

# Discover the Native Plants Garden

The Native Plant Garden was established in 2008 and is still under development. When complete, the garden will showcase native plants found in this region and suitable for the home garden. According to the Federal Native Plant Committee, "a native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions." Therefore, native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions and provide food and shelter for native birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

## Look for:

- The Oregon State plant is the Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*). Check out its spiky green leaves and blue/purple berries. They are edible - but very sour!
- The native columbine, *Aquilegia Formosa*, blooms in spring and early summer. Can you spot its beautiful orange flowers and delicate leaves?
- Look for other native plants in the Rain Garden and the Wildflower Garden.

## Garden Tips:

- Once established, meaning after about 2-3 years in the ground with regular watering, most native plants require minimal irrigation.
- Native plants require minimal or no pruning, fertilizers, or pesticides. They have evolved to grow well in our climate so they are a low-maintenance addition to any landscape.
- Another incentive to plant native plants is that native pollinators can be very specific and will only pollinate, lay their eggs, or eat their native host. So, the more native plants you have in your landscape, the more native pollinators you support!

