

Selected List of Pacific NW Native Plants for Western Washington Gardens

Genus & Species	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Fruit	Wildlife value	Comments
TREES						
<i>Acer circinatum</i> - Vine Maple	Shade or moist sun. Prefers moist shade.	25'	White flowers w/ red sepals in spring.	Samaras appear in summer.	Bees; birds eat seeds; larval plant.	<i>Deciduous. Pretty tree in all seasons. Use singly or in masses. Does well in shade of conifers. Good soil binding qualities.</i>
<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> - Alaska Yellow Cedar	Sun or shade.	60'				<i>Evergreen. Slow growing.</i>
<i>Pinus contorta</i> 'contorta' - Shore Pine	Sun. Highly adaptable, saturated to well-drained soil, tolerant of poor nutrients.	60' in landscapes				<i>Evergreen.</i>
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i> - Mountain Hemlock	Sun.	20-30' in landscapes			Seeds eaten by birds, chipmunks, & squirrels.	<i>Evergreen. Slow growing, to keep small don't water or fertilize once established.</i>
EVERGREEN SHRUBS						
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> - Tall Oregon Grape	Sun or shade, dry to moderate moisture. Tolerates more sun than <i>Berberis nervosa</i> .	5-10'	Yellow flowers in early spring.	Blue berries edible.	Bees; butterflies; birds & mammals eat berries.	<i>Evergreen. Colorful in all seasons. Use as hedge or individually. Prune lightly in fall.</i>
<i>Berberis nervosa</i> - Low Oregon Grape	Prefers shade, can take some sun.	2'	Yellow flowers in early spring.	Blue berries edible.	Bees; butterflies; birds & mammals eat berries.	<i>Evergreen. Can be low maintenance ground cover, no pruning needed. Colorful in all seasons</i>
<i>Berberis repens</i> - Creeping Oregon Grape	Sun.	1-2'	Yellow flowers in early spring.	Blue berries edible.	Bees; butterflies; birds & mammals eat berries.	<i>Evergreen. Can be low maintenance groundcover.</i>
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i> - Salal	Sun or shade, most soil types, preferably dry shade.	2-7'	Pink spring flowers.	Blue berries edible.	Berries eaten by birds & mammals; larval plant.	<i>Evergreen. Slow to establish, but then spreads easily. Good for soil binding. Spreads by rhizomes.</i>
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i> - Hairy Honeysuckle	Dry sun to partial shade.	Vine, 10-20'	Pinkish purple flowers in late spring.	Red berries	Hummingbirds; birds eat berries.	<i>Evergreen. Widely branching vine.</i>
<i>Myrica californica</i> - California Wax Myrtle	Sun or shade. Likes peaty, acid, well-drained soil.	15'	Insignificant flowers.	Purplish, waxy fruits in fall.	Birds eat fruits.	<i>Evergreen. Ideal where tolerance to salt spray needed.</i>
<i>Penstemon cardwellii</i> - Cardwell's Penstemon	Sun, dryish bank or rock garden.	4-12"	Blue-violet late spring flowers.		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds; night moths.	<i>Evergreen. Forms mats.</i>
<i>Penstemon confertus</i> - Yellow Penstemon	Sun, moist to dry.		Yellow flowers, spring-summer		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds, night moths.	<i>Evergreen. Mat-forming plant with small creamy yellow flowers; prefers full sun & well-drained soil.</i>
<i>Penstemon davidsonii</i> - Davidson's Penstemon	Sun, well-drained bank or rock garden, moist in spring.	2-4"	Large blue to purple spring or summer flowers		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds; night moths.	<i>Evergreen. Low and shrubby herb, forms dense mats.</i>
<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i> - Lowbush Penstemon	Sun, dryish bank or rock garden.	6-15"	Purple flowers in late spring.		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds; night moths.	<i>Evergreen. Compact, nice foliage. Self seeds readily. Cuttings also easy to take.</i>
<i>Penstemon procerus</i> - Small-flowered Penstemon	Sun, dryish bank or rock garden.	2-10"	Blue to purple, or cream, late spring flowers.		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds; night moths.	<i>Evergreen.</i>

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<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i> - Pacific Rhododendron	Sun, but best in partial shade; good drainage; moist acid soil.	To 25'	Pale pink to deep rose flowers in spring.		Bees; butterflies.	Evergreen.
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> - Evergreen Huckleberry	Dry to moist shade; partial to full sun.	3-15'	Pinkish white spring flowers.	Delicious berries hold into late fall.	Bees; hummingbirds; birds eat berries.	Evergreen. New leaves red-tinged. Will self seed sparingly. Slow grower.
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS						
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> - Serviceberry	Sun or shade, dry to moderate moisture. Best in drier soils with full sun.	3-15'	Fragrant white flowers in late spring.	Sweet, edible purple berries.	Butterflies; birds eat berries; larval plant.	Deciduous. Berries used by Native Americans in pemmican. Grows on rocky slopes. Nice fall foliage.
<i>Cornus sericea</i> - Red Osier Dogwood	Dry to wet sun.	15'	Early summer white flowers.	White, blue-tinged berries.	Butterflies; birds eat berries; larval plant.	Deciduous. Prized for winter twig color; spreads readily in moist soil. Good soil binding capability. Cuttings root readily; layers readily.
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> - Hazelnut	Sun, partial shade.	3-12'	Yellow catkins in late winter.	Edible nuts.	Birds & squirrels eat nuts.	Deciduous.
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i> - Oceanspray	Sun or shade, dry to moist. Well drained soil.	10-15'	White summer flowers.	Seeds persist through winter.	Deer browse; larval plant.	Deciduous. Nice background plant. Good soil binding capability, does well on disturbed sites.
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i> - Orange Honeysuckle	Dry sun to partial shade.	Vine, 10-20'	Orange tubular flowers in late spring.	Orange-red berries.	Hummingbirds; birds eat berries.	Deciduous. Widely twining, branching vine.
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i> - Black Twinberry	Sun to partial shade, moist soil.	10'	Twin yellow flowers in summer.	Black twin berries.	Hummingbirds; birds eat berries.	Deciduous.
<i>Myrica gale</i> - Sweet Gale	Sun. Likes wet, acid soil.	2-6'	Small brown flowers in late spring.	Tiny greenish winged nutlets		Deciduous. Aromatic shrub. Separate male & female plants.
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i> - Indian Plum	Sun or shade, moist to somewhat dry soil.	5-15'	Very early white spring flowers.	Bluish-black 'plums'.	Birds devour fruits.	Deciduous. Best in woodland garden or as background planting.
<i>Oplopanax horridum</i> - Devil's Club	Partial shade, moist soil	3-9'	Compact heads of small white flowers.	Bright red, shiny berries in clusters.	Birds eat fruit.	Deciduous. Spines are irritating-don't touch. Can be showy in a garden setting.
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> - Mock Orange	Sun or shade, dry to moderate moisture. Grows well in a variety of site and soil conditions.	5 - 10'	Showy, fragrant white flowers in summer.		Butterflies; birds eat seeds.	Deciduous. Highly adaptable plant. Can take a while to flower.
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> - Pacific Ninebark	Sun. Tolerates most soil conditions.	12-15'	Clusters of white flowers in spring & summer.		Butterflies; birds eat seeds.	Deciduous. Good for streambank planting. Attractive bark provides winter interest.
<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i> - Western Azalea	Sun, filtered shade. Likes moist, humus acid soil.	To 5'	Pale rose to white flowers in spring.			Deciduous. Best in mass plantings, along with evergreens.
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> - Red Flowering Currant	Sun or shade, prefers dryish soil.	3-12'	Early spring flowers (March).	Blue-black berries with waxy white 'bloom'.	Hummingbirds; birds & mammals eat berries; larval plant.	Deciduous. Early flowers.
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> - Red Elderberry	Sun to partial shade, moist.	To 20'	White flowers in spring.	Red berries.	Butterflies; hummingbirds; birds & mammals eat berries.	Deciduous. Best in wild part of garden. Grows fast once established, good soil binder, good background plant.

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<i>Spiraea splendens</i> - Subalpine Spiraea	Sun, moist soil.	24-30"	Pink summer flowers			<i>Deciduous. Good rock garden plant in moist spot.</i>
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> - Snowberry	Dry to moist sun or partial shade. Tolerates drier sites.	2-6'	Small pinkish flowers in late spring	White berries persist through winter.	Bees; hummingbird; birds; larval plant.	<i>Deciduous. Flowers insignificant; berries colorful in winter, toxic to humans. Can form thickets.</i>
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i> - Red Huckleberry	Dry to moist shade, partial sun.	4-10'	Pinkish or greenish spring flowers.	Red summer berries good in jelly & muffins.	Bees; hummingbirds; birds eat berries.	<i>Deciduous. Angular branches pretty in winter. Depends on mycorrhizal fungi, e.g. on logs & stumps.</i>
<i>Viburnum edule</i> - High Bush Cranberry	Sun, partial shade.	2-10'	White spring flowers.	Bright red berries in fall.	Butterflies; birds & mammals eat fruit.	<i>Deciduous. Brilliant fall color. Best in organic soils. Great wildlife plant.</i>
FERNS						
<i>Adiantum aleuticum</i> - Maidenhair Fern	Moist, partial shade.	12-30"				<i>Deciduous. Clustered, erect and spreading. Delicate, lacy fronds. Will self seed moderately.</i>
<i>Blechnum spicant</i> - Deer Fern	Dry shade or moist sun.	8-30"				<i>Evergreen. Distinctive upright fertile fronds. Will self seed moderately.</i>
<i>Polystichum munitum</i> - Sword Fern	Moist sun to dry shade.	2' to 5'				<i>Evergreen. Use individually or as groundcover. Can be divided. Transplants easily. Self seeds moderately.</i>
GROUNDCOVERS						
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> - Kinnikinnick	Sun, some shade; well-drained soil. Grows well on dry sites.	8" tall, 12' wide	Pinkish flowers in spring.	Red berries hold into winter.	Bees; butterflies; birds & mammals eat berries.	<i>Evergreen. Needs sun, poor soil ok. Good for dry places, stabilizing steep banks. Can walk on some.</i>
<i>Asarum caudatum</i> - Wild Ginger	Shady moist, rich soil	To 4"	Purple-brown flowers in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Can form large mats. Protect from slugs.</i>
<i>Cornus unalaschkensis</i> - Bunchberry	Moist shade to partial sun, humus-rich soil.	2-10"	White petal-like bracts in spring.	Red berries in summer.	Birds eat fruit.	<i>Semi-evergreen. Need to plant in soil with rotting wood or bark. Spreads slowly.</i>
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> - Beach Strawberry	Sun, part shade; dry to moderate moisture.	1-3"	White spring flowers.	Red berries edible.	Bees; butterflies; birds & small mammals eat fruit.	<i>Evergreen. Nice ground cover, can mow & walk on. Has sand-binding quality, but good inland. Sends out runners which root readily.</i>
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> - Wild Strawberry	Sun to part shade, dry to moderate moisture.	2-5"	White spring flowers.	Red berries edible.	Bees; butterflies; birds & small mammals eat fruit.	<i>Evergreen. Grayish green leaves. Spreads by runners.</i>
<i>Linnaea borealis</i> - Twinflower	Moist shade to partial sun.	Low (1")	Twin white flowers, late spring.			<i>Evergreen. Spreads readily by stolons. Disappears in winter. Plant only where you want it to spread! Can spread aggressively.</i>
<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i> - False Lily-of-the-valley	Moist shade to partial shade.	3-12"	White spring flowers.	Light green, mottled brown berries turn red.	Birds eat berries.	<i>Disappears in winter. Light green, clover-like leaves. Spreads rapidly in shade & humus-rich soil. Will grow in very dry sites, like under cedar trees.</i>
<i>Oxalis oregana</i> - Wood Sorrel	Dry or moist shade.	2-6"	White flowers with red veins, or pink; late spring.			

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HERBACEOUS & ACCENTS						
<i>Achlys triphylla</i> - Vanilla Leaf	Shade, partial shade.	4-12"	White spring flowers.			<i>Disappears in winter. Can form dense ground cover in shady garden.</i>
<i>Allium cernuum</i> - Nodding Onion	Dry sun.	To 18"	Nodding heads of pink flowers in summer.		Bees; butterflies.	<i>Evergreen. An easy chive-like native onion. Good rockery plant, good in pots. Self seeds readily.</i>
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i> - Western Columbine	Dry to moist sun or partial shade.	3'	Red & yellow flowers in summer.		Hummingbirds; birds eat seeds.	<i>Disappears in winter. Will hybridize with non-native columbines if planted nearby. Easily grown from seed.</i>
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> - Goatsbeard	Moist sun, partial shade.	3-6'	White flowers in late spring.		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds.	<i>Disappears in winter. Male & female flowers on separate plants - male plants have best flowers. Must have male & female plant to self seed.</i>
<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i> - Great Camas	Sun; moist soil in winter, but dry soil in summer.	2-3'	Blue flowers in spring.			<i>Disappears in winter. Does best in heavy soils.</i>
<i>Camassia quamash</i> - Common Camas	Sun; moist soil in winter, but dry soil in summer.	1-2'	Blue flowers in spring.			<i>Disappears in winter. Does best in heavy soils.</i>
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> - Harebell	Sun.	6-20"	Blue summer flowers.		Bees; butterflies; hummingbirds.	<i>Perennial. Grows easily from seed.</i>
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> - Bleeding Heart	Shade to partial shade.	6-20"	Pink flowers in spring.		Pollinating insects.	<i>Disappears in winter. Spreads, not aggressively, to form delicate-looking carpet.</i>
<i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i> - Shooting Star	Sun to partial shade, semi-dry.	12"	Magenta to lavender spring flowers.			<i>Disappears in winter. Good in rock garden. Dodecatheon jeffreyi takes moister sites.</i>
<i>Erigeron glaucous</i> - Seaside Daisy	Sun.	8-12"	Lavendar summer flowers.			<i>Evergreen.</i>
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i> - Philadelphia Fleabane	Moist sun to partial shade.		Large fluffy pink flowers in mid-summer		Butterflies	<i>Evergreen. A spectacular fleabane often in moist to wet ditches in shade. Attractive scalloped basal leaves in large clumps. Self seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i> - Woolly Sunflower	Sun.	4-8"	Yellow flowers, late spring.		Butterflies	<i>Semi evergreen. Long-lasting flowers. Forms mat.</i>
<i>Erythronium oregonum</i> - White Fawn Lily	Partial shade, shade.	4-18"	White spring flowers.			<i>Disappears in winter. Good in woodland garden. Good in masses.</i>
<i>Heuchera cylindrica</i> - Roundleaf Alumroot	Sun, dry, well-drained.		Tiny bell-shaped flowers in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Dry sunny rockeries with good drainage. Can be divided. Self-seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Heuchera grossularifolia</i> - Currant-leaf Alumroot	Sun to part shade, dry, well-drained.		Tiny bell-shaped flowers in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Dry rockeries w/ good drainage. Can be divided. Self-seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> - Small-flowered Alumroot	Moist sun to partial shade.	Flower stalks to 24"	Small white flowers on stalk in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Effective in rock or woodland garden, perennial beds. Can be divided. Self-seeds moderately.</i>

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<i>Iris tenax</i> - Oregon Iris	Sun to partial shade, wet spring & dry summer.	18"	Various shades of purple to white summer flowers.			<i>Evergreen. Clumps spread and can be divided.</i>
<i>Lewisia columbiana</i> - Columbia Lewisia	Sun to partial shade	2-12"	Pink-veined white flowers in summer.			<i>Evergreen. Can be grown from seed.</i>
<i>Lilium columbianum</i> - Tiger Lily	Sunny, well-drained soil	to 4 1/2'	Bright orange flower w/ deep red spots near the center.			<i>Disappears in winter.</i>
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> - Great False Solomon's Seal	Partial to full shade, humus-rich soil.	1-3'	White spring flowers.	Red, sometimes dotted, berries.	Birds eat berries.	<i>Disappears in winter. Good ornamental, often used as an accent.</i>
<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> - Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal	Shade to partial shade, moist.	8-24"	Small white starlike flowers.	Green-yellow berries turn blue-black.	Birds eat berries.	<i>Disappears in winter. Often used to 'carpet' an area as a groundcover.</i>
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i> - Yellow Monkey-Flower	Moist sun.	6-30"	Yellow flowers in late spring.			<i>Evergreen. Good in seeps, spreads readily. Shower of flowers in wet, sunny site.</i>
<i>Mimulus lewisii</i> - Pink Monkey-flower	Moist sun.	12-30"	Pink, late spring			<i>Perennial. Good in seeps. Spreads readily.</i>
<i>Prosartes hookeri</i> - Hooker's Fairybells	Shade to partial shade, loamy soil.	to 30"	White bell-shaped, late spring.	Bright orange-red berries in summer		<i>Disappears in winter. Spreads by rhizomes.</i>
<i>Prosartes smithii</i> - Smith's Fairybells	Shade to part shade, loamy soil.	to 15"	White bell-shaped, late spring.	Bright red berries in summer.		<i>Disappears in winter. Spreads by rhizomes.</i>
<i>Sedum oreganum</i> - Oregon Stonecrop	Dry sun to partial shade.	1-2", flowers to 8"	Yellow spring flowers.		Bees; butterflies.	<i>Evergreen. Quick & easy groundcover, even on moss-covered rocks. Sedums are easy rock garden plants.</i>
<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i> - Broad-leaved Stonecrop	Dry sun to partial shade.	1-2", flowers to 8"	Yellow spring flowers.		Bees; butterflies; larval plant.	<i>Evergreen. Quick & easy in dry gravelly soils, likes exposed rocky sites with coarse soils.</i>
<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i> - Golden-eyed Grass	Sun or partial shade. Well-drained soil, performs with water.	To 16"	Yellow spring flowers.			<i>Evergreen. Showy tufted plants with long narrow leaves. Self seeds readily.</i>
<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i> - Blue-eyed Grass	Shade or partial shade. Well-drained soil, performs with water.	6-8"	Blue summer flowers.			<i>Disappears in winter. Forms clumps. Self seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i> - Foam Flower	Moist shade.	6-24"	White flowers on short stalks in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Pretty when planted in masses. Self seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i> - Piggy-back Plant	Moist shade.	6-12"	Small brown flowers on stalks in spring.			<i>Evergreen. New leaves grow on top of old. Also house plant. Spreads and self seeds moderately.</i>
<i>Trillium ovatum</i> - Western Trillium	Partial shade, shade.	6-18"	White flowers in early spring.			<i>Disappears in winter. Typically takes 7 years from seed to flower!</i>

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<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i> - Inside-Out Flower	Shade to partial sun, moist to dry.	4-16"	White flowers in spring.			<i>Deciduous. Nice ground cover in semi-shade. Good between rhodie, salal.</i>
<i>Vancouveria planipetala</i> - Inside-Out Flower	Shade to partial sun, moist to dry.	4-16"	White flowers in spring.			<i>Evergreen. Nice upright ground cover in semi-shade. Slow grower.</i>
<i>Viola adunca</i> - Early Blue Violet	Sun, dry to moist. Best in dry, sunny area.		True blue to navy spring flowers.			<i>Evergreen. Susceptible to insect attack.</i>
<i>Xerophyllum tenax</i> - Bear Grass	Partial shade, well drained soil	8-12", flowers 4-5'.	White flowers late spring.			<i>Evergreen. Does not always flower.</i>

Suggested References:

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, by Arthur Kruckerberg;	Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, by Pojar and MacKinnon
Native Plants in the Coastal Garden, by April Pettinger and Brenda Costanzo	Washington Naative Plant Society website: www.wnps.org
Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, by Russell Link	

Alternative Botanical Names

<i>Adiantum aleuticum</i> , formerly <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	<i>Cornus unalaschkensis</i> , formerly <i>Cornus canadensis</i>
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> , formerly <i>Aruncus sylvester</i>	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> , formerly <i>Smilacina racemosa</i>
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> , formerly <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> , formerly <i>Smilacina stellata</i>
<i>Berberis nervosa</i> , formerly <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	<i>Prosartes hookeri</i> , formerly <i>Disporum hookeri</i>
<i>Berberis repens</i> , formerly <i>Mahonia repens</i>	<i>Prosartes smithii</i> , formerly <i>Disporum smithii</i>
<i>Cornus sericea</i> , formerly <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i> , formerly <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> .