

Indian Plum



Early spring bloomer

Small shrub or tree with purplish brown bark, leaves alternate, thin, broadly lance-shaped

Greenish white flowers, male and female on separate plants

Peach colored fruit

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Oemleria cerasiformis

PNW Native Plant

Deciduous shrub **Early Bloomer**

Cultural Uses:

The berries are eaten in small quantities fresh, cooked or dried by several Washington Salish groups. The young leaves taste like cucumber and can be used in salads. The twigs are chewed and applied to sore places. The Saanich make a bark tea as a tonic.

Moist soils

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DRY SOILS

Part sun

Ecology:

Open woods,
stream banks,
open areas

General:

This deciduous shrub grows to 16.5 feet and produce clusters of white flowers in very early spring (February to April). The berries turn peach colored and then turn bluish-black, like small plums and attract hummingbirds. It is best used as a background plant in a garden due to its size.