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 Untouched since 2007, these pages have been archived for your reference.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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# Contents

About Ann Lennartz .......................................................................................................................... 2

**Acer macrophyllum** ..................................................................................................................... 4
  Big-leaf Maple ............................................................................................................................. 4

**Alnus rubra** ................................................................................................................................ 6
  Red Alder ..................................................................................................................................... 6

**Arbutus menziesii** ....................................................................................................................... 7
  Madrone ....................................................................................................................................... 7

**Betula papyrifera** ....................................................................................................................... 8
  Paper Birch ................................................................................................................................. 8

**Cornus nuttallii** ........................................................................................................................ 9
  Western Flowering Dogwood ..................................................................................................... 9

**Fraxinus latifolia** ....................................................................................................................... 10
  Oregon Ash ................................................................................................................................. 10

**Malus fusca** ............................................................................................................................... 12
  Pacific Crabapple ....................................................................................................................... 12

**Populus balsamifera** ................................................................................................................ 13
  Black Cottonwood ..................................................................................................................... 13

**Populus tremuloides** ................................................................................................................ 14
  Quaking Aspen ........................................................................................................................... 14

**Prunus emarginata** .................................................................................................................... 15
  Bitter Cherry .............................................................................................................................. 15

**Quercus garryana** ..................................................................................................................... 16
  Garry Oak .................................................................................................................................. 16

**Rhamnus purshiana** ................................................................................................................... 17
  Cascara ..................................................................................................................................... 17

**Salix lucida** ............................................................................................................................... 19
  Pacific Willow ............................................................................................................................ 19

References ....................................................................................................................................... 20
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 macrophyllum**

**Big-leaf Maple**

At a Glance: A tree with a large, often multi-stemmed trunk and a loose, broad crown of large leaves.

- Height: 65-100 feet (20-30 meters) tall with trunk 3-5 feet (1-1.5 meters)diameter.
- Growth Form: Tree.
- Stems: Bark is initially green, later becoming grey-brown and narrowly furrowed with age. Old bark is often covered with thick mats of mosses, lichens and ferns.
- Leaves: Leaves are palmate shaped with five lobes, 10-30 cm (4-12 in) across, oppositely arranged on the branch. In the spring and summer leaves are dark green above and pale green below, then turning dull yellow in autumn.
- Flowers: Ten to fifty flowers hang in loose clusters 5 cm (2 in) long that either appear with leaves or right before the emergence of leaves. Each flower is pale yellow, about 3 mm across.
- Flowering Period: April.
- Fruits: Typical maple-keys with two wings that spread out in a V-shape, called a samara. Size: 3-6 cm (1-2 in) long, 1-2 cm (.4-.8 in) across. Color: brown.

**Wildlife Value**

- ✔️Seeds
- ✔️Host for insect larvae
- ✔️Thickets and shelter

Birds: The rotting limbs provide a food source for insect-eating birds such as grouse, grosbeaks, kinglets, siskins, vireos, warblers, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, nuthatches, song sparrows, finches, and quail. Fallen limbs of Acer macrophyllum provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds.

Insects: Acer macrophyllum is a good nectar source for swallowtail butterfly larvae and bees. Fallen limbs of Acer macrophyllum are quick to rot thereby attracting numerous insects.

Mammals: Deer, muskrats, and beaver eat the wood and twigs.

**Habitat Preferences**

- ✔️Rocky or Gravelly Areas:
- ✔️Slide areas
- ✔️Sub-alpine and Alpine:
- ✔️Forests and Thickets:
- ✔️Open forests
- ✔️Disturbed Areas:
- ✔️Logged sites
- ✔️Burned areas
- ✔️Disturbed sites
Acer macrophyllum continued

Hydrology
✓ moist
✓ dry
Wetland Indicator Status: FACU (facultative upland)

Elevation Range
Found mostly west of the Cascades below 300 meters (Kruckeberg).
✓ low elevation
✓ mid elevation

Soil Preferences
✓ sandy soils
✓ clay soils
✓ muddy soils
**Alnus rubra**

**Red Alder**

At a Glance: A fast-growing deciduous tree well suited to disturbed sites.

- **Height**: Up to 80 feet (25 meters).
- **Growth Form**: Tree.
- **Stems**: Bark is thin and gray with smooth white patches of lichens.
- **Leaves**: Leaves are alternate, broadly elliptic, sharply pointed at the base and tip, smooth above and slightly rust-colored below. Leaf margins are wavy and folded-over with coarse, blunt teeth. Size: 5-15 cm (2-6 in) long. Leaves remain green until dropping in the fall.
- **Flowers**: Male flowers appear as hanging, cylindrical spikes (catkins) and emerge before leaves while female flowers are borne in small stubby cones. The catkins are reddish-orange with yellow highlights, 5-12 cm (2-4.5 in) long. The female cones are green when young, then turning brown, 2 cm long.
- **Flowering Period**: March.
- **Fruits**: Clusters of brown cones 2 cm long containing oval-shaped, winged seeds remain on the tree over winter months.

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

**Hydrology**
- moist

**Elevation Range**
- low elevation

**Wildlife Value**

**Birds**: Birds that eat the seeds, buds, and insects associated with red alder include mallards, widgeons, grouse, bushtits, kinglets, siskins, vireos, warblers, and chickadees. Birds that use red alder for cover and nesting include warblers, bushtits, and sparrows. Cavity-nesting birds nest and roost in the red alder tree cavities.

**Insects**: The leaves are eaten by swallowtail butterfly larvae and tent caterpillars.

**Mammals**: Mammals that eat the twigs, leaves, or wood include snowshoe hares, beavers, porcupines, deer, and elk.

**Other Wildlife**: Alders create organic debris for soil organisms. Additionally, alders create good riparian cover for fish.

**Soil Preferences**
Fixes nitrogen, can flourish in poor soils.
- clay soils
- nutrient poor soils

**Habitat Preferences**

**Aquatic and Wetland**:
- Seasonally inundated areas
- Scrub-shrub wetlands
- Forested wetlands

**Shorelines and Riparian**:
- Stream or river banks
- Riparian corridors
- Floodplains

**Rocky or Gravelly Areas**:
- Slide areas

**Forests and Thickets**:
- Forests and woods

**Disturbed Areas**:
- Logged sites
- Disturbed sites
**Arbutus menziesii**

**Madrone**

At a Glance: An attractive broadleaf evergreen with a twisting reddish trunk and irregular branches with an overall rounded outline.

- Height: Up to 100 feet (30 meters).
- Growth Form: Tree.
- Stems: Young bark is chartreuse green and smooth while older bark is brownish-red with thin peeling scales.
- Leaves: The alternate, evergreen leaves are dark shiny green on top and whitish-green below. Additionally leaves are hairless and have a leathery texture. Shape: oval to oblong and tape to a point; size: 15 cm (6 in) long, 6-8 cm (2.25-3.25 in) across.
- Flowers: The small pinkish-white, bell-shaped flowers are arranged in large drooping clusters and are fragrant. Each flower has 10 anthers, a superior ovary and 5 sepals fused at the base. Flower size ranges from 6-7 mm long.
- Flowering Period: April.
- Fruits: Small, round, orange-red berries with a finely granular texture. Berries are approximately 1 cm across.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- Full sun > 80%
- Mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
- Dry

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

**Soil Preferences**
- Gravelly soils
- Shallow soils

**Wildlife Value**
- Berries
- Host for insect larvae

Birds: The fruit is eaten by band-tailed pigeons, quail, flickers, varied thrushes, waxwings, evening grosbeaks, mourning doves, and robins.
Insects: The flowers are pollinated by spring azure butterflies and bees.
Madrone is a larval plant for the ceanothus silk moth and the brown elfin butterfly.
Mammals: The fruit is eaten by raccoons and other mammals.

**Habitat Preferences**

**Rocky or Gravelly Areas:**
- Cliffs
- Rocky slopes

**Forests and Thickets:**
- Coniferous forests
- Mixed forests
- Forest edges, openings, or clearings

**Disturbed Areas:**
- Burned areas
**Betula papyrifera**

**Paper Birch**

At a Glance: A small to medium sized deciduous tree with attractive white, peeling papery bark.

- **Height:** Up to 100 feet (30 meters).
- **Growth Form:** Tree.
- **Stems:** The bark peels off in smooth, horizontal, white papery strips marked with brown horizontal lines of raised pores.
- **Leaves:** Alternately arranged; dull green above and paler green and hairy below; leaves taper to a sharp point; can be shallowly lobed with double toothed margins. Shape: oval to round; size: 10 cm (4 in) long.
- **Flowers:** Male and female flowers on separate catkins that flower at the same time, catkins emerge at the same time or before the leaves emerge; size: 2-4 cm long.
- **Flowering Period:** April, May.
- **Fruits:** Small nutlets with broad wings, contained in mature female catkins.

**Hydrology**

- ✔ moist

**Elevation Range**

- ✔ low elevation
- ✔ mid elevation

**Soil Preferences**

- ✔ well drained soils

**Wildlife Value**

- ✔ Seeds
- ✔ Host for insect larvae

Birds: The seeds are eaten on and under the trees by juncos, finches, siskins, sparrows, and grouse. Kinglets, woodpeckers, sapsuckers, warblers, nuthatches and chickadees prey on the insects that commonly use the paper birch as habitat. The peeling bark is used as nesting material by many birds and small mammals. The cavities of the paper birch are used by birds and mammals for nesting and roosting sites.

Insects: The leaves are eaten by mourning cloak and swallowtail butterfly larvae. Birches can provide habitat for numerous insect species.

Mammals: Beavers, hares, chipmunks, deer, and elk browse on the leaves and twigs.

**Habitat Preferences**

**Aquatic and Wetland:**

- ✔ Marshes or swamps

**Forested wetlands**

**Shorelines and Riparian:**

- ✔ Bog margins

**Forests and Thickets:**

- ✔ Forests and woods
- ✔ Open forests
**Cornus nuttallii**

**Western Flowering Dogwood**

At a Glance: Multi-branched, irregular trees with attractive large white "flowers".

- **Height:** Up to 65 feet (20 meters) tall.
- **Growth Form:** Tree.
- **Stems:** Blackish-brown bark, smooth, becoming finely ridged with age.
- **Leaves:** Opposite arrangement. Oval shaped with sharp points at the tip; deep green above and greyish-green below, turning pink-red in fall; leaf veins curve parallel to leaf edge; sometimes wavy edges; size: 10 cm (4 in) long.
- **Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous cluster of greenish-white flowers surrounded by 4-6 large, showy white bracts 2-7 cm long that appear to form a single flower. Sometimes will bloom again in September.
- **Flowering Period:** April, May, September, October.
- **Fruits:** Cluster of bright red berries; shape: round; size: 1 cm long.

**Elevation Range**
- Low elevation

**Soil Preferences**
- Well drained soils

**Wildlife Value**
- Berries
- Host for insect larvae

Birds: Birds that eat the berries include sapsuckers, woodpeckers, bluebirds, tree swallows, vireos, thrushes, evening grosbeaks, white-crowned sparrows, song sparrows, towhees, grouse, jays, and house finches.

Insects: The flowers may be eaten by spring azure butterfly larvae.

**Habitat Preferences**
- **Shorelines and Riparian:** Stream or river banks, Riparian corridors
- **Rocky or Gravelly Areas:** Gullies
- **Forests and Thickets:** Forests and woods, Open forests, Mixed forests
**Fraxinus latifolia**

**Oregon Ash**

At a Glance: Tough-wooded tree with gray bark and compound leaflets arranged oppositely around twigs.

- **Height:** Up to 82 feet (25 meters).
- **Growth Form:** Tree.
- **Stems:** Bark becomes greyish-brown and fissured with age.
- **Leaves:** Pinnately compound with 5-7 oval leaflets, leaflets arranged oppositely, leaves turn yellow in fall; leaf size: up to 13 cm (5 in) long; color: olive green above, pale below.
- **Flowers:** Flowers inconspicuous, appear before the leaves in bunched clusters on the twigs; primary color: yellowish (male), greenish (female); size: 3 mm across.
- **Flowering Period:** March, April, May.
- **Fruits:** Winged 1 seeded fruits (samaras) like half of a maple fruit; occur in large clusters on female tree; fruit stalks very fine; shape: paddle shaped; size: 3-5 cm (1-2 in) long.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- ✔ full sun > 80%
- ✔ mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
- ✔ wet
- ✔ moist

**Elevation Range**
- ✔ low elevation

**Soil Preferences**
- Prefers saturated .
- ✔ organic soils

**Habitat Preferences**
- Shorelines and Riparian:
  - ✔ Lake shores
  - ✔ Stream or river banks
  - ✔ Floodplains

**Wildlife Value**
- ✔ Seeds
- ✔ Host for insect larvae

**Birds:** The seeds are eaten by grosbeaks, wood ducks, finches, grouse, and others. Provides nesting sites for birds, including cavity nesters.

**Insects:** Leaves eaten by butterfly larvae.

**Mammals:** Beavers use wood for dams, twigs and leaves are eaten by deer and elk.

**Other Wildlife:** Sapsuckers use them as drill sites.
**Fraxinus latifolia continued**

**Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts**

Material Uses: The Cowlitz used the wood for canoe paddles and digging sticks. Traditional wisdom suggested that poisonous snakes would not crawl over Oregon Ash sticks. It was thought that poisonous snakes would not be found where this tree grows. Modern uses of the wood include furniture, flooring, boxes, and fuel.

Medicinal Uses: The bark was boiled and the infusion drank by the Cowlitz to remove worms.

Landscape Uses: Can be used to control erosion and stabilize streambanks.

Ecological Importance: Major provider of structure in certain wetlands such as the ash swales of Oregon.

Name Info: "ash" may derive from the Latin "ascia" meaning axe or "axis" meaning axle, since the wood of the European Ash is very tough and would have been used for such purposes.
Malus fusca

Pacific Crabapple

At a Glance: Small tree, slender in form, appears thorny; bushy in the open.

- Height: 16.5-40 feet (5-12 meters).
- Growth Form: Tree or shrub.
- Stems: Twigs and branches appear to have thorns, but these are actually spurs, on which flowers and fruits are produced. Young twigs covered with tiny white or gray hairs. Older bark deeply fissured.
- Leaves: Simple, lance-shaped to oval-oblong; 4-10 cm (1.5-4 in) long; edges saw-toothed and slightly curled, edges often lobed near tip; leaves vary from unlobed to weakly or strongly lobed; alternate; color: light green.
- Flowers: Fragrant white to pink apple blossoms in small clusters; pretty in bloom, but small; size: 9-14 mm long; shape: petals oblong-oval to obovate.
- Flowering Period: April, May.
- Fruits: In clusters; crisp, sour, and juicy; shape: egg-shaped pommes; size: 10-16 mm long; color: polished yellow to purplish-red.

Birds: Fruit remaining on trees in winter is a preferred food of purple finches. Also evening grosbeaks, towhees, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, waxwings and grouse. Cavity nesting birds and other wildlife may nest and roost in tree cavities of large trees.

Mammals: Favorite food of deer, elk and bears. Also coyotes, foxes.

Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts

- Material Uses: Wood is very compact and fine grained. Sometimes used in small ornamental turnery because of toughness and brownish hue of wood.
- Medicinal Uses: Bark was used, alone or with other plant products, for a variety of medicinal treatments for the eyes and for the stomach and digestive tract.
- Food Uses: Fruits important food for virtually all coastal peoples. Eaten fresh or stored under water and oil, in cedarwood storage boxes. Toxicity: Bark contains cyanide-producing compounds.
- Landscape Uses: Plant near waterways, wetlands, or other moist sites. Very salt-tolerant.
**Populus balsamifera**

**Black Cottonwood**

At a Glance:
- Growth Form: Tree.
- Flowering Period: March, April.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- full sun > 80%
- mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
- wet
- moist

**Elevation Range**
- low elevation
- mid elevation

**Habitat Preferences**
**Shorelines and Riparian:**
- Stream or river banks
- Riparian corridors
- River bars
- Floodplains
- Bottomlands
- Alluvial areas

**Forests and Thickets:**
- Deciduous forests
- Mixed forests

**Disturbed Areas:**
- Logged sites
- Disturbed sites
**Populus tremuloides**

**Quaking Aspen**

At a Glance: Deciduous thicket-forming tree with smooth white bark and leaves that "quake" in the wind.

- Growth Form: Tree.
- Flowering Period: March, April, May.

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- full sun > 80%
- mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
Can tolerate a wide range of moisture levels.

- wet
- moist
- dry

**Elevation Range**
- low elevation
- mid elevation

**Habitat Preferences**

**Aquatic and Wetland:**
- Swales or wet ditches
- Forested wetlands

**Rocky or Gravelly Areas:**
- Glacial outwash

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

**Meadows and Fields:**
- Meadows or grassy areas

**Disturbed Areas:**
- Logged sites
- Burned areas
- Disturbed sites
**Prunus emarginata**

**Bitter Cherry**

At a Glance: Shrub or small tree with white flowers and small red cherries.

- **Height:** Up to 50 feet (15 meters).
- **Growth Form:** Tree.
- **Stems:** The bark is tough, stringy and waterproof. Color is reddish-brown or grey with horizontal rows of raised pores that look like white dots.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, deciduous, oblong to oval, 3-8 cm (1-3 in) long and 1-3 cm (0.5-1.5 in), finely toothed, rounded at the tip, stalked, with 1 or 2 small glands at the base of the leaf blade. Blade hairy underneath.
- **Flowers:** White or slightly pinkish, 1-1.5 cm across, saucer-shaped; 5-10 in a rounded or flat-topped cluster. Flowers appear when leaves are about half grown.
- **Flowering Period:** April, May, June.
- **Fruits:** Bright red cherries to 1 cm in diameter, bitter. Each fruit is on a short stem about 1.3 cm (0.5 inches) long.

**Habitat Preferences**

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

**Shorelines and Riparian:**
- ✔ Stream or river banks

**Forests and Thickets:**
- ✔ Forests and woods
- ✔ Open forests
- ✔ Coniferous forests
- ✔ Forest edges, openings, or clearings

**Disturbed Areas:**
- ✔ Logged sites

**Birds:** Many birds eat the cherries.

**Insects:** Flowers attract Sara orangetip, silvery blue, swallowtail, Lorquins admiral, and spring azure butterflies.

**Mammals:** Fruit eaten by squirrels, foxes, black bears, coyotes, chipmunks and raccoons. Deer and elk browse the leaves and twigs.

**Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts**

**Material Uses:** Because of its deep red color, the bark was used extensively in basket weaving as decoration. The bark was also used to protect implements because it is waterproof. It was used for covering the joints of harpoons, dipnets, gaffs and fish spears. The wood was used for tool handles and firewood.

**Medicinal Uses:** The Lummi chew the bark to facilitate childbirth.

**Name Info:** The cherries are extremely bitter.

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**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- ✔ full sun > 80%

**Hydrology**
- ✔ moist

**Elevation Range**
- ✔ low elevation
- ✔ mid elevation

**Soil Preferences**
- ✔ sandy soils
- ✔ gravelly soils

**Wildlife Value**
- ✔ Berries
- ✔ Nectar for butterflies
- ✔ Thickets and shelter
**Quercus garryana**

**Garry Oak**

At a Glance: Beautiful, deciduous, heavy limbed oak tree.

- Height: Up to 82 feet (25 meters).
- Growth Form: Tree.
- Leaves: Alternate, deciduous, deeply round-lobed oak leaves to 12 cm long, shiny dark green above, greenish-yellow and brown-hairy below; turn dull yellow; size: 12 cm (4.75 in) long.
- Flowers: Male and female flowers tiny, inconspicuous; borne in separate inflorescences on the same tree, male flowers in hanging catkins, female flowers single or in small clusters; flowers as the leaves appear.
- Flowering Period: April.
- Fruits: Acorns, 2-3 cm long, in shallow, rough-surfaced cups; sweet, tannic, edible.

**Elevation Range**
- Low elevation

**Soil Preferences**
- Sandy soils
- Gravelly soils
- Well drained soils
- Deep soils

**Habitat Preferences**
- **Rocky or Gravelly Areas:**
  - Rocky slopes
- **Forests and Thickets:**
  - Open forests
  - Deciduous forests
  - Forest edges, openings, or clearings
- **Meadows and Fields:**
  - Pastures or fields
  - Meadows or grassy areas

**Sun/Shade Tolerance**
- Full sun > 80%
- Mostly sunny 60%-80%

**Hydrology**
- Dry

**Wetland Indicator Status:**
- FACU (facultative upland)
**Rhamnus purshiana**

**Cascara**

At a Glance: Erect, tall shrub or small tree with alternate leaves and inconspicuous flower clusters.

- Height: Up to 33 feet (10 meters).
- Growth Form: Tree.
- Stems: Thin, smooth, very bitter, silvery gray bark.
- Leaves: Alternate (may seem opposite on young growth), egg-shaped to oblong, deciduous, dark glossy green, 6-12 cm (2.5-5 in) long, finely toothed, strongly pinnately veined in furrows, the surface washboardy.
- Flowers: Small, with 5 sepals, 5 petals, and 5 stamens; 8-50 in stalked, umbrella-shaped clusters in the axils of leaves; primary color: greenish yellow; size: 3-4 mm long.
- Flowering Period: April, May.
- Fruits: Blue black to purplish-black berries, 5-8 mm across; edible.

**Elevation Range**
- low elevation
- mid elevation

**Soil Preferences**
- muddy soils

**Wildlife Value**
- Berries
- Host for insect larvae

Birds: Berries are eaten by grosbeaks, woodpeckers, grouse, band-tailed pigeons, mourning doves, jays, robins, and tanagers. It also attracts many insectivorous birds, including bushtits, kinglets, chickadees, flycatchers, and nuthatches.

Insects: Leaves and other plant parts are eaten by swallowtail, gray hairstreak, and other butterfly larvae.

Mammals: Black bears, foxes, coyotes, and raccoons eat the fruit.

- Name Info: "Purshiana" is named for the German Fred Pursh.

Interesting Facts: Used and held in high regard by the medical profession for many years. During WWII the bark was harvested in great quantities.

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

**Hydrology**
- wet
- moist
- dry

Wetland Indicator Status: FAC-
Habitat Preferences
Aquatic and Wetland:
✓ Marshes or swamps
Shorelines and Riparian:
✓ Stream or river banks
✓ Bottomlands
Forests and Thickets:
✓ Coniferous forests
✓ Mixed forests
✓ Forest edges, openings, or clearings
✓ Thickets
Disturbed Areas:
✓ Logged sites

Ethnobotanical Uses and Other Facts
- Material Uses: The Nuu-chah-nulth made chisel handles of the wood. The Skagit boiled the bark to make a green dye for mountain goat wool.
- Medicinal Uses: The bark was boiled and the tea was drunk as a strong laxative by the Nuxalk, Coast Salish, Quileute, Nuu-Chah-nulth, Kwakwakawakw and other groups. The bark was often allowed to age before use because the fresh bark is nauseating. The Coast Salish collected and dried the bark in strips in spring or summer. The next summer it was pounded and steeped in cold water, then boiled. Usually a handful of bark per quart of water was used. This plant was also used as a medicine for washing sores and swellings, and treating heart strain, internal strains and biliousness.
Salix lucida

Pacific Willow

At a Glance:

- Growth Form: Shrub.
- Flowering Period: April, May.

Sun/Shade Tolerance

- Full sun > 80%
- Mostly sunny 60%-80%

Hydrology

- Wet
- Moist

Elevation Range

- Low elevation
- Mid elevation

Habitat Preferences

Shorelines and Riparian:

- Lake shores
- Stream or river banks
References

**Acer macrophyllum** Suggested References


**Alnus rubra** Suggested References


**Arbutus menziesii** Suggested References


**Betula papyrifera** Suggested References


**Cornus nuttallii** Suggested References


**Fraxinus latifolia** Suggested References


### Malus fusca Suggested References


### Prunus emarginata Suggested References


### Quercus garryana Suggested References


### Rhamnus purshiana Suggested References