Plants of the Month: November

Salal

Gaultheria shallon
Native. Evergreen.

How to recognize: Glossy dark green leaves, waxy with a leathery texture
New twigs are reddish green. Older branches grayish brown, and smooth.
Blossoms: Small bell-shaped flowers, pink to white. Slightly sticky and hairy. Appear in early summer.
Berries: Small, round, purplish black berries, hairy
Undergrowth in evergreen forest—3 to 5 feet tall

Uses:
The berries are edible. They can be eaten fresh, or dried and baked into cakes, or used for jam.
Leaves were chewed to suppress hunger or to flavor soup.
Pick a nice healthy leaf and roll it into a cone. It makes a natural “dixie cup.”