Wildflowers of the Western U.S.



Botanical illustrations by Julie Kierstead Nelson



Julie Kierstead Nelson has been a professional botanist since 1976, starting her career doing rare plant surveys and conservation work in Oregon. She has a B.S. in botany from Oregon State University and an M.S. in biology from Northern Arizona University, and worked in the herbaria of both Universities. Julie was the Conservation Director for Berry Botanic Garden in Portland, OR, from 1982 until 1988. While there, she developed a seed bank for rare and endangered plants of the Pacific Northwest. Since 1989, she has been the Forest Botanist for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, which encompasses parts of the Southern Cascades and Klamath Ranges in far Northern California. With Gary Nakamura, she edited the 2001 publication, Illustrated Field Guide to Selected Rare Plants of Northern California, published by the University of California. She lives in the oak woodland outside Redding, CA with her family.

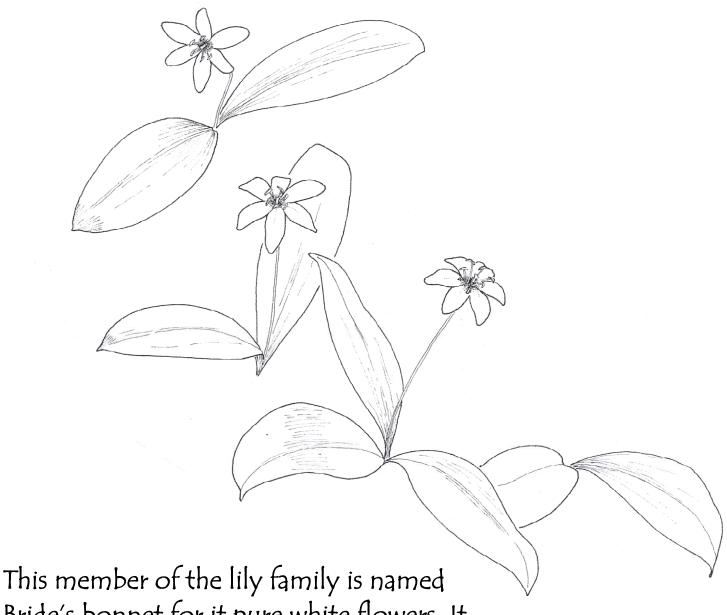
Darrett's Beardtongue Penstemon barrettiae



This Penstemon has green leaves and rose-purple flowers. It can be found growing in the high rocky cliffs of Washington and Oregon.

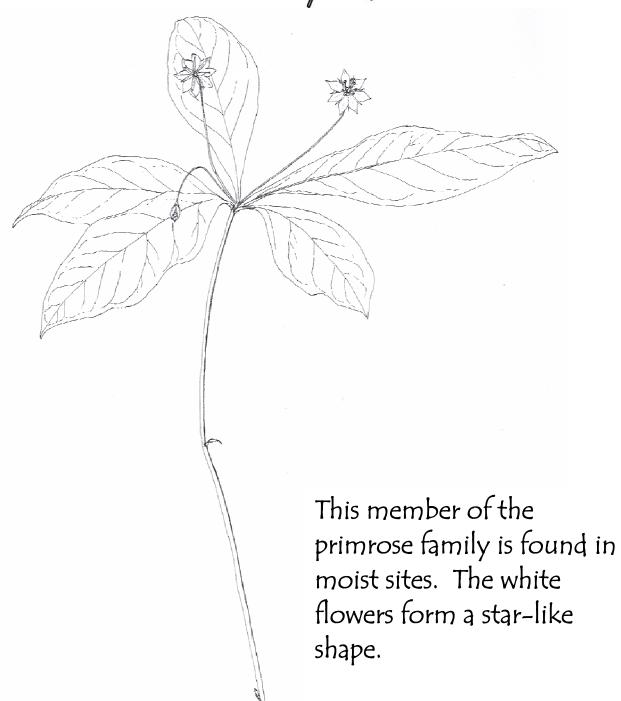
Bride's Bonnet

Clintonia uniflora

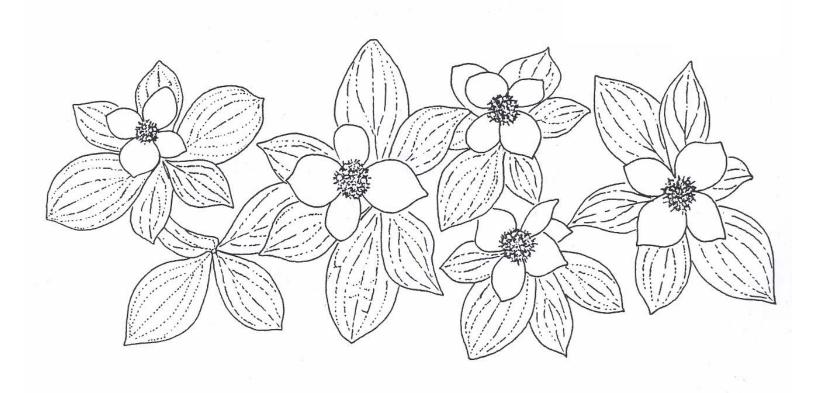


This member of the lily family is named Bride's bonnet for it pure white flowers. It is also called Queen's cup.

Broadleaf Starflower Trientalis borealis sep latifolia

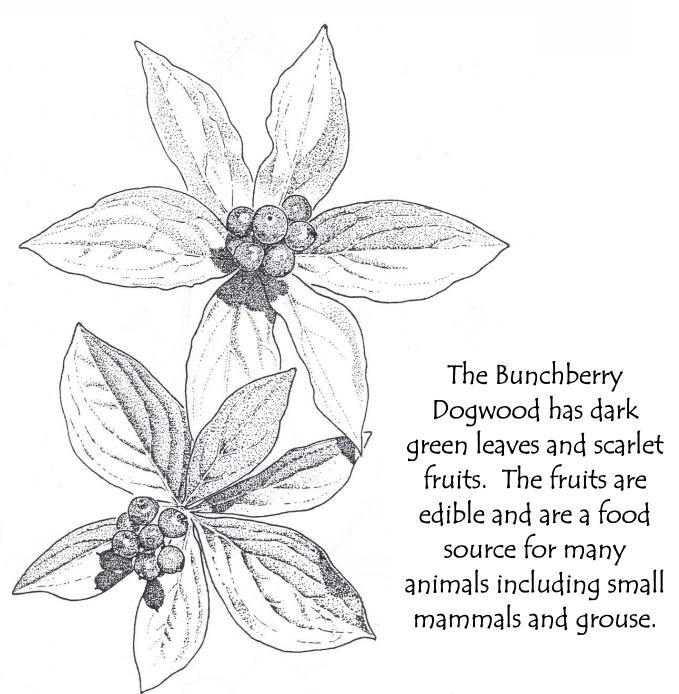


Bunchberry Dogwood Cornus canadensis

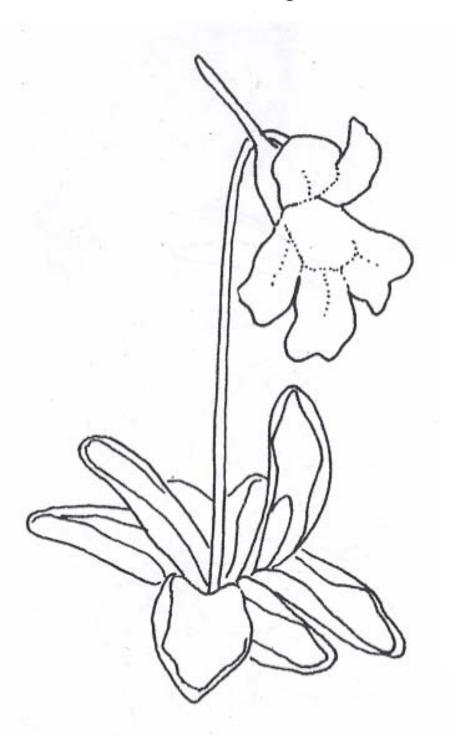


The Bunchberry dogwood is a dark green-leaved perennial with striking white bracts that look like petals. These showy bracts make the small flowers located in the center more noticeable and may serve as landing platforms for visiting pollinators.

Bunchberry Dogwood Cornus canadensis



California Butterwort Pinguicula macroceras

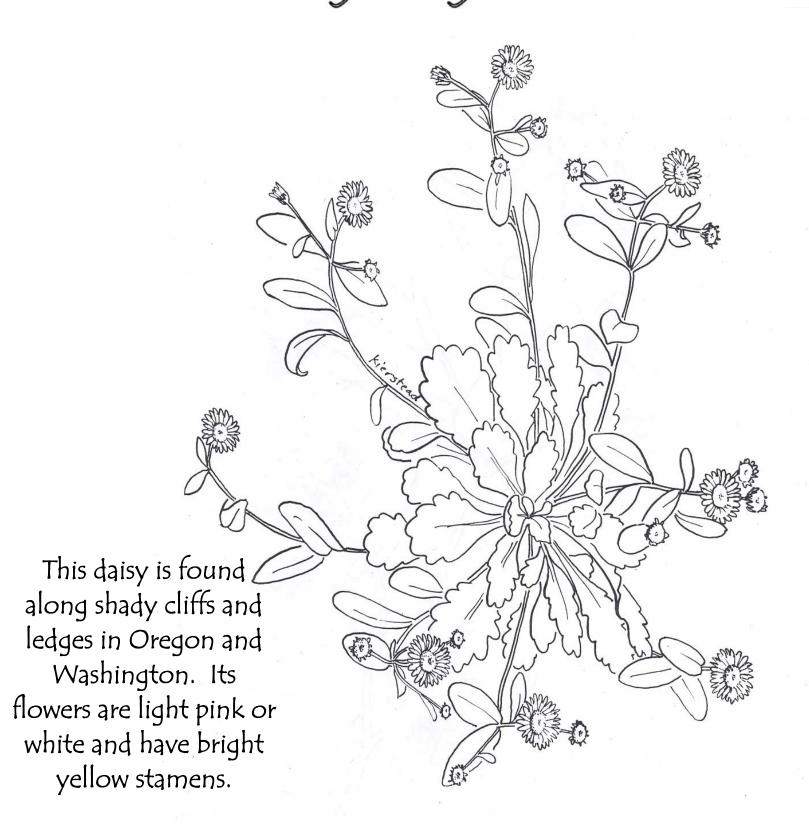


The California Butterwort has a bright purple flower and yellow-green leaves that produce food through photosynthesis. These plants supplement their diet by trapping and "eating" insects that they catch with a sticky residue that coats their leaves.

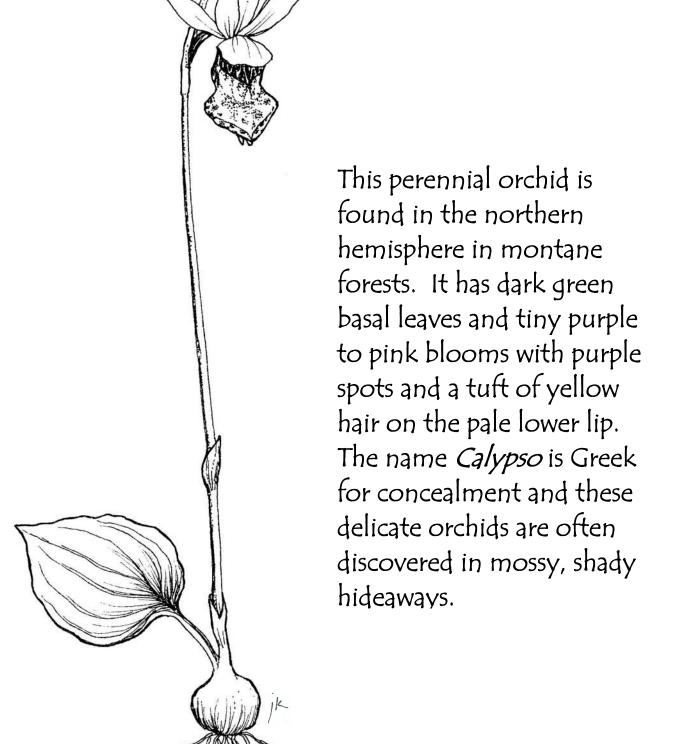
Columbia Lily Lilium columbianum

This member of the lily family is found throughout the Pacific Northwest. It can grow up to 6 feet tall. It has golden orange petals with spots in the center. Indigenous people used the bulb of this plant as a starchy food source.

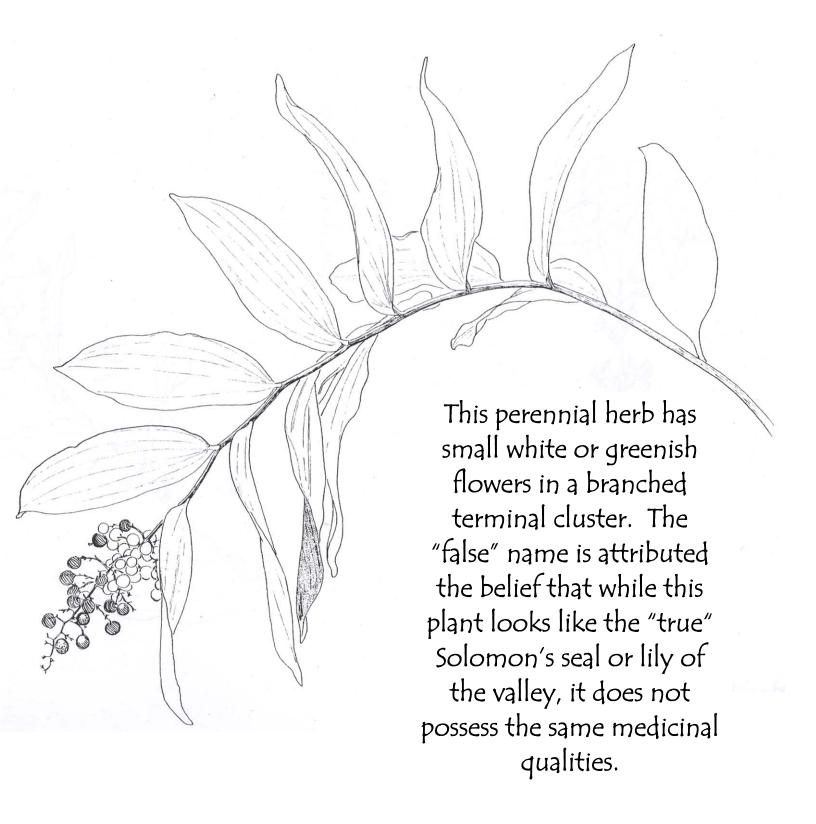
Columbia Gorge Fleabane Erigeron oreganis



J DIPP Calypso bulbosa arru



False Solomon Sea Maianthemum racemosum



Gentner's Fritillary Fritillaria gentneri

This perennial member of the lily family is listed as Endangered due to its narrow distribution in Oregon and Siskiyou County California. Gentner's Fritillary grows to 28 inches tall and has nodding reddish flowers with small yellow spots.

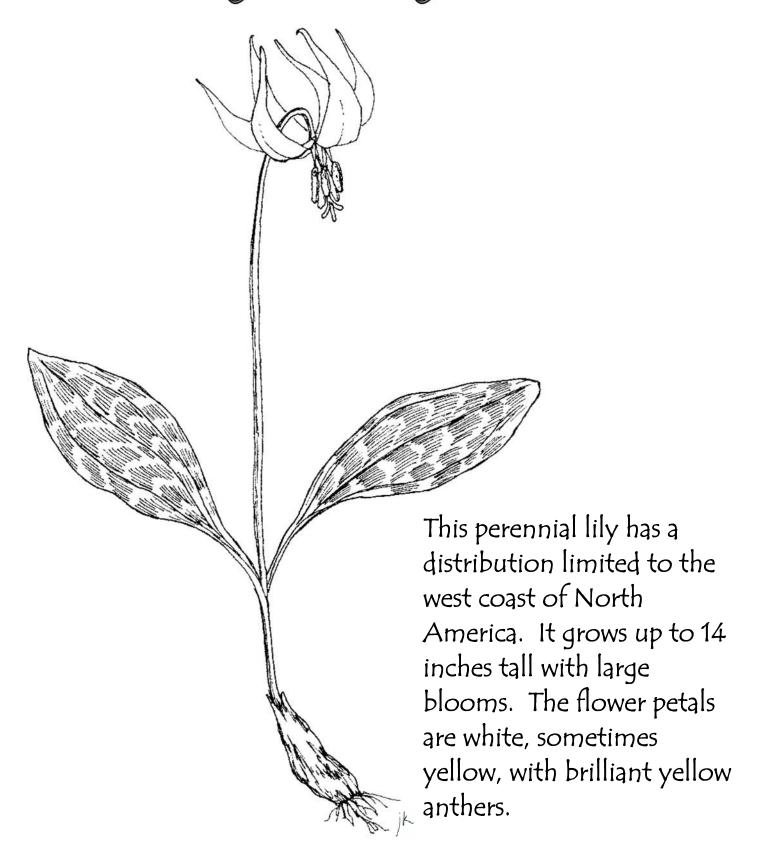


Giant Purple Trillium Trillium kurabayashi

This perennial member of the lily family has a distribution limited to Oregon and California. It has flower parts (leaves, sepals, and petals) in 3's. The petals are dark purple.

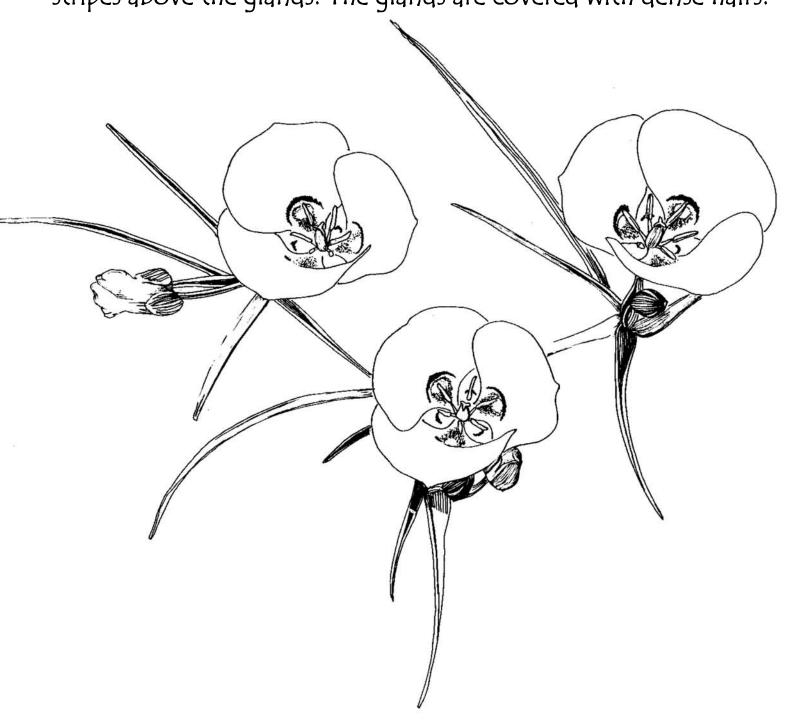


Giant White Fawnlily Erythronium oregonum



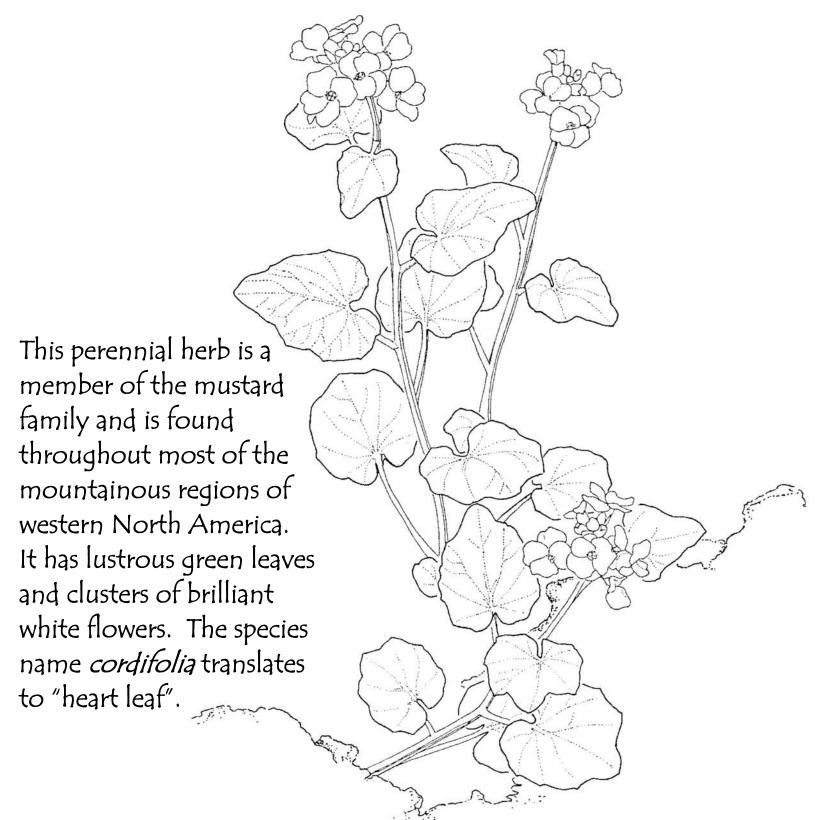
Golden Mariposa Lily Calochortus aureus

Golden Mariposa lily is a showy perennial herb known from the southwestern United States. Petals are brilliant yellow with maroon stripes above the glands. The glands are covered with dense hairs.



Heartleaf Bittercress

Cardamine cordifolia



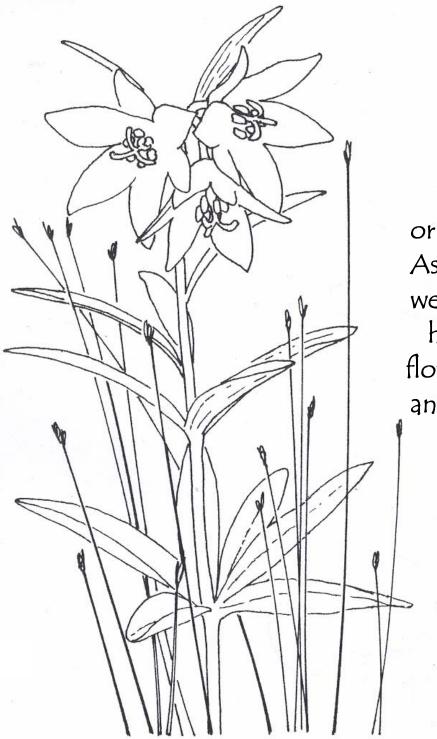
Ithuriel's Sp Triteleia laxa



This perennial member of the lily family occurs in Oregon and California. It has thin, grass like leaves and clusters of flowers on 12 to 20 inch stems. Flower petals are blue, lavender, or white with a darker petal midrib. Other common names include: starflower, wild hyacinth, grass nut, Fool's onion, and pretty face.

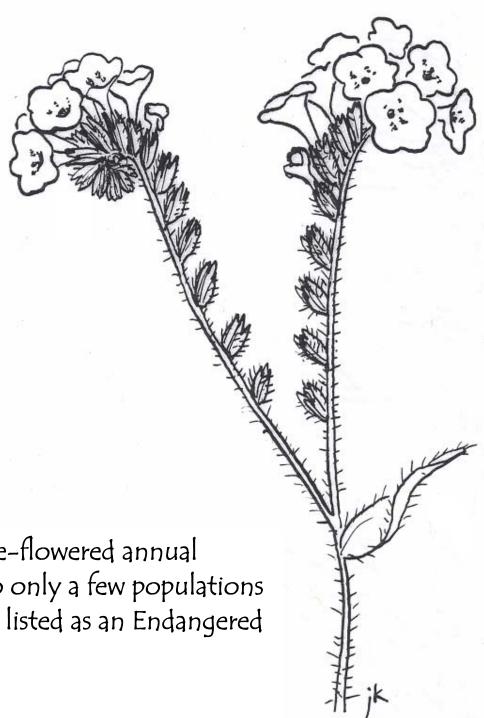
Kamchatka Fritillaria

Fritillaria camschatcensis



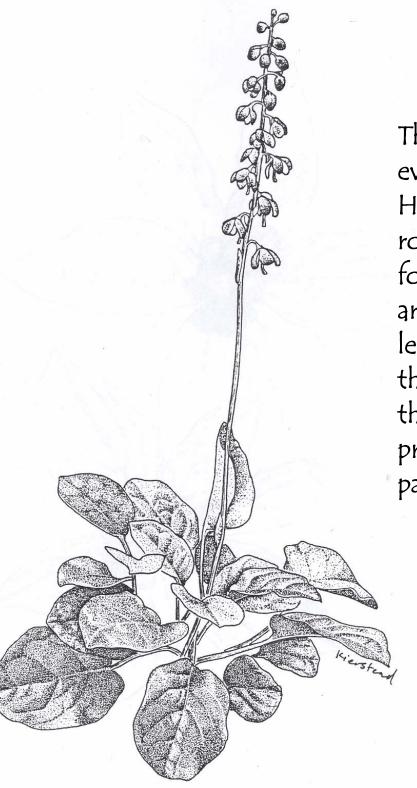
This perennial herb originally native to East Asia and now known in western North America has chocolate brown flowers and is known for an extremely distasteful odor.

Largeflowered Fiddleneck Amsinckia grandiflora



This showy orange-flowered annual species is native to only a few populations in California. It is listed as an Endangered Species.

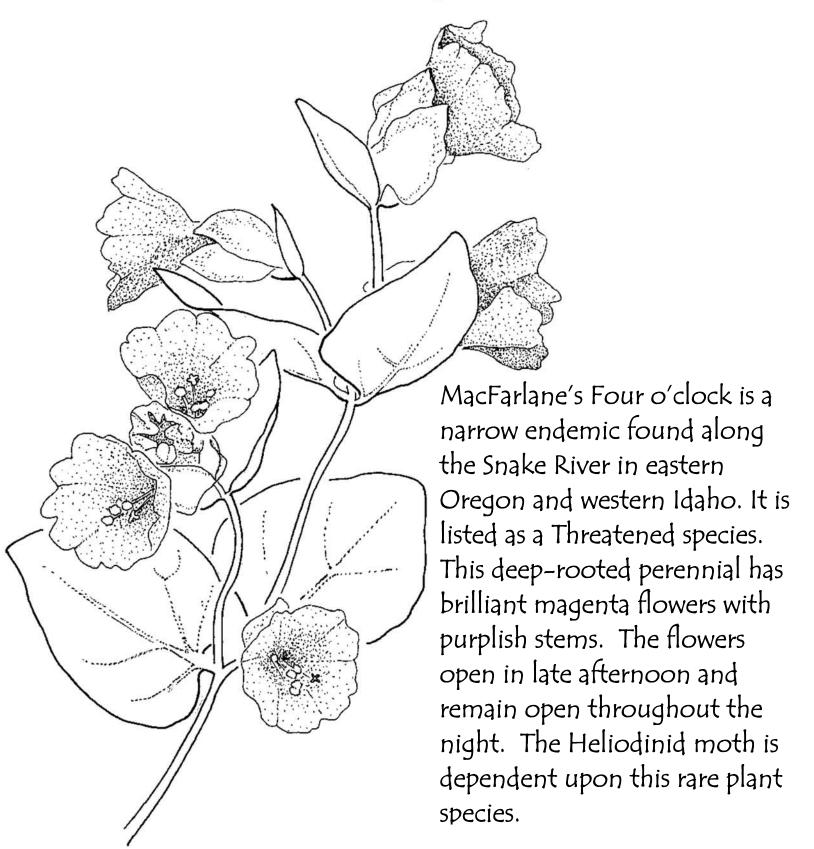
Liverleaf Wintergreen Pyrola asarifolia



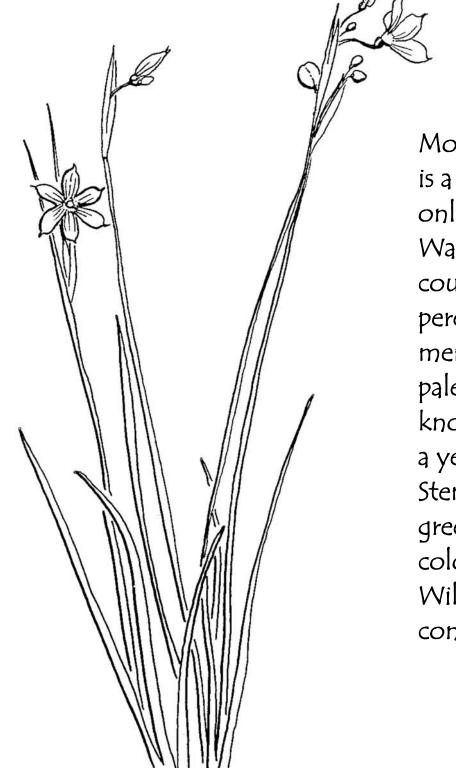
This perennial herb is an evergreen member of the Heath family. The pinkish to rose colored flowers are found on a long stalk that arises from a basal rosette of leaves. Found throughout the western United States, this herb has many medicinal properties including a natural painkiller.

MacFarlane's Four-o'clock

Mirabilis macfarlanei



Mountain Blue-Eyed Grass Sisyrinchium sarmentosum



Mountain Blue-Eyed grass is a narrow endemic known only from south-central Washington and one county in Oregon. This perennial herb is the only member of the genus with pale blue tepals within its known range. Flowers have a yellow spot in the center. Stems and leaves are pale green or blue-green in color. It is a US Fish and Wildlife Service species of concern.

Navajo Mountain Phlox Phlox cluteana

This perennial herb is native to Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. The low creeping stems may be 4 inches long and leaves are evergreen. Flowers are relatively large and showy and are light pink to purple.

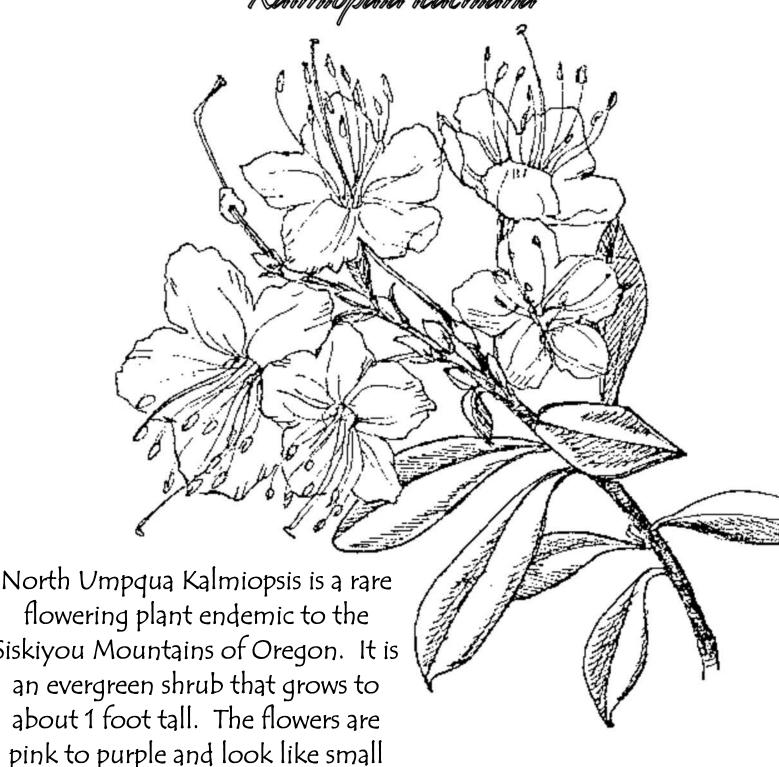


Nootka Rose Rosa nutkana



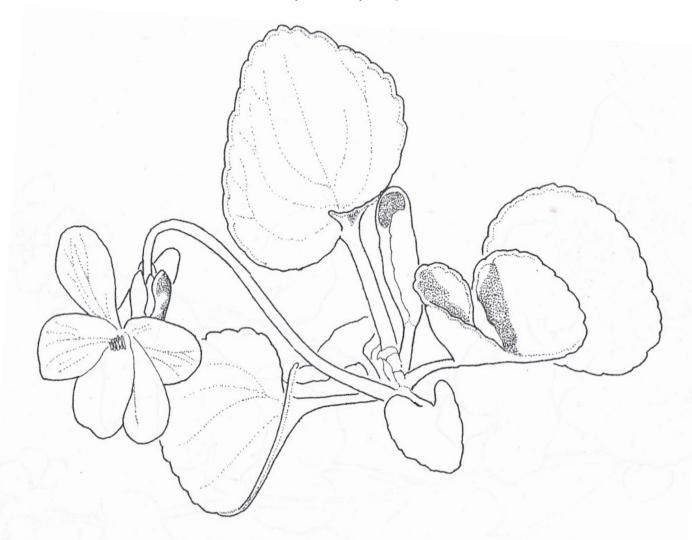
A member of the Rose family, this perennial shrub is found throughout western North America. These shrubs are 6 to 13 feet tall, with showy fragrant pale pink flowers. Later, seed pods called "hips" are a vibrant purple to red color.

North Impqua Kalmiopsis Kalmiopaia leachiana



flowering plant endemic to the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon. It is an evergreen shrub that grows to about 1 foot tall. The flowers are pink to purple and look like small Rhododendron flowers.

Northern Bog Violet Wolanephrophylla



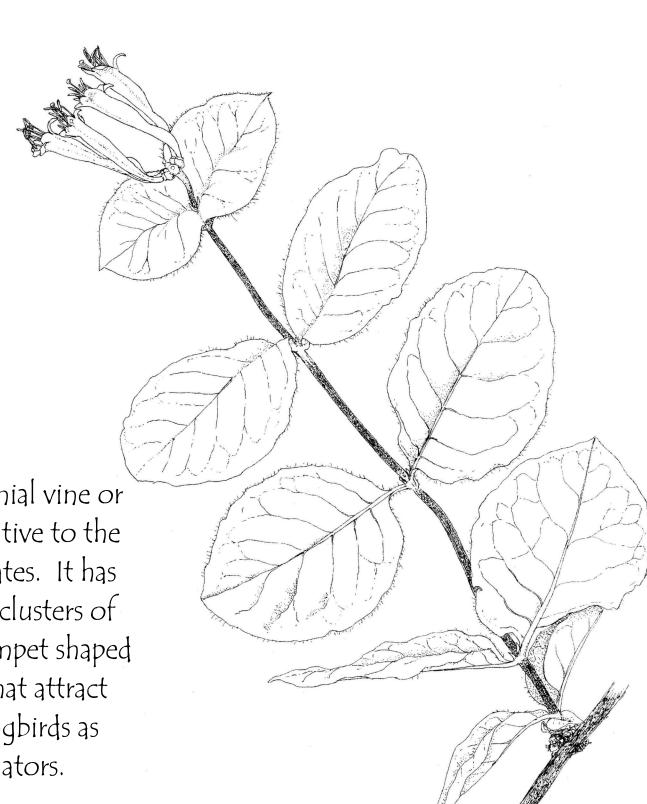
Northern bog violet is found in wetlands, meadows, bogs, and fens throughout the northern hemisphere. The flowers are purple with dark veins and a white throat. The leaves and flowers of this species are edible and high in vitamin C.

Oak Creek Triteleia Triteleia lemmoniae



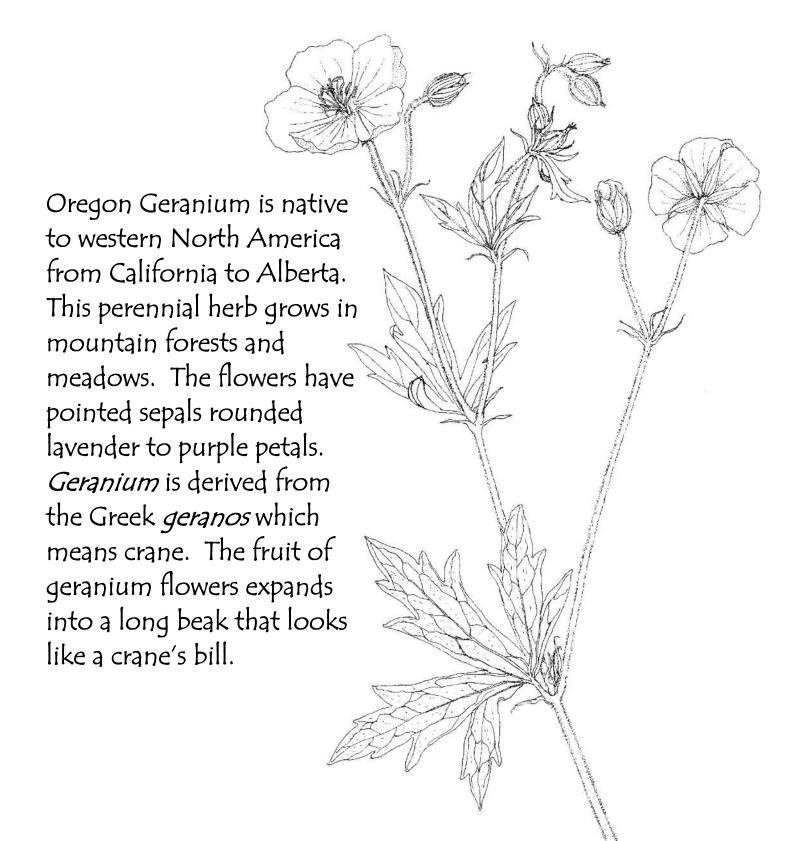
This perennial herb is found only at high elevations in Arizona in association with stands of yellow pine. Leaves are thin and grasslike, standing nearly 16 inches from the base. Flower petals are bright yellow to deep orange with yellow anthers.

Orange Honeysuckle



This perennial vine or shrub is native to the United States. It has attractive clusters of orange trumpet shaped flowers that attract hummingbirds as pollinators.

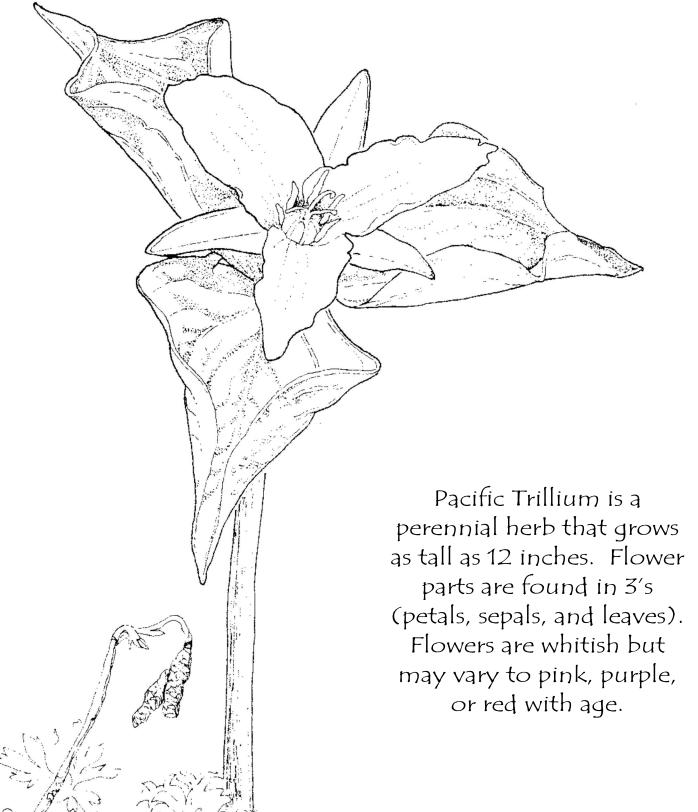
Oregon Geranium Geranium oreganum



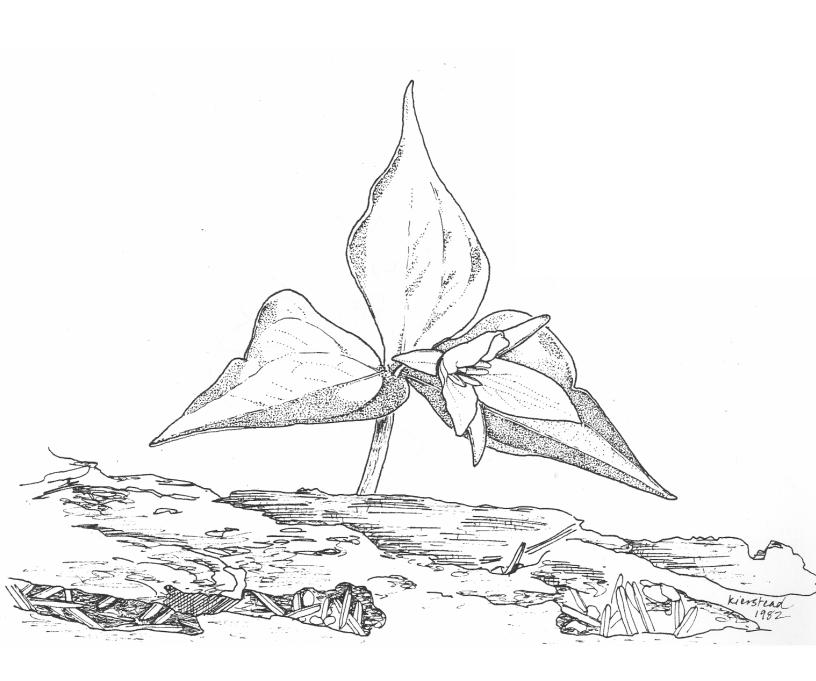
Pacific Bleeding Heart Dicentra formosa

This perennial herb grows to 18 inches tall in shaded, damp habitats. The leaves are feathery and fern-like. The delicate flowers are pink and occur in clusters on long stems. Bleeding hearts are visited by hummingbirds and bumblebees.

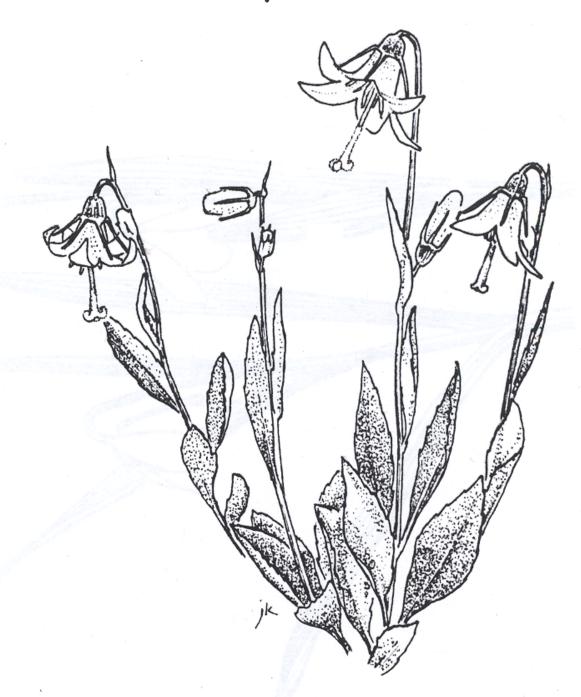
acific Trillium Trillium ovatum



Pacific Trillium Trillium ovatum



Pale Bellflower Campanula scouleri



This perennial herb is native to the western United States and can grow to as much as 12 inches tall. The flowers are violet/lavender and are produced at the top of curved stalks.

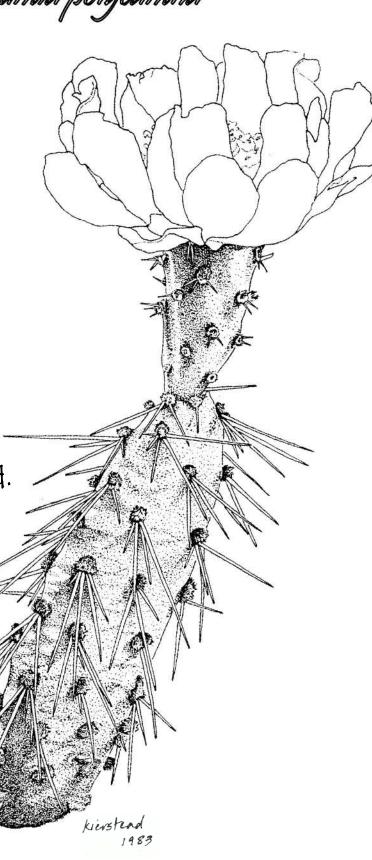
Penstemon penlandii

Penland's Beardtongue is a perennial herb occurring in Colorado. It is listed as an Endangered Species due to its narrow distribution. This member of the snapdragon family can grow up to 10 inches tall and displays flowers with blue lobes and purple throats.

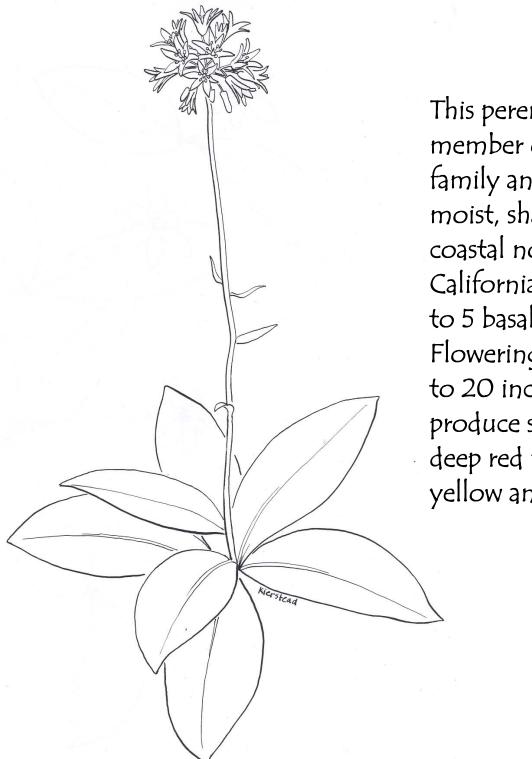


Plains Prickly Pear Opuntia polycantha

This perennial shrub is a member of the cactus family native to the western United States. This prickly pear has pale yellow flowers and many local common names. Prickly pear cactus fruits were used widely for food.

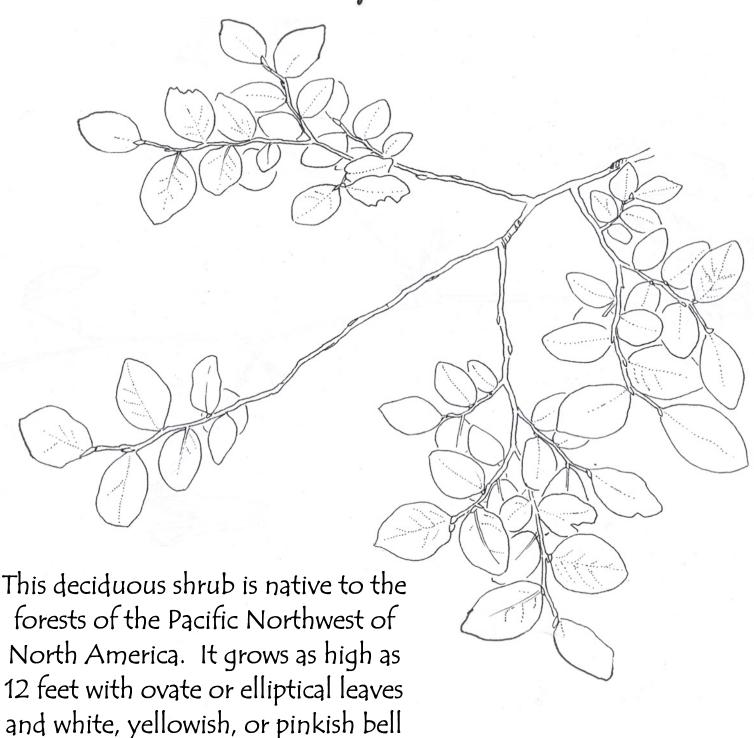


Red Clintonia andrewsiana



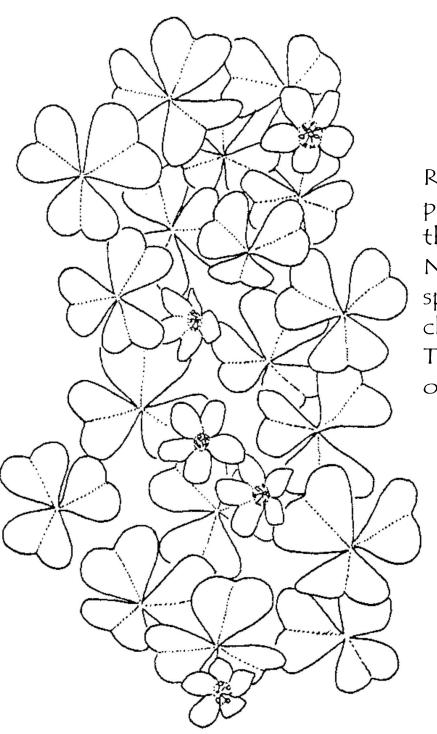
This perennial herb is a member of the Lily family and occurs in moist, shaded habitats in coastal northern California. This lily has 4 to 5 basal leaves. Flowering stems are 10 to 20 inches tall and produce showy pink to deep red flowers with yellow anthers.

Red Huckleberry Vaccinium parvifolium



shaped flowers.

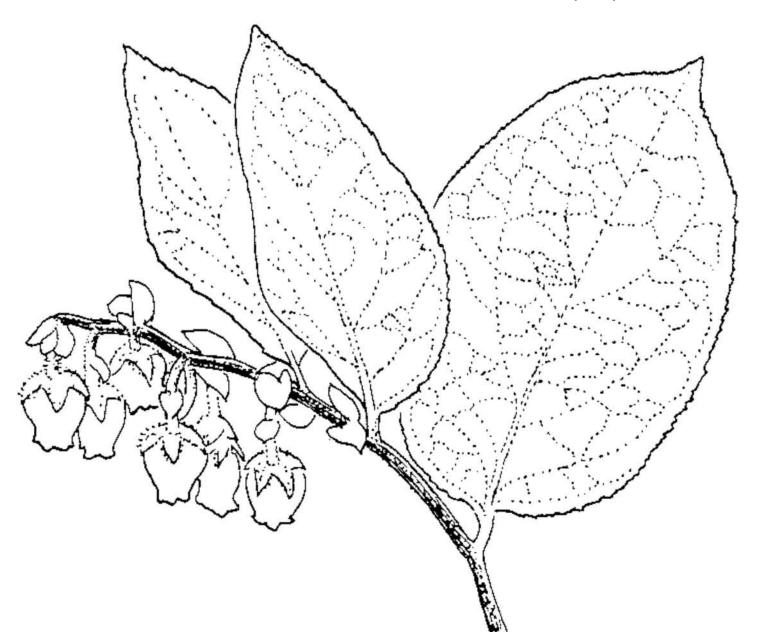
Redwood Sorrel Oxalis oregona



Redwood Sorrel is a perennial herb occurring in the Pacific Northwest of North America. This species occurs as a mat of clover-like groundcover. The flowers are comprised of 5 white petals.

Saultheria shallon

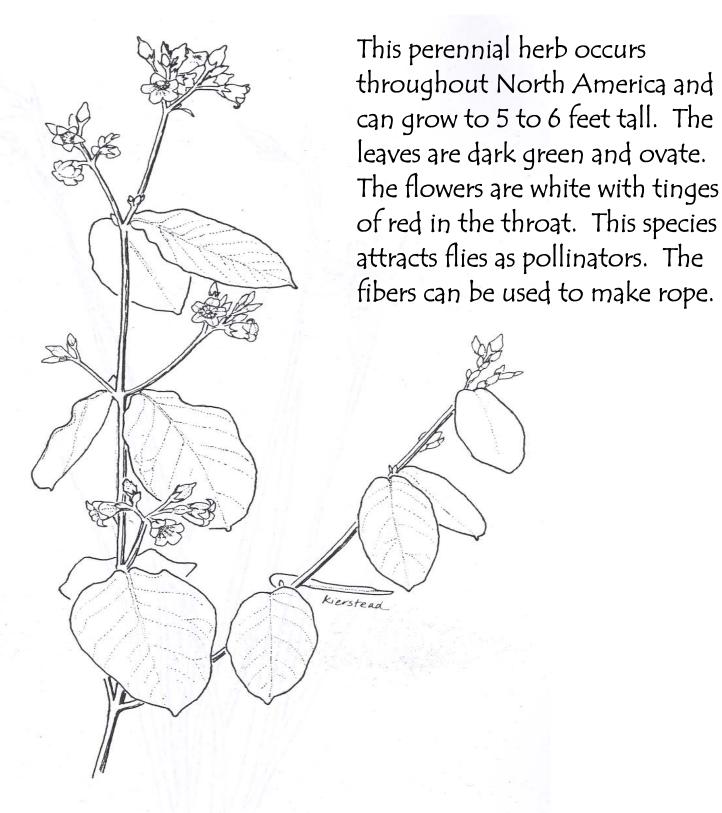
This leathery-leaved shrub of western North America grows 5 to 6 feet tall and may form a dense understory. The flowers are tiny, pink hanging vase shaped blossoms, which attract butterflies and bees. The berries are purple-black when ripe. This plant has been used for thousands of years by Native Americans for its nutritional and medicinal properties.



Seep Monkeyflower Minulus guttatus

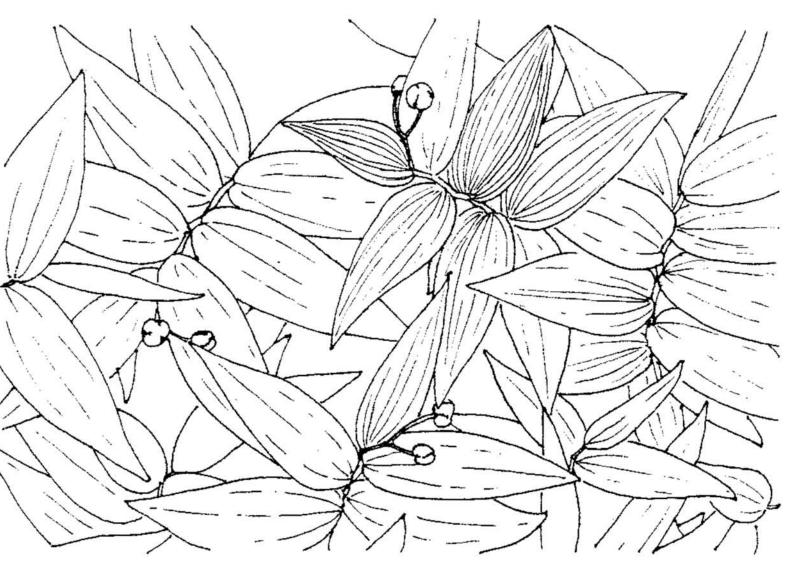
This annual and perennial herb occurs along streams and moist areas in western North America. Plants may grow to 3 feet tall. The yellow flowers are 5-lobed with orange spots on the lower lip. Bees are the major pollinator.

Spreading Dogbane Apocynum androsaemifolium



Starry False Lily of the Valley

Maianthemum stellatum

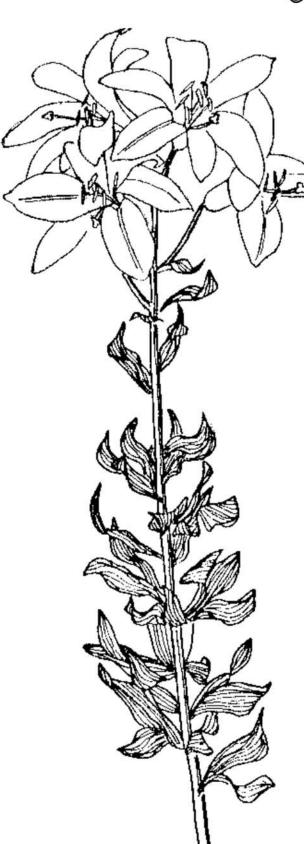


This perennial herb is considered native to most of North America with the exception of the southeast. It is listed as Federally Endangered in Kentucky, Maryland, and Tennessee. It has 10 - 20 starry, white flowers that terminate on a stem that appears to "ziqzaq".

Wistedstalk Streptopus lanceolatus var. curvipes

This perennial member of the Lily family grows to 30 cm tall and has alternating oval-shaped leaves. Flowers are bell-shaped with 6 petals of white, red or purple that hang beneath the leaves.

Washington Lily Library washingtonianum



The Washington Lily occurs in the mountains of California and Oregon. It is named after Martha Washington. It grows nearly 6 feet tall and bears large, fragrant white or pinkish flowers with purple spots. Anthers are yellow. It is often found in areas with previous disturbance.

Western Blue-Eyed Grass Sisyrinchium bellum

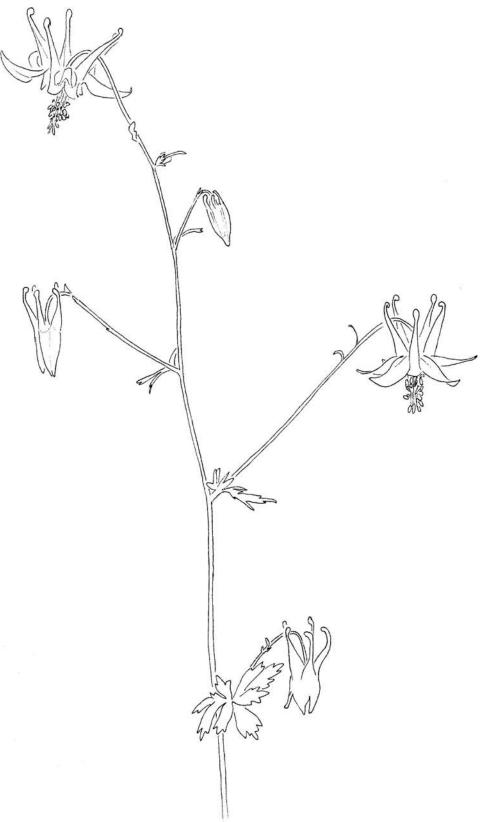
Western Blue-Eyed grass is a perennial herb found throughout most of the Pacific Northwest of

throughout most of the Pacific Northwest of North America. It has a clump of basal, narrow leaves and a flowering stem growing to 16 inches tall. The flower is fivepetaled and blue veins and a yellow throat.



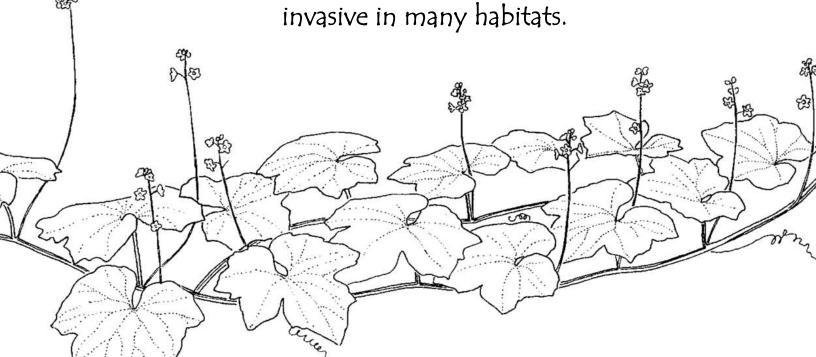
Western Columbine Aquilegia formosa

This perennial herb is found throughout western North America. It can grow up to 3 feet tall. It has delicate blue green foliage. Flowers are identified by red sepals and yellow petals. Hummingbirds are attracted as pollinators.



Western Cucumber Marah oreganus

This perennial vine is native to coastal western North America and is known by many local common names. It grows in association with Redwood Forests, Mixed Evergreen Forests and Yellow pine Forests. Vines may reach 20 feet in length with glossy, hairless leaves. Roots are large and tuberous, several feet in length, and may weigh in excess of 200 pounds. Flowers are yellowish green to white. Fruits are spherical, yellow when ripe, and covered with prickles. The over ripe fruits were used as gourds and roots and stalks were used for medicinal purposes. This species is considered



White Marsh Marigold Caltha leptorepala

This perennial herb is a member of the Buttercup family and occurs throughout western North America. Leaves are basal, thick, waxy, and heart-shaped. Flowers are comprised of 5 to 15 white sepals with no petals.

Anthers are bright yellow.



