

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Tree & Shrub FUN FACTS

Trees

Bigleaf Maple - deciduous

- Also known as Broadleaf Maple or Oregon Maple.
- The seeds or “helicopter” seeds are food for small mammals and birds.
- The twigs are food for elk and deer.
- Often draped in mosses.
- Uses: modern furniture, musical instruments, flowers can be used in salads, paddles, baskets, rope, young shoots are edible, and sap is a type of maple syrup



Black Cottonwood - deciduous

- The cottonwood is named for cottony seeds with hair that floats through the air like summer snow.
- Bees use the sticky resin from the buds as a caulking material in their hives.
- A chemical produced in young twigs deters snowshoe hare from feeding on them.
- Generally found in wet areas.

California Black Oak - deciduous

- Seeds grow in catkins.
- Acorns were used for food by Native Americans.
- Popular firewood for stoves.

Douglas-fir - evergreen

- Oregon’s state tree.
- Not a true fir. Notice that the cones hang down instead of sitting upright.
- It has little “rat tails” or distinctive three-forked bracts between cone scales.

Incense Cedar - evergreen

- Wood was used to make pencils.
- Got its name from the pungent aroma when leaves are crushed.
- Thick bark of mature trees is resistant to ground fire.
- Tolerates heat and drought.

Madrone - evergreen

- Broad leaf evergreen.
- Has peeling bark.
- Reproduces mainly by sprouting from existing roots.
- Native Americans ate the berries fresh, used bark strips for tea, and leaves for ointments.
- Live up to 250 years.

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Oregon White Oak - deciduous

- Also known as Garry Oak
- Acorns were a major source of food for Native Americans and remain so for many animals.
- According to legend, carrying an acorn preserved a youthful appearance.
- Named for Nicholas Garry of the Hudson's Bay Company.
- Many birds, small mammals and insects use the white oak tree as their home.
- Drought and heat tolerant.



Ponderosa Pine - evergreen

- Also known as Western Yellow Pine
- It was named because of its ponderous size.
- Wolf lichen grows on the trunks and dead branches.
- Has a long, deep root system that enables it to access deep water and keep the tree from blowing over.
- Has thick bark to protect it from fire.
- Can live up to 500 years.

Western Juniper - evergreen

- Often infected with clumps of dwarf mistletoe.
- Cones are eaten by birds, foliage by deer.
- Traditionally used to make gin.
- Can live up to 2000 years.

White Alder - deciduous

- Named for its pale green foliage.
- Limited to permanent streams, it is a good indicator of water.
- Male seeds develop long catkins.
- Fast growing and short lived.

White Fir - evergreen

- A true fir with cones that stand upright.
- A common Christmas tree.
- The winged seeds of this and other firs are eaten by songbirds and various mammals, especially squirrels and chipmunks.
- Deer and grouse feed on the foliage; porcupines gnaw the bark.
- Wood primarily used for pulp to make paper.

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Shrubs

Greenleaf Manzanita - evergreen

- Manzanita means little apple in Spanish. Its berries look like little apples.
- It is reportedly a good browse for mule deer.
- Its berries are often eaten by bears, therefore it is sometimes called “bearberry.”
- It can be seen sprouting from burls after a fire.
- Occurs at higher elevations than whiteleaf manzanita.



Whiteleaf Manzanita - evergreen

- Occurs at lower elevations than greenleaf manzanita.
- Flowers are sticky.
- Manzanita means little apple in Spanish. Its berries look like little apples.
- Its berries are often eaten by bears, therefore it is sometimes called “bearberry.”

Oceanspray - deciduous

- Also known as cream bush.
- Gets its name from flowers that grow in long hanging white clusters.
- Can grow up to 15' tall.
- Fruits are edible raw or cooked.
- Fine shallow roots take advantage of summer moisture.

Pacific Poisonoak - deciduous

- “Leaves of three, let it be”
- Plant's oils cause a skin rash in most people who come in contact with it.
- All parts of the plant contain the oil Urushiol which causes the skin reaction.
- Deer eat the leaves and woodrats make nests with the branches.
- It is one of the most important food plants for wildlife in our area.

Common Snowberry - deciduous

- The berries, which are considered to be poisonous or toxic, are referred to by some natives as corpse or ghost berries.
- The Gitxsan (Native Americans) hollowed out the twigs in order to make the stems for pipes.
- Berries last well into winter providing an important food source for many animals.

Wedgeleaf Buckbrush - evergreen

- Its seeds require the heat of a fire to germinate.
- An important food source for deer.