

# Native Plant Spotlight by Krys Kirkwood

## **Linnaea borealis— Twinflower (Caprifoliaceae)**



Twinflower is a creeping, trailing, semi-woody, evergreen vine, often forming large mats. This summer-blooming perennial grows only 2-6 inches high, in open or dense forest, shrub thickets, muskeg and rocky shorelines; at various elevations up to timberline. The flowers are pink, trumpet-like, hanging in pair at top of leafless, 2" erect stalks; and are said to be one of the most fragrant perfumes of our coastal woods. The genus name is for Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), Swedish father of modern botanical nomenclature; possibly twinflower was his favorite flower. Borealis means 'northern'

## **Dodecatheon pulchellum— Few-Flowered Shooting Star, Pretty Shooting Star (Primulaceae)**



This common mid-spring perennial grows to 6-20 inches in height. You can find it growing in moist, often saline meadows, wet coastal rocks and bluffs, stream-banks; sea level to alpine, although mostly at low elevations in the northern part of our region. This plant has erect stems and upright spreading leaves that are oblong-lance-spoon shaped. The flowers are magenta to lavender with petals swept backwards, united at the base in a yellowish collar with a wavy purple ring. There are other shooting stars that are very similar looking and can be difficult to differentiate between the species.

*I strongly urge leaving any of our native plants undisturbed. Enjoy them in their natural environment. Seek out nurseries and professionals who sell and/or deal with natives if you are wanting to add any to your garden.*

- Photos: Krys Kirkwood
- Reference: Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast by Pojar and Mackinnon

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson