

Oregon Grape *Mahonia aquifolium* (syn. *Berberis aquifolium*)

Distribution: Oregon Grape grows throughout.

Growth: Oregon Grape is a broad-leaf evergreen shrub. Its growth habit can range from 3 to 15' tall and spreading from 4 to 12' wide.

Adaptability: Oregon Grape is adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions throughout Washington. It can be found growing in soils that range from dry to moist, and sites that vary from exposed to shady. It is commonly found growing equally well as an understory species in mixed species woodland, or as a pioneering species in disturbed areas

Comments: Oregon Grape has numerous uses as a conservation species. Its berries are food of many birds and rodents. It is well adapted to growing in drier, exposed sites. It develops an extensive root system in time, making it a good soil stabilizer. It should be noted that Oregon Grape can be slow to establish. Oregon Grape has been used as an ornamental species for decades. It is favored for its bright yellow flower clusters in spring, the dark purple berries in late summer, and the reddish green leaf color in fall and winter. The berries have been used (when absolutely ripe) for preserves.

