

Native Plant of the Month



Landscape Value

Pacific Madrone is a stunning tree in a naturalized planting. The beautifully patterned cinnamon-red bark and the form of the trunk are striking in any season. The evergreen leaves, flowers, and fruit add beauty and attract wildlife throughout the year.

It is best to transplant young seedlings in a well-drained site near the sunny south or west-facing edge of a clearing, especially near Douglas fir. This plant "litters" its bark and leaves so allow room for shedding. Plant sturdy understory plants such as salal, snowberry, Oregon grape, coastal strawberry, sword fern, and kinnikinnik.

Pacific Madrone *Arbutus menziesii*

- The Spanish word "madrono" and the Latin word "arbutus" both mean "strawberry tree." This reflects the color, shape, and texture of the madrone fruit.
- This is one of the few native, evergreen broadleaf trees in our forests. The thick, shiny leaves persist through winter.
- The berries, foliage, and flowers are important wildlife food for many birds, bees, and butterfly and moth larva.
- Seattle folklore has it that the Magnolia area was intended to be named for the abundant madrone but was misnamed for the magnolia tree.