

## NATIVE PLANT NOOK

by Gerry Douglas

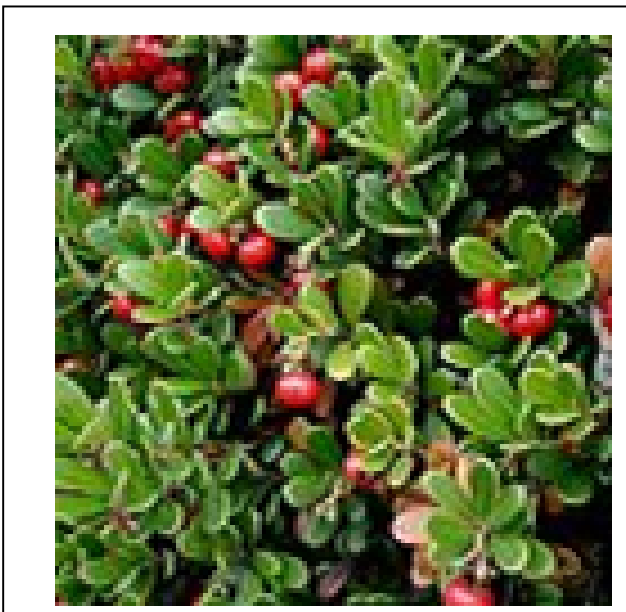
### Arctostaphylos columbiana HAIRY MANZANITA



Native to the Pacific coast belongs to the Ericaceae family which includes rhododendrons, It is an excellent landscape choice for drier coastal areas. It has twisted reddish twiggy stem growth characteristic of many Manzanitas (Spanish for "little apples") a vigorous pattern of evergreen, roundish gray-green leaves (2-2.5 inches across) and exquisite hanging clusters of small white or pale pink bell shaped flowers in the early spring,

followed by orange-brown, mealy edible berries (do not taste good). It is one of the most outstanding native shrubs to use in landscaping. They are difficult to transplant from the wild but once established they are hardy and require no watering through the dry summers. They do require good drainage and a sunny location. The form propagated is called 'Oregon Hybrid' forming a low growing compact plant.

### Arctostaphylos uva-ursi BEAR BERRY



A related native trailing, evergreen that will form mats with long flexible rooting branches with brownish red bark. The small oval evergreen leaves are a shiny dark green. It displays the same small bell shaped flower clusters in the spring followed by bright red berries that are edible but somewhat mealy and tasteless. Very attractive into the winter months and a source of food for wildlife. Grows very well in full sun and well drained slopes. A wonderful native groundcover in the right location.

See the following website for photos:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ARCO3>