Native Plant of the Month

Thimbleberry
*Rubus parviflorus*

- The deep red berries of summer are thin-walled with a hollow center, and shaped like a thimble, explaining its common name.
- Thimbleberry will typically form thickets which are prime habitat for wildlife, providing cover, nesting sites, and food for birds and small mammals.
- The berries are edible, though a bit on the seedy and dry side, and good as a trail snack. Be sure to leave plenty for the wildlife who depend on them.
- The leaves are sometimes referred to as “nature wipes” for their softness.

Landscape Value

Thimbleberries are covered with large, white, rose-shaped flowers in spring, and put on a wonderful show when planted as a hedge or at the back of a border. The red berries in summer produce over a long period. The thornless zig-zag stems provide winter interest.

The soft maple-like leaves provide a backdrop of green in a naturalized planting where they can be planted in sunny forest edges or meadow clearings along with Indian plum, vine maple, oceanspray, red flowering currant, and groundcovers such as piggyback, fringecup and Pacific waterleaf.