



**Thimbleberry** (*Rubus parviflorus*) can be found growing in a variety of moist to dry and wooded to open sites. It is a low growing deciduous shrub that produces a bright red edible fruit resembling a thimble. Birds take great advantage of the fruit during summer months.



**Twinberry** (*Lonicera involucrata*) is a deciduous shrub that is most commonly found growing in moist sites such as stream sides, bogs, and lake shores. The black berries are eaten by some species of birds. They are very bitter however, and not edible for people.



**Salal** (*Gaultheria shallon*) is spreading, low-growing broad-leaved evergreen shrub. Bell shaped strands of flowers produce purple berries in late summer that are a favored food source of birds and other wildlife.

**Please Contact the WACD Plant Materials Center  
with any of your plant material needs!**

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# PLANTING IS FOR THE BIRDS



WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

## What is the easiest way to attract birds?

Just put a feeder out and they will show up? Imagine what would happen if you planted for the birds. Building a “bird pantry” has many benefits and planting the right species will bring in all different kinds of birds for all different reasons.

Birds like trees and shrubs to perch on allowing them rest and catch “birds eye view” of their surroundings, hiding from your cat and other predators and building nests for babies. Like humans, birds prefer a variety of foods. A diversity of trees and shrubs will help satisfy this need.

Plants provide seeds, nuts, berries, insects and fruit. Planting native plants attracts birds because specific plant species provide the nutrition that the birds need.

The following native plants not only increase the aesthetic value they also provide environmental value while providing for the birds.



**Red Osier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) usually found growing in moist soils, often along streams, lakes and swamps but can be found on upland forested sites as well. The clusters of white berries provide color in late summer and some birds use the berries as food while others use the plant for nesting.



**Salmonberry** (*Rubus spectabilis*) is an upright deciduous shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall. Salmonberry is found growing in sites that range from wet riparian areas to dry upland sites. The berries provide an important food source for animals ranging from small birds to bears.



**Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) grows as a small deciduous tree or upright shrub. The berries produced in late summer are a favorite food of birds, including American goldfinch, tufted titmice, brown thrashers, blue jays, chickadees and American robins.



**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos albus*) is a deciduous shrub with an upright growth habit and has white berries that develop in late summer and persist through winter making it a great source for late winter feeders. It is important to note that the berries are considered to be **poisonous to humans**.

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed.  
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.  
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people.

~ Chinese Poet, 500 BC

**Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)** is a large, sprawling, upright deciduous shrub. It grows from 15 to 30 feet tall, and spreads from 7 to 15 feet wide. Its red berries are considered inedible for humans but the birds must think they taste better. Elderberries provide valuable nesting and perching habitat, and their fruit provides food for many species of birds including bluebirds, magpies, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, veeries, warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo, scarlet tanager, western tanager, house finch, green-tailed towhee, Townsend solitaire, American crow, grouse, quail, pheasant, and hummingbirds who visit flowers for nectar.



**Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)** is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall and spread approximately 10 feet wide. Red Flowering Currant is found predominantly on exposed, well-drained sites, where it grows very well. It can be found in shadier, damp sites. Red Flowering Currant is a prized species for many reasons. It can be used as both a conservation species and an attractive ornamental. Its red to pink flower shows in February will brighten any late-winter garden. The flowers produce a bluish berry which birds take advantage of. It is a most favorable species for Hummingbirds as they enjoy the nectar of the flowers.



**Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)** is often found growing on tops of old stumps or soils with high organic matter. They produce bell shaped yellowish-white to pinkish-white. Flowers produce a small edible red berry. Humans and bird will compete for harvest of this tasty berry.



**American Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)** is an upright growing shrub that can reach up to 12 feet in height. They are deciduous with pale white flowers transforming into lush edible red berries. The berries tend to hang on the branches well into the winter providing late food to wildlife.



**Baldhip Rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*)** is a small native rose that is commonly found in open coniferous forests with full to partial shade in well drained soils. Pinkish lavender flowers give rise to fruits in the form of red rose hips containing hard tan seeds which many birds enjoy.



**Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta californica*)** is a deciduous tree that grows well in dry woodland forests or upland sites in partial shade to full sun. Flowers from April to May and seeds ripen from September to October. The fruit is in the form of an edible nut which is favored by wildlife.



**Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*)** typically grows as a deciduous upright tree, occasionally reaching 30 feet tall, but can occur in a shorter bushier form depending on the environment. It is a well adapting tree and can be found on a variety of sites. Lush red berries provide food for many birds.



**Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)** is a large deciduous tree that can be found growing in a variety of sites that range from wet to dry and sunny to shady. The seeds, buds, and flowers provide food and nesting sites for numerous birds including finches, and grosbeaks.



**Black Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*)** grows as a deciduous upright tree or spreading shrub on a variety of sites from moist riparian to upland forested. Plants can grow together creating dense thickets and because of their sharp thorns provide bird refuge from predators. The berries are a good food source.



**Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*)** can be found growing in a wide range of sites. It provides valuable cover, perching, and nesting sites; its fruit provides food for birds such as bluebirds, magpies, vireo, finch, towhee, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, and hummingbirds who visit flowers for nectar.



**Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)** typically grows as an upright tree that can adapt to a wide range of conditions including soils that range from wet to dry and sites that vary from shady to exposed. It also provides wildlife habitat. Its berries are a favorite food of several species of birds.



**Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)** also known as Oso berry grows as a shrub or tree that can be found in a variety of sites that range from dry upland sites to moist riparian areas. Its white, fragrant, flowers give rise to berries that ripen in June and are eaten by many birds.



**Low Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)** also known as Barberry, Dull Oregon Grape or Short Oregon Grape, is a broad-leaf evergreen low growing shrub. It has dull green leaves with a purplish tinge contrasted by bright yellow flowers that transform into edible blue berries.



**Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)** grows as a spindly, deciduous shrub, and can be found in a wide variety of sites throughout its range. It provides forage and habitat for many species of birds and animals. The fragrant flowers produce rose hips many birds favor.



**Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*)** is a large upright deciduous tree, growing on a variety of sites from wet to dry and sunny to shady. It grows large and vigorous, providing shade for streams and habitat for birds and other wildlife. It produces winged seeds that the birds enjoy.



**Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*)** is a small tree, or an upright deciduous shrub that grows best in areas with partial to full sun. It produces small oblong crabapples in late summer. The fruit remains well into winter, providing food for a wide variety of birds, including purple finches.



**Pacific Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)** is a large deciduous shrub that prefers moist soils, often growing along streams, lakes, bogs, and other moist sites. It provides forage and habitat for many species of birds and animals.



**Pisocarpa Rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*)** is a slender, upright deciduous shrub commonly found growing in riparian and other moist areas as well as drier upland sites. Pea Fruit Rose blooms small pink flowers providing a 'pea-sized' food source important for many species of birds.