

Species name: Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*)

Group: plants

Native region (Continent): North America

Local Status: Established

Entry paths (if known): Garden escapes, plantings

Observations: Most common at the western part of the Flemish coast. Naturalized in the period 1920–1950. Its distribution has increased rapidly since the 1990s. Oregon grape is the most frequently encountered non-native shrub species in the dunes, and gardens and public plantings bordering natural areas represent a major source of introduction. It grows in a wide variety of vegetation types ranging from moss dunes and dune grasslands to scrub and woodland. The species' numerous blue berries (drupes) are easily dispersed over long distances by thrushes and other songbirds as was shown for other *Berberis* species. Therefore, the plant can appear everywhere within the dune sites, including places which are hardly accessible to managers, such as under native shrub. Recent vegetation mapping revealed that within 16 years, Oregon grape managed to dominate and replace 2% of the indigenous scrub area.

<https://www.ecopedia.be/planten/mahonie>



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