**Native Plant of the Month**

**Indian-plum**
Also called Osoberry,
*Oemlaria cerasiformis*

- The small fruits with large pits were eaten as a trail snack by native people though they are slightly bitter and astringent.
- The buds, flowers and leaves smell like cucumbers when lightly crushed.
- “Oso” means bear in Spanish. The berries are a favorite food for bears, foxes, coyotes, and deer.
- Birds such as cedar waxwings and robins also quickly devour this berry.
- Indian-plum’s early spring blooms help to feed Anna’s hummingbirds after a long winter.

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**Landscape Value**

Indian-plum is a wonderful shrub for the forest edge and understory with enchanting clusters of white flowers. These soon produce orange berries which turn a deep blue.

There are male and female plants, so be sure to plant both to produce berries, though they both have flowers in spring.

By midsummer this plant blends into obscurity as a light-green foliage plant, eventually turning yellow with leaf drop in early fall.

This plant is very adaptable and is most attractive grown in groups along sunny to partly shady forest edges with vine maple, oceanspray, red flowering currant, evergreen huckleberry, serviceberry, and Oregon grape for year-round interest.

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Text by Heidi Bohan
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