

NATIVE FLOWERING SHRUBS FOR LANDSCAPING

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Black twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*) – A lovely shrub with bold yellow colored twin fused flowers from April through August. This deciduous shrub has a branching, shallow root system and will rapidly grow up to 10'. The mid to high elevation species prefers saturated to moist soil conditions, although tolerating drier spots it will be less vigorous. The opposite leaved shrub will make a home in moist forest, clearings, streamside habitats, swamps and thickets. The flowers give way to shiny, deep purplish-maroon berries that will be treasured by birds and other wildlife. The quick growth and spreading habit make it a perfect addition as a screen, or enhancing shrub in any landscape.



Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) – A rhizomatous, evergreen shrub that will grow to 8–10'. Creamy yellow flowers start appearing in March and persist through May, giving way to attractive blue berries. Native peoples ate the fruit, often mixed with other berries to soften the flavor and potency. Birds will eat the berries and love you for providing them. The moderately deep taproots penetrate rocky soil, making it a perfect candidate for open disturbed sites. Tall Oregon grape tolerates dry, sunny conditions with little irrigation, so it an ideal evergreen shrub for your home landscape—given a little shade and water it will flourish and become a focal point for any gardener. We find the native shrub often flowers more profusely than the smaller cultivar, *Mahonia aquifolium* 'compacta'.



Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) – Salmonberry blossoms herald warmer weather and presage the fruit of summer. This beautiful deciduous shrub spreads fibrous shallow roots to form thickets that may reach 6–10' tall. Salmonberry loves medium-to-wet soil and full or partial shade. The vivid magenta flowers and the trifoliate new leaves appear in February and March, and the neon flowers seem to glow in the grey, late winter light of the forest understory. Sometime between May and June, the flowers give way to yellowish orange or reddish purple, edible fruit. Native cultures use salmonberry as food source, eating the shoots in early spring and the berries in early summer, often regarded as one of the first fruits of the season. Wildlife, too appreciate salmonberry, so be sure to pick the ripe berries from the sunniest spots before the animals get them all!



Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) – A stunning addition to restoration sites and home landscapes alike. The pyramid-like panicle of creamy white flowers begin blooming in March and last through July, developing into clusters of bright red berries. Birds rely on the berries for food late into the fall when many other food sources are gone. Some native cultures manufactured flutes from hollowed out elderberry stems. Red elderberry can reach up to 20' tall, and has a fibrous shallow root system. Often found near stream banks, moist clearings and open forests, red elderberry tolerates a wide range of conditions from full sun to shade, as well as moist to dry soil conditions. This species has distinctive, dark reddishbrown bark and lance-shaped, divided leaflets that produce a unique texture in the landscape. Rapid growth and the ability to regenerate from its roots make this shrub a wonderful choice for difficult sites, and that perfect spot in your garden.