

Plants of the Month: November



Salal

Gaultheria shallon

Native. Evergreen.



How to recognize: Glossy dark green leaves, waxy with a leathery texture

New twigs are reddish green. Older branches grayish brown, and smooth.

Blossoms: Small bell-shaped flowers, pink to white. Slightly sticky and hairy. Appear in early summer.

Berries: Small, round, purplish black berries, hairy

Undergrowth in evergreen forest— 3 to 5 feet tall



Uses:

The berries are edible. They can be eaten fresh, or dried and baked into cakes, or used for jam.

Leaves were chewed to suppress hunger or to flavor soup.

Pick a nice healthy leaf and roll it into a cone. It makes a natural "dixie cup."