Oregon Grape Holly (Mahonia)
(Mahonia aquifolium)

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Summary:
Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf
Height: 3 to 9 feet (depending on form)
Spread: 5 feet
Shape: Upright, cane growth (very little side branching)
Oregongrapeholly is a slow-growing, medium to large evergreen shrub with lustrous foliage and bright yellow flowers in spring which are followed by robin egg blue fruit in summer.

Plant Needs:
Zone: 6 to 8
Light: Partial shade to full shade
Moisture: Moist to average
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay
pH Range: 3.5 to 7.0

Functions:
Suggested uses for this plant include border, massing, and foundation plant.

Planting Notes:
Oregongrapeholly must have shade during hot summer afternoons and protection from winter winds. Thus, planting on the east side of a house (within shade pattern) is ideal.

Care:
Easy to maintain.

Problems:
No serious pests.

Alternatives:
Consult local garden centers, including historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars:
'Compactum' is a low-growing cultivar (3 feet tall) with glossy foliage.
Related species:
Leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*) has the same aesthetic and cultural requirements as Oregongrapeholly. However, it has a more coarse texture due to its larger and stiff-pointed leaves. There are reports of leatherleaf mahonia invading southern woodlands.
Comments:
There are two forms of Oregongrapeholly in the nursery trade. One is a tall upright open form and the other is a more compact low-growing form. In both species (Oregongrapeholly and Leatherleaf), leaves are held stiffly horizontal on the shrub, making it an interesting specimen. Because of this tiered effect that mimics a pagoda, these species are commonly used in Asian gardens.