

Landscaping with Northwest Natives

WHY LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVES

- Natives are beautiful and provide year-round interest
- Many are low-maintenance and low-water
- They help provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife
- Planting natives preserves our natural and cultural heritage, and gives our neighborhoods a sense of regional identity.

TIPS FOR DESIGNING WITH NATIVES

- Match the right plant to the right place
- Pay attention to the mature size of the plant
- Choose plants with interest at various times of the year, including bulbs, conifers and winter blooming shrubs.
- Think in layers: tree canopy, under story plants, ground covers
- Always be sure to choose nursery grown stock from responsible suppliers.

Need help designing your native plants garden?

Planscaper® is landscape design for do-it-yourselfers. Contact your neighborhood garden center or the Dennis' Seven Dees website www.dennis7dees.com for more information.

CARING FOR NATIVES

- They are 'low-maintenance' (when planted in an appropriate spot) not 'no maintenance'.
- Just like other garden plants, water regularly until established.
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture and reduce weeds
- Most natives need no fertilizer
- Do amend soil with compost
- Cut back deciduous grasses and perennials in late winter before new growth begins. It's nice to leave them up over the winter for birds and insects.

GREAT NATIVES RESOURCES

Gardening for Wildlife Flashcards by The Berry Botanic Garden

Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast by Pojar and MacKinnon

GET INSPIRATION FROM NATURAL PLACES AND LOCAL GARDENS

Some places to see native plants in garden settings:

- Bishop's Close at Elk Rock SW Portland
- Berry Botanic Garden SW Portland
- Leach Botanic Garden SE Portland
- Hoyt Arboretum SW Portland

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE NORTHWEST NATIVE PLANTS

Deciduous Trees

Vine Maple/Acer circinatum—multi-trunked, delicate, small, great fall color, sun to shade with moderate water

Pacific Crabapple/Malus fusca—small, light green oblong foliage w/saw tooth edges, clusters of white to pinkish flowers in spring followed by sour fruit beloved by birds, full sun, moist soil

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Cascaria/*Rhamnus purshiana*—small, foliage is oval-shaped with deep ribs, dark green above & lighter underneath, flowers are greenish-white, small—although they're hidden, butterflies will seek them out, purple-black fruit loved by birds, grows in sun to shade and dry to moist soil

Evergreen Trees

Western Hemlock/*Tsuga heterophylla*—large, tall, delicate down-sweeping branches hold feathery sprays of foliage resulting in a graceful appearance, grows in part shade, tolerates range of soil: dry to moist

Pacific Madrone/*Arbutus menziesii*—small to medium, oval dark green glossy foliage is held by amazing stems with branches of color-changing bark: young trees sport smooth, chartreuse-green bark, while mature trees are cinnamon-brown and peeling. White, urn-shaped flowers give way to orange-red berries. Grows in dry, sunny locations

Western Red Cedar/*Thuja plicata*—very large at maturity, pyramidal in shape with slender drooping branches of dark green sprays of foliage, part shade to full sun, moderate water (tolerates quite moist soil)

Shrubs

Red Elderberry/*Sambucus racemosa*—small, deciduous, lance-shaped & divided green foliage, white pyramid-shaped flowers followed by red berries, part shade to sun with moist soil

Red Flowering Currant/*Ribes sanguineum*—medium to large, deciduous, dark green maple-like leaves and drooping clusters of pink flowers in the spring, tolerates clay soil, drought tolerant once established

Coast Silk Tassel/*Garrya elliptica*—large (can be trained as small tree), evergreen, elliptical leaves with wavy margins are very dark green on top and woolly grey underneath, long flower tassels (catkins) occur mid-winter into spring followed by purple fruits (on female plants) that persist through the summer if the birds don't eat them! Grows in part to full sun and can withstand drought once established

Wild Mock Orange/*Philadelphus lewisii*—medium, deciduous, loose habit of upright arching branches, soft green foliage is a stunning backdrop for its large, fragrant white flowers in early summer, part to full sun and moist to dry soil (more vigorous with regular water)

Snowberry/*Symphoricarpos albus*—small, roundish green leaves, flowers in spring and are pink bells borne in clusters which turn into white fruit late summer and persist through winter—great food for birds, tolerates shade and little water but flowers more with sun and regular water

Perennials

Western Columbine/*Aquilegia formosa*—32", low-growing, twice-divided blue-green foliage, late spring into summer striking large nodding, spurred, orange-red and yellow flowers are borne on erect stems up to nearly 3 feet above the foliage—hummingbirds can't resist them! Full sun to part shade, moist, fertile, well-drained soil

Pacific Bleeding Heart/*Dicentra formosa*—18", blue-green, feathery, fern-like foliage appears in spring, clusters of pink heart-shaped flowers are prolific, naturalizes readily in mostly shady areas with relatively moist soil

Shooting Star/*Dodecatheon*—2"-12+", in spring a short clump of soft green oval foliage appears then gives rise to a bare stalk that hold 1 electric pink-lavender arching flower a few inches to over 1 foot above the leaves, sun to shade, well-drained moist soil

Fringecup/*Tellima grandiflora*—15", semi-evergreen heart-shaped foliage bears long stalks that are adorned with spikes of numerous tiny white or pink flowers mid-spring through mid-summer, part sun to full shade, moist, rich soil

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Columbia Lily or Tiger Lily/*Lilium columbianum*—48", whorls of lance-like foliage below tall stalks that hold flowers of recurved orange petals with brownish speckles in summer, part shade to full sun and relatively moist soil

Pacific Coast Trillium/*Trillium ovatum*—12"-18", in spring stout bare stems give rise to whorls of 2 green, spade-shaped leaves and 1 large white flower that ages to rose-purple, dies back and goes dormant in summer, naturalizes if left undisturbed, part to full shade and rich, well-drained, moist soil

Ferns

Deer Fern/*Blechnum spicant*—18", evergreen, dark green, leathery fronds—fertile fronds are held above those that are tufted & sterile, moist shade

Licorice Fern/*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*—12" evergreen (semi-evergreen if summer air becomes too dry), glossy green fronds thrive in well-drained, moist shade

Western Maidenhair Fern/*Adiantum alueticum*—12"-24", herbaceous, delicate fan-shaped leaflets of glimmering light to bright green hold onto black stems—glamorous!, moist, well-drained shade

Lady Fern/*Athyrium filix-femina*—3'-6', herbaceous, erect frond of light to dark green lance-shaped fronds, moist, well-drained shade to part-sun (prefers shade)

Groundcovers

Bunchberry/*Cornus canadensis*—6", semi-evergreen to evergreen, deeply veined, medium-green, roundish to oval foliage, white flowers in late spring through summer give way to orange-red berries that are a beloved bird treat!

Inside Out Flower/*Vancouveria hexandra*—12", green foliage resembles duck feet, late spring into early summer nodding stems hold white, shooting star-like flowers that have bent back petals, shade to part sun and fertile, well-drained, moist soil

Beach or Coastal Strawberry/*Fragaria chiloensis*—4", evergreen, glossy foliage is dark green above and silvery underneath, white flowers in spring, small edible red fruit in summer, sunny site with regular water

Creeping Oregon Grape or Creeping Mahonia/*Mahonia repens*—to 12", evergreen, 3-7 toothed leaflets make up a leaf of blue-green color (amazing winter color of bronze to purplish-rose), small yellow late spring flowers, blue berries in summer (birds love 'em!), full sun to part shade, minimal water needed once established