Native Plant of the Month

Landscape Value

This unique Northwest native is not typically planted in landscapes as it has a reputation for uncontrollable spreading by underground rhizomes. However, this growth habit may make salmonberry ideal for situations where a thicket is desirable such as in a back woodland natural area or forest edge.

Salmonberry may be planted in moist to dry, partial to full sun situations. Plant in groups with thimbleberry and vine maple, deer fern, sword fern and salal; and edge with groundcovers of piggyback, bleeding heart, fringecup and false lily of the valley. This plant has excellent wildlife and aesthetic value and is worth fitting into a native wildlife landscape.

Salmonberry

Rubus spectabilis

• Salmonberry is one of the Northwest’s great harbingers of spring, calling home hummingbirds from their southern migrations to feed on the nectar from its spectacular (“spectabilis”) flowers. Wear this color to attract hummingbirds on your walks.
• Salmonberry is named for its seasonal and physical relation to salmon; its berries ripen at the time of the spring salmon runs, and its berries are reminiscent of salmon eggs.
• The yellow to red-colored berries are a favorite of baby robins as their parents carry these colorful feasts to their nest.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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