

Plants of the Month: November

Oregon Grape



Mahonia aquifolium

Native. Evergreen.

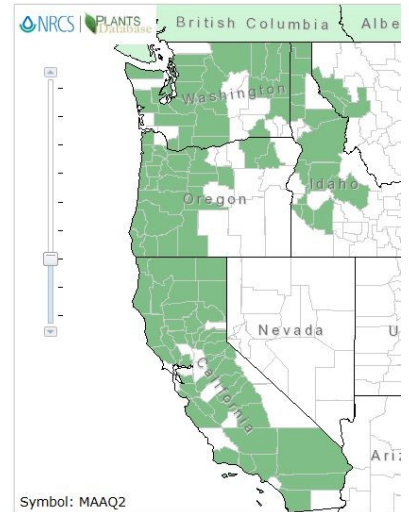
How to recognize: 2 feet tall.

Leaves glossy, green, serrated, paired. Sometimes confused with holly.

Stems reddish, slender.

Small golden flowers in spring

Blue berries, not glossy.



Use

The blue fruits are edible but very tart (they improve after a frost.) Can be used in wine or jam.

Medicinal: antiseptic, stimulates liver and spleen.

In the garden, attracts hummingbirds.

Yellow roots can be used as dye.