

GROWING KNOWLEDGE

Series content is coordinated by Dr. Jay Pscheidt, professor of botany and plant pathology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.



An ongoing series provided by Oregon State University in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture and in partnership with the Oregon Association of Nurseries

Flora at your fingertips

Revised, rebranded OregonFlora has new and expanded plant information

BY LINDA HARDISON

LOOKING FOR AN online resource with information about the native and naturalized plants of Oregon?

The Oregon Flora Project's newly expanded website, OregonFlora (<http://oregonflora.org>), will meet the need.

Rich with details about more than 4,670 unique species of ferns, conifers, herbs, grasses, and trees, it presents information that is valuable to horticulturalists, gardeners and plant lovers of all kinds.

The launch of the OregonFlora web-

site also corresponds with a name change of the Oregon Flora Project to simply "OregonFlora." Why change? The decision to retire the "project" part of our name reflects the broader scope of work in which we are now engaging.

The core information that is used to write the *Flora* — each plant's characteristics, where it grows, and what it is related to — is relevant to a diverse audience. OregonFlora is creating new partnerships to make this information broadly accessible and useful, especially to those in the nursery and landscaping industry.

Plants that are now used in the horticultural trade had their origins in the wild. Knowing a plant's characteristics outside of cultivation — its form, flowering characteristics, and preferred habitats — can provide insights into ways a species can be successfully integrated into a planted environment.

A resource on plant life

Floras have long served as a primary source of information about the plant life of a given region. Ranging in size and scope from a pamphlet for a neighborhood to a multi-volume work describing a continent, floras itemize all the species that occur in the defined area, describe each in detail, and provide a means to identify them. Importantly, a flora also provides the context in which a plant species is found through descriptions of its habitat, ecology, and distribution.

Adapting a paper-bound flora

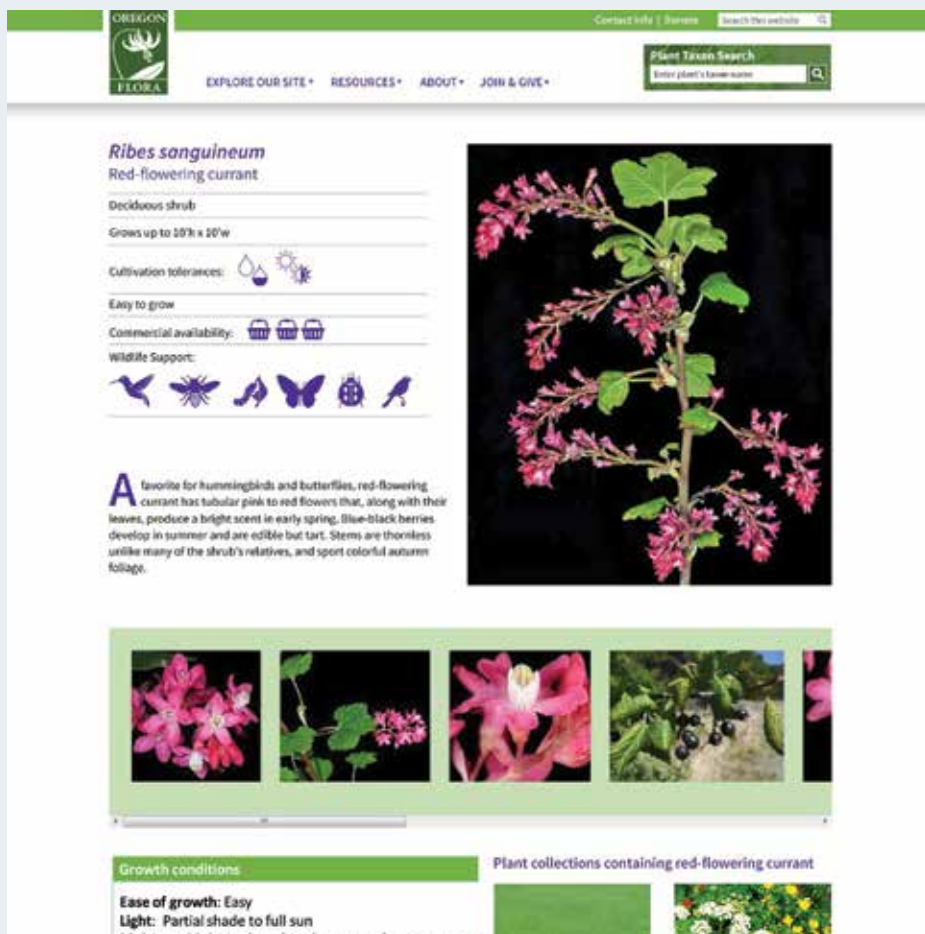


Figure 1. Each garden species has a profile page with photos and cultivation details.

Flora at your fingertips

Table 1: Categories within the Gardening with Natives search tool

Characteristics	Uses	Wildlife Support	Growing Conditions
Plant form	Landscape uses	Pollinators	Ease of growth
Annual/Perennial	Other cultivation preferences	Pest-eating insects	Sunlight tolerance
Evergreen/Deciduous		Butterfly nectar source	Water preference in summer
Height/Width		Butterfly larval host	Spreads vigorously
Bloom months		Hummingbirds	Propagation methods
Flower color		Birds and small mammals	Natural habitat

A species profile page from the OregonFlora Gardening with Natives portal (<http://oregonflora.org>). A page exists for each of the ~200 native garden species featured.

into an online resource involves much more than posting pages from a book. OregonFlora has carefully parsed the myriad details of Volume 1 of the *Flora of Oregon* into fields and tables of a data-

base. As the content of the remaining two *Flora* volumes is being written, it is being prepared similarly.

Hundreds of thousands of map coordinates that document plant occurrences,

more than 50,000 photographs, and data for specialized topics are being added to the database for the OregonFlora website.

The OregonFlora website uses a Symbiota platform — software



SPRAYERS

High clearance and width adjustability is customizable for your crop



GREENHOUSES

GK's pre-drilled system will save you time and money



H7 TREE DIGGER

Digs trees, chopper/topper, row planter and bed lifter



COMFORT STATIONS

Meets all OSHA sanitation requirements



TRACKING TRAILERS

Standard or custom trailers available



Call for a friendly quote! **503-678-5525**

10590 Donald Road NE · Donald, Oregon 97020 WWW.GKMACHINE.COM



**OREGON
NURSERIES
FOUNDATION**

SCHOLARSHIPS VALUED UP TO \$1,500

The Oregon Nurseries Foundation is proud to offer scholarship opportunities to **graduating high school seniors, current college students and graduate students** who will become the next generation of green industry professionals.

Application instructions are online. Call 503-682-5089 with questions. Completed materials must be submitted by email to onf@oan.org, or postmarked to the OAN office, 29751 SW Town Center Loop W., Wilsonville, Oregon office by **April 15**.

Download the application form! oan.org/onf

We keep your business moving.

Transportation Brokers

Intermodal | Refrigerated | Van | Flatbed

PacWest 503-641-8828
800-333-4434
P.O. Box 91220, Portland, OR 97291
TRANSPORT pacwesttransport.com

Flora at your fingertips

designed for presenting and sharing biodiversity data. One tool that demonstrates the powerful data-sharing features of the site is the GIS-based mapping module. Plant occurrence records from observations and herbarium specimen labels are mapped onto a variety of base maps.

Users can upload their own datasets — for example, localities of pollinators — to study the relationship of their subject with plant distributions. The shapefile of an area of interest can also be uploaded to determine the plant diversity within the defined space.

Gardening with natives

A new feature on the OregonFlora website is the Gardening with Natives portal. In collaboration with Metro and the ACE NW Native Plant Database Working Group, we have developed educational and garden planning tools that incorporates almost 200 native plant species.

A search tool allows users to choose plant features of interest. There are 20 characteristics for selection that describe physical features of the plant, cultivation conditions, uses in the garden, wildlife support, and propagation (Table 1).

The commercial availability of a native species is indicated with a market basket icon: three baskets indicate it is commonly found in stores, whereas one basket indicates the species is carried by a few vendors. Website users can also select a business as one of their search parameters.

Linking the commercial availability of native plant species with educational and garden planning tools is a powerful marketing tool for retail and wholesale vendors. It also provides customers with needed information about the accessibility of materials for their gardens and landscaping projects.

A second way to explore OregonFlora's gardening resources is by browsing collections of plants suitable for unique garden and landscape types, such as meadowscapes, woodland gardens, pollinator gardens and others. Images of the plants in a collection can be viewed in a slide show.



Digger MARKETPLACE

W: wholesale R: retail Portland Metro Eastern Ore

Task 161, success: 16 (click right for more)

Plant Names	W	R	Portland Metro	Eastern Ore
echinacea				
elder, mountain				
elder, red				
elder, white				
stamroot, meadow				

Figure 2. A screen capture of the "Gardening with Natives" tool for locating native plant materials.

Figure 2. A screen capture of the "Gardening with Natives" tool for locating native plant materials.

Each garden species has a profile page with photos and cultivation details (Figure 1). There is also a link to the species' "traditional" profile page, which presents information derived from the *Flora of Oregon*, a statewide distribution map, and external links.

The new OregonFlora website and its "Gardening with Natives" tools were designed to support the interests of both the producers and the consumers of native plant materials (Figure 2). We welcome your feedback!

To explore OregonFlora, visit <http://oregonflora.org>

Linda K. Hardison is the director of OregonFlora and an assistant professor (senior research) at Oregon State University. She can be reached at hardisol@oregonstate.edu.

Motz & Son Nursery

Wholesale Growers of
SHADE & FLOWERING TREES
FRUIT TREES
Dwarf, Semi-Dwarf & Standard
COMBINATION FRUIT TREES (4 in 1)
Semi-Dwarf & Standard
ESPALIER APPLES
Semi-Dwarf, Combination & One Variety
WALNUTS & FILBERTS
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Write for our stock and price
11445 N.W. Skyline Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97231
Phone 503-645-1342
FAX 503-645-6856

B&B Spruce 4 to 24 feet
Chamaecyparis • Fir • Pine
Japanese Maple • Poodle Pine
Cut Christmas Trees



(503) 630-4349
FAX (503) 630-7542
PO Box 598 – Estacada, OR 97023

Supplies for Small Growers

SEED STARTING - Pots Trays Inserts
Plug Trays

Labels - large variety size, color & shape of blank plant pot & row markers

Weed control, fertilizer, tapes & ties, watering, and more

<http://www.AAA-mercantile.shop>
<http://stores.ebay.com/AAA-Mercantile>
<http://www.amazon.com/shops/AAAmercantile>

Enter promo code DIGGER for a 10% discount for a limited time at AAA-mercantile.shop

HOSTETTLER FARM DRAINAGE

503-266-3584

- Plastic Tubing 3"-24"
- Laser Grade Control
- Open Ditch for Buried Irrigation
- Plows and Trenches
- Pot-n-Pot Drainage
- Oldest Drainage Firm in Oregon
- Newest Subsurface Irrigation Techniques



Materials and Technical Assistance Available
Canby, OR

Specimen Trees

Flowering & Shade Trees
Specializing in Quaking Aspen
Evergreens Grown East Side of the Cascades



2019 SW Park Lane
Culver, Oregon 97734
541-546-9081
www.mcpheetersturf.com

Schurter Nursery

Arborvitae—Emerald green
Virescens
Boxwood
Japanese Maples
Otto Luyken
Skip Laurel

Various sizes & Varieties
503-932-8006