



It's Time to Transform Your Turf! (or at least part of it)

Convert an outdated carpet into a sustainable garden to save wildlife, water, & labor!

Tips For Achieving More Wildlife Habitat with Less Lawn:

- ✓ Get to know your yard and its wild visitors before devising a plan.
- ✓ Minimize disturbance to wildlife and soil. Preserve topography and microclimates.
- ✓ Eliminate invasive non-native plants (remove them in stages if they are supplying wildlife habitat).
- ✓ Euthanize lawn by covering & smothering (sheet mulching), using newspaper or cardboard poked with holes for drainage (not plastic), & topped with compost or other mulch. Small areas can be dug out and flipped over, with a layer of compost added on top.
- ✓ Increase biodiversity by replacing lawn with as many regional native plants as possible — preferably in their natural associations (plant communities) and based on light, moisture, and soil conditions. Arrange plants with similar needs together, repeat them for a natural look, and avoid cultivars. Plant trees first, then smaller plants, arranged in a layered effect with slight overlap to provide connectivity.
- ✓ Where space allows, use a variety of trees and shrubs — including conifers — as well as under-story plants. Be sure to note mature widths of shrubs & place them so pruning won't be necessary.
- ✓ 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 autumn. Group them in masses (drifts or swaths) so pollinators can easily find them and to provide enough nectar and pollen.
- ✓ Provide host plants for butterfly larvae.
- ✓ Use groundcover plants instead of bark mulch to discourage weeds, prevent erosion and create habitat. But leave some soil bare for solitary ground nesting bees (70% nest in bare soil).
- ✓ Give up pesticides and synthetic fertilizers (which native plants don't need).
- ✓ Let fallen leaves stay on soil to protect it & provide for overwintering creatures & their predators.
- ✓ Don't cut back perennials until well into spring. Leave cut stems on ground for beneficial insects.
- ✓ Allow "downed wood" (logs, branches, twigs) and snags to remain when possible.
- ✓ Other advice to help wildlife: Provide a source of clean water (shallow bird baths work well); make reflective windows visible to birds; turn off artificial outdoor lighting or use motion sensors.

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by Eileen M. Stark

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QUICK GUIDE:

Native Plants for Specific Situations in Puget Sound area

(Not an exhaustive list; be sure to check light and moisture requirements and mature size before planting)

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 unalaschensis (bunchberry)
Corydalis scouleri (Scouler's corydalis)
Deschampia cespitosa; *D. elongata* (hair grass)
Dodecatheon pulchellum (pretty shooting star)
Erythronium oregonum (Oregon fawn lily)
Fraxinus latifolia (Oregon ash)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Lupinus polypophyllus; *L. rivularis* (lupine)
Oemleria cerasiformis (Indian plum)
Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific ninebark)
Picea sitchensis (Sitka spruce)
Rhamnus purshiana (cascara)
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)
Symphotrichum 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* (Cal. hazelnut)
Crataegus douglasii (black hawthorn)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Lonicera involucrata (twinberry)
Mahonia aquifolium (tall Oregon grape)
Oemleria cerasiformis (Indian plum)
Philadelphus lewisii (mock orange)
Rhamnus purshiana (cascara)
Ribes sanguineum (red-flowering currant)
Rosa nutkana; *R. gymnocarpa*; *R. pisocarpa* (rose)
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 millefolium 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 high drought tolerance

Abies grandis (grand fir)
Achillea millefolium var. *occidentalis* (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 unalaschensis bunchberry)
Erythronium oregonum (Oregon fawn lily)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Mahonia aquifolium, *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)
Amelanchier alnifolia (western serviceberry)
Arbutus menziesii (madrone)
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (kinnikinnick)
Cornus sericea (red-twig dogwood)
Gaultheria shallon (salal)
Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray)
Festuca roemerii (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)