



**WANDERING
HERBARIUM**

a plant scavenger hunt

Anne Mavor, artist

TERRA INCOGNITA

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The Verdancy Project
Troutdale, Oregon

INSTRUCTIONS

Can you find and identify these plants?

All eight plants described in this booklet are found on the property. Examples are marked by botanical contact prints of the plant leaves mounted on stick sculptures.

When you find one, look for the plant nearby that corresponds to the plant print.

Notice the leaves, fruits and flowers, branches, bark, size, and location.

Match that plant to one of the descriptions.



FRINGE CUPS

Tellima grandiflora

- Herbaceous perennial flowering plant in the family Saxifragaceae. It is the only species in the genus *Tellima*.
- Fuzzy heart shaped leaves, spikes of greenish-white to reddish flowers.
- Slug resistant. Occasionally will spread aggressively. Evergreen during mild winters.
- Native of moist forests in western North America from Alaska to northern California.
- Can create thick patches of ground cover, establishing well in disturbed and shady areas, outcompeting invasive weeds.
- The Skagit tribe has traditionally uses a decoction of pounded plants to restore the appetite and treat other sicknesses.



OREGON WOOD SORREL

Oxalis oregana

- Short, herbaceous perennial from a creeping rhizome. Leaves have three heart-shaped leaflets with purplish undersides. The solitary flowers are white to pink with five petals and sepals.
- Grows in partial to full shade, dappled sunlight, humus-rich soil. Somewhat aggressive.
- Native along the coast from the Olympic Peninsula to California, up the Columbia River Gorge and onto the western slope of the Cascades.
- Photosynthesizes at low levels of ambient sunlight. When direct sunlight strikes the leaves, they fold downwards; when shade returns, the leaves reopen. Taking only a few minutes, this movement is observable to the eye.
- The leaves are traditionally eaten by the Cowlitz, Quileute and Quinault peoples. Like spinach, they are safe to eat in small amounts.



SALMONBERRY

Rubus spectabilis

- Arching stems have golden-brown, shedding bark. Stems range from having scattered prickles to being very bristly.
- Leaves have 3 sharply toothed leaflets, the lateral ones smaller and sometimes unequally lobed or divided. Five-petalled flowers are pink to reddish-purple. The fruits are raspberry-like with a hollow core, yellow to orange red.
- One of the earliest berries to ripen, they are an important indigenous food. Too watery to dry, so are usually eaten fresh in ooligan grease or with salmon or salmon eggs. Young sprouts can be peeled and eaten raw or steamed. Preparations of the bark can be used on wounds.
- The berries, leaves, bark, and stems supply foods for a wide range of wildlife, especially birds and rodents.



RED FLOWERING CURRANT

Ribes sanguineum

- Deciduous shrub growing to 10 feet tall and broad. Naturally multi-stemmed with an upright arching to rounded habit. Dark brownish grey bark with prominent paler brown lenticels.
- The leaves are of alternate arrangement, 1–3 inches long and broad, with five lobes. Red or pink flowers are produced in early spring at the same time as the leaves emerge.
- People eat the purple oval berries fresh or dried or make them into jams, pies, juice, or syrup. The flowers can be used to infuse beverages.
- Native to the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. Distributed widely in the moist regions west of the Cascades.
- Spring nectar is used by hummingbirds and butterflies. The berries are consumed by birds and small mammals.



SNOWBERRY

Symphoricarpos albus

- Rounded and bushy shrub with small leaves on arching stems. Clusters of small bell-shaped flowers bloom in early summer, followed by white berries later in the season.
- Grows in shady and moist mountain and forest habitat, in woodlands and on floodplains and riverbanks. Spreads by root suckers. It tolerates poor soil, neglect, and is great for controlling erosion on slopes, riparian plantings, for restoration and mine reclamation projects.
- Native to North America, it occurs across much of Canada and the northern and western United States.
- Berries are high in saponins and have been used as a shampoo, rubbed on the skin to treat burns, warts, rashes, sores, and as an antiperspirant. Various parts were infused and used as an eyewash.



OSO BERRY

Oemleria cerasiformis

- Native to the Pacific coast and ranges of North America, it is among the first plants to leaf out and flower early in the spring and reaches 15 ft.
- Erect, loosely branched shrub. Leaves are alternate, simple, deciduous; generally elliptical or oblong, 2–5 inches, light green and smooth above and paler below.
- The Pacific coast tribes utilize its fruit, twigs, and bark, as food sources and for teas and medicine. Fruits can be eaten raw or cooked; they tend to be somewhat astringent. They resemble small plums which are dark blue when ripe.
- Waxwings and robins eat the fruit, and Anna's hummingbirds use the nectar. Allowed to grow into a thicket, it provides cover and nesting sites. It is a valuable restoration plant along stream banks, in a woodland.



LADY FERN

Athyrium filix-femina

- Large, feathery species of fern native to temperate Asia, Europe, North Africa, and North America. It is abundant in damp, shady woodland environments.
- Highly variable in appearance over its range, typically a large, clustered fern, 2-3 ft. tall. Its light-green color and finely toothed leaflets create the illusion of a dainty fern, despite its large size. Stems are greenish-yellow to red.
- The Lady Fern gets its name from its use in traditional medicine for aiding in labor-induction and relieving labor pains and general and chronic pain relief.
- The fiddleheads can be gathered in the spring and steamed before eating. Caution should be taken as consumption of raw shoots can be toxic by robbing the body of its Vitamin B supply.



VINE MAPLE

Acer circinatum

- Broadleaf deciduous tree or large shrub, 10-20 ft tall. The slender, often sprawling, branches can root to produce new trees and dense thickets underneath the shade of taller conifers.
- Understory tree in moist woods with dappled shade and along stream banks. In native stands commonly occurs with big leaf maple, Douglas fir, western hemlock, grand fir, and Pacific dogwood, with sword fern underneath.
- Leaves opposite, simple, almost circular in outline, heart-shaped at base, lobes unequal or doubly toothed. Circinatum refers to the “rounded,” regularly lobed leaves.
- In sun, develops red, orange, and yellow fall colors. Flowers in clusters of 3-6, petals greenish white. Fruits 4 cm long, wings horizontally spread, deep red at maturity.

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Terra Incognita is an interdisciplinary, site-specific land art exhibition featuring over twenty five artists and performers exploring mindful interaction and collaboration with the site: a 4.5-acre microcosm of natural elements featuring woodlands, fields, pond, dye garden, and a creek.

Terra Incognita is produced by The Verdancy Project (TVP) in collaboration with curators Shannon Amidon, Lauren Carrera, Merridawn Duckler, Kendra Roberts, and Joellen Sweeney. The exhibit is hosted on the property of TVP, a multidisciplinary community-oriented art experiment with a mission of fostering curiosity and inspiring environmental stewardship.

www.verdancyproject.com

