirt of all the woodland,
The vain vine maple tree!

Frances Gill
The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon)

Silva of North America.

Taf. LXXXVIII





John Burroughs

Naturalist inspires gardeners today

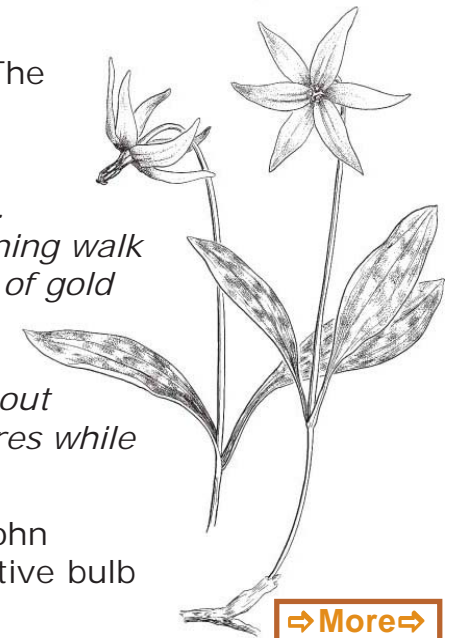
Our northwest native Fawn Lily (*Erythronium Oregonum*) is a lovely little lady who blooms pale yellow in the mid to late spring. Her mottled twin leaves form the exquisite natural vase from which the slender stalk rises and presents her bloom, shyly downcast but gently dancing on easy breezes.

John Burroughs, a beloved American Naturalist, is often credited with naming this species "fawn lily" because he thought the leaves resembled the ears of an alert young fawn. But maybe he thought the mottling of the leaf color reminded him of the fawn's color.

Here's what he wrote about Autumn in his 1921 essay "The Falling Leaves":

The time of the falling leaves has come again. Once more in our morning walk we tread upon carpets of gold and crimson, of brown and bronze, woven by the winds or the rains out of these delicate textures while we slept.

This fall, take a page from John Burrough's diary: plant a native bulb garden.



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John Burroughs, continued

John Burroughs Association

The John Burroughs Association was formed in 1921 shortly after the naturalist-writer died. Among the Association's aims are fostering a love of nature as exemplified by Burroughs's life and work and preserving the places associated with his life. The Association publicly recognizes well written and illustrated nature essay publications with literary awards that are given after the annual meeting on the first Monday of April.

The Association owns and maintains Slab-sides and the adjoining John Burroughs Sanctu-ary near West Park, New York. Open house at Slabsides is held the third Saturday in May and the first Saturday in October. A permanent exhibit about John Burroughs is in the American Museum of Natural History.

*Slabsides, John Burroughs' cabin in West Park, NY.
Photo by Wikipedia user Bikeable, 23-Oct-2005.*



Native bulbous plants

Plant now for spring blooms



Hyacinth
Brodiaea
(Triteleia

hyacinthina) Above, in the wild, photo credit: Walter Siegmund; below, in the garden, photo credit: Stan Shebs

Retail stores right now present displays of bulbs--tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, gladiolias, and iris--bulbs gallore. Back in the 1800's, neighbors shared bulbs when there were too many or a friend was especially taken with a particular flower. But the various species in those long ago gardens did not come from Argentina or Africa or Taiwan. Instead, they were favorites of grandmothers and earlier generations.

Aside from those carried from their homelands, nobody wondered where the bulbs came from: everyone knew they were gifts from the earth, from the land on which they lived. Introductions to these bulbous perennials came from the peoples who lived here before the pioneers and wagon trains arrived. Ways to use them were learned from the original peoples long inhabiting the regions. Sometimes a brave newcomer to the area successfully tried an application common to similar plants 'back home.' Unfortunately, sometimes those trials did not have a happy ending.

Bulbs are strong medicine because the plants are contained in single objects, often smaller than the end of your little finger. The bulbs send down roots but the plant rises directly from the bulb itself.

The difference between a seed and a bulb is basically this (from wiki.answers.com):

"A seed is a plant embryo produced by a plant as a product of sexual reproduction. The seed contains the embryo and food to sustain the new plant until it can produce food from sunlight for itself.

"A bulb is a mature plant structure made up of modified leaves that have swollen at their base in order to store food for the plant while it undergoes a period of dormancy (e.g. an onion)."

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Native bulbous plants, continued

The array of northwest native bulbs is far bigger than one would assume from the availability in most retail establishments. In a sampling of local and chain stores recently, not one single native perennial was found. Hardware stores, drug stores, groceries, even plant nurseries were checked. No natives. A relative few sources were discovered on the internet but at least there were some. Best leads were found by searching for specific plants. These, then, are some of the true bulbous natives of the Pacific northwest.



Native bulbs in stores?
Ask--it can happen!



Allium acuminatum (Hooker's Onion, Taper Tip Onion) Best in dry open sunny location. Blooms April - July.

Allium cernuum (Nodding Onion, Lady's Leek, Nodding Wild Onion) Dry open woodlands and along sandy coastal bluffs, a meadow onion, best with moisture in USDA zones 3-10. Blooms July - August.



Calochortus uniflorus (Cat's Ear, Large-Flowered Star-Tulip, Monterey Mariposa Lily, Short Stemmed Mariposa Lily) Moist meadows, open woodlands, needs spring moisture but loves a dry sunny position in summer with good drainage. Flowering late spring—mid summer.

Camassia leichtlinii ssp. *suksdorfii* (Great Camas, Leichtlin's Camas) Sun or filtered shade, heavy soils, likes moisture in winter and spring with a dry period in summer. Blooms in May right after Camassia Quamash.



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Native bulbous plants, continued



Camassia quamash (Common Camas, Indian Hyacinth)
Well-drained soil high in humus, lightly shaded forest areas or rocky outcrops, open meadows or prairies. Also found growing alongside streams and rivers. Blooms April - May.

Dichelostemma congestum (Field Cluster Lily, Harvest Lily)
Dry grassy areas and low rocky elevations, requires little or no additional water once planted. Wonderful addition to a natural wildflower prairie setting. Flowering spring (late Mar—May).



Flowering spring (late Mar—May).



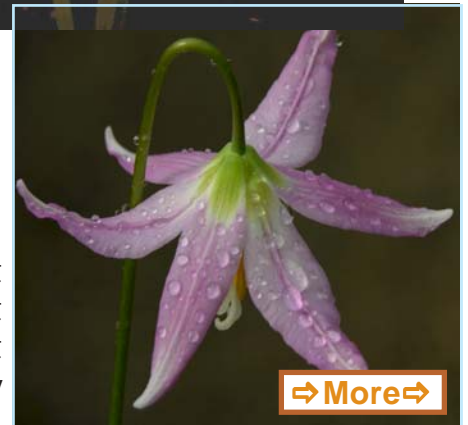
Dodecatheon hendersonii (Shooting Star, Mosquito Bill)
Prefers areas with adequate spring moisture that will dry out in summer, USDA zones 8-9. Flowering winter-early summer.

Erythronium grandiflorum var. *grandiflorum* (Dogtooth Violet, Glacier Lily)
Prefers areas that receive a winter chill and good drainage. blooming as early as March just after the snow melts and as late as August.



Erythronium oreganum (Fawn Lily)
Self-seeds generously as do many wildflowers, they take many years to mature to flowering plants. Likes moisture and well-drained soil. Blooms from March - May.

Erythronium revolutum (Pink Fawn Lily)
Prefers light sandy to loamy soil that is moist but well-drained. Perfect in a light woodland setting of dappled shade. Will not usually survive in full sun. Blooming from April to May



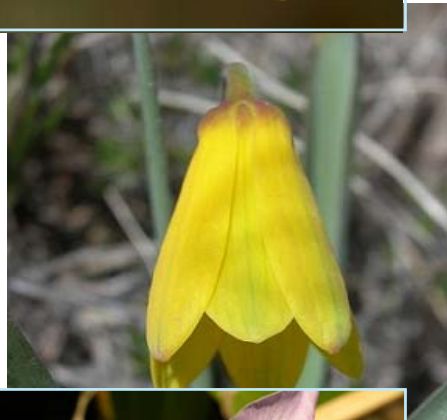
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Native bulbous plants, continued



Fritillaria affinis (Chocolate Lily) A meadow species, favoring a dry, sunny site with excellent drainage. Needs water in the winter and spring, but tolerates drought in summer. Good rock garden plant. Flowering Mar--Jun.

Fritillaria camaschatcensis (Kamchatka Lily, Black Lily, Indian Rice) Photo credit: Donna Dewhurst, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Likes to be close to water--lakes, streams, damp meadows, marshes or bogs, either shady evergreen wetlands to deciduous areas. Must have plentiful moisture. Flowers from May to July



Fritillaria pudica (Yellow Bells) Photo credit: Guana at USDA. Very hardy and draught tolerant although they look very delicate. Happy in grassy meadows or woodlands, a welcome addition to the rock garden. Flowering Mar--Jun.

Iris chrysophylla (Yellow-Leaf Iris, Slender Tubed Iris) Especially appropriate for grassy meadows and open woodlands. Moderate water and sunshine. Flowering Apr--Jun.



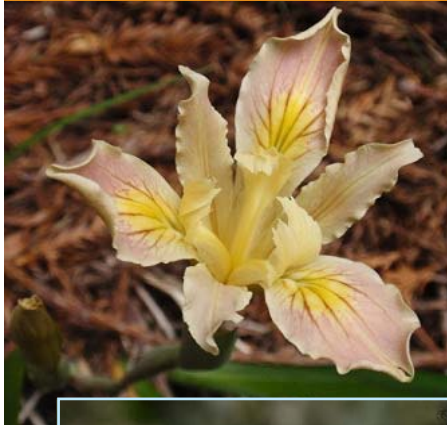
Iris douglasiana (Douglas Iris) Dry, grassy slopes and brush lands, either sun or shade. With little care will spread to form a 2-4' clump. Flowers Apr--Jun.

Iris missouriensis (Western Iris) Likes regular watering and a generous helping of compost in its planting hole. Flowering May--Jul.



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Native bulbous plants, continued



Iris purdyi (Purdy's Iris) Prefers good drainage and part to full sun. Not recommended for colder climates. Best in USDA hardiness zones 8-9. Good choice for the sunny rock garden or the warm grassy meadow. Flowering Apr--Jul.



Iris setosa (Wild Flag) Likes wet areas and does very well in a moist garden. Will spread considerably and benefits greatly from dividing every few years. Flowering Jul--Aug.



Iris tenax (Oregon Iris) Grows in open, sunny sites, and sometimes in dry areas such as meadows, pastures and woodland openings, with an acidic soil. Flowering Jun--Aug



Lilium bolanderi (Bolander's Lily) Grows in rocky serpentine in shrubby areas, conifer forests, at low to mid elevations. Flowering summer (mid Jun--mid Aug).



Lilium columbianum (Tiger Lily) Grows in open woodlands, steep slopes, roadsides and favors rich, well-drained soil. In the garden they do remarkably well, preferring their heads in the sun but their bases in the shade of other plants. Flowering summer (early May--early Aug).



Lilium kelloggii (Kellogg's Lily) Photo credit: Mrs. W.D. Bransford. Prefers dry mountain slopes, wet winters and summer moisture. Grows well in gardens along coastal or valley regions in the general area where it is endemic. Flowering summer (mid Jun--early Aug).

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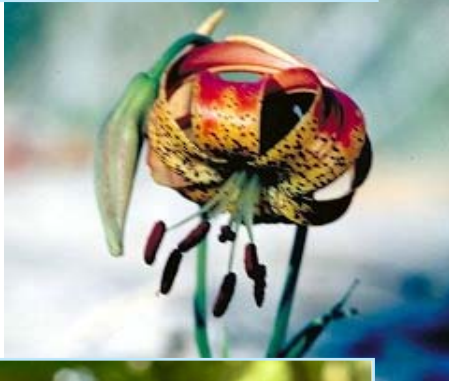
Native bulbous plants, continued



Lilium occidentale (Western Lily) Photo credit: Jennie Sperling. Found in coastal prairie habitats, swamps, stagnant bogs, on bluffs or sandy cliffs and in seaside spruce forested areas. Flowering summer (Jun--Aug).



Lilium pardalinum ssp. *pardalinum* (Leopard Lily) Native to wet meadows and the edges of streams along the coastal regions of the northwest, USDA 5-9. In the garden it needs regular water. (Jun--late Aug)



Lilium pardalinum ssp. *vollmeri* (Vollmer's Lily) Photo credit: Mrs. W.D. Bransford. Grows along streambanks, bogs, hillside springs, streams and other moist places with ferns. Flowering July to mid-August



Lilium pardalinum ssp. *wigginsii* (Wiggins' Lily) Photo credit: Native Orchids. Native to Siskiyou in drainage ditches, edges of streams, bogs, fens and other places where there is sufficient moisture. Likes some sun but will grow in shade. Flowering summer (Jul--Aug).



Lilium parryi (Lemon Lily) Grows best in moist rich soil in partial sun. Flowering summer (late May--early Sep).

Lilium parvum (Sierra Tiger Lily, Ditch Lily) Photo credit: Mrs. W.D. Bransford. Prefers forest regions, mountains and lower elevations of willow thickets, streams, wet meadows particularly where streams flow through conifers. middle of June through August



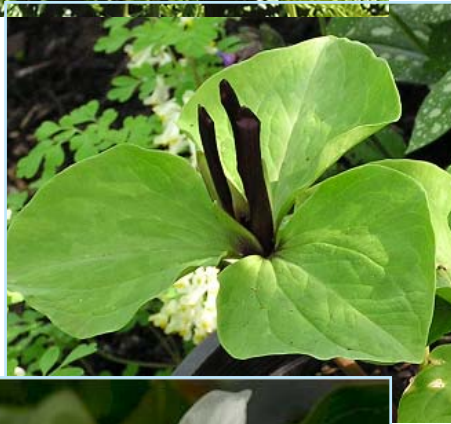
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Native bulbous plants, continued



Lilium washingtonianum (Washington Lily, Shasta Lily)
Photo credit: Russell Holmes. Hardy to USDA zones 8-9,
and happiest in dry well drained sunny situations.
Flowering summer (mid Jun--early Aug).

Lilium washingtonianum ssp. *purpurascens* (Purple-
Flowered Washington Lily, Cascade lily, Mount Hood Lily).
Look for this lily in forest openings, roadsides, chaparral or
burned clearcuts in Oregon and down into California.
Flowers appear from mid June to the middle of August



Trillium kurabayashii (Giant Purple Trillium, Giant
Purple Wakerobin) Rich, moist woodlands, in forests
and in open grassy meadows with scattered oak
trees. Flowers in spring (late Mar--early May).

Trillium ovatum ssp. *ovatum* (Western Trillium,
Pacific Trillium, Western Wakerobin) Found along
Pacific coast and inland in USDA 5-8 at low
elevations, often along streams or seasonal
waterways. It will appreciate shade and rich soil.
Flowering late winter—spring (late Feb—Apr).



Trillium parviflorum (Sessile Trillium, Small-Flowered
Wakerobin) Occurs in understory of hardwoods--usually
Oregon Ash, Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) or Garry Oak. Needs
shade and moist soil. It will even tolerate seasonal flooding.
Flowering spring (late Mar--early May).

Triteleia hyacinthina (Fool's Onion, Hyacinth Brodiaea, White
Brodiaea) Photo credit: Stan Shebs. Found from southern
British Columbia to northern California west of the Cascades,
sometimes grows among grasses or sagebrush, USDA zones 4-
9 in well-drained sunny spot. Flowering spring (Mar--Jun).



Bulbs: Native vs. Exotic

A short comparison

At first look, the companies that sell spring blooming bulbs to be planted in the fall may appear to be offering common fare. In today's gardens we are so accustomed to the hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc., we may have grown to accept--or even expect--them to be in everyone's garden. However, in this genre it is the plants which are alien to our environment here in the Pacific northwest that have overlaid what grows here naturally. An even more complex shade of bulb history comes to light when we consider that many, if not most, of us believe the best bulbs are from Holland. In truth, Holland is not the natural origin of these plants.

Maybe the bulbs in all the Pacific northwest gardens are kind of an addiction. Maybe it's time to form a new habit: plant bulbs native to the Pacific northwest in your northwest garden. Maybe try swapping the flowers below left with those on the right. You know, the really old fashioned flowers from generations ago.



Left--Narcissus, daffodils: Origins of Europe, North Africa and West Asia, the center of distribution is in the western Mediterranean. Photo credit: Mike Robinson at Southeast Cornwall. Right--Fawn Lily (*Erythronium oregonum*) Photo credit: Eric 1961



Left--Tulip: native range extends from southern Europe, Israel, North Africa, Anatolia, and Iran to northwest China. The tulip's centre of diversity is in the Pamir, Hindu Kush, and Tien Shan mountains. Photo credit: Gideon Pisanty at Dor-Habonim Beach, Israel. Right--*Fritillaria gentneri* (Gentner's Fritillary) Photo credit: Tom Kaye, Institute For Applied Ecology



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Bulbs: Native vs. Exotic, continued



Left--Hyacinthus: native to the eastern Mediterranean from south Turkey to northern Israel), north-east Iran, and Turkmenistan. Photo credit: Elena Schifirnet. Right--Triteleia hyacinthina (Hyacinth Brodiaea) Photo credit: Stickpen and Camassia quamash (Common Camas)



Left--Lilies: Most species are native to the temperate northern hemisphere, though their range extends into the northern subtropics. Our example is Liliium Bulbiferum Croceum Bologna Photo credit: Denis Barthel.

Right--Lilium parvum (Sierra Tiger Lily) Photo credit: JohnLoganecker



Left--Amaryllis: native of South Africa, particularly the rocky southwest region near the Cape. For example, this popular exotic is Amaryllis belladonna (Naked Ladies) at California's Lost Coast State Park Photo credit: Stephen Lea Right--Dodecatheon hendersonii (Shooting Star).



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

Getting to know the garden personally lately. My sister (the hyperactive one) came to visit last week and spent hours trimming off brown areas of ferns, rhodies, azaleas and other plants with a pair of scissors--piles of stuff, the compost bin is overflowing.

My job was to verify that each plant she wanted to pull up was unwanted. Nice that she doesn't try to edit my unique taste, though it was a little difficult to convince her not to try trimming the arborvitae with those scissors. The clinching detriment came when I pointed out the large yellow jacket nest prominently placed center front of the hedge.

Funny thing, those scissors. They are Fiskars, made to use in the garden. Ms. happy pants discovered their culinary uses some time ago. She thought our mother should have a pair in her kitchen, the easier to cut up things with her beautiful arthritically gnarled hands. She searched high and low, bought some 'almost as good' scissors and finally found the Fiskars holy grail.

I took this one foggy fall morning. I call it "Just around the corner" because I wonder where the little-used path leads.



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This & That, continued

Shelton Ditch in Salem, Oregon. This was the view from my backyard. Salmon came here each fall on their way to spawn. Photo credit: Katr67



So when sis came to visit this time and geared up for gardening, she stuck those Fiskars in her pocket and covertly slipped outside with them to trim the ferns.

A woman of many facets, my baby sister. She reminds me of Lucille Ball. She says I make her think of Whoopie Goldberg.

A beautiful gift it is to celebrate another person's individuality, an act of love to accept and not judge them by our own lights.

Until next time,

Jennifer

