• Evergreen shrub growing up to 4 m tall with egg-shaped & sharp toothed leaves and edible purplish-black berries
• Found in coniferous forests, especially in edge habitats, at low elevations - often close to tidewater
• Berries ripen in autumn & remain on the plant thru winter
Low Oregon Grape
Mahonía nervosa

• Short (up to 60 cm) evergreen shrub in dry to moist open or shaded forests at low to middle elevations from Oregon to WA
• Yellow flowers in spring result in blue berries in spring
• Bright yellow interior bark due to alkaloid "berberine"
Sword Fern
Polystichum muniium

Dryopteridaceae
(Wood Fern)

- Large (up to 1.5 m tall) evergreen fern found from southern Oregon to British Columbia, forms in a circular "crown"
- Each frond has leaflets with "sori" - spores of the fern
- "Pala-pala plant" - a game played by native children with goal to pull off as many leaflets in one breath while saying "pala-pala"
Trailing Blackberry
Rubus ursinus

- Vining, low-lying shrub with 3 leaflets per branch on main vine
- Common in disturbed sites, thickets, and dry, open forests from low to mid elevations
- White or pink flowers turn into small blackberries, edible
- Our own native blackberry - not to be mistaken for the larger invasive varieties of Himalayan and Evergreen blackberry
Beaked Hazelnut
Cornylus cornuta var. californica

- Tall shrub growing 1 - 4 m tall in moist but well-drained sites at low to mid elevations from southern OR to north Washington
- Open forest, shady openings, thickets, clearings
- Nuts were favored by Coast Salish peoples
Honeysuckle
Lonicera ciliosa

Caprifoliaceae
(Honeysuckle)

- Climbing, branching vine with hollow twigs
- Whorled orange flowers above disc leaf
- Found in woods & thickets from sea level to mid-elevation from southern Oregon to northern Washington
- Used by native peoples for weaving & binding
- Known as "ghost's swing" or "owl's swing" by many Coast Salish
Nootka Rose
Rosa nutkana

- Medium sized hedging shrub growing up to 3 m tall
- Found in open habitats - meadows, shorelines, thickets, streamsides, roadsides, clearings
- Produces pink blossoms in spring that turn to red hips in autumn
- Skin of the "hip" is high in vitamin C
Oceanspray
Holodiscus discolor

- Tall woody shrub, often mistaken for small tree, growing up to 4 m tall often with "arching" stems
- Produces white to cream flowers that are "lilac-like"
- Used to make digging sticks by Coast Salish - "ironwood"
Red Flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum

- Woody shrub growing from 1 - 3 m tall in low to mid elevation dry open woods, rock slopes, and disturbed sites in Washington
- "Sanguineum" means "blood-red" or "blood" referring to the flowers - a favorite of gardeners and hummingbirds alike
- Berries are edible, though not palatable
Salmonberry  
*Rubus spectabilis*  

- Large (up to 4 m tall) shrub grows in moist to wet areas at low to mid elevations from southern Oregon into southern Alaska.  
- Sprouts & orangeish-red berries edible.  
- Salmonberry patches were "owned" by Nuu-chah-nulth owner and could only be harvested by others once enough boxes were collected by the owner to hold a feast.
Serviceberry
Amelanchier alnifolia

- Shrub to small tree 1-5 m tall with deciduous, thin oval leaves regularly toothed
- Found at low to mid elevations in habitats like rocky shorelines, bluffs, forest edges, thickets, and meadows, and open forests
- Dull-red at first berries become purple to nearly black, edible
Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

Caprifoliaceae
(Honeysuckle)

- Woody hedging shrub found at low elevations from OR to BC
- Produces white berries that are poisonous ("corpse berry")
- Found in dry to moist open forests, thickets, ravines, and by beaches
Tall Oregon Grape
Mahonia aquifolium

- Medium shrub with evergreen leaves in 5-9 leaflets growing up to 15 ft
- Found in drier, rockier open sites than Low Oregon Grape
- Produces yellow flower that grows into blue berry - edible
- Found at low elevations from central Oregon to southern British Columbia
Thimbleberry
Rubus parviflorus

- Forms dense thickets in open sites in low elevations from southern Oregon to northern British Columbia
- Leaves palmate, soft - known to hikers as "nature's toilet paper"
- White blossoms which turn to red thimble-sized berries in early summer - edible and eaten fresh or dried by Coast Salish peoples
Vine Maple
Acer circinatum

Sapidaceae
(Soapberry)

- Deciduous shrub or scraggly tree up to 7 m tall with sprawling branches often rooting and forming new "colonies"
- Found in moist to wet places, generally under larger trees where some reaches the forest floor - low to mid elevations OR to WA
- You can spell "V-I-N-E-M-A-P-L-E" by counting the lobes of one leaf
Bigleaf Maple
Acer macrophyllum

- Deciduous tree, large, often multi-stemmed up to 35 m tall
- Found on sites often disturbed by fire, clearing or logging, dry to moist, low to mid elevations from southern Oregon to Washington
- Well known for its canopy roots that house moss/licorice fern
Bitter Cherry
Prunus emarginata

- Shrub or small tree up to 2-15 m tall with reddish-brown bark with horizontal-raised pores
- Produces bright red cherries
- Found in moist forests at low to mid elevations OR to BC
Douglas Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii ssp. menziesii

- Coniferous tree up to 70 m tall with pyramidal crown
- Found from Oregon to British Columbia at low elevation sites, from dry to moist
- Bark is very thick and can withstand wildfire
- Needles arranged in a "whorl" around the stem and cone seeds look like mouse feet
Grand Fir
Abies grandis

- Coniferous tree up to 80 m tall with grey-brown bark, usually with white mottles that are smooth & contain resin blisters when young
- Needles are flat and cones apart high in the crown & drop in autumn
- A "true fir" found in rain shadow areas from low to mid elevations
- Present from southern Oregon to northern Washington, often in same area as Douglas Fir trees
Red Alder

Alnus rubra

Betulaceae
(Birch)

- Deciduous tree growing up to 25 m tall with thin, grey bark
  found in low elevation from Oregon to British Columbia
- Found in moist woods, along streams, & in recently cleared land
- Short-lived - usually up to 60 years
- Was prized by Coastal peoples for its antibiotic properties
Red Madrone
Arbutus menziesii

- Evergreen broadleaf tree up to 30 m tall in low to mid elevations, specifically associated with Douglas Fir & Garry oak along shorelines & rocky, sunny, dry slopes
- Lance-shaped leaves, red berries in large drooping clusters
- Named after Spanish strawberry tree "madrono"
Western Red Cedar
Thuja plicata

- Large coniferous tree growing up to 60 m tall in moist to wet soils in shaded forests, low to mid elevations from southern Oregon to British Columbia
- Regarded as the "tree of life" to Coast Salish peoples, as it provided multiple uses for shelter, clothing, tools, and transportation
- Scale-like leaves with tiny, egg-shaped seed cones