



Invasive Shrubs Found in the Puget Sound Region

Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating tools to empower stewards for healthy urban ecosystems. SUN assists community groups, government, non-profit organizations, and private citizens in their efforts to survey, map, restore, and maintain urban forests in the Puget Sound region. To support SUN or for more information, please visit www.seattleurbannature.org.

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and **Evergreen blackberry** (*Rubus laciniatus*) form thick stands of impenetrable shrubs which exclude all other plants. In 2000, SUN's citywide survey showed Himalayan blackberry to be the most invasive plant in Seattle's public lands. These shrubs produce tasty berries which are spread by birds all over the Pacific Northwest.



Himalayan blackberry leaves (above) and berries (right)



Evergreen blackberry leaves

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is an invasive plant commonly found in disturbed areas and along roadsides. It is one of the top five invasive plants found in Seattle's public lands. A member of the pea family, the seedpods eject seeds up to 20 feet away.



Scotch broom

Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is an evergreen horticultural shrub introduced from Eurasia. Spurge laurel can establish in the shady forest understory where it competes with native vegetation. This shrub is spread by birds who eat the berries.



Spurge laurel leaves and berries

Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*) is a very popular garden plant which has escaped into natural areas. This shrub is common along roadsides and disturbed areas. It is one of the most recent additions to the King County Noxious Weed List. The seeds are spread by wind, birds, animals and people who brush up against the plant.



Butterfly bush

Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) is a popular landscaping shrub which grows in low-light conditions in our forests. It produces berries in the winter and attracts birds which disperse the seeds. These plants have the potential to displace native shrubs.



Cotoneaster



Native Shrubs for Landscaping

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Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) is a shrub or small tree which grows to approximately 25 feet tall. Its beautiful, lobed leaves turn yellow to bright red in the fall. It can grow in shade or full sun.



Vine maple



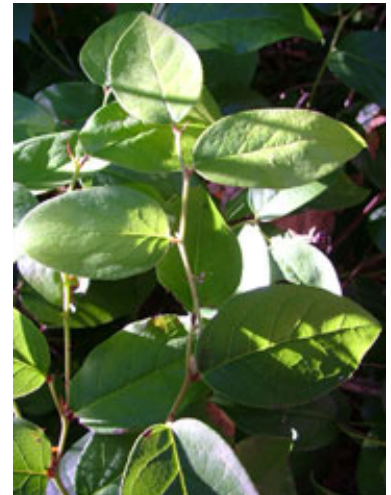
Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) is a shrub that can grow up to 10 feet tall. It produces beautiful pink flowers in the spring. These flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies.



Red flowering currant



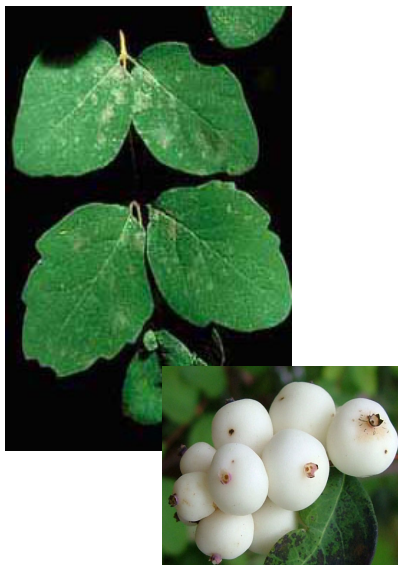
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) is a very common plant found in our forests. It produces small grape-like berries in the fall which were gathered by Native Americans. Salal makes a beautiful evergreen shrub in the garden that can grow up to 15 feet tall.



Salal



Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) is a small to medium shrub capable of growing in a wide variety of conditions. It produces white berries in the fall which last throughout most of the winter.



Snowberry leaves and berries



Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) is a small to medium shrub that is great for native plant gardens due to its ability to grow in a wide variety of habitats. Its white, fragrant flowers and leaves can be crushed into a lather, and were once used by Native Americans as a form of soap.



Mock orange



Evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) is an evergreen shrub commonly found in conifer forests. It produces pink, bell-shaped flowers and delicious purplish-black berries that go well in a pancake breakfast.



Evergreen huckleberry

Photos courtesy of Nelson Salisbury