These species pages has been valuable and loved for over a decade by WNPS members and the PNW plant community. Untouched since 2007, these pages have been archived for your reference. They contain valuable identifiable traits, landscaping information, and ethnobotanical uses. Species names and data will not be updated. To view updated taxonomical information, visit the UW Burke Herbarium Image Collection website at http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php. For other useful plant information, visit the Native Plants Directory at www.wnps.org.

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About Ann Lennartz


Resources developed by Starflower Foundation included an array of educational materials, plant ID cards, project case studies, and this image herbarium. All resources contain Western Washington native plant information and images for use in education, restoration and landscaping projects. As mutually agreed upon with Starflower Foundation, Washington Native Plant Society has made Starflower's learning and education materials available on our website.
**Acer circinatum**

**Vine Maple**

At a Glance: Tall, erect, multi-trunked shrub or small tree with sprawling branches.

- **Height:** 13-26 feet (4-8 meters)
- **Growth Form:** Tree or shrub.
- **Stems:** Bark is initially smooth and bright green, eventually turning brown with age.
- **Leaves:** Leaves are palmate (arranged like fingers on the palm of a hand) with seven to nine lobes; leaf surfaces are hairy on upper and lower sides and along veins; margins are toothed. Size: 5-12 cm (2-5 in) across. Leaves are green in spring; in early fall they turn orange-red or red in full sun or golden in the shade. Additionally, leaves are oppositely arranged on branches.
- **Flowers:** Flowers grow in small loose clusters at the end of shoots. Flower sepals are purple and red, hairy and spreading; petals are creamy white with purple/red highlights. Flower size: 6-9 mm across.
- **Flowering Period:** May, June.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a two-seeded winged fruit called a samara. The wings of the samara point away from each other on the same horizontal plane. Size: 2-4 cm (0.8-2 in) long; color: fruits are initially green then later turn a reddish-brown.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
Shade tolerant and commonly found in understories.

- ✔️ partial sun and shade 40%-60%
- ✔️ mostly shady 60%-80%

**Elevation Range**
Found at elevations below 760 meters.

- ✔️ low elevation
- ✔️ mid elevation

**Habitat Preferences**
- ✔️ Shorelines and Riparian:
  - ✔️ Stream or river banks
  - ✔️ Riparian corridors
- ✔️ Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
  - ✔️ Coastal bluffs
- ✔️ Forests and Thickets:
  - ✔️ Open forests
  - ✔️ Forest edges, openings, or clearings
- ✔️ Disturbed Areas:
  - ✔️ Logged sites
  - ✔️ Disturbed sites
**Acer circinatum, continued**

**Hydrology**
Favors well drained moist to wet soils.

- ✓ wet
- ✓ moist

Wetland Indicator Status:
FACU (facultative upland)

**Soil Preferences**
Preferences well drained, nitrogen-rich soils.
- ✓ well drained soils
- ✓ nutrient rich soils

**Wildlife Value**
- ✓ Seeds
- ✓ Host for insect larvae
- ✓ Thickets and shelter

Birds: Birds that eat the seeds include grosbeaks, woodpeckers, nuthatches, finches, quail, and grouse.
Insects: A larvae plant for the brown tissue moth and the Polyphemus moth. A good nectar source for bees.
Mammals: Deer, mountain beavers, and other beavers eat the twigs and wood.

**Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts**
Material Uses: Vine maple wood is very dense and hard. It was used by northwest native groups to build snowshoe frames, drum hoops, and a variety of other small implements such as spoons and dishes. The Quinault peoples used the hard wood to make baskets. The Quinault, Chehalis, Quileute, and Lummi used the wood to construct dipnet fish traps. The Quinault also used the wood to hold down the roof planks on houses. The Skagit used the wood to make babies cradles and salmon tongs. Many groups used the wood for fire fuel. The Quinault used the burnt charcoal and mixed it with oil to make black paint. The Suquamish and Cowichan used the wood to make knitting needles. The Suquamish and Katzie also sometimes used the wood to make bows from the straighter branches.
Amelanchier alnifolia

Serviceberry, Saskatoon

At a Glance: Medium-sized shrub producing fragrant white flowers in late spring.

- Height: Up to 15 feet (4.5 meters).
- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Stems: Stems are smooth and slender, often with leaning trunks. Bark is dark gray to reddish.
- Leaves: Leaves are alternate, round to oval in shape, green. The top half of the leaf is toothed.
- Flowers: Clusters of large white flowers range from drooping to erect. Each flower has 5 petals with 15 to 20 stamens each; size: 1-2.5 cm across.
- Flowering Period: April, May.
- Fruits: The berry-like fruits are called pomes. Fruits start to form soon after flowers fade. Color: initially dull-red, turning dark purple/black with a white bloom.

Soil Preferences
✓ well drained soils

Habitat Preferences
Saltwater Areas:
✓ Seashores
Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
✓ Coastal bluffs
✓ Cliffs
✓ Rocky slopes
Forests and Thickets:
✓ Open forests
✓ Forest edges, openings, or clearings
✓ Thickets
Meadows and Fields:
✓ Meadows or grassy areas
Disturbed Areas:
✓ Roadsides
Amelanchier alnifolia, continued

Sun/Shade Tolerance
- ☑ full sun > 80%
- ☑ mostly sunny 60%-80%
- ☑ partial sun and shade 40%-60%

Hydrology
- ☑ moist
- ☑ dry

Elevation Range
- ☑ low elevation
- ☑ mid elevation

Wildlife Value
- ☑ Nectar for hummingbirds

Birds: The serviceberries are eaten by woodpeckers, crows, chickadees, thrushes, towhees, bluebirds, waxwings, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, goldfinches, juncos, grouse, and pheasants.
Insects: The nectar is used by spring azure butterflies. The foliage is eaten by swallowtail and other butterfly larvae.
Mammals: Mammals that eat the berries include chipmunks, marmots, skunks, foxes, ground squirrels, raccoons, and bear. Deer and elk browse the leaves and twigs.

Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts
Food Uses: The blue-purple berries are edible and sweet.
Landscape Uses: Nice fall foliage.
**Betula glandulosa**

**Bog Birch**

At a Glance: Spreading, small-branched perennial shrub of bogs and wet areas.

- **Height:** Up to 10 feet (3 meters) tall; usually shorter.
- **Growth Form:** Shrub.
- **Stems:** Bark becomes reddish-brown when mature; young branches have numerous round sticky glands.
- **Leaves:** Alternately arranged. Each round to oval leaf is blunt-tip ped with single-toothed margins; the green surfaces are shiny with a somewhat leathery texture and heavy venation. Size: 1-4 cm (.4-1.5 in) long.
- **Flowers:** Female catkins are drooping and much large than male catkins; size: female catkins are 1-2.5 cm long by 3-5 mm thick; male catkins are smaller and inconspicuous, with a narrow cylindrical shape.
- **Flowering Period:** April.
- **Fruits:** Small winged fruits with broad enclosed nutlet, contained in mature female catkins.

**Soil Preferences**
- □ Peaty soils

**Habitat Preferences**

**Aquatic and Wetland:**
- □ Forested wetlands

**Shorelines and Riparian:**
- □ Lake shores
- □ Bog margins
- □ Stream or river banks

**Elevation Range**
- □ Low elevation
- □ Mid elevation

**Hydrology**
- □ Wet

Wetland Indicator Status: OBL (obligate wetland)
Cornus stolonifera

Red-osier Dogwood

At a Glance: Spreading, thicket-forming shrub with bright red stems.

- Height: Up to 20 feet (6 meters).
- Growth Form: Shrub.
  Stems: Bright red, smooth stems; opposite branches; branches can root freely.
- Leaves: Opposite arrangement; oval, sharp-pointed with 5-7 prominent parallel veins that converge at leaf tips; filmy white threads running through veins; leaves can become reddish in autumn; size: 5-10 cm (2-4 in) long.
- Flowers: The tiny flowers have 4 petals and 4 stamens; numerous in dense, flat-topped terminal clusters; primary color: white to greenish; size: 2-4 mm long.
- Flowering Period: April, May, June.
- Fruits: Berry-like drupes ranging from pale bluish-green to white in color, each with some flattened stones; bitter and inedible; size: 7-9 mm long.
- Landscape Uses: Prized for the red winter twig color.

Soil Preferences
Prefers seasonally inundated soils.
✓ nutrient rich soils

Wildlife Value
✓ Berries
✓ Nectar for butterflies
✓ Host for insect larvae
✓ Thickets and shelter

Birds: The berries are eaten by birds such as vireos, warblers, kingbirds, robins, flickers, flycatchers, wood ducks, grouse, band-tailed pigeons, and quail.

Insects: The nectar is used by orange sulphur and other adult butterflies. The leaves are used by spring azure and other butterfly larvae.

Mammals: The berries are eaten by mammals such as bears, foxes, skunks, and chipmunks. The wood is browsed by deer, elk, and rabbits. Beavers and muskrats use twigs to repair dams or build new dams.

Habitat Preferences
Aquatic and Wetland:
✓ Seasonally inundated areas
✓ Marshes or swamps
✓ Scrub-shrub wetlands
✓ Bogs, fens

Shorelines and Riparian:
✓ Lake shores
✓ Bog margins
✓ Stream or river banks
✓ Riparian corridors

Forests and Thickets:
✓ Forest edges, openings, or clearings
✓ Thickets

Disturbed Areas:
✓ Disturbed sites
**Cornus stolonifera, continued**

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
- wet
- moist

Wetland Indicator Status:
FACW (facultative wetland)

**Elevation Range**
- low elevation
- mid elevation
Corylus cornuta

Beaked Hazelnut

At a Glance: Slender, multi-trunked deciduous shrub.

- Height: 3 feet - 13 feet (1 meter - 4 meters).
- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Stems: Numerous stems that are densely clumped, 3mm in diameter, stem bark is gray-brown and hairy when young.
- Leaves: Alternate, oblong to ovate, slightly asymmetrical, with double toothed margins, green with paler lower surface that is soft and hairy, turn yellow in fall; size: 4-10 cm (1.5-4 in) long.
- Flowers: Monoecious shrub, male catkins emerge before leaves in the spring, female catkins are much smaller with protruding red stigmas, male catkins hang freely while female are attached directly to branches; size: male catkins 4-7cm (1.5-2.75 in) long, female; shape: cylindrical.
- Flowering Period: February, March.
- Fruits: Fruits are hard-shelled nuts enclosed in a tubular husk, husks are arranged in clusters of 2-3 at the end of branches, husks are covered with stiff prickly hairs, 1-2 seeds per catkin; shape: vase-shaped; size: 2-3 cm (.8-1.18 in); color: green husk.
- Food Uses: The large nuts are edible and closely resemble commercial hazelnuts.

Soil Preferences
Prefers calcium and nitrogen rich soils.
✓gravelly soils
✓muddy soils
✓well drained soils
✓nutrient rich soils

Wildlife Value
✓Seeds
✓Thickets and shelter

Habitat Preferences
Aquatic and Wetland:
✓Forested wetlands

Shorelines and Riparian:
✓Stream or river banks
✓Riparian corridors

Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
✓Rocky slopes

Forests and Thickets:
✓Open forests
✓Deciduous forests
✓Mixed forests
✓Forest edges, openings, or clearings
✓Thickets

Meadows and Fields:
✓Meadows or grassy areas

Birds: The nuts are often eaten by Stellars Jays, even before they are ripe. The dense, sprawling structure of the Hazelnut provide good habitat for low-nesting birds.

Mammals: The nuts are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and red foxes. Rabbits and beavers eat the wood.
Corylus cornuta, continued

Sun/Shade Tolerance
Prefers shade.

✓ partial sun and shade 40%-60%
✓ mostly shady 60%-80%

Hydrology
Prefers well-drained sites, can occur in dry soils.

✓ moist
Wetland Indicator Status:
UPL (obligate upland)

Elevation Range
Below 2100 meters.

✓ low elevation
✓ mid elevation
Crataegus douglasii

black hawthorn

At a Glance: large shrub or small tree with clusters of white flowers and dark purplish-black berries.

- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Stems: Stems have large thorns (3 cm long); bark is grey, rough and scaly, often mottled with patches of lichen.
- Leaves: Alternating arrangement. Leaves are quite thick and leathery; dark green above and paler green below; the top end of leaves has 5-9 lobes; saw-toothed margins; shape: oval; size: 3-6 cm (1.2-2.5 in) long.
- Flowers: Stinky odor; 5 petals, 5 styles, 10-20 stamens; flowers are in clusters borne terminally or in leaf axis; primary color: white; size: 1 cm across.
- Flowering Period: April, May.
- Fruits: Berries containing large seeds and greenish pulp; persist through winter; fruits hang in cluster; shape: round; size: 1 cm long; color: blackish-purple.

Hydrology
☑ moist

Elevation Range
☑ low elevation
☑ mid elevation

Wildlife Value
☑ Berries
☑ Host for insect larvae

Birds: Bird species that eat the berries include solitaires, robins, waxwings, grosbeaks, thrushes, woodpeckers, band-tailed pigeons, wood ducks, grouse, pheasants, and turkeys.
Insects: The leaves provide food for swallowtail butterfly larvae.
Mammals: Mammals that eat the berries include black bears, coyotes, and foxes. Rabbits and deer browse the twigs. The black hawthorn is resistant to beaver damage.

Habitat Preferences
Aquatic and Wetland:
☑ Shorelines and Riparian:
☑ Stream or river banks
☑ Riparian corridors
Saltwater Areas:
☑ Seashores
Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
☑ Coastal bluffs
Forests and Thickets:
☑ Forest edges, openings
☑ Thickets
Disturbed Areas:
☑ Roadsides
**Holodiscus discolor**

**Oceanspray**

At a Glance: Multi-stemmed upright shrub with ridged young stems and arching older stems with peeling bark. White flowers.

- **Height:** Up to 13 feet (4 meters).
- **Growth Form:** Shrub.
- **Stems:** Several main stems; young stems are ridged, older stems are brownish with peeling bark.
- **Leaves:** Alternating arrangement; leaves are dull green and hairy, broadly egg-shaped, lobed or coarsely toothed; leaves can have reddish hue in autumn; size: 3-6 cm (1-2.5 in) long.
- **Flowers:** Flowers are in dense terminal pyramidal cluster, 10-17 cm long; 5 white petals, 20 stamens, mostly 5 pistils, ovary is two-ovuled; flower clusters turn brown and remain on plants over winter; primary color: white to cream; size: 5 mm across.
- **Flowering Period:** May, June.
- **Fruits:** Hairy achenes; size: 2 mm long; color: light brown.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**

Prefers open, sunny habitats.

☑ mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**

Common in dry and moist habitats.

☑ moist
☑ dry

**Elevation Range**

☑ low elevation
☑ mid elevation

**Soil Preferences**

Prefers well-drained rocky soils.

☑ gravelly soils
☑ well drained soils
Holodiscus discolor, continued

Habitat Preferences

Aquatic and Wetland:
- Swales or wet ditches
- Marshes or swamps
- Bogs, fens

Shorelines and Riparian:
- Bog margins

Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
- Coastal bluffs
- Rocky slopes

Forests and Thickets:
- Open forests
- Forest edges, openings, or clearings
- Thickets

Meadows and Fields:
- Logged sites
- Disturbed sites

Wildlife Value

- Nectar for hummingbirds
- Thickets and shelter

Birds: During winter months, insect-eating birds such as chickadees and bushtits forage for insects in the shrub. The seeds persist through the winter. Dense branches provide songbirds with shelter and cover.

Insects: Swallowtail, brown elfin, Lorquins admiral, and spring azure butterflies browse on the foliage. The nectar may be harvested by mature swallowtail butterflies. Many species of insects live in the dense structure of oceanspray.

Mammals: Deer and elk browse the foliage.

Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts

- Material Uses: The wood of oceanspray is hard and durable. It was used to make digging sticks, spears, harpoon shafts, bows, and arrows by nearly all coastal groups including the Salish, Halqemeylem, Squamish, Sechelt, and Kwakwakawakw. The Saanich and Cowichan used the wood to make salmon-barbequing sticks, inner bark scrapers, halibut hooks, cattail mat needles, and more recently knitting needles. Oceanspray pegs were used in construction before the use of nails. The Nlakapamux made armor plating from the hard oceanspray wood. The Squaxin used the wood to make canoe paddles.
- Medicinal Uses: The Saanich and Stlatlimx boiled the fruiting clusters of the oceanspray to make an infusion that was drank to cure diarrhea, measles, chickenpox. This infusion was also used as a blood tonic. The Lummi applied the leaves to sore lips and feet.
- Landscape Uses: Nice background plant.
**Kalmia microphylla ssp. occidentalis**

**Bog Laurel**

At a Glance: Small, slender-branched shrub with dark green waxy leaves and clusters of bright pink flowers.

- Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meter).
- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Leaves: Opposite arrangement; margins rolled underneath; dark-green, leathery above, conspicuously whitish and fine-hairy beneath; shape: narrowly lance-shaped; size: 4 cm (1.5 in) long.
- Flowers: Several in loose, terminal clusters; 10 stamens, the tip of each tucked into a small pouch in a petal, and held under tension like a bow; the stamens pop out when stimulated by touch; primary color: pink to rose; size: 2 cm (.8 in) across; shape: saucer-shaped.
- Flowering Period: May, June.
- Fruits: Five-valved capsules.

**Soil Preferences**

- Peaty soils

**Habitat Preferences**

Aquatic and Wetland:
- Swales or wet ditches
- Marshes or swamps
- Bogs, fens

Shorelines and Riparian:
- Bog margins

Forests and Thickets:
- Open forests
- Forest edges, openings, or clearings

Meadows and Fields:
- Meadows or grassy areas

**Wildlife Value**

Birds: Structure provides cover and nesting for various bird species.
Kalmia microphylla ssp. occidentalis, continued

Sun/Shade Tolerance
- ☑ full sun > 80%
- ☑ mostly sunny 60%-80%
- ☑ partial sun and shade 40%- 60%

Hydrology
- ☑ wet

Elevation Range
- ☑ low elevation
- ☑ mid elevation

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW (facultative wetland)

Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts

Medicinal Uses: The Tlingit used an infusion of the bog laurel to treat skin ailments. The Kwakwakawaku boiled the leaves to make an extract that was drunk to treat spitting blood or used to wash open sores which would not heal.

Name Info: This plant is called bog laurel because its leaves resemble bay/laurel leaves. The Latin name Kalmia is named for Pete Kalm, and 18th century student of Linnaeus. The Latin name microphylla directly means small-leaved.
**Ledum groenlandicum**

**Labrador Tea**

*At a Glance:* Evergreen, branching shrub with rusty-hairy leaf undersides and white flowers.

- **Height:** Up to 5 feet (1.5 meters).
- **Growth Form:** Shrub.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, narrow, often drooping; margins rolled under; leathery, deep-green above, with dense, rusty hairs beneath (hairs on young leaves may not be rusty); size: 6 cm (2.5 in) long.
- **Flowers:** White, with protruding stamens, small; numerous, in short umbrella-like clusters; shape: saucer.
- **Flowering Period:** May, June, July.
- **Fruits:** Drooping cluster of 5 part, dry, hairy capsules; color: grey-green.

**Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts**

**Medicinal Uses:** The tea is said to be relaxing and can cause drowsiness.

**Food Uses:** Leaves, fresh or dried, can be used to make a sweet smelling tea that may have medicinal purposes.

**Interesting Facts:** The tea can be a strong diuretic or cathartic if taken in excess.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**

- Mostly sunny 60%-80%
- Partial sun and shade 40%-60%

**Hydrology**

- Wet
- Moist

**Wetland Indicator Status:**

OBL (obligate wetland)

**Elevation Range**

- Low elevation
- Mid elevation

**Habitat Preferences**

**Aquatic and Wetland:**

- Marshes or swamps
- Scrub-shrub wetlands
- Forested wetlands
- Bogs, fens

**Shorelines and Riparian:**

- Bog margins
- Bottomlands

**Soil Preferences**

- Muddy soils
- Nutrient poor soils
Lonicera involucrata

Twinberry

At a Glance: Tall shrub with opposite leaves and pairs of small yellow flowers in leaf axils.

- Height: Up to 10 feet (3 meters tall).
- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Stems: Slender brown stems with pithy centers and thin shredding bark.
- Leaves: Opposite; leaf blades elliptic to lanceolate in shape with pointed tips, green.
- Flowers: Tubular, yellow; in pairs with a greenish to maroon papery bract at base of each pair.
- Flowering Period: April, May, June, July.
- Fruits: Dark reddish-black berries in pairs surrounded by maroon bracts. Berries are not considered edible.

Sun/Shade Tolerance
- mostly sunny 60%-80%
- partial sun and shade 40%-60%

Hydrology
- wet
- moist

Elevation Range
- low elevation
- mid elevation

Habitat Preferences

Aquatic and Wetland:
- Seasonally inundated areas
- Marshes or swamps
- Emergent wetlands
- Scrub-shrub wetlands
- Forested wetlands

Shorelines and Riparian:
- Lake shores
- Stream or river banks

Wildlife Value
- Berries
- Nectar for hummingbirds

Birds: Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds. Berries are eaten by various birds.
References

*Acer circinatum* Suggested References


*Amelanchier alnifolia* Suggested References


*Betula glandulosa* Suggested References


*Cornus stolonifera* Suggested References


*Corylus cornuta* Suggested References


*Crataegus douglasii* Suggested References

Holodiscus discolor Suggested References


Kalmia microphylla Suggested References


Ledum groenlandicum Suggested References