



2020 Native Plant Descriptions

Evergreen Trees

Common Name <i>Genus species</i>	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	250'		Well-drained soils. Used for windbreaks, firewood and lumber. Fastest growing conifer.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	250'		Moist to dry sites. Used as Christmas trees and lumber. Fragrant needles. Rapid growth. Prefers to establish under some shade.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	50'		Highly adaptable. Found in bogs, dunes and rocky hilltops. Rapid growth. Can be planted in rows for boundary screening.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'		Moist to boggy sites. Stiff, bluish-green needles. Harvested for lumber.
Western Hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	200'		Fairly dry to wet sites and prefers shade. Found on humus as well as mineral soils. Graceful down-sweeping branches and feathery foliage. State tree of Washington.
Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	150'		Prefers moist soils. Majestic J-shaped branches. Does not tolerate full sun when young. Used as lumber and firewood.

Deciduous Trees

Common Name <i>Genus species</i>	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Cascara <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	30'		Dry to wet, shady sites with conifers or swampy bottomlands with red alder and vine maple. Valuable food source for wildlife. Beautiful shiny leaves with good fall color.
Garry Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	80'		Prefers good drainage. A broad, gnarled, deciduous tree. Acorns are wildlife food source.
Oregon Ash <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	75'		Moist to wet soils at low elevations, often near streams or areas that occasionally flood. Food source for wildlife.
Pacific Crabapple <i>Malus fusca</i>	35'		Prefers moist to wet habitats in full sun. A native shrubby/small tree with flowers and fruits that are attractive and beneficial for many kinds of wildlife.
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	22'		Prefers shade and moist to dry areas. Seeds provide wildlife food. Vibrant fall colors.

Legend

 Evergreen	 Deciduous	 Full Sun	 Partial Shade	 Shade	 Early Bloom	 Middle Bloom	 Late Bloom	 Fruit	 Seeds	 Rain Garden	 Wildfire Resistant	 Toxic
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Pollinators need a variety of plants that bloom throughout the season for a continuous source of nectar and pollen. It is important to choose native plants that offer a variety of early, middle and late blooming flowers. The most essential pollinator plants often bloom at the margins of the season, early spring or late summer. Consider also leaving water sources and habitat for pollinators such as leaf litter, dead wood, and undisturbed ground.

Plant toxicity information has not been verified.

Shrubs

Common Name <i>Genus species</i>	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
American Highbush Cranberry <i>Viburnum opulus v. americanum</i>	15'		Prefers moist to wet sites. Clustered white flowers followed by bright red berries. Berries are edible, but generally considered unpalatable.
Beaked Hazelnut <i>Corylus cornuta</i>	20'		Commonly found in moist sites in open forest, shady openings, thickets and well drained streamside habitats. Nuts provide wildlife food.
Blackcap Raspberry <i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	6'		Moist, disturbed sites from thickets to open forests. Produces small raspberries, red to black in color.
Black Twinberry <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	12'		Prefers moist soils. Fast growing. Small yellow flowers. Berries are eaten by some bird species. Produces pairs of small yellow flowers in spring turning to two shiny black berries surrounded by red bracts. Provides nectar and black berries for birds.
Blue Elderberry <i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	6-18'		Commonly found along streambanks, moist clearings and open forests. Less common than Red Elderberry west of the Cascades. Fast growing with soft pithy twigs and arching growth structure. Creamy white fragrant flower cluster visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruits are bluish-black with a powder coating that have many edible and medicinal uses.
Evergreen Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	6'		Shorter and bushier in full sun. Tall and leggy in shade. Pink, bell-shaped flowers. Sweet purplish-black fruit.
Hairy Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	20'		Shrubby climbing vines with beautiful pink flowers. Fabulous pollinator attractor especially butterflies and hummingbirds.
Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	4-12'		Found in dry upland sites, stream banks and forests. One of the first plants to flower in spring. Highly beneficial pollinator plant. White bell-shaped flowers and small blue fruit. Edible, bitter fruit loved by birds. Good for erosion control.
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	10'		Allows a wide variety of soil conditions. Showy, fragrant white flowers. Birds eat woody fruit capsules. Good for soil stabilization.
Nootka Rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	5-15'		Found in a wide variety of soil conditions, wet to dry. This plant is very hardy and easily establishes and will spread through roots. Pink five-petal flowers are fragrant. Red rose hips commonly eaten by wildlife.
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	To 14'		Great on dry, sunny open sites and forest edges. Arching, multi-stemmed branches. White to cream lilac-like flower clusters. Very hardy and drought tolerant.
Oval-leaved Viburnum <i>Viburnum ellipticum</i>	4-12'		Grows in moist to dry soil with some sun exposure. Large white flower cluster in spring producing edible red berries. Also provides wonderful fall color change. A relative to Highbush Cranberry (<i>Vaccinium edule</i>), which prefers wetter soils.
Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	15'		Prefers moist soils. Provides seeds and cover for birds. Attractive white flower clusters and peeling cinnamon-colored bark. Host plant for butterflies and small bees.

Legend

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Shrubs

Common Name <i>Genus species</i>	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Pacific Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	25'		Moist to fairly dry forests. State flower of Washington. Leathery leaves. Clustered, pink to rose-purple flowers.
Red Elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	12-20'		Prefers moist soils of stream banks, wetlands and clearings and open forests. Fast growing with soft pithy twigs with arching growth structure. Creamy white flower clusters are fragrant and visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruit is bright red and not edible unless cooked.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	12'		Prefers dry to somewhat moist sites. Chains of showy pink flowers are a hummingbird magnet in early spring. Inedible fruit eaten by birds. Great early blooming pollinator plant for native pollinators.
Red Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	5-6'		Prefers moist soil. Small to medium sized deciduous shrub that can tolerate dense shade. Pink, bell-shaped flowers. Tart bright red edible berries. Often found growing on top of dead stumps and wood.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	15'		Good in well-drained moist and wet soils near stream banks and wetlands. Attractive all year with its white clustered flowers in summer and bright red twigs in winter. Tolerates pruning.
Salmonberry <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	8-10'		Found in moist to wet places including forests, streambanks and wetlands. Has pink flowers with yellow to orange colored fruits. Grows in thicket formations and likes to spread via the root system. Prefers some shade but can tolerate full sun if moist enough through summer. Produces an early summer crowd-pleasing berry that ranges in color from deep red to orange and yellow. Has thorns that flake off easily.
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	3-17'		Dry to moist sites. Spreads by underground runners. Attractive large white fragrant flowers in spring. Followed by sweet, edible purple berry-like fruit.
Sitka Willow <i>Salix sitchensis</i>	5-25'		Wet soil and full sun sites. Shrub to small tree. Grows along streamside areas, lakeshores and wetland margins. Prefers wet soils and is very tolerant of seasonal flooding. Great for streambank planting for soil stabilization. Bareroot plant is better for spring plantings than cuttings or live stakes.
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	3-8'		Grows in moist to dry soil. White berries persist through the winter for birds. Spreads by rhizomes, making it a good soil stabilizer.
Tall Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	8'		Dry, open to closed forests, rocky habitats at low to middle elevations. Small bright yellow flower clusters attract mason and honey bees in spring, followed by edible purple berry clusters. The holly-like leaves make an excellent barrier hedge.
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	6'		Prefers high-moistures open sites such as clearings, road edges, shorelines, avalanche tracks or open forests at low to subalpine elevations. Thornless with delicious edible berries, similar to raspberry. Spreads via the root system.

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Groundcovers

Common Name <i>Genus species</i>	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	2-10"		Attractive white flower in spring followed by small bright red berries that linger through late summer.
Cascade Penstemon <i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	6-24"		Easy to grow. Attracts hummingbirds with abundant deep blue to pink tubular flowers in late spring to summer.
Coastal Strawberry <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	8"		Good in sunny areas. Perennial groundcover with attractive white flowers and small berries. Fast spreader. Drought tolerant. Grows well over woody mulches.
Deer Fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	1-2'		Commonly found in shady moist to wet forests, wet alder slide areas, as well as streambanks. Medium-sized fern with both deciduous and evergreen fronds.
Douglas Aster <i>Aster subspicatus</i>	24"		Grows in clusters of erect leafy stems. Pale purple flowers with long narrow petals that bloom all summer. Grows in meadows, forest clearings, salt and fresh water wetlands. Attracts insects, bees and butterflies. Deer resistant.
Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	8"		Well-drained soils. Spreads by rooting branches. Good for erosion control. Red berries provide wildlife food.
Low Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	24"		Evergreen groundcover. Prefers moist soil and shade. Fragrant yellow flowers attract native pollinators. Birds eat the purplish-blue berries. Holly-like leaves turn red and purple in fall.
Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	8-12"		Delicate and small with dark to purplish-black stems. Prefers moist shady conditions often in rocky forests, streambanks, cliffs and spray zone of waterfalls.
Nodding Onion <i>Allium cernuum</i>	1.5'		Perennial bulb grows best in full or partial sun and moist to medium wet soil. White to shades of purple flowers with a head that bend downward, thus called "Nodding" Onion.
Oregon Iris <i>Iris tenax</i>	12-18"		A clumping perennial herb with lavender (blue to purple) flowers in spring. Native to northwest marshes, but also a good ornamental for your yard.
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Red Columbine <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	1-2'		Perennial herbaceous plant with red/yellow, drooping flowers. Found in moist, open to part shade from rocky slopes to beaches.
Redwood Sorrel <i>Oxalis oregana</i>	2-6"		Commonly found in moist, forested sites. Short, herbaceous perennial with erect flowering stems. Three leaflets are heart-shaped with purplish undersides, white to pale pink flowers.
Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	2-7'		Prefers moist to dry soils. Spreads by suckering. Erosion control. Black berries provide wildlife food. Glossy leaves.
Sea Thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>	2-17"		Clumping perennial herb from taproot with branching stem-base. Flowers pink to lavender. Uncommon. Typically found on coastal beaches, bluffs; occasionally riverbanks/meadows.
Sword Fern <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	3'		Moist forest at low to middle elevations, great for steep slope erosion control.
Vanilla Leaf <i>Achlys triphylla</i>	12"		Perennial ground cover with fragrant, clover-like leaves. Multiple small, white flowers. Prefers moist, shady understory. Spreads through rhizomes.
Wild Ginger <i>Asarum caudatum</i>	2-4"		Prefers moist soils in shady forests. Evergreen perennial groundcover with purple flower in spring. Spreads through rhizomes. Roots can be eaten fresh or dried and ground.
Woodland Strawberry <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	6"		Evergreen groundcover with small white flowers, striking red stems, lightly toothed tri-fold leaves and delicious red fruit. Prefers loose, well-drained soil. Needs sun to set/ripen fruit.

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