QUICK GUIDE: Native Plants for Specific Situations in Puget Sound area

Check light & moisture needs, mature size, & native range before planting. (Not an exhaustive list)

Plants for moist areas; along streams/ponds

Adiantum aleuticum (maidenhair fern)
Aruncus dioicus (goat's beard)
Asarum caudatum (wild ginger)
Blechnum spicant (deer fern)
Carex obnupta, C. hendersonii (sedge)
Cornus sericea (red-twig dogwood)
Cornus unalaschkensis (bunchberry)
Corydalis scouleri (Scouler's corydalis)
Deschampia cespitosa; D. elongata (hair grass)
Dodecatheon pulchellum (pretty shooting star)
Erythronium oregonum (Oregon fawn lily)
Frangula purshiana (cascara)
Fraxinus latifolia (Oregon ash)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Lupinus polypohyllus; L. rivularis (lupine)
Oemleria cerasiformis (osoberry)
Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific ninebark)
Picea sitchensis (Sitka spruce)
Rosa pisocarpa (clustered wild rose)
Salix scouleriana; S. hookeri; S. lucida; S. sitchensis (willow)
Sidalcea hendersonii (Henderson's checker mallow)
Sisyrinchium idahoense (Idaho blue-eyed grass)
Spiraea douglasii (Douglas spiraea)
Symphyotrichum subspicatum (Douglas aster)
Thuja plicata (western red cedar)
Viola glabella (stream violet)

Plants for hedgerows

Acer circinatum (vine maple)
Amelanchier alnifolia (western serviceberry)
Ceanothus sanguineus; C. velutinus (ceanothus)
Cornus sericea (red-twig dogwood)
Corylus cornuta var. *Californica* (hazelnut)
Crataegus douglasii (black hawthorn)
Frangula purshiana (cascara)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Lonicera involucrata (twinberry)
Mahonia aquifolium (tall Oregon grape)
Oemleria cerasiformis (Indian plum)
Philadelphus lewisii (mock orange)
Ribes sanguineum (red-flowering currant)
Salix scouleriana (Scouler's willow)
Sambus racemosa; S. nigra ssp. *cerulea* (elderberry)
Spiraea douglasii (Douglas spiraea)
Symphoricarpos albus (snowberry)
Vaccinium ovatum (evergreen huckleberry)

Plants for rocky areas/rock gardens

Achillea millefollium var. *occidentalis* (yarrow)
Allium cernuum (nodding onion)
Aquilegia formosa (western columbine)
Arbutus menziesii (madrone)
Campanula rotundifolia (common harebell)
Erythronium oregonum (Oregon fawn lily)
Heuchera micrantha (small-flowered alumroot)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Lupinus bicolor (miniature lupine)
Penstemon serrulatus (beardtongue)
Phlox diffusa (spreading phlox)
Sedum oreganum (Oregon stonecrop)
Viola adunca (early blue violet)

Plants with good drought tolerance

Abies grandis (grand fir)
Achillea millefolium var. *occidentalis* (western yarrow)
Allium cernuum (nodding onion)
Anaphalis margaritacea (western pearly everlasting)
Arbutus menziesii (madrone)
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (kinnikinnick)
Ceanothus velutinus; C. sanguineus (ceanothus)
Camassia quamash (camas)
Cornus nuttallii (Pacific dogwood)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Lonicera hispidula (pink honeysuckle)
Mahonia aquifolium; M. nervosa (Oregon grape)
Philadelphus lewisii (mock orange)
Polystichum munitum (western sword fern)
Prunus emarginata var. *mollis* (bitter cherry)
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas-fir)
Quercus garryana (Garry oak)
Sedum oreganum (Oregon stonecrop)

Plants for very acidic soil

Arbutus menziesii (madrone)
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (kinnikinnick)
Asarum caudatum (wild ginger)
Actaea elata (tall bugbane)
Cornus unalaschkensis bunchberry)
Erythronium oregonum (Oregon fawn lily)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Mahonia aquifoluim, M. nervosa (Oregon grape)
Maianthemum racemosum; M. stellatum (false solomon's seal)
Polystichum munitum (western sword fern)
Pinus contorta var. *contorta* (shore pine)
Rhododendron macrophyllum (Pacific rhododendron)
Thuja plicata (western red cedar)
Trillium ovatum (western trillium)
Vaccinium ovatum; V. parviflorum (huckleberry)

Plants for erosion control

Acer circinatum, A. macrophyllum (maple)
Alnus rubra (red alder)
Amelanchier alnifolia (western serviceberry)
Arbutus menziesii (madrone)
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (kinnikinnick)
Cornus sericea (red-twig dogwood)
Gautheria shallon (salal)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Festuca roemeri (Roemer's fescue)
Lonicera involucrata (twinberry)
Lupinus polyphyllus (large-leaved lupine)
Mahonia aquifolium; M. nervosa (Oregon grape)
Polystichum munitum (western sword fern)
Philadelphus lewisii (mock orange)
Quercus garryana (Garry oak)
Ribes sanguineum (red-flowering currant)
Rosa nutkana (Nootka rose)
Rubus parviflorus (thimbleberry)
Salix scouleriana (Scouler's willow)
Symphoricarpos albus; S. hesperius (snowberry)
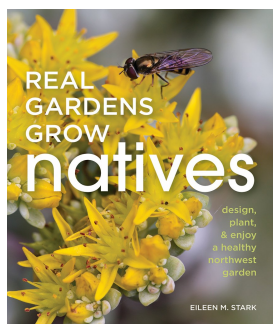*Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew)
Thuja plicata (western red cedar)
Viola adunca (early blue violet)

"ssp." = subspecies   "var." = variety

Tips to Provide More Wildlife Habitat

- o   Get to know your yard (throughout the seasons) & its wild visitors before devising a plan.
- o   Eliminate invasive non-native plants (in stages, if they are supplying wildlife habitat).
- o   Minimize disturbance to wildlife and soil. Preserve topography and 'microclimates'.
- o   Increase biodiversity by transforming lawn! Euthanize lawn by covering (sheet mulching) with newspaper or cardboard (not plastic), & topping with compost or other mulch. Small areas can be dug out and flipped over, with a layer of compost added on top.
- o   Use a variety of regional native species, preferably in their natural associations (plant communities), based on light, moisture and soil conditions. Arrange plants with similar needs together and repeat for a natural look.
- o   Choose trees first, then lower plants, arranged in a layered effect to provide connectivity.
- o   If space allows, use a variety of trees and shrubs — including conifers — as well as understory plants. Consider shrubs' mature widths and place them so pruning won't be necessary. Some shrubs grow into thickets, which are highly beneficial for wildlife.
- o   In sunny spaces, consider a wildflower "mini-meadow," using a regional meadow or prairie plant community. To help pollinators, grow at least 3 different species of flowering plants that bloom at the same time, from early spring through fall. Group them in clumps or masses so pollinators can easily find them and to provide enough nectar and pollen.
- o   Provide host plants for butterfly larvae, not just flowers.
- o   Use groundcover plants instead of bark/chip/rock mulch to discourage weeds, prevent erosion and create habitat. Leave some soil bare for native ground nesting bees (70% nest in the ground).
- o   Give up all pesticides and synthetic fertilizers (which native plants don't need).
- o   Let fallen leaves stay on bare soil to protect it and provide for overwintering creatures and their predators. Allow "downed wood" (logs, branches, twigs) and snags to remain when possible. Build brush piles for cover and/or nesting.
- o   Let perennial stems overwinter, then cut back to 8-24" in spring and leave them until the next late spring to provide nest sites for cavity-nesting insects.
- o   Provide a source of clean water. Shallow birdbaths are good for small and large birds.
- o   Keep predatory pets away from wildlife. "Catios" keep Kitty safe, too!
- o   Make reflective windows visible to birds, who die in the millions from collisions.
- o   Turn off outdoor lighting or simply use motion sensors.
- o   Talk to neighbors about the importance of habitat connections and fencing issues.
- o   Buy local plant material from reputable nurseries and never dig up plants from the wild.
- o   Avoid native cultivars ("nativars") and instead use "true" native species.
- o   Use permeable paving materials and disconnect downspouts when possible.

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Real Gardens Grow Natives:
Design, Plant & Enjoy a Healthy Northwest Garden

By Eileen M. Stark

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Much more info at: **www.realgardensgrownatives.com**