

BI 213: ECOLOGY LAB SHRUB AND TREE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Hazelnut

Oval leaves with a toothed margin and a fuzzy surface. Often a dozen or more thin, whip-like stems will arise from the same root.



Cherry

Oblong leaves with a smooth surface, distinct veins, and a toothed margin. Notice the forks in the veins as they approach the margins.



Indian Plum

Oblong leaves with a smooth surface and a faint odor of cucumbers when crushed.



Cascara Buckthorn

Shiny leaves with a smooth surface and distinct rib-like veins. Bark is smooth and gray. In past decades, the underbark was peeled and sold to drug companies to make laxatives!



Bigleaf Maple

While Bigleaf Maples grow to be huge trees, the young saplings make up part of the shrub layer in our forests. Look for big leaves, usually from 6 to 12 inches across, sometimes larger. The leaves have five major lobes, with smaller points on the lobes.



Thimbleberry

Look for thin-stemmed shrubs with fuzzy, maple-like leaves. These will bear white flowers in the spring, followed by a small red berry resembling a fuzzy raspberry.



Oregon Grape

Compound leaves with toothed margins so firm that the points are sharp to the touch. Sometimes mistaken for holly, but the leaflets are somewhat softer, and the plants bear yellow flowers in the spring followed by blue berries.



Snowberry

Leaves on a snowberry are often round and coin-like, or have small, round lobes. The leaves are smooth. The shrub bears tiny pink blossoms in the spring, followed by white (inedible) berries.



Elderberry

Compound leaves made up of 5 to 7 leaflets. The leaflets are pointed and have slightly toothed margins. Red and blue elderberries are most common in this region.



Wood Rose

Compound leaves have toothed margins on the leaflets. Look for small, *very* sharp spines on the stems. The shrub bears pink blossoms with five petals late in the spring.



Douglas-fir

Conifer with a "bottle-brush" arrangement of needles around the twig and shiny, pointed buds. The most visible feature at ground level is deeply-fissured bark which, when broken or cut into, reveals bacon-like layers of dark and light corky tissue.

Another conifer we sometimes see is Grand fir, which has needles held horizontally to either side of the twig, and has smoother bark.



Poison-oak

Three shiny leaflets with rounded lobes and prominent veins. Poison-oak can take the form of a scraggly shrub or a robust vine. *Be sure to know this plant!*