

## Fagaceae ~ Oak or Beech Family

While there are many oaks and other representatives of this family to the south, there are only a few in our area. Chesnut (*Castanea*) and Beech (*Fagus*) are also in this family. All are **trees or shrubs with alternate leaves and separate-sexed flowers in catkins**. Their **fruits are nuts that are at least partly surrounded by a hard covering** formed by bracts at the base of the flowers that turn woody at maturity.



### OREGON WHITE or GARRY OAK *Quercus garryana*

tree • 3–80' (.9–24 m)  
rocky ridges, dry sloping meadows  
early: May

The **gray furrowed bark** and **blunt lobes of the deeply cleft leaves** separate this deciduous tree from the uncommon sharp-lobed California black oak (*Q. kelloggii*). Long male catkins bloom as the leaves emerge. One to 3 tiny female flowers are clustered at their base and develop into acorns; each a single nut capped by a short woody cup that used to be a bract below the flower. A large tree in the lowlands, on mountain ridges it tends to be almost shrub-like.

Oregon white oak ranges from western California to Vancouver Island at low to middle elevations. Castle Rock, Abbott Butte, and Tire, Patterson and Bearbones mountains all have charming dwarf oak forests.



### GOLDEN CHINQUAPIN *Chrysolèpis (Castanopsis) chrysophylla*

tree • 10–30' (3–9 m)  
rocky ridges, dry forests, roadsides  
late: August

A distinctive tree, golden chinquapin is easily recognized by the **golden yellow undersides of its evergreen, entire leaves** and its **spiny bur-like fruits** that contain 1 or 2 nuts. The petalless male flowers are on clusters of long erect catkins, while the female flowers are on shorter catkins near the base of the cluster. It is the host plant for the golden hairstreak butterfly which can sometimes be seen fluttering about the upper branches in late summer.

Golden chinquapin occurs from California to Washington. It is common throughout the Western Cascades at low to mid elevations. A miniature chinquapin forest sits atop Horsepasture Mountain and there are many by the trailhead to Tidbits.



## Fumariaceae ~ Fumitory Family

Plants in the fumitory or bleeding heart family have unusual, **bilaterally symmetrical flowers** and **elaborately divided leaves**. Many are very showy and the family includes a number of lovely garden ornamentals. Also in the family is the genus *Corydalis*. Scouler's corydalis (*Corydalis scouleri*) and cold-water corydalis (*C. aqua-gelidae*) are only rarely seen in the northern half of the Western Cascades. Some authorities have recently placed this family within the poppy family, Papaveraceae.

### STEER'S HEAD *Dicentra uniflora*

perennial • 1–4" (3–10 cm)  
subalpine meadows and gravelly areas  
very early: late May to June

This tiny plant is more common than it may seem. It blooms as the snow melts and disappears quickly as taller plants emerge and overtop it. The **leaves are dull green above and purplish below**. The **single pink flower** leans closer to the ground as it fades. The 2 fused petals that form the steer's nose split open as the seed capsule grows.

Steer's head grows throughout Oregon and much of the West. Look for it in all the higher mountains of the Cascades where there is reliable snow cover including Olallie Mountain, Hemlock Lake, Browder Ridge, Coffin Mountain, and Twin Lakes. Perhaps the easiest place to find it is at the beginning of the Cone Peak trail or nearby Tombstone Prairie in late May.



### WESTERN BLEEDING HEART *Dicentra formosa*

perennial • 6–18" (15–45 cm)  
moist forest and cool damp open areas  
early: June to early August

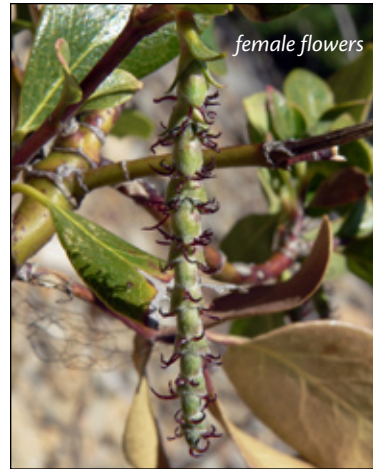
Both the common and botanical names are very fitting for this beautiful ("*formosa*") plant with its unusual, **pink, heart-shaped flowers**. Like its much smaller relative, steer's head, its flower is formed by **2 outer petals that are fused into a heart and 2 inner petals enclosing the reproductive parts**. The fern-like foliage looks especially attractive when it glistens with water droplets from the rain and fog common during its spring bloom—April at sea level to July in the mountains. It is the sole host plant for the clodius parnassian, a large white butterfly with red spots, common in the Cascades wherever bleeding heart grows.

Bleeding heart is common throughout Oregon and much of the West. It can be found at virtually every location in this book. There are large expanses of it at Echo Basin, Hawk Mountain, and Twin Lakes.



## Garryaceae ~ Silk Tassel Family

The silk tassel family has but one genus, *Garrya*. All the species are **shrubs or small trees with simple, opposite, evergreen leaves and are dioecious**. Their **inflorescences are long and pendulous**, an adaptation to aid in wind-pollination, since they bloom very early before most insects are out. The flowers are tucked into the axils of cup-like bracts, male flowers with 4 sepals and stamens, female flowers with no sepals or petals and 2 pistils. The female flowers produce **2-seeded, berry-like fruits**.



female flowers

### FREMONT'S SILK TASSEL *Garrya fremontii*

**shrub • 3–15' (1–5 m)**  
**dry rocky slopes, road cuts**  
**early: May**

This handsome evergreen shrub, also known as bearbrush, might be mistaken for a manzanita, but it has opposite rather than alternate leaves and lacks the peeling bark. The pendulous, green to reddish inflorescence on male plants is up to 4" long. The stiffer female inflorescence is green with 2 deep red pistils per petalless flower. The 1.5–2.5" leaves are oval and entire. They are glossy **above but paler, dull and sometimes slightly pubescent below**. The undersides of the leaves are very hairy in the 2 other Oregon species: coast silk tassel (*G. elliptica*), often cultivated for its 6–12" long tassel-like male flowers, and dwarf silk tassel (*G. buxifolia*), a serpentine species of the Siskiyou.

Fremont's silk tassel occurs from Washington to California at low to moderate elevations in the Cascades, Siskiyou and Sierra Nevada, becoming more common to the south. Get out early to see it blooming at Sawtooth Rock Meadow, Castle Rock, Bearbones, Heckletooth, Big Squaw, and Lookout mountains.



male flowers

## Gentianaceae ~ Gentian Family

Members of the gentian family are annuals or perennials that usually have funnel-shaped, often showy flowers formed from **4 or 5 partially joined petals surrounded by a tubular calyx**. They have **simple, glabrous, usually entire leaves in opposite pairs** or infrequently in whorls. The superior ovary develops into a capsule containing many tiny seeds. Fraseras are also in this family (see p. ??).

### EXPLORER'S GENTIAN *Gentiana calycòsa*

**perennial • 6–18" (15–45 cm)**  
**cliffs and talus slopes, wet meadows**  
**late: August to September**

This stunning, **deep blue** perennial is all the more special for blooming so late in the summer when little else is in flower. It is also called mountain bog gentian and grows in wetlands over most of its range, but in the Western Cascades it is nearly always found near the base of cool, north-facing cliffs. It is a variable species but generally has **ovate leaves up to twice as long as wide in 7–9 sessile pairs**. The widely vase-shaped flowers are stalkless, **1 or 3 at the end of a stem**. They taper abruptly at the base and have 5 lobes with forked appendages in between. The inside of the corolla is elaborately decorated with spots and lines to guide pollinating bees.

Explorer's gentian is found in moderate to high mountains from British Columbia to California, east to Montana and Arizona. While unfortunately scarce in the Western Cascades, it is abundant at Tidbits, Table Rock and Three Pyramids and also grows at Browder Ridge, and Horsepasture, and Lower mountains.



### ONE-FLOWERED GENTIAN *Gentianòpis (Gentiana) simplex*

**annual • 2–8" (5–20 cm)**  
**open boggy meadows, sunny streambanks**  
**late: late July to mid-August**

Despite being a vivid blue, this little annual is very hard to spot. Each small plant has only a single **4-lobed** flower sitting atop a slender stalk with 2 or more pairs of **small, lance-shaped leaves that hug the stem**. It is often hidden among grass and other plants and only opens in the sun.

One-flowered gentian is an uncommon denizen of very wet open areas in moderate to high mountains mainly in the southern Cascades and from southern and eastern Oregon to California, Nevada, and Idaho. Look carefully and you may find it at Twin Lakes, Fish Creek, Hershberger Mountain, Quaking Aspen Swamp, and Donegan Prairie.

## Grossulariaceae Currant or Gooseberry Family

*Ribes* is the only genus in this family, but it has many species. It was once included in the Saxifrage family. All species are **shrubs with racemes of tubular or cup-shaped flowers, each composed of 5 fused sepals, 5 smaller petals within the calyx and 5 stamens opposite the sepals.** They tend to be early bloomers. Their ovaries are inferior and develop into berries that are edible but not particularly palatable. They have **alternate, maple-like leaves.** Many are quite attractive and make good plants for the garden. They root easily from autumn cuttings. Typically species with spines are referred to as gooseberries and those without spines are called currants.



### SWAMP GOOSEBERRY

*Ribes lacústre*

**shrub • 2–5' (60–150 cm)**  
**moist woods, wet meadow edges, thickets**  
**early: June**

This is probably the most common *Ribes* species in the Western Cascades. It forms prickly thickets in moist situations. It has lovely **pendulous racemes of outward-facing, saucer-shaped flowers that vary from green to rosy red** and have a deep violet center. These are followed by **lustrous black berries that are dotted with small glandular hairs.** The **shiny leaves are deeply lobed and the branches densely covered with spines.**

Swamp gooseberry is a wide-ranging species, found from northern California to Alaska and east all the way to Newfoundland. It is plentiful in the Cascades. Large stands of swamp gooseberry line sections of the trails at Tire, Horsepasture, and Lowder mountains and Donegan Prairie.



### SHINY-LEAVED GOOSEBERRY

*Ribes roèzlii* var. *crúentum*  
(*R. cruentum*)

**shrub • 12–30" (30–75 cm)**  
**rocky outcrops and cliffs**  
**early: June**

Most often seen emerging from a crack in a rock, this species is adapted for a very well-drained habitat in either sun or shade. It is easy to confuse with gummy gooseberry which has similar flowers and leaves and is also spiny. The eye-catching, **fuchsia-like flowers** of this species are distinguished by their **large and prominent red anthers.** **Large prickles cover the berries and can often be seen developing on the ovaries while still in flower.** **Its leaves are always very shiny and not glandular.** They color beautifully in the fall when out in the sun.

This species is also known as Sierra gooseberry and grows from California north into southwestern Oregon, reaching as far north as Lane county in the Western Cascades. It can be seen at Youngs Rock, Wild Rose Point, Illahee Rock, and Heckletooth, Lookout, and Bearbones mountains.



### GUMMY GOOSEBERRY

*Ribes lóbbii*

**shrub • 2–4' (60–120 cm)**  
**forest openings, rocky ridges, burns**  
**early: June**

The **small red and white flowers** of gummy gooseberry might make you think you were looking at a garden fuchsia, but the **spiny branches** let you know it's actually a gooseberry. The sepals are reflexed, showing the bright white petals and exerted stamens. The **dark anthers are small and inconspicuous,** a good characteristic to differentiate this from the previous species. The leaves may be somewhat shiny but are larger than those of shiny-leaved gooseberry. The "gumminess" comes from **glands on the leaves, berries and stems.**

Gummy gooseberry occurs from northern California to Vancouver Island. It inhabits middle elevations in the Cascades and western Oregon but is never very common. You can find occasional plants at Heckletooth Mountain, Wild Rose Point, Twin Lakes, Moon Point, Hemlock Lake, and Reynolds Ridge.



### TRAILING GOOSEBERRY

*Ribes binominatum*

trailing shrub • 1–3' (30–90 cm) long  
coniferous forest  
early: mid-June to early July

Trailing gooseberry is a fairly inconspicuous shrub with its **few-flowered racemes of pale green flowers** and quiet habit of trailing along the ground and over logs. But it is worth keeping an eye out for, because although it has **soft, furry leaves**, the **3 spines at each of its nodes** are sharp and an unexpected jab can be an unpleasant surprise. The **green berries are equally well armed**.

From the Siskiyou, trailing gooseberry spreads south into northern California and north up the Cascades as far as Linn county. Watch for it at Moon Point, Lowder Mountain, Blair Lake, Abbott Butte, Hemlock Lake, and many other forested trails.



### RED-FLOWERING CURRANT

*Ribes sanguineum*

shrub • 3–9' (90–270 cm)  
forest openings, roadsides, clearcuts, burns  
early: May to June, earlier lower

This is the showiest of our currants and a well-known garden plant, especially abroad. The beautiful **flowers have partly-fused, deep pink sepals on the outside with smaller white to pink petals on the inside**. Flower color is variable and occasional light pink or white plants occur. They emit a strong, spicy fragrance. The **toothed leaves have blunt lobes, and are not glandular**. A white bloom makes the dark berries appear bluish. It is one of the first shrubs to bloom and is a favorite of hummingbirds. Its growth is more upright than most currants.

Red-flowering currant is found throughout western Oregon and the Western Cascades, as well as western Washington and California, more commonly at lower elevations. It is particularly beautiful along the road and burned areas at Illahee Rock and Heckletooth Mountain.



### CRATER LAKE CURRANT

*Ribes erythrocarpum*

trailing shrub • 1–3' (30–90 cm) long  
coniferous forest  
early: mid-June to early July

Like trailing gooseberry, Crater Lake currant rambles about the forest floor. When happy, it can cover many yards. Its **small clustered flowers are an unusual copper color** with deep red centers and white anthers that are followed by red berries. Its **leaves are usually under 2", have rounded lobes and are somewhat glandular**. The coastal species, trailing black currant (*Ribes laxiflorum*), is similar but has black berries and larger, sharply-lobed leaves.

As the name implies, this species is most likely to be found near Crater Lake. It is quite common in the nearby Rogue-Umpqua Divide. While it has a very limited range, it is found infrequently in the Cascades as far north as Marion County. Look for it at Abbott Butte, Donegan Prairie and Rattlesnake, Olallie, and Bachelor mountains.



### STICKY CURRANT

*Ribes viscosissimum*

shrub • 2–6' (60–180 cm)  
open woods and meadows edges  
early: June

Sticky currant is very well named. While the leaves are similar in shape to the red-flowering currant, one **sticky** touch will quickly settle any doubts about identification. The **flowers vary from cream to pale pink**. This is a wider-growing shrub than the red-flowering currant and is quite handsome.

It is common throughout the Western Cascades and along the mountains into Washington and northern California. It also occurs occasionally in eastern Oregon. Large stands of it can be seen in the disturbed areas at the beginnings of the Wild Rose Point and upper Iron Mountain trails, and also at Moon Point, Blair Lake, Grizzly Peak, and Whitehorse Meadows.





### STINK CURRANT

*Ribes bracteosum*

shrub • 3–10' (.9–3 m)  
shady creeks and wet thickets  
early: mid-June to early July

The shiny, maple-like leaves of stink currant have a rank odor. They are sharply-pointed and attached to the branches by long petioles. The plant has an erect manner and its long flower stalks are upright or sideways. The flowers consist of a pale green to reddish, saucer-shaped calyx with a deep red center, encircling 5 tiny white petals. The berries are black with a white bloom. Stink currant frequently grows side-by-side with salmonberry, another lover of wet sites.

It ranges from Alaska south to northwestern California. In Oregon it grows primarily in the Cascades and higher regions of the Coast Range. Echo Basin, Olallie and Lowder mountains, and Quaking Aspen Swamp are good places to see it.



## Hydrangeaceae ~ Hydrangea Family

Plants in this family are woody trees or shrubs with simple, opposite leaves. Their seeds are contained in woody capsules. Many are very showy and are in cultivation. They are sometimes placed in the Saxifrage family or in their own family, Philadelphaceae, the mock orange family.

### YERBA DE SELVA

*Whipplea modesta*

subshrub • 1–8" (3–20 cm)  
dry woods, shady roadsides  
middle-blooming: June to July

Technically a subshrub, this groundcover grows in large patches in dry woods, rooting as it spreads. It has clusters of very small white flowers that usually have 5 petals and about ten stamens. The small, opposite, oval leaves are somewhat rough and hairy and persist through the winter.

Yerba de Selva, also known as whippelveine, is a common plant in southwestern Oregon and down into central California but is less frequently seen north of Lane county. You can find extensive patches of it at Bearbones, Heckletooth, and Tire mountains, Wild Rose Point, and Castle Rock.



### WAX CURRANT

*Ribes céreum*

shrub • 2–4' (60–120 cm)  
grassy meadows, open woods, roadsides  
early: June to July

The glossy surface of the shallowly-lobed leaves of this currant makes them look waxed and in late summer they may develop a whitish cast. The clusters of pale pink, tubular flowers are followed by beautiful translucent red berries. Wax currant prefers a sunnier, drier habitat than our other *Ribes* species.

Wax currant is mainly a species of the drier parts of the western states including eastern Oregon but drifts across the Cascade crest to

the Western Cascades primarily at the southern end. It is most likely to be encountered in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide. Large shrubs grow abundantly in open areas of Abbott Butte, Fish Creek Meadow, and Hershberger Mountain. It is also easy to find on Groundhog Mountain.



### WESTERN MOCK ORANGE

*Philadelphus lewisii*

shrub • 2-9' (.6–2.75 m)  
dry rocky areas, often near creeks  
late: late July in mountains

Few fragrances are as glorious as that of mock orange on a summer day. As the name indicates, the scent is reminiscent of a citrus flower. The inch-wide, pure white, 4-petaled flowers with their showy cluster of yellow stamens are equally beautiful. The slightly-toothed, opposite leaves have a distinctive 3-pronged veining pattern.

Mock orange occurs throughout the northwest. It is more abundant on the dry eastern side of the Cascades but can still be found on occasion in dry areas in the Western Cascades. A beautiful stand of it grows in a large boulder area, as well as several other spots, along the Youngs Rock trail. It can also be seen at McCord Creek Falls, Illahee Rock, and Castle Rock. You will most commonly see it growing along roads as you head up to the trailheads.

