

Incorporate Native Plants into your Garden

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Why Bring Natives Into Your Garden?

- Attractive
- Well-adapted to our climate
- Beneficial to wildlife (think insects and birds)
- Relatively low maintenance once established
- Relatively low supplemental water needs once established

Start Small

It's not all or nothing. You can start using natives with a single plant you've fallen in love with.

Think Frugal

- Small plants often establish better.
- Shop Conservation District and Native Plant Society sales.
- Be patient. Instant gratification is over-rated.

Maintenance is Relative

Going native does NOT mean no maintenance. You'll still have weeds and want to deadhead at the appropriate time. You may need to trim shrubs for shape and size. Assertive plants may need to be reined in.

Success is NOT Guaranteed

You will have failures.

- Hungry deer, moles, rabbits
- Misjudging soil type and water needs
- Competition from established plants and weeds

Selecting Plants

- Choose plants you like that are adapted to your local microclimate.
- Think about how and where your favorite plants grow in the wild and find similar places in your garden.
- Consider the ultimate height and spread for trees and shrubs.
- Learn whether the plant has the potential to be assertive in the garden.
- Consider creating a special habitat area for choice gems, such as a rock garden or bog garden.

Selected Plants

Trees and Shrubs

Mountain Hemlock	<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
Coast Black Gooseberry	<i>Ribes divaricatum</i>
Black Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>
Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>
White Spiraea	<i>Spiraea lucida</i> (old name <i>Spiraea betulifolia</i> was misapplied)
Shining (Tall) Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia (Berberis) aquifolium</i>
Western Azalea	<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>

Perennials

Broadleaf Penstemon	<i>Penstemon ovatus</i>
Sicklekeel Lupine	<i>Lupinus albicaulis</i>
Great Camas	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>
Oregon Sunshine	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
Henderson's Checkermallow	<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Cooley's Hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys cooleyae</i>
Fragrant Fringecup	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>
Leopard Lily	<i>Lilium pardalinum</i> ssp. <i>vollmeri</i>
Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Rocky Mountain Iris	<i>Iris missouriensis</i>
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>
Nodding Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>

Groundcovers

Redwood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>
Beach Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Woodland Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
May Lily	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>
Pacific Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>
Pacific Starflower	<i>Lysimachia latifolia</i>

Rock Garden Gems

Roundleaf Alumroot	<i>Heuchera cylindrica</i>
Rosy Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>
Desert Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>
Firecracker Flower	<i>Dichelostemma ida-maia</i>
Sulphur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>

Cultural information for many of these trees and shrubs is on the **Washington Native Plant Society** website: wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/index.html and wnps.org/native-gardening.

Selected References:

Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest, by Mark Turner and Ellen Kuhlmann, Timber Press 2014.

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest, by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson, Timber Press 2006.

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: Third Edition, by Arthur R. Kruckeberg and Linda Chalker-Scott, University of Washington Press 2019

Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska, by Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon, Lone Pine 2004

PNW Flowers, <http://www.pnwflowers.com/>, the author's website with over 16,000 wildflower photos.

Burke Herbarium Image Collection,
<https://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection/photos.php>