

Devils Club



Leaves alternate, deciduous, maple-leaf shape with 7-9 sharply pointed and heavily toothed lobes. Numerous spines on underside.



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Oplopanax horridum

PNW Native Plant

Large shrub reaching up to 15 feet. Tiny yellowish spines cover stems of the large maple-shaped leaves and veins.

Ginseng Family

Cultural

Harvested in late October after the leaves turn yellow. It is tricky to harvest because it is covered in spines. It is one of the most important traditional medicines. The root and bark are used to treat arthritis, both internally as a tea, and topically as a steam or bath. You can infuse oil with devils club and use it to rub on sore feet. The root and bark are strongly aromatic and encourage lung tissue to work more efficiently. Can be used as a medicine for blood sugar imbalances and adult onset diabetes. Berries are not edible.

General

Erect to sprawling, thick stems, crooked and often entangled, armed with numerous large yellowish spines. Wood has a sweetish odor.

Part sun and shade

Moist to wet soils

Ecology:

Loves moist forests, wetlands, along streams and avalanche tracks

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