

Native Plants for Beauty and Structure in Your Garden

Mark Turner
Bellingham, Washington
www.turnerphotographics.com •
mark@turnerphotographics.com



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

Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>
Red-twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</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>

Perennials

Cascades Penstemon	<i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>
Sicklekeel Lupine	<i>Lupinus albicaulis</i>
Great Camas	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>
Henderson's Checkermallow	<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>
Scotch Bluebells	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Cooley's Hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys cooleyae</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>

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>