

***Berberis aquifolium*, Tall Oregon Grape**

General Botanical Characteristics

Berberis aquifolium is a low-growing shrub from 2 feet to 5 feet in height. The leaves are pinnately compound and divided into 5-9 spiny, dark green leaflets that are glossy on the upper surface. The flowers of Tall Oregon grape are yellow and born in erect clusters. The fruit consists of a cluster of blue berries. The rootstock and roots are more or less knotty, about an inch or less in diameter, with tough yellow wood and brownish bark.



Seasonal Development

Flowering of Tall Oregon grape occurs in April through May. The fruits of Tall Oregon grape may be harvested in late fall.

Distribution/Habitat

Tall Oregon Grape is distributed from Nebraska to the Pacific Ocean, but it is especially abundant in Oregon and northern California. It grows commonly in dry open spaces at low to middle elevations.

Interesting Facts

- Oregon Grape was adopted as Oregon's state flower in January 1899.
- Oregon Grape can be used to treat syphilis.

References

Purdue University, Center for New Crops and Plant Products. 3 December 2002.
http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/Indices/index_ab.html