



Oregon Sea Grant Extension  
Sustainable Tourism &  
Outdoor Recreation Program

# Interpretative Fact Sheet

## Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)



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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Tourism and Business Development College of Business,  
Oregon State University Extension - Oregon Sea Grant at

<http://tourism.oregonstate.edu/>

Guide and Outfitter Recognized Professional Program

<https://www.GORPguide.org>

For more information about the GORP training program see:

<https://www.gorpguide.org/become-a-gorp-certified-guide>

# Madrone Tree (*Arbutus menziesii*)

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 [tourism.oregonstate.edu/madrone-tree/](https://tourism.oregonstate.edu/madrone-tree/)

By phillmil

August 28, 2020

While traveling in coastal Oregon watch for a tree with red bark and broad evergreen leaves. This tree is a Pacific Madrone.

Various conifer trees dominate the Coastal range but if you look you will notice the Pacific Madrone. Madrone is a broadleaved evergreen tree and a member of the heath family (*Ericaceae*).

It is distinguished by its smooth trunk, orange-red bark that peels when the tree is mature. The peeling bark reveals a green satiny, smooth stem.



Pacific Madrone – (*Arbutus menziesii*)

## Seed & Blossoms

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Pacific madrone will grow to a height of 125 feet tall and may grow up to 4 feet in diameter. At three to five years old, it will begin to produce seed.

Trees begin flowering in early spring, from mid-March to May, depending on the elevation. The bell-shaped blossoms are dense, drooping clusters (terminal panicles) of small, white flowers.

The fruit is a berry (0.3 to 0.5 inches), that ripens in the fall, turning from yellow-green to bright red or reddish-orange. The berries were used by wildlife and humans for food, decoration, fish bait, and medicine.

The wood is used for furniture, flooring, turnings, paneling, veneer for hardwood plywood faces and core stock, pulpwood, and firewood.

## Links & References

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To get a PDF fact sheet about the Pacific Madrone from Oregon Department of Forestry see: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/ForestBenefits/PacificMadrone.pdf>

## Sacred Trees

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For some more cultural/spiritual thoughts about the Madrone see  
<http://www.arbutusarts.com/sacred-trees.html>

“On the British Columbia West Coast, the Salish Nation also honors the Arbutus Tree as their ‘Tree of Knowledge’ because it knows how to find the sun. It twists and turns and somehow knows to drop one branch when there is not enough sunlight and it is shaded and it will grow a new one where the sun can reach it.”