



# A Guide to Salem's Common Native Riparian Plants


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# Evergreen Trees

## Douglas Fir: Evergreen Tree

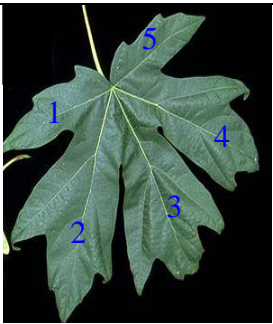



Leaf shape	Cones
	
<p>Needles are flatter than those of a pine, but they do have a pointed tip. There is a single groove on the upper surface of the needle, and two white bands on the lower surface. The needles come off the branch in a spiral arrangement.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Cones have papery bracts that are 3-forked and look like a mouse's hind legs and tail.</p> <p>OSU Landscaping</p>

## Western Red Cedar: Evergreen Tree





Leaf shape	Cones	Bark
		
<p>Leaves are scale-like and overlapping in a braided appearance. They are in opposite pairs in four rows.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Has small cones.</p> <p>Oregon State Landscaping</p>	<p>Ac.wvu.edu</p>

# Deciduous Trees

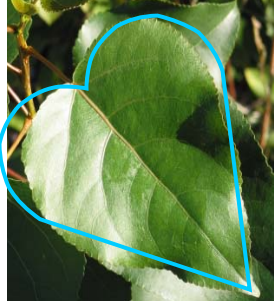



## Big Leaf Maple

Leaves	Fruit	flowers	Bark
			
<p>* very large (15–30cm across) *five lobed (See numbers on leaf above.)</p> <p>Oregon State Landscaping</p>	<p>*paired and look like helicopter blades.</p> <p>Vanderbilt University</p>	<p>* greenish-yellow and hang in cylindrical clusters * bud in spring before the leaves.</p> <p>San Francisco State University</p>	<p>* green when young * brown and ridged when older * not deeply furrowed like the cottonwood.</p> <p>Vanderbilt University</p>





## Bitter Cherry

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers	Bark
			
<p>Oblong-oval shaped leaf with small teeth on leaf edge. Leaf tip is rounded, not sharply pointed. Length 3-8 cm.</p> <p>All photos from OSU Landscaping</p>	<p>Bright red cherries that grow to 1 cm in diameter. Bitter tasting.</p>	<p>White-pinkish flower that has 5 petals. Flower is about 10–15 cm across. Flowers are often grouped into 5–10 in a cluster.</p>	<p>Reddish-brown or grey. Raised notches are present.</p>

## Black Cottonwood:

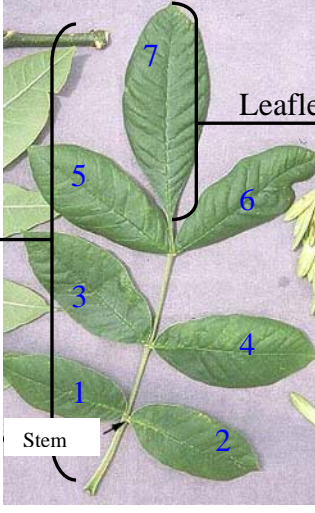



Leaves:	Seeds	Flower	Bark
			
<p>*rounded at the tip and taper to a point at the base, giving heart-shaped appearance. * much lighter underside.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>*covered with white fluffy hair * can be seen hanging on the trees or floating in the air.</p> <p>Cottonwood seeds can give the appearance of snow in April, May, and June.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Male and female flower clusters (catkins) are found on different trees. Male flower clusters are 2 – 3 cm long and female flower clusters are 8 – 20 cm long.</p>	<p>Younger trees have smooth, yellow-grey bark.</p> <p>The bark of older trees is dark grey and deeply furrowed, as above.</p> <p>Government of British Columbia</p>

## Garry or Oregon White Oak:

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers	Bark
			
<p>Leaf has deeply rounded lobes, and is about 12 cm long. Topside is dark green and lowerside is greenish yellow.</p>	<p>Acorns that 2-3 cm long. The cups from which acorns grow have a rough surface.</p>	<p>Male flowers are more conspicuous and form in hanging catkins as shown above.</p>	<p>Bark is light grey with thick furrow and ridges.</p>




All photos from OSU Landscaping

## Oregon Ash:

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers	Bark
			
<p>*Multiple leaflets come off stem in groups of 5-7 to form a leaf.            *Leaflets are oval in shape and the lateral pairs appear to come right off the stem.            *Leaves are green above -- paler and wooly on the underside.</p>	<p>*Fruits are dry, flat, and paddle-shaped.            * 1 – 2 inches long, and form in large, dense clusters only on female trees.            Fruits do not form on male trees.</p>	<p>Flowers are inconspicuous and found in pairs opposite the twig. Flowers appear before the leaves in bunched clusters the twigs, and remain during leaf growth.</p>	





All photos from OSU Landscaping

## Pacific Crabapple

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers	Bark
			
<p>Alternate, and lance-egg shaped with irregular lobes. Margins are toothed.</p>	<p>Small (10-15 mm) egg-shaped apples that turn yellow or reddish when ripe.</p>	<p>Small (2 cm across) white-pink fragrant flowers. They form in clusters of 5-12 on spur (“thorn”) shoots.</p>	<p>Older bark is deeply furrowed</p>

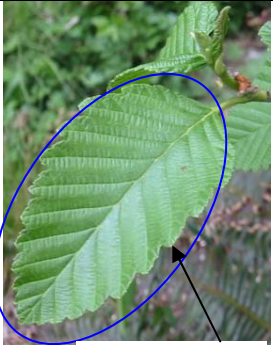



All photos from OSU Landscaping

## Pacific Dogwood

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers	Bark
			
Leaves are rounded at base and pointed at tip. Deep veins run from the mid vein out to the leaf margin, then down toward the leaf tip. Dark green above and grey-green on underside.	Cluster of berries that turn bright red. Each individual berry is about 1 cm long.	Four-six white bracts surround the less conspicuous flowers. Flowers are tiny and clustered in a rounded structure.	Blackish-brown and smooth. Becomes finely ridged with age.

All photos from OSU Landscaping



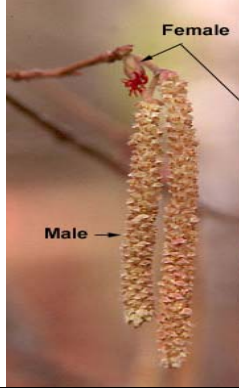
## Red and White Alders

Leaves:	Female flowers	Male flowers	Bark
 Leaf edge			
* oval-shaped, * bright green on the upper surface, * pointed at the base and the tip. * veins create defined ridges. * toothed edges.	* short, woody, brown cones.  The cones may persist when leaves are gone.	* Male flowers occur in long, drooping, reddish clusters.	In young trees, the bark is thin and greenish.  As the tree ages, the bark turns grey to white.





All photos from OSU Landscaping

# Small Trees to Large Shrubs

## Beaked or California Hazelnut





Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Elliptical-oval shaped. Double saw toothed margins. Very soft and hairy.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Nuts are enclosed in green sheath with prickly hairs. The sheath forms a beak shape. The nuts form in clusters of 2-3 at the end of branch.</p> <p>OSU Landscaping</p>	<p>Male flowers are long and cylindrical. Female flowers are very small. Flowers appear before leaves. These flowers area similar to those of the alder.</p> <p>OSU Landscaping</p>

## Indian Plum

Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers	
			
<p>Leaves are lance-shaped and have a distinct cucumber smell when crushed. Leaves have smooth edges.</p>	<p>Fruits are small and change from peach to plum colored as they ripen.</p>	<p>Flowers are greenish-white with 5 petals. Clusters of flowers hang from leaf joint at stem. One of the first plants to flower in spring.</p>	<p>Bark is purplish to brown. Plant can range from 1.5 – 5 meters in height.</p>

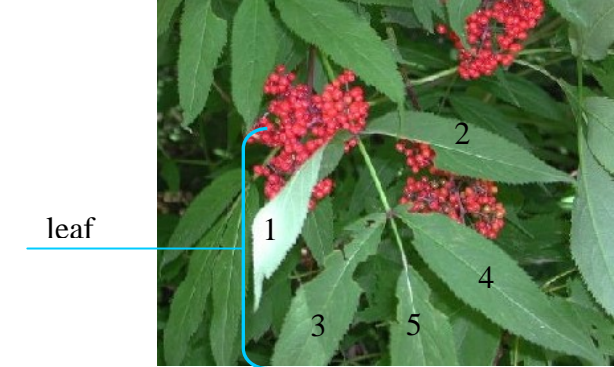


All photos from OSU Landscaping

Pacific Nine Bark Deciduous shrub

Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers	Bark
			
<p>Leaves are 3 – 5 lobed, and the leaf margins have teeth. The veins are deep.</p>	<p>Dry fruit in clusters on the end of the branch.</p>	<p>White, small, and clumped together in a rounded cluster at the end of a branch.</p>	<p>Older plants have brown and shredding bark. Branches may form distinct arches.</p>

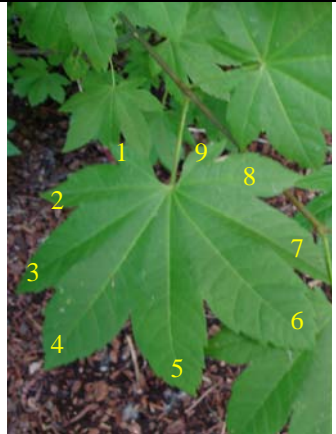


All photos from City of Salem

Red and Blue Elderberry

Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Leaves are formed lance-shaped leaflets. Leaf ends are pointed and the margins are sharply toothed, like a saw.</p> <p>Red elderberries have 5-7 leaflets. Leaflets are numbered 1 – 5 above.</p> <p>Blue elderberry can have 5-9 leaflets.</p>	<p>Bright red berries on the red elderberry.</p> <p>Blue fruit form on the blue elderberry.</p> <p>Depts.washington.edu</p>	<p>White to creamy in color. Individual flowers are small, but form in clusters. They give off a distinct odor. Clusters are round or triangular (as above) in shape.</p> <p>NC State University</p>


All photos from OSU Landscaping

Vine Maple Deciduous shrub or small tree

Leaf shape	Seeds	Flowers
		
<p>Leaves have the characteristic maple shape, and are 7 – 9 lobed with teeth. Length is 5 – 12 cm across.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Winged fruit that form in almost a straight line. Length is 2-4 cm across. Start as green and turn reddish or brown with the season.</p> <p>OSU Landscape Plants</p>	<p>White flowers with red bracts, or second petals, that form clusters at the end of shoot. Length is 6-9 mm broad.</p> <p>OSU Landscape Plants</p>

## Willows

Pacific Willow: Large shrub to small tree that is deciduous and can grow up to 12 meters.

Plant Description
 <p>Lance-shaped leaves alternate along the stem. Leaf length is 5-15 cm and margins are finely toothed.</p> <p>calflora</p>

Scouler's Willow: Tall and spindly deciduous shrub or multi-stemmed tree growing between 2 – 12 meters. Twigs are densely velvety and branches are dark brown to yellow brown.

Leaf shape



Egg-shaped leaves alternate along the stem. Leaf length is between 3 – 8 cm. Young leaves are velvety.




[calflora](#)

Sitka Willow: Deciduous shrub or small tree that grows between 1-8 meters tall. Similar to Scouler's Willow in that twigs are densely velvety; however, the branches are dark brown to grey.




Leaf Description: Alternate along twig, 4-9 cm long. The upper side of the leaf is bright green and the lower side is satiny due to leaf hairs.

# Shrubs

## Douglas spiraea

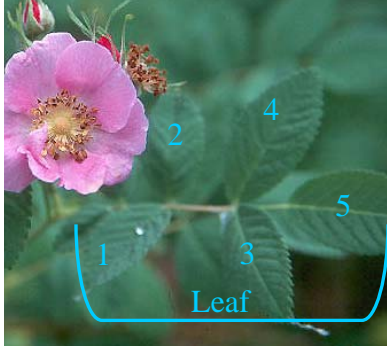


Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Oblong-oval shaped. (4-10 mm across). Dark green leaf surface with grey color on underside.</p> <p>OSU Landscaping</p>	<p>Cluster of small, smooth pods. May persist on plant after leaf fall.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>	<p>Showy pink color. Each individual flower is small (5mm across), but they form in a dense long cluster at the end of the branch. The cluster is much longer than it is wide.</p> <p>City of Salem</p>

## Mock Orange: Erect, loosely branched plant. Grows to height of 3 meters.



Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Leaves have short stalks, are opposite from one another on the branch, and have three major veins from leaf base. They are 3-5 cm long.</p>	<p>Oval and woody. They are about 1 cm long.</p>	<p>White and fragrant. They usually have 4 petals and can be found in cluster of 3-15 at the end of side branches. They are 2-3 cm in width.</p>

All photos from OSU Landscaping




**Nootka Rose** Deciduous shrub.

Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Multiple toothed leaflets come off stem in groups of odd numbers to form a leaf. Leaflets are numbered 1 – 5 above. Prickly thorns are found at the base of each leaf and on new growth. OSU Landscaping</p>	<p>Red-purple rose hips (1-2 cm across).  City of Salem</p>	<p>Large and pink (4-8-mm across). Typically one flower occurs at the end of a branch.  City of Salem</p>

**Ocean Spray**





Leaf shape	Flowers
	
<p>Egg - triangular shaped leaf with one the base distinctly wider than the tip. Hairy. Lobed like an oak leaf.  Vanderbilt University</p>	<p>Cream – white in color. Each individual flower is small, but they form dense pyramidal clusters at the end of the branch.  Washington State University</p>

Oregon Grape: Evergreen stiff-branched shrub with yellowish bark

Leaf shape	Fruits/Seeds	flowers
 <p>Compound leaf with numbered leaflets</p>		
<p>Long compound leaf that comes off stem at alternate places along the stem. Leaflets come off mid branch opposite one another. Has 9-19 leaflets that are leathery and stiff. Leaf margins have sharpe spines. Leaves resemble English holly.</p>	<p>Blue berries that form in an elongated cluster that resemble grapes on a vine.</p>	<p>Bright yellow flowers forming erect clusters that are up to 20 cm long.</p>




All photos from OSU Landscaping

Red Osier (twig) Dogwood

Leaf shape	Flower	Fruit	Bark
			
<p>Oval shaped (5-10 cm long). There are 5 – 7 deep veins that run from the mid vein out to the leaf margin, then down toward the leaf tip.</p>	<p>Small (2-4 mm long) white-greenish that have four petals each. Numerous flowers form a flat-topped cluster at the tip of the stem.</p>	<p>Small (7-9 mm long), usually white, but can be bluish in color. Fruit form in large clusters at the end of the branch.</p>	<p>Reddish brown in color. Can be very striking red in the winter.</p>





All photos from OSU Landscaping

Snowberry Small deciduous shrub.

Leaf shape	Fruit	Flowers
		
<p>Elliptical- to oval-shaped leaves. Leaves have no teeth on margins, but may be wavy.</p>	<p>Fruit form a white cluster of berries that persist through the winter when leaves have dropped.</p>	<p>Flowers are pinkish-white and bell shaped. Flowers are in small clusters and are typically at the end of a branch.</p>

# Ground Covers

Ferns:

Bracken Fern	Deer Fern: Evergreen
	
Lady Fern	Sword Fern: Evergreen
	

Colby Sawyer Education – Bracken Fern  
Wallace Hansen – Deer Fern  
Washington Native Plant Society – Sword and Lady

# Rushes

Group Description: In general, rushes closely resemble grasses. They have long narrow leaves (blades) that are often wrapped around the stems, and small and not showy flowers. Their stems are characteristic of the group in that they are round and solid. They can grow in clumps or stands in or near moist areas. Their flowers grow along the stalk.






Tennessee Valley Authority *Juncus effusus*

<p>Seven Oaks Native Nursery <i>Juncus ensifolius</i></p>	<p>Prairie and Wetland Center <i>J tenuis</i></p>	<p>Calflora -- <i>J. patens</i></p>

## Sedges

Group Description: In general, sedges closely resemble grasses. They have long narrow leaves (blades) that are often wrapped around the stems, and small and not showy flowers. Their stems are characteristic of the group in that they are triangular in cross-section, giving their stem the appearance of having a three-edged stem.

 <p>Sedge's three edges</p>		
Scirpus microcarpus – Charles Webber, Calpoly	Carex obnupta – Oregon State University	Eleocharis sp -- Calpoly