History

Starflower Foundation was founded in 1996 by Ann Lennartz with the mission of assisting with the creation, rehabilitation and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities by supporting citizen-driven restoration and education projects that inspire understanding, appreciation and preservation of Pacific Northwest native ecosystems, with humans as an integral part of these ecosystems.

Over its 10-year history, Starflower has worked on 18 urban habitat restoration projects in Seattle, Washington. A core of committed volunteers, with the vision of restoring an area of their neighborhood park or school grounds with Pacific Northwest native plant communities, was at the center of each project. As an operating foundation, Starflower Foundation supported design, implementation, and maintenance services. During all phases of the projects, the foundation pursued a restoration strategy that fast-tracked the successional process and strove for a high level of species diversity. Each project featured a significant educational component.

A list of the projects follows:

- Seattle public parks: Colman, Frink, Genesee, Greg Davis, Madrona Woods, Magnuson, Mee Kwa Mooks, Pritchard Beach, Roxhill and Seward.
- Elementary schools: Dearborn, Dunlap, Hawthorne, Northwest Montessori, Pathfinder, and Sanislo
- Middle schools: Environmental & Adventure School, and Washington Middle School

These Pacific Northwest Native Plant Identification Cards were developed by Starflower Foundation to assist with long-term stewardship of the projects, and to generally promote Pacific Northwest native plant landscapes and stewardship. The species list for these cards comes from our experience with Seattle urban habitat restoration projects where the goal was to create self-sustaining Pacific Northwest native plant communities. Valuable feedback from the stewardship community shaped the size, content and layout of these cards.

The images on these cards focus on seasonal, key field identification characteristics. The card for each species may be downloaded and printed individually from the Washington Native Plant Society’s website at www.wnps.org. The files are intended for color printing, preferably using a laser printer to obtain the highest quality prints. Laminating the prints is recommended for long-term use in the field.

Credits

We thank Heidi Bohan for her excellent work in developing these cards, as well as for her leadership of the project. In addition, our sincere thanks to the following Starflower staff and interns for their contributions: Chris Behrens, Jennifer Boardman, Sandy Fry, Griffith Gilbert, Scott Groce, Sonja Lutgring, Megan MacClellan, Elsie Tonadjaja, Jeremy Valenta, Cynthia Walcker, and Anne Yen. Thanks, also, to Jim Kolb for his guidance and editing.

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Overview
Starflower Foundation Pacific Northwest Native Plant ID Cards include 112 Pacific Northwest species and are designed to provide a quick reference for novice botanists, children to adults, in the field identification of Pacific Northwest native plants common to the Seattle urban area. Images and text describe the key field characteristics, those features particular to a plant species which most clearly identify and distinguish it from other plants. This information has been derived from our own field experience working with children and adults and observing how they view and interpret this information, as well as from well-regarded references and field guides. We have included information about form, size, bark, branching, stems or new growth to help identify Pacific Northwest native plants during different times of the year. This information will be particularly useful for schools that are in session during a time when many plants are dormant, without easily identifiable leaves or flowers. Permission is granted for educational use only, not for sale.

For more detailed information about each species, cards include a reference to a page number from the field guide Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast by Pojar and Mackinnon. As can be seen on the Bigleaf Maple ID cards to the right, the page number reference is found to the left of the species name. The field guide provides comprehensive taxonomical information for each plant species, plus information about the derivation of its name, and its use by Native people.

Starflower Foundation Pacific Northwest Native Plant ID cards are available as PDF files, one for each plant species. Each file contains two identical plant ID cards in color and formatted on a single-sided, letter-size page. The files are intended to be printed in color, cut into two cards, then laminated using 5 mil. clear plastic laminating pouches which will ensure their longevity in the field. They can be assembled by hole punching the upper left corner and binding with metal file rings. Binding in this manner leaves the color coding readily available on the right side for quick reference. The back has been left blank, providing opportunity for users to add information specific to their interests, such as ethnobotany, wildlife use, ecology, or the location of the plant species in their particular project. This information can be added prior to lamination, or by affixing printed labels after lamination.

Included in the cover materials are lists of plants by habitat type. These lists can be used to assemble sets of cards specific to the type of habitat you may be studying. Starflower Foundation Pacific Northwest Native Plant ID card sets may also be made specific to a park or garden using project plant lists.

A blank template is provided so you can create new cards for additional plant species.

Information Provided on Each Card
Images and text throughout the card provide information for field identification of the plant species which usually includes: important leaf characteristics; flower, fruit or seed when it is a conspicuous identifier; and other key field characteristics that are easily identifiable.

- A text box describes the plant type (evergreen or deciduous), form (groundcover, shrub, or tree) and general size (in English scale). The associated image generally shows the plant form as found in a natural landscape.

- Status as a Pacific Northwest native species: PNW Native Plant.
- The page number in the Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast (PPNC) by Pojar and Mackinnon from which you can learn more about this plant.
- The common name (or names) most frequently used for this plant in the Pacific Northwest region.
- The scientific name (in italics) that is most frequently used by regional field guides and nurseries.
- Habitat icons and matching color coded sidebar which represent the major plant communities in which this plant is most commonly found in the Seattle urban area. Some plants may be commonly found in more than one plant community. See page 3 for more detail.

- A horizontal color coded bar in the upper right hand corner which indicates whether the plant is Deciduous or Evergreen.

- A color coded side bar which indicates the plant type using the following definitions:
  Tree: a plant that generally has a single-trunk and matures to 16’ or taller.
  Shrub: a generally multi-stemmed, woody plant that ranges from 3’-16’ tall.
  Groundcover: a low-growing plant that forms a solid cover up to 3’ tall.
  Forb/Grass: an herbaceous annual or perennial.
Habitat Types

Each card has an icon and sidebar indicating the habitat types in which you are most likely to find this plant species within the Seattle urban area. Some plants may be commonly present in more than one habitat type. These very general classifications are intended to help narrow the focus when attempting to identify plants. Cards may be sorted by habitat type into sets for use when visiting these specific habitat areas. The following are general descriptions of these habitats.

‘Forest’ habitats are made up of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Forests range from wetland to dry upland conditions. Plants that thrive in forests are adapted to a range of sunlight and moisture conditions and many live along the edges of the forest in what is called the edge zone. Forests are the dominant plant community in the Pacific Northwest.

‘Wetland & Riparian’ habitats are located near water such as ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. Plants adapted to these habitats are influenced by exposure to seasonal groundwater fluctuations which limit the species of plants that will thrive. Wetland habitats include many unique plant communities including bog, emergent, shrub, and forested.

‘Prairie & Meadow’ habitats are found in openings and clearings and are generally made up of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and groundcovers such as grasses, sedges and forbs. Prairies and meadows can be wet or dry, or more commonly, seasonally wet. Most prairies and meadows in our region eventually become forests unless they are managed by people or disturbed by natural forces such as floods or fire.

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Plant ID Cards Vocabulary

**Armed:** furnished with thorns or prickles  
**Aromatic:** having a smell, usually pleasant  
**Basal:** growing from the base  
**Bell-shaped:** see Flower Drawing  
**Bottlebrush:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Bracts:** see Flower Drawing  
**Bristles:** short stiff hairs  
**Bulb:** a rounded thickened root structure  
**Burr:** a stiff hair that sticks or clings  
**Catkin:** see Flower Drawing  
**Chambered:** a natural cavity  
**Clonal:** vegetative growth from a parent plant  
**Clump:** a compact group  
**Compound:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Cone:** see Flower Drawing  
**Corm:** a rounded thickened root structure  
**Deciduous:** losing foliage once a year  
**Evergreen:** having foliage year-round  
**Fertile:** capable of producing fruit  
**Fissured:** a long narrow crack or opening  
**Frond:** a large leaf with many divisions  
**Groundcover:** low plants that cover the ground  
**Heart-shaped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Herbaceous:** lacking woody tissue  
**Kidney-shaped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Lance-shaped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Leaflet:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Leathery:** feeling strong and thick like leather  
**Lobed:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Mottled:** having colored spots or blotches  
**Nodes:** see Stem Drawing  
**Opposite:** see Stem Drawing  
**Oval:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Paddle-shaped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Panicle:** see Flower Drawing  
**Parallel:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Pear:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Persist:** to remain longer than expected  
**Petals:** see Flower Drawing  
**Prickles:** a sharp point, see Stem drawing  
**Pyramid-shaped:** see Flower Drawing  
**Resinous:** sticky, usually aromatic, plant fluid  
**Rhizomes:** underground growing stems  
**Rigged:** formed into a long elevated line  
**Sawtoothed:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Scale:** a flattened covering, see Flower Drawing  
**Scalloped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Sepals:** see Flower Drawing  
**Shrub:** a woody, multi-stemmed plant, 3-16’ tall  
**Skeletonize:** reduced to the supportive structure  
**Sori:** on ferns, spore producing structures  
**Spike:** see Flower Drawing  
**Spikelets:** see Flower Drawing  
**Spines:** a stiff pointed part of a plant  
**Spoon-shaped:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Sterams:** see Flower Drawing  
**Succulent:** fleshy tissue that holds moisture  
**Thickets:** a dense growth of shrubs or trees  
**Toothed:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Tree:** a woody, usually single-stemmed plant that is over 16’ tall  
**Tubular-shaped:** see Flower Drawing  
**Umbel:** see Flower Drawing  
**Veins:** see Leaf Drawing  
**Vine:** a plant whose stems sprawl and climb  
**Whorls:** see Stem and Leaf Drawings  
**Winged:** see Flower Drawing  
**Woody:** finely hairy and soft  
**Zig-zag:** see Stem Drawing
**Vocabulary Reference**

**Leaf Drawing**

- **Toothed edge**
- **Netted veins**
- **Parallel veins**
- **Saw-tooth edge**
- **Lobed edge**
- **Scalloped edge**

**Compound leaf:** a leaf made up of many smaller leaflets; different from a branch in that no new growth will emerge from the leaf end.

**Leaf Shapes**

- Oval
- Oblong
- Lance
- Heart
- Palmate
- Pear
- Spoon
- Kidney
- Whorl

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**Flower Drawing**

- **Shapes**
- **Cup**
- **Tubular**
- **Pyramid**
- **Arrangement**
- **Umbel**
- **Spikelet**
- **Specialized seed structures**
- **Scales**
- **Stamens**
- **Petals**

**Flower parts**

**Bract:** a modified leaf associated with flowers.

**Alternate:** branches and leaves emerge alternately along the stem.

**Opposite:** branches and leaves emerge opposite along the stem.

**Bottlebrush:** leaves emerge like a bottlebrush along the stem.

**Stem Drawing**

- **Armed with prickles**

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**Compound leaf:** a leaf made up of many smaller leaflets; different from a branch in that no new growth will emerge from the leaf end.
Western Bog Laurel
Kalmia microphylla

Saucer-shaped flowers are rose-pink and grow in clusters.

Slender, evergreen shrub grows to 2’ tall.

Leaves are opposite with a white mid-stripe and edges are rolled under.

Underside of lance-shaped leaf is covered with fine white hairs.

Fruits are woody.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 65

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Labrador Tea
Ledum groenlandicum

Flowers are small, white and numerous in short umbrella-like clusters with protruding stamens.

Leaves are lance-shaped with rolled edges and feel leathery to the touch.

Older leaves have dense rust-colored hairs on the underside.

This evergreen shrub grows 2’ to 5’ tall.
Black Twinberry
*Lonicera involucrata*

Erect deciduous shrub growing 2' to 10' tall in thickets.

Leaves are sometimes hairy beneath and arranged opposite.

Fruits are shiny, black twins with purplish-maroon bracts.

Tubular, yellow flowers occur in pairs, cupped by large green to purplish bracts.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 69

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Each leaf has ten to seventeen leaflets, up to 5” long, arranged in a whorl.

Fruits are hairy pods up to 2” long, which open to eject seeds.

Large-leaved Lupine
Lupinus polyphyllus

This herbaceous perennial shrub can grow to 5’ tall.

Blue to violet flowers grow in clusters on stalks up to 16” long.

Fruits are hairy pods up to 2” long, which open to eject seeds.

Large-leaved Lupine
Lupinus polyphyllus

This herbaceous perennial shrub can grow to 5’ tall.

Blue to violet flowers grow in clusters on stalks up to 16” long.
Swamp Lantern
also called Skunk Cabbage
*Lysichiton americanum*

The smooth, shiny leaves of this plant can grow to a size of 5’ long and 16’’ wide.

Numerous small flowers occur on a stalk, which is hooded by a bright yellow bract.

This herbaceous perennial grows 1’-5’ tall.

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Tall Oregon Grape
*Mahonia aquifolium*

This evergreen shrub can grow 3-10’ tall.

Leaves have five to nine, shiny holly-like leaflets which are arranged opposite along the stem. Leaflets have one central vein.

New growth is copper-red.

Yellow flowers in spring.

Berries in late summer.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 95

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Dull Oregon Grape

*Mahonia nervosa*

This evergreen shrub grows to 1'-2' tall.

Leaves have nine to nineteen toothed leaflets arranged opposite along the stems. The leaflets tend to have three main veins.

Purplish-red leaves in the winter.

The stem and bark are yellow–red.

Yellow flowers are cup-shaped on spikes.

Blue-purple berries in late summer.

Purplish-red leaves in the winter.

Yellow flowers are cup-shaped on spikes.

Blue-purple berries in late summer.

The stem and bark are yellow–red.

Evergreen

Tree

Shrub

Groundcover

Forbs/Grass

Wetland

Riparian

Prairie

Meadow

Forest

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 95

© Starflower Foundation 2006
False Lily of the Valley
Maianthemum dilatatum

This herbaceous perennial groundcover grows 6”-12” tall from rhizomes.

Small white flowers grow on a stalk.

Berries start out light green with brown mottled spots, eventually turning red.

The leaves are broad and heart-shaped with parallel veins.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 103

Berries start out light green with brown mottled spots, eventually turning red.

The leaves are broad and heart-shaped with parallel veins.
Aromatic leaves are coarsely toothed on the upper third, have black wax-glands and grow to 3” long.

Pacific Wax-myrtle
Also called California Wax-myrtle
Myrica californica

Slightly sweet-smelling, evergreen shrub or small tree grows to 20’ tall.

Unusual, red flowers become purple, waxy fruits arranged in clusters along stem.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 81

Evergreen
Tree
Shrub
Ground cover
Forbs/Grass
Prairie
Forest
Meadow
Evergreen
Tree
Shrub
Ground cover
Forbs/Grass
Prairie
Forest
Meadow
PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 81

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Unusual, red flowers become purple, waxy fruits arranged in clusters along stem.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 81

Pacific Wax-myrtle
Also called California Wax-myrtle
Myrica californica

© Starflower Foundation 2006
**Sweet Gale**
*Myrica gale*

Tiny greenish fruits occur in cone-like spikes.

Leaves are coarsely toothed and dotted above and below with bright yellow wax glands.

This sweet-smelling deciduous shrub grows to 5’ tall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 81

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Indian Plum
Oemleria cerasiformis

Fruits mature from orange to deep purple.

Leaf buds in midwinter.

This deciduous shrub grows to 16' tall.

The leaves have a smooth edge and smell like cucumber when crushed.

White hanging flower clusters appear with new leaves in late winter.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 72

Fruits mature from orange to deep purple.

Leaf buds in midwinter.

This deciduous shrub grows to 16' tall.

The leaves have a smooth edge and smell like cucumber when crushed.

White hanging flower clusters appear with new leaves in late winter.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 72

Fruits mature from orange to deep purple.
**Pacific Water-parsley**  
*Oenanthe sarmentosa*

Freely branching herbaceous perennial grows to 40” tall.

Compound leaves look similar to parsley, with several toothed leaflets.

Flowers are white and small, arranged in clusters like an umbrella.

Green-maroon colored fruits are barrel-shaped.

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Devil’s Club
Oplopanax horridus

This deciduous shrub can grow 3’ to 10’ tall.

Maple-shaped leaves can reach 12”. Stems and leaves are armed with sharp spines.

Bright, red berries occur in large, showy clusters.

White flowers occur in pyramid shaped clusters.

Yellow leaves in fall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 82

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Wood Sorrel
*Oxalis oregana*

This evergreen perennial groundcover forms colonies 6”-12” tall.

Flowers can be white to pale pink and may have reddish veins.

The leaves consist of three heart-shaped leaflets that fold back under stress such as heat or rain.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 315

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Penstemon species are deciduous to evergreen perennial groundcover shrubs.

Penstemon flowers are tubular with distinct lips and deep throat. They range in color from pink to deep purple blue. They are often edged with scalloped petals.

Penstemon Species
Also called Beard-tongues
Penstemon spp.

Deciduous
Evergreen

Opposite leaves are generally toothed

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Penstemon Species
Also called Beard-tongues
Penstemon spp.

Deciduous
Evergreen

Opposite leaves are generally toothed
White rounded flower clusters turn into dry seedheads.

Pacific Ninebark
Physocarpus capitatus

A deciduous shrub that can grow to 10’ tall.

Alternate, toothed leaves have three to five deeply veined lobes.

Mature brown-red bark shreds into many layers.

Arching form in winter with dry seedheads.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 73

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Sitka Spruce
*Picea sitchensis*

This evergreen tree grows 200’ tall.

Main branches are horizontal, with drooping branchlets.

Bark is thin, reddish brown, with ‘puzzle-piece’ scales.

**PNW Native Plant**
**PPNC: 37**

Sharp, stiff, blue-silver needles are arranged in a bottlebrush.

Reddish-brown seed cones are 3”-6” long, with thin, wavy, irregularly toothed scales.
New fronds unfold among older leaves.

Leaflets have a thumb where they attach to the stem. Round sori are arranged in two lines on the back of the leaflets, turning brown in fall.

**Sword Fern**
*Polystichum munitum*

This evergreen fern grows in clumps that can reach 5’ tall and 6’ wide.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 421

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Flower catkins turn into capsules which release hairy seeds that float through the air (below).

Leaves are shiny and heart-shaped, with finely toothed edges.

This deciduous tree can grow up to 150’ tall.

Bark is light grayish brown and ridged.

Resinous, scented buds in winter.

Fall color

Black Cottonwood

Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa

PNW Native Plant

PPNC: 46

Deciduous

Tree

Wetland

Riparian

Prairie

Meadow

Forest

Shrub

Ground cover

Forbs/Grass
This deciduous tree can grow up to 75’ tall, and often occurs in clonal stands from underground roots.

Smooth, waxy bark is distinctively whitish to green-gray. Black branch scars appear to look like eyes.

Round, pointed and round-toothed leaves are attached to the stem with a flattened leaf stalk, which allows leaves to tremble in the wind.

Leaves turn yellow in the fall.

**Quaking Aspen**

*Populus tremuloides*

Round, pointed and round-toothed leaves are attached to the stem with a flattened leaf stalk, which allows leaves to tremble in the wind.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 46

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Pacific Silverweed

*Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica*

This herbaceous perennial groundcover grows to 12” tall and spreads by long runners.

Leaves grow in basal clumps and are made up of many smaller toothed leaflets. They are woolly and silver-white underneath.

Yellow flowers are single and carried on a leafless stalk.

Photo by Heidi Bohan

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 186

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Graceful Cinquefoil  
Potentilla gracilis

Five-petaled flowers occur in clusters at the end of stems.
Basal leaves are compound with 7-9 leaflets radiating from a central point, each deeply toothed.
The seed pods are five-sided capsules.

An herbaceous perennial that grows 16" - 42" tall in clumps.
Stem leaves attach directly to the stem and have 3-5 leaflets.

Deciduous

Wetland Riparian  Prairie Meadow  Forest
Forbs/Grass  Ground cover  Shrub  Tree
**Bitter Cherry**
*Prunus emarginata*

- White flowers form clusters of 5-10.
- Leaves are oval and finely toothed. They are usually rounded at the tip and finely hairy.
- Fruits are small (3/8”), bright red cherries.
- Bark is shiny purple to reddish-brown or grey with pronounced horizontal lines.
- This deciduous tree can grow up to 45’ tall, singly or in stands.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 48

Photo by Heidi Bohan

© Starflower Foundation 2006

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PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 48

Photo by Heidi Bohan

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Mature bark is dark brown, rough, and grooved. Young bark is green-brown and smooth.

Needles are arranged like a bottlebrush with brown buds.

This evergreen tree can reach 210’ tall.

Green to reddish-brown cones have bracts that protrude from under scales like a ‘mousetail.’

Douglas Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 32

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Bracken Fern
*Pteridium aquilinum*

Solitary fronds on branched stalks have triangular, hairy blades.

Deciduous leaves turn yellow-rust color in fall.

Fiddleheads emerge from colonies of underground rhizomes.

Herbaceous perennial that can reach 10’.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 420

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Garry Oak
Quercus garryana

Leaves are deeply round-lobed, shiny above and hairy beneath, turning yellow in fall.

Light-grey bark has deep grooves and ridges.

Male and female catkin flowers grow on separate trees.

Acorns change from green to brown before falling to the ground.

This deciduous tree can grow up to 75’ tall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 50

© Starflower Foundation 2006

Male and female catkin flowers grow on separate trees.

Acorns change from green to brown before falling to the ground.

This deciduous tree can grow up to 75’ tall.

Leaves are deeply round-lobed, shiny above and hairy beneath, turning yellow in fall.

Light-grey bark has deep grooves and ridges.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 50

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Western Buttercup
*Ranunculus occidentalis*

Stems and leaves are hairy.

Shiny yellow flowers have 5 petals, though sometimes up to 8.

This herbaceous perennial grows 6”-24” tall and spreads by runners.

Leaves are generally divided into three deeply cut lobes.
Alternate leaves are oblong with deep-grooved veins that look like a washboard.

Mottled silver-grey bark.

Small greenish-yellow flowers grow in clusters.

Cascara
Rhamnus purshiana

This deciduous tree can grow to 33’ tall.

Berries are blue-black to purplish-black.

Leaves turn yellow-orange to rust-red in fall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 90

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Red Flowering Currant  
Ribes sanguineum

Pink-red flowers hang in clusters.

Leaves have five lobes and toothed edges.

Smooth to hairy stems are reddish brown.

Leaves turn color in fall.

Berries have fine hairs, and are blue-black with a white powder.

A deciduous shrub that grows 3'-10' tall.

Berries have fine hairs, and are blue-black with a white powder.
Baldhip Rose
Rosa gymnocarpa

Although young stems may be unarmed, older stems will have numerous straight prickles.

There are 5-9, toothed leaflets on each leaf.

This deciduous shrub grows to 3’-4’ tall.

The rose hips follow 5-petaled pink flowers. The orange–red hips are smooth with no sepals.

Deciduous Tree Shrub Ground cover Forbs/Grass Wetland Riparian Prairie Meadow Forest
Nootka Rose
*Rosa nutkana*

This deciduous shrub can grow up to 15’ tall.

Pink flowers are usually single, not clustered.

Purplish-red rose hips are round to pear-shaped and occur singly. Sepals are clearly present.

Winter stems are orange to red. Thorns occur at nodes along the stem, usually at the base of leaves or branches.

Leaves have five to seven, toothed leaflets.

Photo by Heidi Bohan

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 74

© Starflower Foundation 2006
This deciduous shrub can grow up to 10’ tall.

Leaves have 7 leaflets, and more finely toothed edges than Nootka rose.

Clustered Wild Rose  
*Rosa pisocarpa*

Flowers and rose hips occur in clusters of 4-20 at stem ends.

Hips have sepals present.
Thimbleberry
Rubus parviflorus

This deciduous shrub grows 2’-10’ tall.

The zig-zag stems are thornless.

The soft, hairy leaves resemble a maple leaf and have three to seven lobes.

White flower petals look like crinkled tissue paper.

Cup-shaped fruits are red and look like raspberries.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 77

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Salmonberry
Rubus spectabilis

Leaves are sharply toothed with three leaflets and prominent veins.

Stems are orange-brown and may be armed with prickles.

Pink to red flowers on zig-zag stems. These are followed by yellow to orange-colored fruit.

This deciduous shrub grows in thickets to 8’ tall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 76

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Trailing Blackberry

also called Dewberry

Rubus ursinus

Long, spreading stems are lime-green to grey in color with curved prickles. Leaves are toothed and divided into three leaflets.

Flowers are white to pinkish.

Red-purple berries are 1/2” long and cylindrical.

This evergreen groundcover trails along the ground and into shrubs and small trees.
Leaves are lance-shaped with finely toothed edges and arranged alternately along stem. Young stems are yellow to yellow-brown.

Yellowish, hairy catkins form in spring.

Pacific Willow
Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 88

Mature bark is rough and ridged; new bark is smooth.

Young plants may form thickets.

Deciduous tall shrub or tree up to 36’ tall.

© Starflower Foundation 2006

Young plants may form thickets.
This deciduous tall shrub or multi-stemmed small tree can reach 6’-36’ tall.

Paddle-shaped leaves are alternate, broad and wider above the middle, and velvety beneath, especially when young.

Twigs are densely velvety.

Scouler’s Willow
Salix scouleriana

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 89

Catkins form on last year’s branches and open into hairy stalks 1”-2” long.

Twigs are densely velvety.
Red Elderberry
*Sambucus racemosa*

Leaves have five to seven, sharply-toothed leaflets.

Arching growth habit.

Deciduous shrub to small tree that grows 12'-20' tall.

White flower clusters are shaped like a pyramid.

Flowers are soon followed by clusters of red berries.

© Starflower Foundation 2006
This herbaceous perennial grows in colonies from rhizomes and reaches 8’-10’ tall.

Stiff stems are round and taper from 3/4” diameter to pointed tips, which carry the seedheads.

Hardstem Bulrush
Also called Tule
*Scirpus acutus*

Flowers and seeds occur at the end of stalks in scaly, oval spikelets.

A similar species, called Softstem Bulrush, has softer stems and reddish-brown seed heads.

Scirpus validus

This herbaceous perennial grows in colonies from rhizomes and reaches 8’-10’ tall.

Stiff stems are round and taper from 3/4” diameter to pointed tips, which carry the seedheads.

Hardstem Bulrush
Also called Tule
*Scirpus acutus*

Flowers and seeds occur at the end of stalks in scaly, oval spikelets.

A similar species, called Softstem Bulrush, has softer stems and reddish-brown seed heads.

Scirpus validus
Wool-grass
Scirpus cyperinus (or S. actrocinctus)

A dense, basal clump of narrow leaves surrounds rigid, leafy stalks.

Hairy seeds are in clusters of spikelets at stalk ends.

This herbaceous perennial grows in large clumps 4’-6’ tall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: N/A

Deciduous

Tree Shrub
Ground
Forbs/Grass
Wetland
Riparian
Prairie
Meadow
Forest

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Small-fruited Bulrush
Scirpus microcarpus

Perennial grass-like plant that grows 3'-5' tall in dense stands.

Leaves are 1/2" wide and folded in a v-shape, and grow from the base and along the stalks.

Hard seeds are in clustered spikelets at the end of triangular stalks.

Photo by Heidi Bohan

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 405

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Tiny, white flowers form clusters in umbrella-shaped heads.

Seeds form in umbels.

Upright, branching form with leaves that are divided into 7-15 leaflets that are saw-toothed, and lance-shaped.

This herbaceous perennial can grow 20”- 48” tall.

Water-parsnip
Sium suave

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PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 215
False Solomon’s Seal
Smilacina racemosa

Leaves are smooth, oval and have distinctive parallel veining.

The plant is branchless with a single stalk.

White flower clusters only occur at the end of the stem.

The green to red mottled fruits are round and occur in clusters.

This herbaceous perennial grows 1’-3’ tall.

 rn Native Plant
PPNC: 100

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 100

© Starflower Foundation 2006
This herbaceous perennial grows 6”-12” tall and forms colonies.

The leaves are lance-shaped with parallel veins.

Star-flowered False Solomon’s Seal
Smilacina stellata

There are 5-10 star-shaped flowers produced at the end of unbranched zig-zag stems.

The unusual berries are greenish to blue and striped with purple or blue.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 100

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Photo by Heidi Bohan
Canada Goldenrod
Solidago canadensis

Lance-shaped leaves have saw-toothed edges.

New growth forming colonies from rhizomes.

Dense, pyramid-shaped yellow flower cluster is followed by a fluffy seedhead.

This herbaceous perennial grows 16”-60” tall.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 289

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Deciduous

Tree

Shrub

Ground cover

Forbs/Grass

Wetland

Riparian

Prairie

Meadow

Forest
A deciduous shrub that grows in thickets about 6’ tall.

Reddish-brown stems are highly branched.

Alternate, oval leaves are toothed above the middle.

Spires of pink-purple flowers turn into seedheads that persist.

Douglas Spirea
Also called Hardhack
Spirea douglasii
PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 81

© Starflower Foundation 2006
This herbaceous perennial grows 24”-60” tall from rhizomes.

Tubular flowers are arranged on stem ends.

Leaves are opposite, and heart to egg-shaped with round-toothed edges and have an unusual smell.

The unbranched stem is square. Leaves and stems are hairy but do not have stingers (as does stinging nettle, a similar species).

Cooley’s Hedge Nettle
Stachys cooleyae

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 247

© Starflower Foundation 2006

Nutlets form in dry seed cases.

The unbranched stem is square. Leaves and stems are hairy but do not have stingers (as does stinging nettle, a similar species).
This deciduous shrub grows 24”- 60” tall, and grows in clumps from rhizomes.

Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

Leaves are opposite with edges that may be smooth or lobed.

Tiny (1/4”), bell-shaped flowers are pink to white.

White berries persist through the winter, eventually turning black.

Leaves are opposite with edges that may be smooth or lobed.

White berries persist through the winter, eventually turning black.
Leaf needles are flat, ending in a fine point, and are attached to the stem with a thin stalk.

This evergreen shrubby tree grows to 40’.

The red fruits are a primitive cone with a single seed surrounded by fleshy cup.

Western Yew
Taxus brevifolia

Bark is reddish, scaly and shreddy.

Leaf needles are flat, ending in a fine point, and are attached to the stem with a thin stalk.

This evergreen shrubby tree grows to 40’.

The red fruits are a primitive cone with a single seed surrounded by fleshy cup.

Western Yew
Taxus brevifolia

Bark is reddish, scaly and shreddy.
This herbaceous perennial grows 16”- 40” tall. Plants grow in basal clumps. Leaves are heart-shaped with rounded, hairy lobes. Fringecup Tellima grandifolia

White to pinkish cup-shaped flowers are fringed with 5-10 fine, frilly petals.

This herbaceous perennial grows 16”- 40” tall. Plants grow in basal clumps. Leaves are heart-shaped with rounded, hairy lobes. Fringecup Tellima grandifolia

White to pinkish cup-shaped flowers are fringed with 5-10 fine, frilly petals.
Western Red Cedar
Thuja plicata

This evergreen tree can reach 180’ tall.

Arching boughs spread in a J-shape.

Green to brown cones are 1/2” and oval, with 8-12 scales.

Bark is reddish-gray, and shreds in long strips.

Leaves are flat and scaly, arranged in a braid-like pattern.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 42

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Foamflower
Tiarella trifoliata

This herbaceous perennial grows in colonies 8”-30” tall from rhizomes.

Tiny, delicate white flowers on stalks appear in a ‘foam’ over plants.

Leaves are divided into three leaflets that are toothed and lobed.

The seed capsules open into scoop shapes.

Forbs/Grass
Wetland
Riparian
Prairie
Meadow
Forest

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 168
Flowers are brownish-purple with four petals with long ribbons, and are arranged in a long cluster.

Leaves are heart-shaped with toothed pointed lobes.

Piggyback Plant
Also called Youth-on-Age
Tolmiea menziesii

Piggyback spreads in colonies from rhizomes and leaf buds at the base of leaves which form new daughter plants.
Western Starflower
Trientalis latifolia

This herbaceous perennial grows 4”-8” tall from tiny tubers.

Four to eight pointed, egg-shaped leaves are arranged in whorls on slender stems.

The deciduous leaves persist well into winter.

Star-shaped, pink to white flowers with 5-9 petals on long slender stalks.

Seed capsules are tiny and split into 5 parts when dry.

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Western Trillium
*Trillium ovatum*

**PNW Native Plant**
PPNC: 102

© Starflower Foundation 2006

This herbaceous perennial grows up to 16” tall and occurs singly from a fleshy rhizome.

Triangular, smooth leaves are arranged in whorls of three (sometimes five) and grow to 7” long.

Three-sided seed capsule sits above three sepals, and opens into numerous seeds.

Three-petaled flowers change from white to purple as they age.

Deciduous
Tree
Shrub
Ground Cover
Forbs/Grass
Wetland Riparian
Forest
Prairie
Meadow
Forest

This herbaceous perennial grows up to 16” tall and occurs singly from a fleshy rhizome.

Triangular, smooth leaves are arranged in whorls of three (sometimes five) and grow to 7” long.

Three-sided seed capsule sits above three sepals, and opens into numerous seeds.

Three-petaled flowers change from white to purple as they age.
Western Hemlock
Tsuga heterophylla

This evergreen tree grows 180’ tall.

Brown cones are 3/4” long with open scales. New bud growth occurs in spring.

Brown cones are 3/4” long with open scales. New bud growth occurs in spring.

Western hemlock has a distinctive drooping leader which is visible from a distance.

Needles vary from 1/4”-5/8” long and lay flat along stem.

Feathery, drooping boughs.

Feathery, drooping boughs.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 30

© Starflower Foundation 2006
This herbaceous perennial grows 3-10’ feet tall, from rhizomes, and grows singly or forms dense colonies.

New shoots in spring.

Stinging Nettle
Urtica dioica

Saw-toothed leaves are arranged opposite and are lance to heart-shaped.

Stems and leaves are armed with stingers that cause painful irritation. Flower clusters form at leaf nodes along the stem and turn into seeds.

Fibrous stalks persist through the winter.
Evergreen Huckleberry
Vaccinium ovatum

This evergreen shrub grows 4'-10' tall.

New growth is coppery red.
Mature leaves are leathery, shiny and toothed.

Bell-shaped flowers are pink.

Berries turn deep purple to black and last into winter.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 59

Berries turn deep purple to black and last into winter.

PNW Native Plant
PPNC: 59

Evergreen
Inside-out Flower

*Vancouveria hexandra*

This herbaceous perennial groundcover grows to 16” tall from rhizomes.

White flowers with six petals bent backwards are born in clusters on fine stalks.

Tiny seeds are black.

Each leaf stalk grows from a basal clump and may have nine to fifteen three-lobed heart-shaped leaflets.

Tiny seeds are black.

**PNW Native Plant**

**PPNC: 312**

© Starflower Foundation 2006
Evergreen Violet forms mats of shiny evergreen leaves, and reaches 4-6” tall.

Violet Species
Viola spp.

Violets have heart shaped, toothed leaves, and distinctive flowers with 5 petals and a spur. There are many Pacific Northwest native species.

Yellow Wood Violet is herbaceous, and grows to 12” tall.

Early Blue Violet is herbaceous and reaches 4”-6” tall with purple flowers.

Viola adunca

Viola sempervirens

Viola glabella

Yellow Wood Violet is herbaceous, and grows to 12” tall.

Early Blue Violet is herbaceous and reaches 4”-6” tall with purple flowers.

Viola adunca

Viola sempervirens

‘Spur’

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