

# **Some Plants Used by the Lummi of Western Washington**

*based on Erna Gunther's Ethnobotany of Western Washington  
with supplementary data on Pacific Northwest food plants  
and*

*with images from the PLANTS Database,  
the Central Washington Native Plants Web site,  
Forestry Images  
and by Brian Compton*

# Bibliography

- Forestry Images. 11 Feb. 2004. The Bugwood Network and USDA Forest Service. 2 May 2004 <<http://www.forestryimages.org/>>.
- Gunther, Erna. Ethnobotany of Western Washington. 1945. Rev. ed. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1981.
- Tuason, Thayne. Central Washington Native Plants. 8 Apr. 2004. 30 Apr. 2004. <<http://www.cwnp.org/>>.
- USDA-NRCS. 2003. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

# Image Credits

- Brian D. Compton [as indicated with images]
- Forestry Images. 11 Feb. 2004. The Bugwood Network and USDA Forest Service. 2 May 2004  
<<http://www.forestryimages.org/>>. [Dave Powell]
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Washington Tribes. 4 Dec. 2003  
<<http://www.npaihb.org/maps/washington.html>>.
- Tuason, Thayne. Central Washington Native Plants. 8 Apr. 2004. 30 Apr. 2004. <<http://www.cwnp.org/>>.
- USDA-NRCS. 2003. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. [various photographers as indicated with images]

# Native Communities of Washington



# Notes regarding the slides

- Plants appear in the order used by Gunther (1981)
- Data from Gunther (1981) indicated by "G81"
- Botanical nomenclature updated from the PLANTS Database (may be different in Gunther 1981)
- Gunther's data on plants used by the Lummi
- Limited data (more information from other sources)

# western swordfern

*Polystichum munitum* (Kaulfuss) K. Presl



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- rhizome peeled and baked, or boiled and eaten (G81)
- leaves chewed to facilitate childbirth (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *s'xē'lem* (G81)

# Aleutian maidenhair

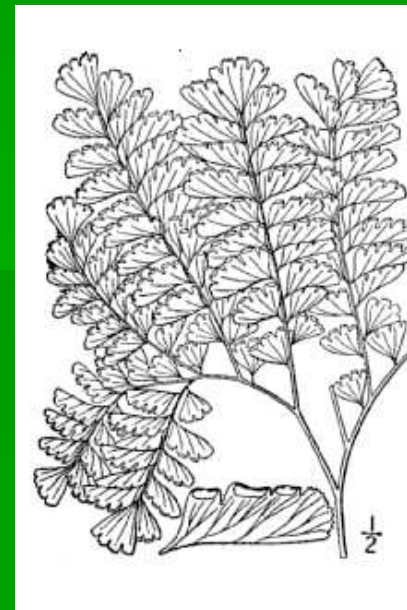
*Adiantum aleuticum* (Rupr.) Paris



©Jim Stasz

- Lummi: *tungwēltsin*,  
“hair medicine” (G81)

- Infusion of leaves used as hairwash (Lummi) (G81)



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 1: 31. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc .

# hairy brackenfern

*Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn var. *pubescens* Underwood



- rhizomes roasted, peeled and insides eaten (G81)
- rhizomes dug after weather turns cold (Lummi) (G81)
- used intensively (G81)
- Lummi: *skuxwen* (G81)

# western white pine

*Pinus monticola* Dougl. ex D. Don



©Gary A. Monroe. Lower Lola Montez Lake, Nevada Co., CA. July 5, 2003

- infusion of bark drunk for tuberculosis (Lummi) (G81)
- pitch chewed like gum (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *q'woxtcł*, *q'woxwutcł* (G81)



©Gary A. Monroe. Lower Lola Montez Lake, Nevada Co., CA. July 5, 2003

# western hemlock

*Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg.



R.A. Seelig @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- Bark boiled for dye (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *sqwa'kunitcł* (G81)



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

# Douglas-fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirbel) Franco var. *menziesii*



© Brian D. Compton

- wood and bark used as fuel (Lummi) (G81)

- wood for spear and harpoon shafts (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tcē'ē'sun* (G81)



# western red cedar

*Thuja plicata* Donn ex D. Don



© 2002 Thayne Tuason



© 2002 Thayne Tuason



Courtesy of USDA Forest Service

- buds chewed, juice swallowed for sore lungs (Lummi) (G81)
- boughs used to rub body before guardian spirit quest (Lummi) (G81)
- cedar tips chewed to avoid nausea when burying corpses (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *x'pai'epł*, whole tree; *x'pai*, buds; *slōwě*, bark (G81)

# Columbian lily

*Lilium columbianum* hort. ex Baker



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- obtained from small islands beyond Lummi Island (Lummi) (G81)
- bulbs steamed and eaten (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported) (G81)

# Pacific trillium

*Trillium ovatum* Pursh ssp. *ovatum*



- infusion of “roots” (rhizome?) used as eyewash (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tcelta'les* (G81)

Brother Alfred Brousseau. Courtesy of St. Mary's College of California .  
©St. Mary's College of California



Brother Alfred Brousseau. Courtesy of  
St. Mary's College of California . ©St.  
Mary's College of California



©Gary A. Monroe. Plumas Co., CA

# California hazelnut

*Corylus cornuta* Marsh. var. *californica* (A. DC.) Sharp



- nuts eaten fresh (Lummi) or stored for winter (other tribes) (G81)
- Lummi: *k!op'uxēłc* (G81)

# red alder

*Alnus rubra* Bong.



- bark used as dye (Lummi), e.g., for fish nets and cedar bark (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported) (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

# California nettle

*Urtica dioica* L. ssp. *gracilis* (Ait.) Seland.



©William S. Justice. Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution, Dept. of Systematic Biology, Botany



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 1: 635. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

- fiber used to make string (Lummi) (G81)
- tea of nettles drunk during childbirth (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tsí'ts'tcał* (G81)

# Oregon-grape

*Mahonia* sp.

- Lummi: *sunni* (G81)
- berries of *sunni*  
(unspecified species)  
eaten (Lummi) (G81)
- dye made from root  
(Lummi) (G81)
- See the following  
slides for two species  
of Oregon-grape and  
additional data.

# hollyleaved barberry

*Mahonia aquifolium* (Pursh) Nutt.



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- berries eaten fresh (various tribes) (G81)



# Cascade barberry

*Mahonia nervosa* (Pursh) Nutt.



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- berries eaten, or used to make jam (G81)
- roots used for dyeing basketry materials (various tribes, including Lummi) (G81)

# sweet after death

*Achlys triphylla* (Sm.) DC.



Brother Alfred Brousseau. Courtesy of St. Mary's College of California .  
©St. Mary's College of California

- decoction of leaves used for hairwash (Lummi) (G81)
- infusion of mashed plant drunk for emetic (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *su'ktcen; xłwe ʼl'los* (G81)

# Lewis' mock orange

*Philadelphus lewisii* Pursh



©Gary A. Monroe. Wilbur D. May Arboretum, Washoe Co., NV. June 16, 2003



©Gary A. Monroe. Wilbur D. May Arboretum, Washoe Co., NV. June 16, 2003

- wood used for combs, netting shuttles and knitting needles (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tsitsinalitc* or *tsetse'tc* (G81)

# prickly currant

*Ribes lacustre* (Pers.) Poir.



- decoction of twigs drunk for general body aches (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *kamēłtc* (G81)

© 2002 Thayne Tuason



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 2: 236. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

# trailing black currant

*Ribes laxiflorum* Pursh



Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

- berries eaten fresh (Lummi) (G81)
- decoction of leaves and twigs combined with other unspecified medicine for general tonic (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *sko'le'is* (G81)

# oceanspray

*Holodiscus discolor* (Pursh) Maxim.



- twigs used in first salmon ceremony, broken up and thrown into river as symbolic of breaking canoes showing the salmon intends to stay (Lummi) (G81)
- used for prongs of duck spears (Lummi) (G81)
- flowers used for diarrhoea, infusion of inner bark for eyewash (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *k'aitsatcł* (G81)

Brother Alfred Brousseau. Courtesy of St. Mary's College of California . ©St. Mary's College of California

# rose spirea

*Spiraea douglasii* Hook. var. *douglasii*



©J.S. Peterson. USDA NRCS NPDC . Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden, Berkeley, CA. June 5, 2003

- used like oceanspray, mainly for spreading and cooking salmon (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tētcl̓p* (G81)

# bride's feathers

*Aruncus dioicus* (Walt.) Fern. var. *acuminatus* (Rydb.) Rydb. ex Hara



- leaves chewed to treat smallpox (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *pestedats* (G81)

# Nootka rose

*Rosa nutkana* K. Presl



© Brian D. Compton

- hips eaten dried (Lummi) (G81)
- twigs peeled and boiled for a beverage (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *kalakē'tc* (G81)



© Brian D. Compton

# salmonberry

*Rubus spectabilis* Pursh



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS  
PLANTS Database



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS  
PLANTS Database



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS  
PLANTS Database

- berries eaten fresh (Lummi, etc.) (G81)
- sprouts eaten cooked (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *ti'la* (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related Plant [guide](#)

# bitter cherry

*Prunus emarginata* (Dougl. ex Hook.) D. Dietr.



© Brian D. Compton



© Brian D. Compton



© Brian D. Compton

- bark chewed to facilitate childbirth (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported) (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

# Indian plum

*Oemleria cerasiformis* (Torr. & Gray ex Hook. & Arn.) Landon



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- berries eaten fresh (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *mołxwú'n* (G81)



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

# Saskatoon serviceberry

*Amelanchier alnifolia* (Nutt.) Nutt. ex M. Roemer var. *semiintegrifolia* (Hook.) C.L. Hitchc.



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- Lummi: *s'tcī'tsen* (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

- dried fruits boiled in winter for dog salmon feasts (Lummi) (G81)



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

# bigleaf maple

*Acer macrophyllum* Pursh



©J.S. Peterson. USDA NRCS NPDC . Goethe Arboretum, Sacramento, CA. June 3, 2003.

- leaves used to cover cooking pits (Lummi) (G81)
- wood used for cradle boards, dishes and spoons (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi *k!amałi'tc:* (G81)

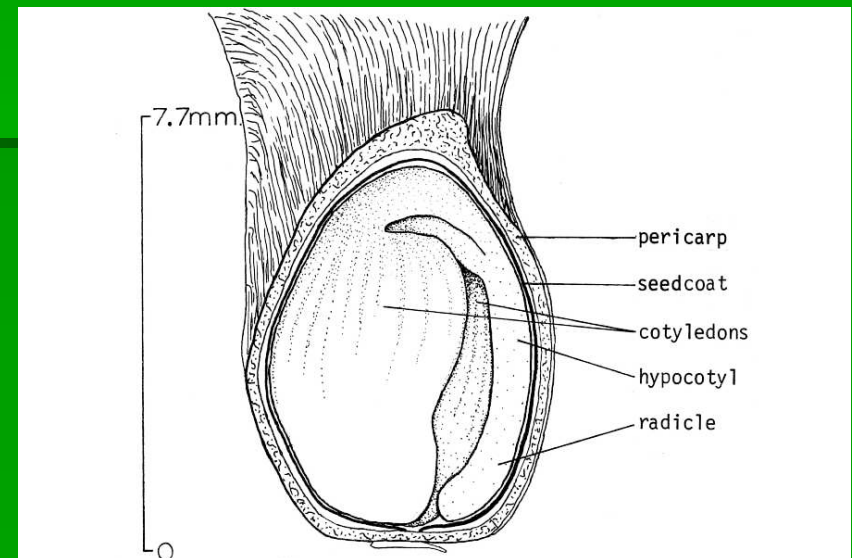
# vine maple

*Acer circinatum* Pursh



©J.S. Peterson. USDA NRCS NPDC . Goethe Arboretum, Sacramento, CA. June 3, 2003.

- used for wattleworks of fish traps (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *t!ekaiyēx̄łp* (G81)



Courtesy of USDA Forest Service.

# Pursh's buckthorn

*Frangula purshiana* (DC.) Cooper



Leavenworth Fish Hatchery ~ Photo by Thayne Tuason

© 2002 Thayne Tuason

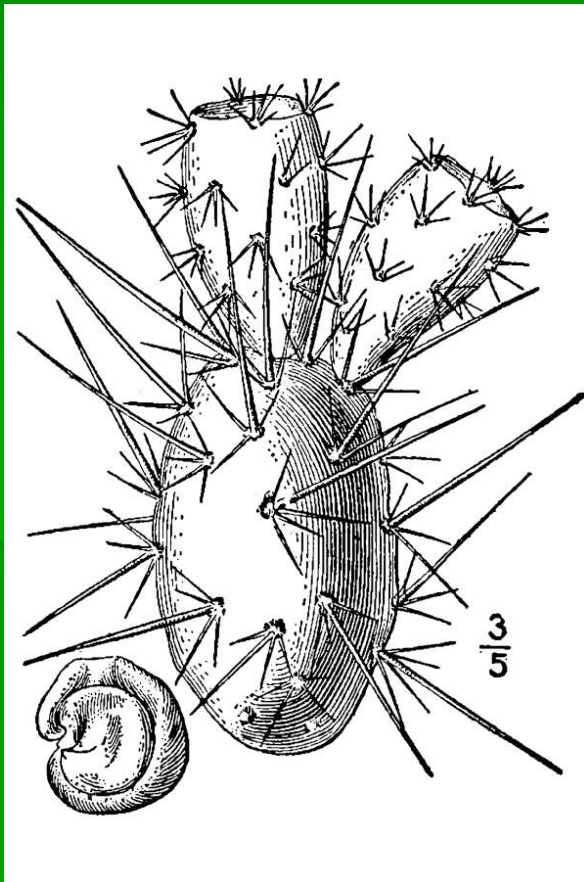


Courtesy of USDA Forest Service.

- bark used as laxative (G81)
- Lummi: *k'aiyetp* (G81)

# brittle pricklypear

*Opuntia fragilis* (Nutt.) Haw.

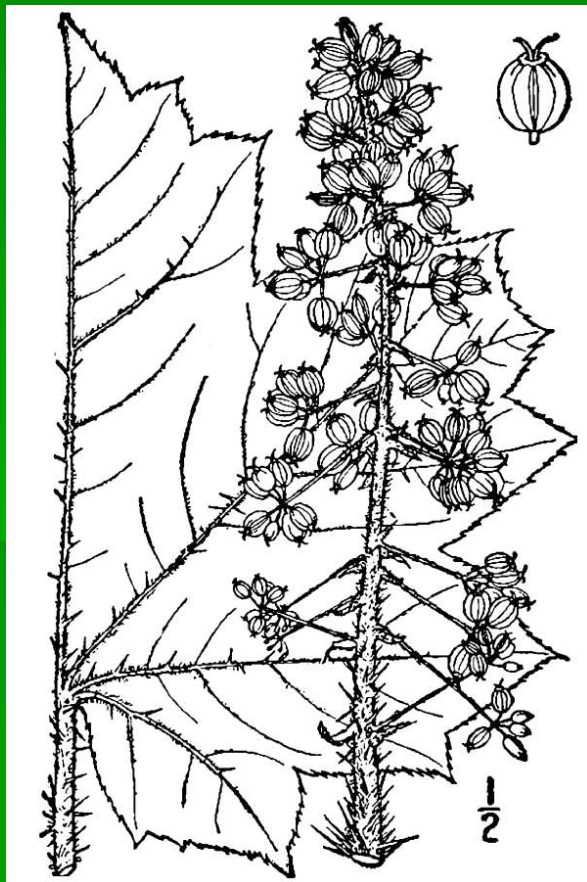


Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 2: 573. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

- spines singed off, and decoction of cladophylls soaked in salt water drunk to facilitate childbirth (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported) (G81)

# devilsclub

*Oplopanax horridus* Miq.



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 2: 619. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

- ashes of stems mixed with grease for face paint (Lummi) (G81)
- bark with thorns removed applied on woman's breast to stop excessive flow of milk (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *qwu'n'numpt* (G81)

# red huckleberry

*Vaccinium parvifolium* Sm.



- berries eaten, usually raw (Lummi) (G81)
- leaves used for tea (G81)
- Lummi: *spix<sup>u</sup>* (G81)

# red elderberry

*Sambucus racemosa* L. var. *racemosa*



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

- fruits eaten (e.g., Lummi) (G81)



Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

# blue elderberry

*Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *cerulea* (Raf.) R. Bolli



William & Wilma Follette @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. 1992.  
*Western wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*. West Region, Sacramento, CA.

- fruits gathered using combs of mock orange in vicinity of Sumas (Lummi) (G81)
- fruits eaten like red elderberries (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *tsíkwi'k<sup>u</sup>* (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

# orange honeysuckle

*Lonicera ciliosa* (Pursh) Poir. ex DC.



Brother Alfred Brousseau. Courtesy of St. Mary's College of California .  
©St. Mary's College of California.

- decoction of leaves drunk for tuberculosis (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *k!itē'łc* (G81)

# twinberry honeysuckle

*Lonicera involucrata* Banks ex Spreng.



© Brian D. Compton

- associated with crow (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported, but locally called “crowberry”) (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

# common yarrow

*Achillea millefolium* L.



© Brian D. Compton

- decoction of flowers drunk to relieve body aches, and thought to be preventative for mumps (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *telai' uqwa' pł* (G81)
- go to the PLANTS Database for a related [Plant guide](#)

# arctic sweet coltsfoot

*Petasites frigidus* (L.) Fries var. *palmatus* (Ait.) Cronq



- decoction of root used as emetic (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: *suk'tcen* (G81)

Brother Alfred Brousseau @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

# thistle

*Cirsium* sp. (thistle)



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada . Vol. 3: 553. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society . Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

- many local species, e.g., *C. arvense* (L.) Scop. (Canada thistle) (pictured)
- salt water decoction of roots and tips drunk at childbirth (Lummi) (G81)
- Lummi: (no term reported) (G81)

*fin*