

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



Virginia Tech



UNBC & Aleza Lake Research Forest Plant Database



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.



Midwest Invasive Species
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Similar

English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull or dig.

Credits

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