

*Berberis pinnata* Lag. subsp. *pinnata*, MAHONIA, OREGON-GRAPE. Shrub, evergreen, sclerophyllous, spinescent, forming clumps via rhizomes, much-branched, ascending to trailing, in range 100–200 cm tall; shoots with leathery, dark green, somewhat spiny, crisped leaves, glabrous, not glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, without spines, with scars of deciduous bud scales, soon covered with splitting, papery bark. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 1–4 pairs of lateral leaflets and leaflet pairs 20–40 mm apart, the leaflets sessile (terminal leaflet appearing petiolulate but on the extension of the rachis), petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, vestigial, fused to petiole for 3–9 mm, free part narrowly triangular to needlelike, 0.5–2 mm long; petiole 5–50 mm long, half-sheathing stem; blade 80–250 mm long; rachis cylindric, wiry, swollen at leaflet attachment; blades of leaflets ovate or oblong to elliptic or lanceolate, (10–)20–85 × (6–)10–50 mm, terminal leaflet > lateral leaflets, flexible, oblique at base, spinose-toothed and wavy on margins, edge golden and ± transparent, the teeth 11–22 per leaflet alternately ascending and descending, terminated by a golden spine 1.1–2.1 mm long, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, with conspicuous, netlike minor veins, surfaces not papillate, upper surface ± glossy. **Inflorescence:** dense panicle of racemes, terminal and axillary, clustered at branch ends and arising from dormant bud or 1–2 in lower branch axils, raceme spreading to somewhat pendent, 30–60 mm long, 15–20+-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle 10–20 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel ovately prow-shaped, 1.5–2.5 mm long, acute at tip, persistent; pedicel recurved in bud becoming straight, at anthesis 4–8 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, with bracteoles, the 2 bracteoles below midpoint subopposite, acuminate-lanceolate, green with whitish tip, the bracteoles subtending flower 0–3, cupped broadly ovate, ± 1.6 mm long, yellow sometimes tinged with orange, early-deciduous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 10–11 mm across; **sepals** 6 in ± 2 whorls, unequal, progressively larger toward center, yellow, deciduous shortly after anthesis; outer 3 sepals cupped and roundish, 2.7–4 × 2.1–2.7 mm, sometimes tinged orange at base; inner 3 sepals cupped-obovate, 6.3–7.2 × 3.7–4.2 mm; **petals** 6 in 2 whorls, obovate to oblong, 3.3–4.3 × 1.5–2 mm, bright yellow, notched and papillate at tip, with 2 nectaries on upper surface at base of each petal; **nectaries** elongate or narrow-fusiform swelling at base on each side of filament; **stamens** 6, opposite petals, ± free but weakly attached to petal bases at nectary, 2–3.5 mm long, sensitive to touch and moving toward stigma; filaments yellow, with 2 reflexed, armlike appendages at midpoint; anther dithecal, 1–1.2 mm long, yellow, with anther sacs lateral and subterminal, creamy yellow, opening by valves, the valve spreading to erect, roundish, ± 0.5 mm; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, stout cylindric to bottle-shaped, greenish; ovary constricted below stigma, 1-chambered with ca. 7 basal ovules; style absent; stigma capitate-hemispheric, with a depressed center, slightly oblique, wider than pistil. **Fruit:** berry, 1–6-seeded, ovoid-spheroid to broadly obovoid, 3.5–7(–8) mm long, glaucous blue-purple, with a persistent, purple, discoid stigma 1–1.2 mm diameter; pulp juicy, purple; bracteoles persistent. **Seed:** plumb and ± oval in outline, 3.5–4 mm long, orange-brown, with 1 or 2 flat faces (where adjacent seeds touching). Mid-February–early April.

Native. A seldom observed evergreen shrub in deep shade of canyon bottoms in SMM. *Berberis pinnata*, alternatively known as *Mahonia pinnata*, has dense clusters of yellow

flowers, but mature fruits are rarely observed, and there is no evidence that in range new plants are being established via seed.

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