



Oregon Sea Grant Extension  
Sustainable Tourism &  
Outdoor Recreation Program

# Interpretative Fact Sheet Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)



The following short article is from the [Oregon Coast 101 Species](#) collection used by the Guide and Outfitter Recognized Professional (GORP) training program. These articles are intended to provide interesting facts you can share with your clientele and add value to your services.

An Interpretive Fact Sheet has been written about each species. We are currently uploading these blogs and creating the links.

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# Evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)

 [tourism.oregonstate.edu/evergreen-huckleberry-vaccinium-ovatum/](https://tourism.oregonstate.edu/evergreen-huckleberry-vaccinium-ovatum/)

By  
flatherc

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The evergreen huckleberry is a one of many evergreen shrubs native to Pacific coastal forests.

First noted by Captain Lewis at Oregon's Fort Clatsop in 1806 and brought into cultivation by David Douglas in 1826.

This shrub can grow to 12 feet or more in the shade, sometimes a bit erratic growth spikes. It, like other berries in the *vaccinium* family, like acidic soil. The huckleberry will tolerate salt spray and strong winds.

In the spring, the branches are covered with clusters of small, pinkish-white bell-shaped flowers which yield tiny blue-black fruit in late summer. These flowers attract bees, birds, and butterflies and the berries are eaten by songbirds, mammals, and humans.

Like its most well-known relative, the common blueberry, huckleberries contain high concentrations of antioxidants and were favored by native populations.

Today, they are frequently eaten raw and used to make pies, jams, jellies, syrups, and wine.



Huckleberries