



“Learn 10” species

Common native deciduous trees and shrubs of
eastside Cascades riparian, dry forests, and
shrub-steppe habitats

Photos (unless noted) by Susan Ballinger

Sources for text include:

<http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php>

Flora of the Pacific Northwest by C. Leo Hitchcock & Arthur Cronquist

Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest by Roberta

Parish, Ray Coupe, and Dennis Lloyd

Populus trichocarpa black cottonwood

WILLOW family

Habitat: moist to wet lowlands & along waterways. Withstands periodic flooding.
Shade intolerant. **Up to 130 feet tall**

Bark: young-smooth & green-gray. Becomes deeply furrowed on lower trunk with age



Fruits: smooth, green, & bead-like-split into 3 parts releasing seeds with fluffy white hair

Leaves: triangular to heart shaped. Dark green above, silvery green below; pointed tips; Stalk round in cross-section. Turns yellow in fall.



Populus tremuloides aspen (quaking aspen)

WILLOW family

Habitat: wide ranging elevations from moist forest to edge of grasslands & shrub-steppe in soils with lateral water flow, but not saturated. Shade intolerant. **Up to 100 feet tall**



Bark: smooth green-gray to white, becoming rough and black-scarred with age. Does not peel- lacks horizontal lenticels

Leaves: nearly round, pointed tip, finely toothed, deep green above, paler below, stalk flattened in cross-section. Turns yellow in fall

Fruits: slender, cone-shaped capsules filled with tiny brown seeds with white fluffy hairs



Acer macrophyllum bigleaf maple

MAPLE Family

Habitat: along waterways in shrub-steppe and montane forests, low to-mid elevations on east-side Cascades. Common on west-side of Cascades. **60-80 feet tall**



Bark: brown-grey with furrows on older trees

Leaves: Deciduous, opposite, simple & 5-lobed with terminal lobe . Often 3-lobed, green above, pale below. Leaf 8-12 inches long with stalk 10-12 inches long.



Fruits: a “maple key” with wings 1-2 inches long , & a hairy seed covering.

Cornus serica (formerly *C. stolonifera*) redbow (red-twig) dogwood DOGWOOD family

Habitat: wet soils in riparian, wetlands and moist forests. Widespread and abundant at low-to-mid elevations.
6-20 feet tall



Flowers:
small,
white, in
dense
flat-
topped
clusters

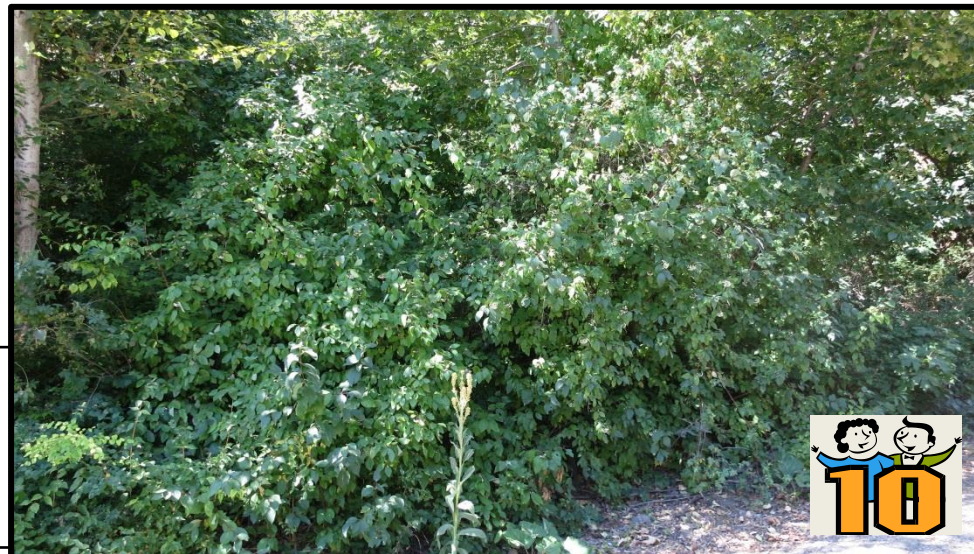
Fruits: clusters
of berry-like
white (often
blue-tinged)



Leaves: Opposite, oval, sharp-pointed
5-7 prominent parallel veins, curving up
near the margins.

Many
stemmed
deciduous
shrub,
spreading;
layering
branches on
ground
often root

Thin, young
stems bright
red; older
stems brown



Ceanothus velutinus snowbrush (snowbrush ceanothus, buckbrush)

BUCKTHORN Family

Habitat: Dry to moist forests and rocky slopes, preferring open sunny sites and burned areas at low to subalpine elevations. **2-10 feet tall**



Flowers: tiny, white; borne in dense pyramidal clusters along side branches

Seeds: small, shiny. Can remain viable in Soil for at least 200 years. Germination stimulated by fire.

Bacteria in root nodules fixes nitrogen.



Stems: green & Smooth. Shrub is spreading & heavily scented

Leaves: Evergreen, alternate broadly oval with finely toothed edges. Upper leaf sticky & glossy (appearing varnished), underside paler & velvety below. 3 main veins.



Amelanchier alnifolia serviceberry (Saskatoon)

ROSE Family

Habitat: In moister shrub-steppe gullies and ravines and at edge of talus slopes, up to dry open forests and rocky sites from low to subalpine elevations. **Up to 30 feet tall**

Leaves:

Deciduous, thin, round to oval, and toothed above the middle. Finely hairy on underside



Flowers: 5 petals, white, showy, linear to oblong petals. In short leafy clusters of 3-20 flowers at branch tips

Stems: Smooth with bark grey to red. Spreads with underground stems forming dense colony



Fruits: purple to nearly black, apple-like, with a whitish film (glaucous).



Holodiscus discolor oceanspray

ROSE Family

Habitat: In open dry forests and clearings, often on sandy or rocky soils at low to subalpine elevations.

3-12 feet tall

Re-sprouts after wildfire



Leaves: Deciduous, alternate, 1-3 inches long. Broadly triangular with lobed or toothed edges. Hairy on both sides. Dull green

Flowers: tiny, cream-colored in dense Terminal clusters that persist over winter, Turning brown with age

Stems: clustered and arching upward & outward from base. Bark is gray-red and strongly ridged on young stems.



***Purshia tridentata* bitterbrush**

ROSE Family

Habitat: in hot dry environments. Most abundant on sandy soils up to 4,000 feet.

Usually killed by Summer & Fall wildfires, but some can sprout after being burned in a light spring fire
2-6 feet tall.



Leaves: Deciduous, alternate. Wedge-shaped with 3-toothed tip. Hairy to wooly. Silver-green on upper leaf, grey-wooly below. Commonly, edges rolled under

Flowers: Bright yellow & numerous. Funnel-shaped. Solitary on short, leafy branches. 5 petals.



Fruits: Seeds are pyramid-shaped. Small rodents cache seeds for later food use.



Stems: Rigidly branched with grey or brown bark and twigs covered in dense hairs.



Rosa nutkana Nootka rose

ROSE Family

Habitat: Open habitats, seepage areas, along waterways & in floodplains at low to mid-elevations.
3-7 feet tall



Leaves: Alternate & pinnately compound with an odd number of leaflets (5-7). Leaf edges both single & double serrated & often gland-tipped. Green above, paler below.



Stems armed with large pair of straight (to somewhat curved) thorns at each branch node.



Flowers: usually solitary (sometimes in groups of 2-3). Our largest common rose: flowers 2-3 inches across

Fruits: round, purplish-red, with persistent sepals



Sambucus cerulea blue elderberry

Habitat: Moist to dry sites in valley bottoms, along rivers & streams, on in open forests.

7-10 feet tall.

Fruit: clusters of juicy, round, powder-blue, berry-like (edible)



Multi-stemmed, grows singly, does not form stands.

Flowers: small, white, in flat-topped clusters, up to 10 inches across

Leaves: opposite, compound with 5-9 sharply serrate leaflets. Smooth & hairless; 2-6 inches long



Ribes cereum wax current (older name, squaw current) CURRANT Family

Habitat: lowest zone of dry forest in open, hot, & rocky sites.

Up to 6 feet tall



Stems: new branches finely hairy, becoming gray-brown with age

Very branched, no prickles (un-armed) deciduous.



Fruits: small red berries



Leaves: numerous & small, fan-shaped, weakly 3-5 lobe. Sparsely hairy and often glandular on both sides. At branch tips



Flowers: green-white to pink, urn-shaped. In clusters of 2-8 hanging on a drooping stalk. All are sticky & finely hairy

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi kinnikinnick

Heath Family

Habitat: widespread & common at low to alpine elevations on sandy well-drained sites, dry rocky slopes, & dry forest clearings. Trailing evergreen shrub

<5 inches tall

Leaves:
alternate,
oval to
spoon
shaped,
smooth
edged,
leathery,
dark-green
& somewhat
shiny above,
paler below,
hairless



fruits: bright red berries



Brownish-red bark on long flexible rooting branches.



flowers: small, urn-like, pinkish-white drooping in few-flowered clusters



Artemisia tridentata big sagebrush

ASTER Family

Habitat: widespread and common in deep soiled (>12 in.) shrub-steppe
up to 7 feet tall

Prior fall's flowering stalks.

Leaves: wedge-shaped, most with 3 toothed-tip. Dense gray hair on both sides. **Most leaves persist through winter.**



Yellow in photo are long thin leaves, that dry up & die in summer. Smaller hairy, thick leaves remain year-round



Flowers:
small, yellow,
born in
composite
heads of 3-5
disk flowers.
Very small.

Evergreen aromatic shrub. Grayish shredding bark on older branches.

Flowers in fall. Does not re-sprout after wildfire but regenerates from seed.



Ericameria (formerly *Chrysothamnus*) *nauseosus* rabbit brush ASTER Family

Habitat: widespread & common in shrub-steppe, especially in sandy soils, & low-elevation dry forests.

up to 3-4 feet tall

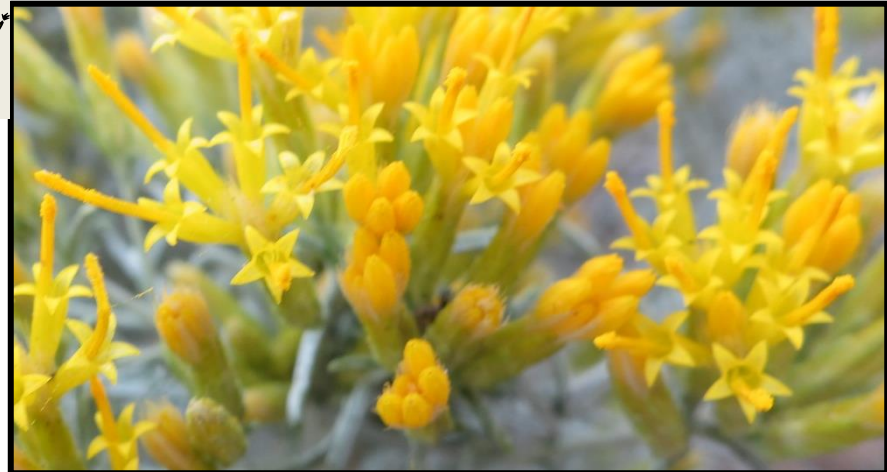
ID tip: If you scrape any stem, a brighter green shows, distinguishing it from the similar species, green rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*.

Leaves:

long,
narrow, &
linear.
Stems &
leaves
covered
with dense
gray velvety
hairs on
both sides.



Fall blooming deciduous
Re-sprouts vigorously after wildfire



Flowers: small, yellow, born in small composite heads of 5 disk flowers at branch tips. Blooms in late summer.