



Rhus trilobata



***Rhus trilobata* Oakleaf Sumac**

This large (3-6' tall by 6-10' wide), drought tolerant shrub has trilobed leaves that turn a bright red to orange color in the fall. Plants are either male or female with a bright red furry fruit produced on the female plants. It makes a nice midsize shrub for erosion control, or as a screen or hedge for a dry, sunny spot in the garden. The leaves have an odd odor when crushed and the fruit has a lemony taste when fresh, hence its other common names, Skunkbush Sumac or Lemonade Bush. Native to perennial or ephemeral streams or draws, chiefly east of the Rocky Mountains from Alberta to Mexico.



Ribes aureum



***Ribes aureum* Golden Currant**

This 3-6' tall by 2-3' wide deciduous shrub produces splendid bright yellow, tubular flowers in early spring (March/April). It is one of the earliest shrubs to bloom. While it can grow in a variety of conditions, from full sun to shade and moist to moderately dry soils, it can develop an irregular, lanky growth habit in shady, dry conditions. It will grow fairly rapidly with regular irrigation. Golden Currant attracts insect pollinators and a variety of birds eat the small orange to reddish colored fruits. The currants are edible, there are no prickles on the stem, and the leaf is an attractive trilobed shape with beautiful fall colors ranging from orange to red. It occurs east of the Cascades from WA to CA, east to SD and south to NM.



***Ribes sanguineum* Red-flowering Currant**

Fragrant tri-lobed leaves are accompanied by pale to dark pink (and occasionally white) flower spikes in early spring. The shrub typically grows 3-5' tall by 3-4' wide. The dark black, glaucous berries are not palatable. The striking spring flowers have made this shrub popular in the horticulture industry where numerous cultivars are available. Native from British Columbia to central CA, to eastern slopes of the Cascades in WA and northern OR, east to Northern ID.



Ribes sanguineum



***Rosa woodsii* Woods' Rose**

Small, pale to dark pink flowers (petals up to 1") bloom in clusters in late May. They grow 3-4' tall and spread rhizomatously to form thickets making excellent cover for wildlife with their compound leaves and recurved prickles. If space is limited, their rhizomatous habit can become a major disadvantage so care must be taken to locate accordingly. The bright red rose hips are another draw for wildlife as well as humans. With their high vitamin C content, they are often used to make teas, syrup, and jams and were used by Native Americans to cure colds, treat sores, burns, wounds, diarrhea, stomach trouble and as an eyewash (Phillips 1999). Known from eastern WA to southern CA, and eastern WI, MO and TX at moist locations in lowlands and foothills.



Sambucus cerulea



***Sambucus cerulea* Blue Elderberry**

This deciduous shrub grows 8-12' tall by 4-6' wide and produces dense, flat-topped clusters of small, white flowers in late spring and summer. Small, fleshy, powdery blue edible berries form in late summer. The opposite branches have pinnately compound leaves with serrated margins. The interior of the stem is similar to styrofoam. It prefers plentiful water and afternoon shade to avoid scorching the leaves in hot climates. Attracts insects and birds, but not commonly browsed by deer. The fruit can be used to make wine and syrup, but berries should never be eaten before fully ripe. Prior to ripening, cyanogenic glycosides in the leaves and stems can cause cyanide poisoning (1999). Widespread species ranging from British Columbia to AZ.



***Shepherdia argentea* Silver Buffaloberry**

This shrub or multi-stemmed small tree reaches 10-15 feet tall by 6-10' wide, providing a fairly dense form of silver foliage. The apetalous male and female flowers are on separate plants (dioecious), and appear prior to the leaves in early spring. Long narrow leaves are entire and covered in silver scales on both sides. Branches are opposite and may be spine-tipped. The edible reddish-yellow fruits and dense thorny growth form provide excellent bird habitat. Typical along water courses from British Columbia to southern CA on the east side of the Cascades, east to MN, and in MT east of the Rocky Mountains, but not known from WY or ID.



Shepherdia argentea (left), *Shepherdia canadensis* (right)



***Shepherdia canadensis* Russet Buffaloberry**

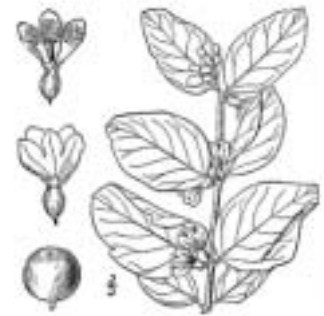
Growing 3-12' tall by 3-6' wide, this species is slightly smaller than Silver Buffaloberry. Its leaves are blue green, often with rusty dots, and the branches are without spines. The fruit is yellow-red and bitter. Slightly more drought tolerant than *Shepherdia argentea*, it also needs well-drained soils. Native habitat includes open to wooded areas from AK to OR and throughout the US.



Symphoricarpos albus

Common Snowberry

The pink to white five-lobed flowers bloom in May or June. The genus name, derived from Greek, means *syn*, together, *phorein*, to bear, and *karpos*, fruit. After flowering, white, berry-like fruits persist through summer and into winter.



The total height is between 4-6' with a similar width, this shrub spreads vegetatively. Its opposite, simple leaves are entire to occasionally coarsely toothed. While moderately drought tolerant once established, it will do better with more regular water if in full sun. Native from low to mid elevations in the mountains of WA, ID, OR and MT, it often grows in thickets.

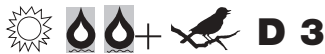


Trees



Acer grandidentatum **Big-tooth Maple**

A shrub to large tree that grows from 8-40' tall, it has opposite, 3-5 lobed leaves with toothed margins. Fall foliage varies from orange to yellow. Grows best in sun or partial shade in well-drained soils. Found from British Columbia to northern CA and east to southeast ID, MT, UT, WY and northwest CO beneath the coniferous overstory or along stream bottoms in forested areas.



Betula occidentalis **Water Birch**

This multi-stemmed tree grows 15-25' tall, producing decorative catkins or flowering structures in April and May. An excellent choice for the Rocky Mountain states, it shows more resistance to bronze birch borer than other ornamental birches. It does well on moister sites and looks excellent near a pond or stream. The male and female catkins are on the same plant, the males pendulous and 3/4" long in groups of three. The females are erect and slightly smaller. Native to the Rocky Mountain states from 3,000-9,000 feet along rivers, streams or bogs.



Celtis reticulata **Netleaf Hackberry**

This shrub to small tree grows 10-30' tall by 5-10' wide. The common name refers to the pronounced net-like veins on the underside of the leaf. Netleaf Hackberry, also known as Western Hackberry, is late to leaf out in the spring. It has inconspicuous green flowers in mid-spring followed by red-orange berries in the fall. Remarkably hardy and long-lived despite an inhospitable landscape, Netleaf Hackberry can withstand fires after which the tree usually resprouts and becomes more shrubby. It often stands as the sole tree on a rocky, exposed hillside, providing an important source of cover for wildlife, attracting quail, chukar, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, antelope and rodents. The strong limbs and branching patterns make excellent perches and roosts for large birds such as the great horned owl. This is the only native deciduous tree in southwest ID that can tolerate xeric (dry) conditions. Native habitats include semi-desert grasslands, mountain shrub communities, riparian woodlands, and pinyon juniper forests at elevations from 500-5000'. It is widespread in the drier zones of all western states.



Juniperus occidentalis **Western Juniper**

While relatively slow growing, this freely branching evergreen tree will eventually reach 20-30' tall by 10-15' wide. Fleshy, berry-like, blue-green cones appear in the spring. The wood is very durable, often used for fence posts or pencils. Native to desert foothills and lower mountains of WA, OR, southwest ID and NV.



Larix occidentalis **Western Larch**

This large deciduous conifer can reach 150' tall. The short, soft needles grow in false whorls or clusters of 15-40 at the tips of stubby spur shoots, leaving visible the thick bark that changes to a rich cinnamon brown color with age. The needles are much broader than thick, nearly flat on the upper surface, but ridged beneath to be triangular in cross section. On younger stems the needles grow sparsely in a spiral pattern flat against the bark. Female cones are approximately 1 1/2" long. Trees turn a deep golden color in fall before leaves drop. The Western Larch, also called Tamarack, prefers a sunny location in moist, well-drained soil. Native from foothills to the midmontane, often where swampy. Its range includes southern British Columbia and east of the Cascades to northern ID, northwest MT and northeast OR.



Picea pungens



Picea pungens **Blue Spruce**

Large evergreen tree to 30' with rigid, pungent, 4-sided needles spread in all directions around the twigs, often with a bluish cast. It produces cones at least 3" long. Deer rarely browse this species. The sharp needles and dense growth provide excellent cover for birds such as chickadees, songbirds and quail, particularly when planted in clusters or small groups. Numerous cultivars are available, but the degree of "blueness" or silver-blue color is genetically determined. Native to southeast ID, WY and the southern Rocky Mountains.



Pinus edulis



***Pinus edulis* Pinyon Pine**

This two-needle, 10-20 foot tall tree is slow growing and requires full sun and good drainage. The short needles are a dark green color and measure only 1-1.5” in length. The bark is reddish brown. It is one of the most drought resistant pines. The rounded cones are 2” long and produce a highly nutritious edible nut. Pinyon pine is deer resistant. Native to higher elevations of the southwest including UT, AZ, NM, CA and TX.



***Pinus monticola* Western White Pine**

The 4” long needles number 5 per fascicle (or bundle) on this distinctive pine, named Idaho’s state tree in 1935. The cones are cylindrical and 6-10” long. The tree can grow very tall, the record in Idaho measuring 213’. They will grow best in sun with moist, well-drained soil. Unfortunately a disease, accidentally introduced from Europe in the early 1900s, has inflicted great damage on natural populations. It is caused by a fungus that requires two hosts for its life cycle: the white pine and a *Ribes* species (currant). Today, white pine blister rust resistant seedlings have been developed and are now being used for forestry-type plantings. For additional protection, some recommend avoiding planting any *Ribes* spp. in the vicinity (from 1916-1967 eradication efforts attempted to remove all *Ribes* from the ecosystem). *Pinus monticola* is native to moist valleys and somewhat dry slopes from sea level to more than 6,000’ elevation. It ranges from southern British Columbia south to CA and western NV, and east to Idaho and western MT.



***Pinus ponderosa* Ponderosa Pine**

One of the largest pines in the world and one of the most common trees in western North America. Ponderosa Pine has 3 needles per fascicle (bundle) and is the only long-needled pine in Idaho, with needles 6-10” long. The cones are 3-6” long. The yellow brown, vanilla scented jigsaw puzzle-like bark of older trees is unique. Ponderosa Pine grows in full sun in well-drained soils up to 5000’ elevation. It can grow to 130’ tall and is very drought tolerant.



Pinus ponderosa



***Populus tremuloides* Quaking Aspen**

Groves of Quaking Aspen provide quite a scene in the fall as the small rounded leaves turn from dark green to gold, and seem to literally shimmer or tremble with a light wind. The bark is smooth and creamy white. The trees grow quickly, reaching up to 50’. They are best planted in clusters and given plenty of space, as they will spread by sending up suckers. Male and female flowers appear on separate trees and form in the spring prior to leaf set. Widespread in the mountains and tolerant of cold climates, they are more prone to disease at lower elevations. In the hot climate of southwest ID, they are best used as a fast-growing, short-lived tree, to be removed and allowed to sucker every few years. Native from AK to Labrador, south to CA, northern Mexico, and east to TN and NJ.



Populus tremuloides



Populus trichocarpa



Populus trichocarpa **Black Cottonwood**

(*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*)

Largely confined to streambanks, rivers and lakeshores, this species can reach 100', but is typically smaller. Its oval leaves are glossy dark green. Black cottonwood grows quite quickly and spreads by suckers. Native from AK to Baja CA on both sides of the Cascades, and to southwest Alberta, western MT, WY and UT.



Pseudotsuga menziesii (both photos)



Pseudotsuga menziesii **Douglas Fir**

A wide-ranging conifer that grows up to 200' tall. The leaves are flattened, needle-like, short petiolate, and about 1 inch long. Cones are 2-4" and pendant (vs. upright like a true fir), and have distinctive bracts that resemble the tail and hind legs of a partially hidden mouse or chipmunk. Grows best in full sun on well-drained soils, but will tolerate some shade. Ranges from British Columbia to CA and east from Alberta, south to Mexico. It includes two varieties (coastal var. *menziesii*; interior var. *glauca*).



Sorbus scopulina **Rocky Mountain Ash**

This shrub to small tree reaches a maximum height of 13' and can have an equally wide crown. It is distinguished from the non-native European Mountain-Ash (*S. aucuparia*) by its fine toothed leaflet margins, fewer number of leaflets (<13) with pointed tips, shrubbier growth form, and sticky winter buds with whitish hairs. Rocky Mountain Ash, like all mountain-ashes, grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils. The showy scarlet to orange shiny fruits are highly prized by birds, particularly cedar wax-wings. Mountain-ashes are more susceptible to disease when grown in windy, dry alkaline conditions. *Sorbus sitchensis* (Sitka Mountain Ash), native from Alaska south to northwest MT, is confined to the subalpine zone of far northern ID. It is distinguished from *S. scopulina* by its more rounded leaflet tips, glabrous calyx, and reddish hairs on the winter buds. Both native mountain ashes are similar in size and overall shape. Rocky Mountain Ash is found from AK east to the Dakotas and south to NM, CO, WY and ID.



Sorbus spp.