

# History

During the early nineteenth century large numbers of Dutch farmers, forced by high taxes and low wages, immigrated to America. They mainly settled down in the Midwest and West. In the 1840s, most emigrants were Calvinist and Catholic from the southern Netherlands who desired greater religious freedom. These groups formed communities of whole families and even neighborhoods. They were not poor, as the costs of passage, expenses, and land purchase were substantial. This area's Dutch were predominately in the Fir-Conway area; many were dairy farmers and some who came from a heritage of living in houses that also held their animals, a concept considered unusual by Native Americans.

The definitive writing on this is Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs, & Steel published by W.W.Norton and Company 1997. Because of the Americas' lack of animal husbandry, foreigners came with a "built-in"

Animal	Origin	Date
Cat	Near East	8000 BCE
Cattle	Western Asia	8000 BCE
Chicken	Southeast Asia	6000 BCE
Dog	Europe	13000 BCE
Donkey	Egypt	5000 BCE
Duck	China	4000 BCE
Goat	Iran	10000 BCE
Goose	Egypt	3000 BCE
Horse	Kazakhstan	3500 BCE
Llama	South America	2400 BCE
Pig	Western Asia	9000 BCE
Rabbit	Europe	600 CE
Sheep	Turkey	9000 BCE
Turkey	Mexico	180 CE

advantage and used it.

Documents discussing the use of biological disease by the British against North American natives exist, “*during a parley at Fort Pitt on June 24, 1763, ... gave representatives of the besieging Delawares two blankets and a handkerchief enclosed in small metal boxes that had been exposed to smallpox, hoping to spread the disease to the Natives in order to end the siege. The militia commander, sent a bill to the British Army indicating that the purpose of giving the blankets was to **convey the smallpox to the Indians.**”* The invoice’s approval confirms that the British command endorsed these actions.

[https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_biological\\_warfare](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_biological_warfare)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_biological\\_warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_biological_warfare)

# Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant “starts” from Bonnhoefter Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

## Legends & Lessons

## **A 2020 Note from the Founder of Pilchuck Learning Center's Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens, Preschool, and Living History Farm**

1945, seventy-five years ago, I sat within walking distance of this Farm listening to my grandfather talk of "75 years ago." His farm (north end of English Grade Road) had a hay barn separated from a milk barn; between them was a cold, then seemingly ever-running creek (in which the milk was cooled). Most area barns/milk sheds were similarly situated; if still standing, most would be by dry gullies today. With population growth, we continue to lower this area's groundwater levels. The Snohomish River has 50% of the water it had 20 years ago, the Stillaguamish even less (Stanwood was once a seaport); think of the water here 150 years ago! Since then many streams have been piped, dried up, covered over; a latter example is the small creek that crosses 300th Street NW and runs through the cemetery. That small tributary was put beneath crushed rock in 1910; the Gardens' larger creek, the West Fork of Church Creek, was rerouted to circumvent Exit 215 in 1973 in a last minute decision based on cost-cutting and deception. The Gardens sit on land ravished by these builders of the Freeway. In discussing native flora with visitors, it's strange that so many don't grasp the concept that native animals require native plants for their nourishment; that Scotch Broom, Evergreen Blackberries, Dandelions, even the beloved Foxgloves are junk food for native insects, butterflies, and birds. Few understand that an annual plant species can become extinct within 1 year if it loses its pollinators. Many, butterflies for example, require a specific plant for their larva. Even the Pilchuck Tree Farm surrounding the Exit 215 Campus is a bit of a desert with its single plant species focus. It is a slow process, one that we don't notice; every year more and more non-native plants invade. Every year there is less water, fewer native flowers, and the last birds sing.

*And the fish disappear; the Gardens are a case study that the I-5 Freeway is the Northwest's largest dam, that when it comes to streams, brooks, creeks, and rills, the rule is "Salmon to the West, No Salmon to the East." Just south of the Gardens within a span of 300 yards you will find a small, dark, long pipe that drains our watershed across and under the freeway to the west, then 1/2 mile to the north, then back under the freeway again. Eleven miles of fish habitat could be immediately restored if the Government were to replace these lengthy 1' and 2' diameter pipes (or allow the creek to stay on the east side of the freeway). Box culverts would restore 100s of miles of salmon habitat just on the I-5 north of Seattle. There were but a million people here in 1945; now we have 8x that amount. Forecasts are for 40 million people in the Puget Sound trough (Ashland to Vancouver, BC) by 2045. A 10 cent gasoline tax could purchase every box culvert needed and the evidence that the demand for automobile fuel is inelastic is obvious. In the meantime, the federal, state, and county maps show the Exit 215 Campus without streams and that fish habitat is miles away to the north (water flows north here); just don't tell that to the river otter you may see here in the Gardens. Maps of Freeborn Church (west fork) Creek are purposeful misrepresentations, often misnamed; if you believe your government does not lie to you, look at the creek maps of this area. No other watershed in western Washington is so misleadingly mapped.*

Northwest Snohomish County is a magic place: Pilchuck Tree Farm with its Tatoosh Water Company; Pilchuck Glass School alumni dominate this area; even the 11 small Lutheran church buildings, just like our site's, within a 10 mile radius, speak to the days when people walked to their store, restaurant, school and church. (The red farmhouse to your right was a restaurant, health care center, and brothel, the name "Freeborn" was that of the one room elementary school that sat a few yards to the north on 24th.) As boys, we played in Freeborn Church, Freedom, and Fisher Creeks, fished for trout, and watched the salmon run. Like the roadrunner I left this area 50 years ago to have several freeborn careers. One was as the Senior Vice President of Planning for American Stores, then with 180,000 employees. I learned in acquiring or selling stores that there are 5 rules for retailing success: location, location, location, cost of goods, location. That lesson learned has been applied at Exit 215; take a good look at this wide freeway thoroughfare. Can anyone believe the I-5 will be relocated in the next 1,000 years? Exit 215 may have various (ad)ventures related to nonprofit enterprises; some may fail, some may evolve. What won't change is Exit 215's location. Like Europe's Roman Roads, I-5's exits will determine the shape of urban development for generations to come. Our goal is to have this site teach, by botanical and historical example, multitudes of next generations to be good stewards of this earth.

Thoughtlessly over time we have thrice terra transformed Cascadia (western Washington and Oregon) cutting all the big trees, fueling the Big Burn, and replanting foreign and singularly favored native species. With the coming population growth, our fourth transformation will be covering it all with asphalt. This is a natural resting place and we hope you accept our invitation to contemplate a bit about life here now and then, then and now. Because if there is a God (we are given the gift of dealing with that question individually), it is possible that evidence might be "shown" to us from time to time either in history or our lives. And if you believe in God, "some judgment" must be associated. But even if you don't believe, there is a "judgment" coming. What will the next generation say standing on dry gravel hills with few native plants or life existent? Note the absence of birds; the total absence of salmon; the freeway purposely planted to minimize road kill. We are on our way to destroying it all. Consider what we discovered, and now confirmed by WWU summer students in 2018 and 2019 - during the last 20 years ~20% of Cascadia's native plant species have disappeared. Our natural extinction will be a chosen judgment. It is not inevitable; we choose it by continuing our killing ways: plants, animals, and individuals, singly and in groups. And one asks, "Why?"

We thank you for visiting this Farm, to touch history, see the NW native flora (and fauna), and perhaps contemplate the meaning of our existence. Another 150 years will pass in the blink of an eye and the ultimate question for a responsible person to ask will remain Pastor Bonhoeffer's: "*how is the coming generation is to live?*"



<i>Agrostis cicutaria</i> (21)	<i>Aschilia melleocarpa</i> (22)	<i>Aschilia triphylla</i> (23)	<i>Adiantum alveticum</i> (24)	<i>Adiantum cerasum</i> (25)	<i>Alchemilla schomburgkii</i> (26)	<i>Alnus rubra</i> (27)	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> (28)	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> (29)	<i>Apocynum formosum</i> (30)	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> (31)	<i>Arctostaphylos columbiana</i> (32)	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (33)	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (34)	<i>Balanophora debilex</i> (35)	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> (36)
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i> (37)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (38)	<i>Asplenium virgatum</i> (39)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (40)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (41)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (42)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (43)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (44)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (45)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (46)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (47)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (48)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (49)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (50)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (51)	<i>Asplenium vancouverianum</i> (52)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (53)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (54)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (55)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (56)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (57)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (58)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (59)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (60)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (61)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (62)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (63)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (64)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (65)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (66)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (67)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (68)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (69)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (70)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (71)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (72)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (73)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (74)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (75)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (76)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (77)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (78)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (79)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (80)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (81)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (82)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (83)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (84)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (85)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (86)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (87)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (88)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (89)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (90)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (91)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (92)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (93)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (94)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (95)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (96)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (97)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (98)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (99)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (100)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (101)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (102)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (103)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (104)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (105)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (106)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (107)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (108)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (109)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (110)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (111)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (112)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (113)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (114)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (115)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (116)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (117)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (118)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (119)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (120)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (121)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (122)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (123)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (124)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (125)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (126)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (127)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (128)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (129)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (130)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (131)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (132)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (133)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (134)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (135)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (136)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (137)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (138)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (139)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (140)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (141)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (142)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (143)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (144)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (145)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (146)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (147)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (148)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (149)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (150)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (151)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (152)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (153)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (154)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (155)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (156)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (157)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (158)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (159)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (160)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (161)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (162)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (163)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (164)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (165)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (166)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (167)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (168)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (169)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (170)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (171)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (172)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (173)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (174)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (175)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (176)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (177)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (178)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (179)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (180)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (181)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (182)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (183)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (184)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (185)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (186)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (187)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (188)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (189)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (190)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (191)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (192)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (193)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (194)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (195)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (196)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (197)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (198)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (199)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (200)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (201)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (202)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (203)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (204)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (205)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (206)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (207)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (208)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (209)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (210)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (211)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (212)
<i>Prunella laevis</i> (213)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (214)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (215)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (216)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (217)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (218)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (219)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (220)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (221)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (222)	<i>Prunella laevis</i> (223)	<i>Prun</i>				

David J. Thomsen, PhD, ASA  
Trustee, Pilchuck Learning Center  
SHS 1962 UW 1966 UO 1972