

## Oregon grape

### *Mahonia aquifolium*

#### Description

Outside its native range, has the ability to displace native vegetation. Medicinal uses of this plant includes skin diseases and noted for its anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties.

#### Habit

Broadleaf evergreen, irregular branching with upright to spreading behavior, shoots are thick and branch infrequently, stoloniferous and typically 3-6 ft tall and 5 ft wide, slow growing.

#### Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound, evergreen leaves, leaflets attach directly to the rachis, leaflets have spines, resembles English Holly, dark glossy green in color, new growth emerges reddish or bronze, 6-12 in long and contains 7-12 leaflets. Evergreen foliage turns purple-bronze in the winter.

#### Stems

Slender, stiff, usually upright, and usually without





branches. The wood is whitish and brittle and has a significant pith, almost cork-like appearance. Bark of young stems is green; older bark is rough and gray-brown with yellow inner bark.

### **Flowers**

Bright yellow in color, perfect, found in a terminal (sometimes lateral) racemes. Flowers have the scent of honey. Blooms from April through early May.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Fruits are held in clusters, change from green to blue-black in late summer, individual fruits are 0.3 - 0.5" in diameter.

### **Habitat**

Native to British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, northern California and northern Idaho. Found in moist, organically rich, acidic, well-drained soils.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand pull or dig.

### **Credits**

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from University of Connecticut Horticulture Plant Database and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Individual species images that



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