Western Washington
Plants for Birds

Mock Orange
*Philadelphus lewisii*

Western bluebirds are primarily cavity nesters, but they rely on other species of birds to provide those cavities, such as woodpeckers. Placing nesting boxes in your yard can help attract them. During breeding season, they can have intense territorial battles. However, outside the breeding season they are quite social.

In summer, they feed primarily on insects but will switch to fruits and seeds, supplemented by insects, in winter. They tend to stay low to the ground when capturing their prey.

Males are deep blue, rusty, and white, while females are gray-brown with a blue tinge.

They live in evergreen and deciduous forests and thrive in those that were recently disturbed by events, such as fire.
Mock Orange

Mock orange is a loosely branched shrub with fragrant white flowers (late spring to early summer) that can grow up to 10 feet tall.

It grows best in sun to part shade and can tolerate both dry and moist soil, as well as gravelly and nutrient rich soils. So, overall, this shrub is highly adaptable and requires minimal attention once mature.

Birds known to eat the seeds include catbirds, grosbeaks, juncos, thrushes, bluebirds, chickadees, flickers, quail, and grouse. Several species of butterflies harvest the nectar from the flowers.

The name comes from the scent of the flowers because it is reminiscent of orange blossoms.

It can grow on rocky slopes, making it useful for erosion control.

It is the state flower of Idaho.