

**Vine maple, vine maple***Scientific:* Acer circinatum Pursh*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Our lovely small maple, found everywhere in the Pacific Northwest, from woods to residential gardens. A deciduous, broadleaved tree or shrub (generally under 20 ft. but with potential height of 40 ft.) with opposite, lobed (5-9) leaves. Flowers put on a lovely show, clustered in the leaf axils before leafing out, with purple sepals and short white petals with eight stamens, March to June. These are followed by widely spaced "wings", red to orange in color, carrying the seed.

Vine Maple grows straight and tree-like in open situations, multi-trunked and curvaceous in the shade, with elegant form. It often forms thickets in the lower slopes of hemlock and cedar forests, as drooping branches root and grow. Normally an understory tree in our woods, it will grow in full sun but requires a moist root-run. Stunning fall color!

Vine maple provides cover and food (seeds) for birds, including grosbeaks, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and finches. Good nectar source for bees.

Part sun/shade, regular water.

**Images of Acer circinatum**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)[See all images >](#)*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

*Lewis and Clark collected a specimen, on which label Frederick Pursh wrote: "A very handsome Species of Maple. On the great rapids of Columbia. Octbr:1805."*

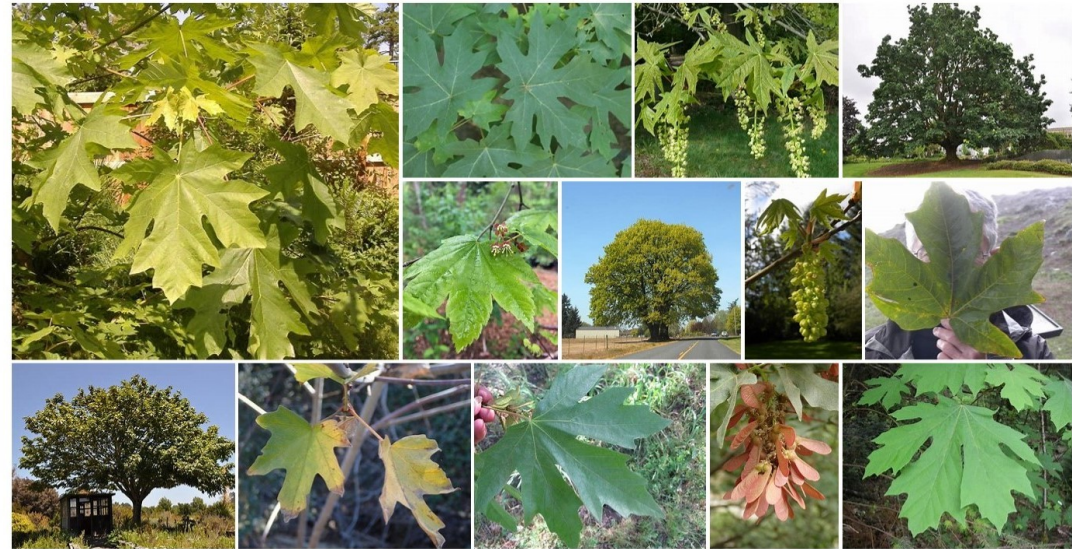
**Bigleaf maple, big-leaf maple***Scientific:* Acer macrophyllum Pursh*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Our grand native maple reaches heights of 75-100 feet, with a spread of up to 50 feet. It is a beautiful deciduous broadleaved tree for large gardens and parks. Leaves are large (6-12"), with 3-5 lobes. Fall color is yellow; large, pendant, creamy yellow flower clusters emerge in mid-spring before the leaves.

Bigleaf maple seeds prolifically; seedlings sprout in many of our gardens, and as a result many Oregonians consider the tree common and invasive, though it is truly a majestic tree of great beauty and usefulness for wildlife. Bigleaf maple seed feeds songbirds; trees provide cover, nesting and perching sites; nectar is used by honeybees. Sun/part sun, regular water, well-drained soil.

Arthur Kruckeberg notes in Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest (University of Washington Press, 1996): "A word of caution for those who would attempt to garden beneath a huge specimen of big-leaf maple. Either from shade or by rapid moisture withdrawal in the summer, the soil beneath a mature tree can be inhospitable to growing even shade-tolerant ornamental shrubs or herbs.

By judicious selection of other natives like salal, Oregon grape, sword fern, and others in the native understory, the big trees can have their own ground-level gardens."

**Images of Acer macrophyllum**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)[See all images >](#)*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

*Lewis described our large-leaved maple in his journal on December 1, 1805, from the mouth of the Columbia River, as "the ash with a remarkable large leaf." He documented the native vegetation on Sauvie Island in March: "there is a heavy growth of Cottonwood, ash, the large leafed ash [referring to big-leaf maple] and sweet willow on most parts of this island."*

*Clark noted his impressions of the Oregon scene in spring "vegetation is rapidly progressing. Sarvis berry, Sackacommis (kinnikinnick) and the large leafed ash is in blume."*



**Pacific madrone***Scientific:* Arbutus menziesii Pursh*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Brushfields*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

One of the northwest's most strikingly beautiful trees, the Madrone is a broadleaf evergreen (60-100 ft.) with thick, green leaves and beautiful cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark. Madrone has tiny, bell-shaped flowers (spring), which attract honeybees and butterflies, including the Spring Azure.

These are followed by edible berries enjoyed by many birds, including band-tailed pigeons, quail, flickers, varied thrushes, waxwings, evening grosbeaks, mourning doves, and robins. The madrone is also a host plant for the Brown Elfin and the Spring Azure butterflies.

Sun/part sun, low water, extremely well-drained soil.

**Images of Arbutus menziesii**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)[See all images >](#)*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

*Lewis and Clark collected a specimen of Pacific madrone on November 1, 1805, near or below the present-day Bonneville Dam. Frederick Pursh wrote on the specimen's label, "A middle size tree with a remarkable smooth bark which Scales off in the manner of the birch;& red berries in clusters."*

*On this day Clark wrote a remarkable description of the river habitat: "passed the Grand Shoote which is 1/4 of a mile long the water confined with in 150 yards passing over imince Stones with tremendous force & low mountain Slipping in on the Stard Side high on the Lard Side great numbers of Sea otters."*

*Meriwether Lewis described madrone in his journal on December 1, 1805, near the mouth of the Columbia River: "the leaf like that of the small magnolia, and brark smoth and of a brickdust red colour it appears to be of the evergreen kind."*

**Port Orford cedar**

*Scientific:* Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (A. Murray bis) Parl.

*Primary category:* Tree

*Habitat:* Forests

*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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**Images of Chamaecyparis lawsoniana**

[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)



See all images >

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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### Oregon ash

*Scientific:* Fraxinus latifolia Benth.

*Primary category:* Tree

*Habitat:* Forests, Wetlands

*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Deciduous, broadleaved tree (40-80 ft.) with pinnately compound leaves. Yellow fall color! Fast growth rate. Oregon ash usually grows in moist areas at low elevations (sea level to 2500 ft.).

Sun/part sun, regular water.

### Images of Fraxinus latifolia

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[See all images >](#)

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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**Oregon crab apple, Western crabapple***Scientific:* Malus fusca (Raf.) C.K. Schneid.*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Small trees (to 40 ft.) or thicket-forming shrubs (to 20 ft.) with white to pink blossoms (spring) and yellow to red fruit. This valuable wetlander helps stabilize streambanks, provides food & cover for animals, and has beautiful fall color.

Sun/part sun, regular water.

**Images of Malus fusca**

[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)



[See all images >](#)

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

**Sitka spruce***Scientific:* Picea sitchensis (Bong.) Carrière*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Evergreen conifer (100-180 ft.) with pyramidal form and yellow-green, usually flattened needles. Woody cones (1-4") hang down. Fast growth rate. Sitka spruce generally grows along the coast from Alaska to California.

Full sun/light shade, low-moderate water, well-drained soil.

**Images of Picea sitchensis**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)[See all images >](#)*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*



**Beach pine, shore pine**

*Scientific:* Pinus contorta Douglas ex Loudon  
var. contorta

*Primary category:* Tree

*Habitat:* Dunes and beaches, Forests

*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Coniferous evergreen tree (30-100 ft.) with 2 needles per fascicle. Contorted refers to the twisted or contorted needles.

The coastal form (shore pine, or Pinus contorta var. contorta) may be wind-pruned into shorter, bushier trees. The mountain form (lodgepole pine, or Pinus contorta var. latifolia) is usually tall and slender. Fairly fast growth rate.

Sun, moderate-regular water, well-drained soil. When grown in poor soil and on the coast, it often develops a crooked trunk and irregular dense crown.

Shore pine is an important source of nesting sites, cover, and food for birds, butterflies and many other animals. Woodpeckers, chickadees, and bushtits eat insects they forage from branches and cones. Seeds are enjoyed by chickadees, jays, nuthatches, siskins, finches, squirrels and chipmunks.

**Images of Pinus contorta**

[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)



[See all images >](#)

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

**Black cottonwood, Cottonwood**

*Scientific:* Populus balsamifera L. ssp. trichocarpa (Torr. & A. Gray ex

*Primary category:* Tree

*Habitat:* Forests

*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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**Images of Populus balsamifera**

bing.com/images



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*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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**Douglas-fir***Scientific:* Pseudotsuga menziesii (Mirb.) Franco*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

A fast-growing conifer (100-250 ft) with a dense crown and soft, spirally arranged needles. The cones are very distinctive; they are 3-4" long and have bracts that resemble pitchforks or rat tails sticking out from beneath the scales.

We have an abundance of Douglas-fir in the Wilamette Valley; it is also plentiful eastward from the Cascade crest to the Rocky Mountains, where it coexists with all the other major coniferous species.

Douglas Fir may be grown as a specimen tree or as a screen in rows or drifts. It is a beautiful ornamental for large gardens, and a small woodlot in larger suburban gardens will provide wildlife habitat and privacy. It is an important source of cover for birds; cavity-nesters use older trees. Seeds are eaten by squirrels and birds, including siskins and crossbills.

The trunk and branches provide a rich source of insects for chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers. The pine white butterfly uses the tree's foliage for its larvae. As do many moths.

Sun/part sun (when young), low water.

**Images of Pseudotsuga menziesii**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)[See all images >](#)*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

*Lewis and Clark collected a Douglas Fir specimen on the banks of the Columbia. In his journal entry of February 4, 1806, from Fort Clatsop, Lewis wrote "There are sveral species of fir in this neighbourhood which I shall discribe as well as my slender botanicall skil will enable me and for the convenience of comparison with each other shal numnber them". Lewis then wrote detailed descriptions of six evergreen coniferous tree species over the next few days, including Sitka spruce, western hemlock, grand fir, Pacific silver fir, Fouglas fir, and western white pine.*

*Of Douglas fir he wrote "it affords but little rosin and the wood is redish white 2/3ds of the diameter in the center, the balance white, somewhat porus and tough . . . The leaves are acerose, 1/20th of an inch in width, and an inch in length, sessile, inserted on all sides of the bough . . . And more thickly placed than in either of the other species . . . The upper disk has a small longitudinal channel and is of a deep green tho' not so glossy as the balsam fir, the under disk is of a pale green." Lewis included a detailed description of the cone, and an illustration of the cone bract in his notes for February 9.*

**Alderleaf buckthorn, Cascara . . .***Scientific:* Rhamnus alnifolia L'Hér.*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Scientific could be: Rhamnus purshiana. deciduous tree (to 50 ft.) or shrub (15 ft.) with glossy leaves (pinnate venation prominent). Birds & small mammals eat the blue-black fruit. People harvest the bark to use as a laxative. Vigorous stump sprouter. Common understory plant.

Part shade/shade, regular water.

**Images of Rhamnus alnifolia**[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)
[See all images >](#)
*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

**Western redcedar, western red cedar***Scientific:* Thuja plicata Donn ex D. Don*Primary category:* Tree*Habitat:* Forests*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Evergreen tree (150-200 ft.) with flattened sprays of scale-like foliage (look for white butterflies on the underside of the foliage). Fragrant. Open cones resemble tiny rose buds.

Part sun, moderate-regular water.

**Images of Thuja plicata**

[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)



[See all images >](#)

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

**Western hemlock**

*Scientific:* Tsuga heterophylla (Raf.) Sarg.

*Primary category:* Tree

*Habitat:* Forests

*Description (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

Evergreen tree (125-200 ft.) with a droopy leader (tree tip) and small, woody cones (1"). Western hemlock loves cool, foggy climates.

Part shade/shade (tolerant), regular water, well-drained soil.

Images of Tsuga heterophylla

[bing.com/images](https://bing.com/images)



See all images >

*Lewis and Clark's journal entries (by Bosky Dell Natives):*

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