

Fraxinus latifolia

[Synonyms : *Fraxinus oregana*, *Fraxinus oregona*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* subsp. *oregana*]
OREGON ASH is a deciduous tree. Native to western North America it has inconspicuous green flowers and leaflets that turn yellow or brown in Autumn.

It is also known as Basket ash, *Es* (Dutch), *Jasan oregonský* (Czech), Water ash, and White ash.

The flowers are pollinated by wind.

Latifolia is made up of Latin *lati-* (broad, wide) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

The North American Karok Indians used the roots for basketry, and the Costanoans put leaflets in their sandals to repel snakes.

Records show that the hard brittle wood had many different uses. Apparently the Kawaiisu cut out poles from the tree's branches (they had to be at least 10 feet long) to help them harvest cones from the border pine (*Pinus cembroïdes*) to get the edible oily dark brown seeds. Mendocino Indians fashioned the light brown wood into canes (walking sticks) and tool handles. It was not only a source of tobacco pipe material for the Yuki but fuel as well, and the Cowlitz used it for their canoe paddles and digging sticks.

As a medicine the roots were applied to wounds by the Yokia, a bark infusion was used by the Cowlitz for treating worms and the Costanoan Indians took a cold twig infusion to reduce fever.

The tree was discovered and named by the famous Scottish botanist, David Douglas (1798-1834).

Its light brown wood has been used for making wagons and carriages and has been chosen for building interiors and furniture. It has also been burnt as fuel.