

Pacific Madrone

(Arbutus menziesii)

Pacific madrone, an evergreen tree with stunning orange-red bark and glossy dark green oval-shaped leaves, is a special sight along Oregon roads, parks, woodlands and forests. Approximately 30 - 80 feet in height at maturity, the hallmark of these trees is their distinctive rust-colored bark that peels naturally in thin sheets, leaving a greenish, smooth silvery appearance.

These attractive trees are a wise choice for any landscape. Native to North America's west coast, they're found from British Columbia to California.

Use by wildlife

Pacific madrone berries were used by Native Americans as a food source and for making cider. Many birds and mammals also rely on the tree or its berries for food, including cedar waxwings, American robins, varied thrushes, woodpeckers, quail, raccoons, and mule deer. In mixed woodland settings, madrone is disproportionately chosen for nest building by many bird species and should be protected where feasible.

Pacific madrone has been declining within its range in



The leaves and bark of Pacific madrone, above. These special native trees do well in partial shade or full sun.

the Pacific Northwest in both urban and managed areas. This is likely due to a combination of factors including fire suppression, soil compaction and drought.

Planting tips

Plant in sites with partial shade to full sun, and give them well-drained soil to minimize fungal diseases. To minimize transplant shock, plant trees facing the same direction they had in the nursery.