Native Plant Collection Program

Many people are discovering Central Oregon’s native plants and bringing them home into their landscapes. With this increase in popularity, comes the risk of harming plant communities and the many wildlife species that depend on them. Please follow the permit conditions to protect plant populations and minimize negative impacts to the ecosystems in your National Forest.

Permit Conditions

- Permits are required to collect native plants. There are two types of permits available: free use and personal use. For more information on permits see the Types of Permits section.
- Only the plants listed in this publication are allowed for collection. (Some species of plants not listed in this brochure may be available upon request).
- Follow the “1 in 20” rule. Collect only 1 plant for every 20 plants of that species in the area. If there aren’t 20 plants present, find a new location.
- Tree seedlings need to be less than 4 feet in height and shrubs need to be less than 2 feet in height for transplanting.
- Keep your vehicle on established roads.
- Collect out of sight from trails. Fill in holes. Restore your collection area so that it appears undisturbed.
- Plants cannot be collected from the following areas: campgrounds, recreation areas, wilderness areas, research natural areas, tree plantations, within 300 feet of lakes, streams springs or other wetlands, within 100 feet of graveled or paved roads, (for safety, scenic preservation and minimizing noxious weed invasion).
- Protected Species - All species of the following plants are protected under Oregon State Law and are prohibited from collection: lilies - including camas, mariposa lilies, fawn lilies, 3 and 6 petal lilies, orchids - including lady slippers, bitterroot, and primroses. All Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species are prohibited from collection.

Non-native invasive plants (noxious weeds) - If you identify any of the following weeds on National Forest land, please notify your local Ranger Station. They include St. Johnswort, spotted and diffuse knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, medusa head, brome-straw, and yellow starthistle. For more information on noxious weeds visit: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/weeds/.

Collecting Native Plants

Ochoco National Forest

Permit Conditions and Transplanting Tips

Background photo: Bitterroot, courtesy Ron Halvorson

Spotted Knapweed

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Collecting Native Plants

Types of Permits
- **Free-use permits** authorize collection of 16 plants, 4 of which can be trees... Free! Material collected using a free-use permit cannot be resold or bartered.
- **Personal-use permits** authorize the collection of larger amounts of plants for a $20.00 minimum charge. Quantities will be detailed on your Personal-use permit.
- For transplants from the Crooked River National Grassland, purchase a permit at the district office.
- For transplants from the Ochoco National Forest, purchase a permit from the Lookout Mountain or Paulina Ranger District Offices.

Transplanting Tips
- **Know where your transplants will be planted** in your yard prior to collecting them. Select plants growing in conditions that match where they will be planted - moisture, sunlight, frost...
- **Reduce transplant shock** by collecting plants between October and May, when soils are moist and plants are dormant.
- **Avoid collecting on steep slopes** to help prevent soil erosion.
- **Dig plants carefully**, retaining as much soil around the roots as possible. Keep roots moist at all times. Wrap wet newspapers or burlap around the outside of the root ball.
- **Completely cover your plants** when carried in the back of an open truck. The intense wind will rapidly dry the foliage which severely stresses the plants, possibly causing them to die.
- **Don’t delay!** Re-plant your newly collected plants as quickly as possible.
- **Trees take 1-2 years** to re-establish themselves in your landscape. Supplemental watering is advised during this period. Keep shrubs, grasses, and herbs watered until they are actively growing. During the dry summer months, water every 1-3 weeks (depending on species).

Transplanting Tools
**Things to bring with you:**
- Sharp long-handled spade or shovel
- One or more five gallon buckets
- Watering can
- Burlap or old newspapers and twine

Native Plant Community Zones

Locate native plants that would most likely survive in your yard by using this plant community zone map. Use this map only as a guide, since some plant species can be found in different zones than pictured.

**Planting Key**
- **Mixed Conifer - Fir**
  - Shade or sunny conditions
  - Needs a moist environment
  - Can tolerate cold temperatures with moderate intermittent snowpack
- **Juniper & Grasslands**
  - Very sunny conditions
  - Very drought tolerant
  - Can tolerate extreme cold temperatures with light intermittent snowpack
- **Pine Forest**
  - Sunny conditions
  - Drought tolerant
  - Can tolerate cold temperatures with light intermittent snowpack
Propagation and seed collection are excellent methods for reproducing native plants already established in your landscape or from the National Forest. There are permits available for seed and cutting collection.

Many types of riparian plants are likely available at local nurseries. For information on native nursery stock or a list of local nurseries, call the Oregon Association of Nurseries at 1-800-342-6401.

Options to Explore

Planting for Fire Protection

When planning your home landscape, keep in mind you can reduce the chances of wildfire through design and choice of plants. The Ochoco National Forest has a pamphlet called the Central Oregon Fire Revegetation Guide which offers design strategies, lists of fire resistant and water conservative plants, and other useful information.

Plant trees and shrubs away from house structures to provide a fire break AND create an outdoor room.

For more information on defensible space visit www.firefree.org

Planting Native Plants

Native plants help provide a naturally appearing landscape if they are planted in a way similar to the way they naturally grow. Here are some tips to make your native planting look “natural.”

- Plant in groups of 1 to 5 plants
- Space your plants unevenly, some close together, some plants further apart.
- Plant a diversity of plants.
- Scatter colors for a mosaic effect. Group colors to intensify the beauty.
- Plant light colored plants, like Aspen, in front of dark colored trees for a nice effect.

Looking For More Information? Here are some ideas...

These are only a few of many excellent references available. Explore your local library or bookstore for more.

Plant Identification

- Deschutes Co. Weeds website: www.co.deschutes.or.us/go/living-here/public-works/special-programs/noxious-weed-control-program
- Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/plantlife/

Attracting Wildlife

Increasing the amount and diversity of vegetation in your landscape will attract more wildlife. Wildlife use native plants for food and shelter. Choose a variety of plants so that your landscape offers habitat and food year-round.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website: www.dfw.state.or.us/

Noxious Weeds

- Deschutes County weeds program: www.co.deschutes.or.us/go/living-here/public-works/special-programs/noxious-weed-control-program.
- Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/weeds/

Gardening/Landscaping

- Central Oregon Horticulture Extension Agent Oregon State University, Redmond, OR 97756.
**YOU CAN COLLECT...**

**TREES**
- White Fir
  - Abies concolor
- Grand Fir
  - Abies grandis
- Western Larch *
  - Larix occidentalis
- Western Juniper
  - Juniperus occidentalis
- Lodgepole Pine
  - Pinus contorta
- Ponderosa Pine
  - Pinus ponderosa
- Douglas-fir
  - Pseudotsuga menziesii

*Western Larch is deciduous, losing its needles in the fall.

**GRASSES**
- Bluebunch Wheatgrass
  - Agropyron spicatum
- Idaho Fescue
  - Festuca idahoensis
- Western Fescue
  - Festuca occidentalis
- Prairie Junegrass
  - Koelaria cristata

**SHRUBS**
- Pinemat Manzanita
  - Arctostaphylos neumanni
- Greenleaf Manzanita
  - Arctostaphylos patula
- Big Sagebrush
  - Artemisia tridentata
- Snowbrush
  - Ceanothus velutinus
- Green Rabbitbrush
  - Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus
- Gray Rabbitbrush
  - Chrysothamnus nauseosus
- Bitterbrush
  - Purshia tridentata
- Currants
  - Ribes cereum and Ribes viscosissimum

**HERBS**
- Yarrow
  - Achillea millefolium
- Fireweed
  - Epilobium angustifolium
- Sulfur Buckwheat
  - Eriogonum umbellatum
- Oregon Sunshine
  - Eriophyllum lanatum
- Western Wallflower
  - Erysimum asperum
- Broadpetal Strawberry
  - Fragaria virginiana
- Showy Penstemon
  - Penstemon speciosus
- Lowly Penstemon
  - Penstemon humilis
- Scarlet Gilia
  - Gilia aggregata
- Horkel’s Rose
  - Horkelia fusca
- Blue flax
  - Linum perenne
- Lupine(s)
  - Lupinus species
- Sticky Cinquefoil
  - Potentilla glandulosa

**PLANTING KEY**
- Mixed Conifer
- Pine & Juniper
- Forestwide
- High Elevation
- Sun
- Shade
- Sun or Shade

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Late fall and very early spring is the best time to transplant, before their buds open.

Snowberry’s white berries are toxic to humans but provide winter food for wildlife.

Idaho Fescue survives transplanting well, is drought tolerant, and is excellent for erosion control.

Fireweed grows well in sites modified by fire or soil disturbance.

Lupine is a nitrogen-fixing plant, perfect for nutrient poor sites.

Pines can live for 500 years; choose a sunny dry site away from structures.

Wild strawberry is the parent of 90% of cultivated strawberries grown today.

Snowbrush has beautiful fall color and attracts many types of wildlife.

Kinnikinnick is a hardy groundcover that grows well in sun or shade.

Sulfur buckwheat thrives in dry, sunny rock gardens and propagation is best achieved from seed.

Artwork courtesy of Heidi Suna