

Nature trail and parking lot plants

Sami Gray

This is a casual inventory of some of the wild plants, including natives and weeds, found in the parking lot area and upper nature trail.

Weeds and Non-natives

General tip: being widespread is in no way an indication that something is native; more often, it is an indicator of success as a weed. Some weeds are relatively harmless; others are “noxious”- very invasive, and designated as environmentally harmful, or a threat to livestock or agriculture. Those in and around the nature trail include:

- English holly- *Ilex aquifolium*- noxious weed, invading woodlands throughout the PNW. Often confused with our native Tall Oregon Grape—holly has alternate leaves; Oregon grape has leaflets opposite on the stem. Large tree and bushes at edge of parking lot, seedlings in woods.
- English ivy- *Hedera helix*- noxious weed, extremely aggressive, can bring down large trees. Large patches near parking lot.
- Wall lettuce- *Lactuca muralis*- small annual, noxious weed oxeye daisy- *Leucanthemum vulgare*- white daisy with yellow center. Occasional in sunny areas including meadow. listed noxious weed, widespread in our area, very invasive, difficult to eradicate. There are NO native daisies in the PNW, though we have some related or similar-looking plants (Aster, Fleabane).
- Tansy ragwort- *Senecio jacobea*- small yellow flowers. Occasional in woods. Listed noxious weed
- Foxglove- *Digitalis purpurea*- near parking lot; widespread weed but not listed as noxious and generally not of concern, except for toxicity. The original source of the heart medicine digitalis.
- Stinky Bob- *Geranium robertianum*- noxious weed. small pink geranium with foliage often confused with bleeding hearts. Fuzzy, red stems. Extravagantly invasive. A constant pest in the garden in front of the lobby, and occasional elsewhere throughout the park.

Natives

- Western red-cedar- *Thuja plicata*- most widespread conifer in our region- scale-like needles, very small cones.
- Douglas fir- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*- distinctive cones – “mouse tails.”

- Western hemlock- *Tsuga heterophylla*- short needles of varying lengths
- Grand fir- flat sprays with needles arranged on one plane along the twig
- Osoberry/Indian plum- *Oemleria cerasiformis* – small white flowers followed by miniature “plums”; plants are male and female.
- Red elderberry- *Sambucus racemosa*- most common elderberry in our region, though we also have blue. White flowers followed by small red berries.
- Ocean spray- *Holodiscus discolor*- drooping sprays of small white flowers, widespread on woodland edges in our area.
- Snowberry- *Symphoricarpos albus*- opposite leaves, small pinkish flowers, white berries
- Salal- *Gaultheria shallon*- evergreen leaves, small urn-shaped flowers, blue-black, dry berrie.
- Red huckleberry- *Vaccinium parvifolium*- deciduous, green stems, small bright red berries popular for eating.
- Evergreen huckleberry- *Vaccinium ovatum*- evergreen, dark blue berries.
- Salmonberry- *Rubus spectabilis*- purple-pink flowers, orangey berries.
- Thimbleberry- *Rubus parviflorus*- white flowers, yellowish berries.
- Blackberry- *Rubus* spp.-- many species; we have both native and nonnative species.
- Nootka rose- *Rosa nutkana*- very large, thicket-forming, fragrant pink flowers; full sun in both wet and dry places.
- Baldhip rose- *Rosa gymnocarpa*- smaller, with smaller leaves and smaller bright pink flowers; grows in filtered light or light shade in open woods.
- Orange-flowering honeysuckle- *Lonicera ciliosa*- deciduous vine clammers 20 ft into trees; large orange flowers attract hummingbirds.
- Low Oregon grape- *Mahonia nervosa* (or *Berberis nervosa*); 3 ft tall; full to part shade in dry or well-drained woodland; yellow flowers, small blue-black berries.

- Tall Oregon grape- *Mahonia* (or *Berberis*) *aquifolium*- to 7 ft tall; grows in more sun than low OG- shinier and pricklier leaves, fewer leaflets, similar flowers and berries.
- Coltsfoot- *Petasites palmatus*- flowers on thick stems generally precede the large leaves. Found in moist woods or woodland edges.
- Enchanter's nightshade- *Circaea alpina*- deciduous groundcover, tiny white flowers. Note: in the evening primrose family, not related to the nightshades (potato family).
- Rattlesnake plantain- *Goodyera oblongifolia*- low, spotted, deep green leaves, small white flowers. A terrestrial orchid. (and nothing to do with plantains!)
- Trillium/wake robin- *Trillium ovatum*- most widespread trillium in our region.
- Water parsley- *Oenanthe sarmentosa*- parsley-like leaves, flowers resemble wild carrot —like many carrot relatives, toxic. NEVER nibble anything carrotty unless you are an expert in plant ID, or ok with dying right now.
- Sweet Cicely- *Osmorhiza chilensis*- common name refers to three very distinct *Osmorhiza* species, plus an additional nonnative plant in a different genus.
- Piggyback plant- *Tolmiea menziesii*- fuzzy leaves, small brown-purple flowers. “piggyback” effect is only occasionally visible.
- Fringe cups- *Tellima grandiflora*- somewhat similar to *Tolmiea*, but leaves more rounded, flowers greenish-white to pale pink and thimble-shaped, on taller stems.
- Cleavers- *Galium* sp.- we have a likely native relative of the widespread garden weed.
- Siberian miner's lettuce/spring beauty- *Claytonia sibirica*- close relative of “regular” miner's lettuce, but without the perfoliate character (stems going through middle of leaves).
- Stinging nettle- *Urtica dioica*- don't touch without gloves! This is often confused with mint family plants, but flowers are much different. Can be quite tall, sends out long rhizomes.
- Veronica spp- we have at least two species, one likely the native *V. americana*