Native plants
for Willamette Valley yards

Good for wildlife.
Good for gardens.

From Metro and local partners
Native plants support wildlife and offer natural benefits

Looking for ways to make your yard and community more sustainable? Planting well-chosen natives can create wildlife habitat, conserve water and reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers that can pollute local rivers and streams. Using native plants in the landscape also brings the beauty of our region’s natural areas closer to home.

Natives nurture natural helpers

Songbirds, bumble bees, butterflies and other beneficial bugs attracted to native plants are not just fun to see. They fight garden pests, pollinate food crops and improve the soil. Native plants support these helpers so well because many have co-evolved over millennia. Add native plants to a portion of your yard and watch nature do some of your chores for you while also helping to protect biodiversity in the region.

Natives can be carefree

Choose native plants adapted to the sun, soil and space where you plan to plant them. Once established, they’ll likely thrive without added water, fertilizer or pesticide. Keep in mind that not all native plants are low maintenance in a garden setting. Some – like Nootka rose and Douglas spirea – will need plenty of room to grow or dry soil in summer to limit their spread.
Local native plants are best

To help you select local native plants for the greatest benefits to wildlife and your yard, keep these general guidelines in mind:

1. **Local species are key. Is the plant native to your ecoregion?**
   A native plant is a species of plant that has historically grown in a particular area without human introduction. In many ways, the more locally that area can be defined, the better. For home gardening purposes, generally aiming for plants native to your “ecoregion” is a good rule of thumb.

   The Willamette Valley (along with the Vancouver, Wash. area) is an ecoregion, meaning that the climate, vegetation, geology, soils and wildlife are similar throughout the area. Plants native to an ecoregion have had thousands of years to adapt to local conditions and, in some cases, co-evolve with the wildlife there.

   This booklet primarily includes plants native to the Portland metropolitan area, which is mostly in the Willamette Valley ecoregion. Some plants listed are native to elsewhere in the Willamette Valley and a few from elsewhere in the Coast Range and Cascades ecoregions. See the map at right and the key on page 8 to learn where each plant is native.

2. **“Right plant, right place” matters.**
   Even if a plant is native to your ecoregion, it might not be well-adapted to the particular place where you plan to plant it. This is especially true in urban areas that have been significantly impacted by development. For the best results, always choose plants whose water and soil needs match your yard and make sure to put sun lovers in the sun and shade lovers in the shade.
3. Don’t take native plants from natural areas.
Digging or collecting plant material from public natural areas or private lands without permission is illegal, and plants from the wild rarely transplant well. Get your plants from reputable sources that respect and protect our wild lands.

A few non-native plants are bullies
Invasive plants (such as English ivy and Italian arum) are aggressive, non-native plants that crowd out native plants and compete for water, sunlight, nutrients and space. They can easily escape home gardens via wind, water, wildlife or the soles of shoes. If left unchecked, they can severely alter wildlife habitats, crops, stream flows and the diversity of life in natural areas. Do yourself and your local natural area a favor – keep non-native invasive plants out of your yard. For more information on invasives, see Resources on page 46.

Most non-native plants are not invasive, and they include great edibles, ornamentals, medicinals and more. Many are important food sources for local pollinators in urban areas. For best results, choose those that are adapted to your yard, non-invasive, drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and support wildlife.

Gardening with natives – nature is the teacher
Plant in fall or spring, when rains will water for you.
September through March, weather permitting, is the best planting time because it gives roots a chance to grow before dry summer months. To get them off to a good start, most plants will still need to be watered regularly during the dry months in the first year or two after being planted. Typical urban soils can benefit from some added organic matter – compost is a great source.

Welcome wildlife with healthy habitat.
To attract wildlife, provide a diversity of native plants with a variety of bloom times and heights, from groundcovers to shrubs to trees. With smaller flowering plants, use several of the same variety in a clump so that pollinators will notice them more readily. Add a bird bath, a bug bath (a tray of water with pebbles for perching) or a fountain for water.

Prune lightly or not all at once; spent flowers, seed heads and other plant parts make great food, nesting material and habitat for birds and beneficial insects.

Remember that native butterflies and moths are caterpillars when young, and they need to feed on plants’ leaves, so tolerating some nibbling is an important part of creating habitat.

Finally, avoid pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) as these can be very harmful to wildlife, pets and people.
How to use this guide

Browse plants by type, or search for names in the index on page 49. Use the plant descriptions and icons to find the “right plant, right place” for your garden. Use the key below to understand the icons. For more information, including where to find natives, learn about invasive weeds, or get help, see Resources on page 46.

Plant icon key

- **Full sun**
- **Part shade**
- **Shade**
- **Part shade or shade**
- **Full sun or part shade**
- **Full sun, part shade or shade**
- **Dry soil**
- **Moist soil**
- **Wet soil**
- **Moist or wet soil**
- **Dry or moist soil**
- **Dry, moist or wet soil**

- **Supports pollinators**
- **Supports hummingbirds**
- **Supports pest-eating insects such as ladybugs**
- **Supports birds or mammals**
- **Willamette Valley native***
- **Coast Range native***
- **Cascades native***
- **Native to Willamette Valley, Coast Range and Cascades***
- **Native to Willamette Valley and Coast Range***
- **Native to Willamette Valley and Cascades***
- **Native to Coast Range and Cascades***
- **On Portland Plant List, native to metropolitan area**
- **PPL**

*Plant origin icons do not necessarily represent the full range of a particular plant – just the range within the three ecoregions of Northwestern Oregon. See page 4 for a more detailed map.

**Plants listed with “PPL” above the Oregon icon are historically identified as native to the area within about 15 miles of the center of Portland and are included in the Portland Plant List (see map on page 4). Complete botanical references are listed under Resources on page 46.

Plant widths for perennials are based on the estimated size of a 3-year-old clump. Other plant widths are based on the mature size. All plant heights are based on mature size.
Large trees

**Grand fir**
*Abies grandis*

- Large evergreen tree
- 200 feet tall, 40 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Conifer; bluish-green needles; prefers well-drained soil

**Bigleaf maple**
*Acer macrophyllum*

- Large deciduous tree
- 90 feet tall, 70 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Yellow flowers in early spring; large leaves are up to 10-inches wide

**Pacific madrone**
*Arbutus menziesii*

- Large evergreen tree
- 30-60 feet tall, 30 feet wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Cream flowers mid to late spring; berries for wildlife; red-brown bark; requires very well-drained soil

**Incense cedar**
*Calocedrus decurrens*

- Large evergreen tree
- 100-150 feet tall, 15 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Drought-tolerant, fragrant conifer; tolerates some shade; prefers well-drained soil

**Oregon ash**
*Fraxinus latifolia*

- Large deciduous tree
- 70 feet tall, 25 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Greenish flowers in spring on male and female trees; clusters of seed samaras in summer on female trees; great wetland and riparian tree

**Red alder**
*Alnus rubra*

- Large deciduous tree
- 80 feet tall, 30-40 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Brownish catkins in early spring; tolerates seasonally-flooded soil

**Sitka spruce**
*Picea sitchensis*

- Large evergreen tree
- 125-230 feet tall, 30 feet wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Conifer with short sharp needles; 3-inch cones; great for erosion control and wind breaks
Shore pine  
*Pinus contorta var. contorta*

- Large evergreen tree
- 20-50 feet tall, 30 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Conifer; great for erosion control; very adaptable

Oregon white oak  
*Quercus garryana*

- Large deciduous tree
- 25-70 feet tall, 30-60 feet wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Acorns appear in fall; great habitat tree for many species; slow growing; prefers well-drained soil

Ponderosa pine  
*Pinus ponderosa var. benthamiana*

- Large evergreen tree
- 150-200 feet tall, 25-30 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Conifer; long needles grouped in threes; large cones; prefers well-drained soil; avoid variety from east of the Cascades

Western red cedar  
*Thuja plicata*

- Large evergreen tree
- 100-200 feet tall, 30 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Conifer; small, ½-inch cones; good for erosion control

Quaking aspen  
*Populus tremuloides*

- Large deciduous tree
- 50 feet tall, 20-25 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Green catkin flowers in spring on male trees; leaves appear to shake in wind; smooth bark; spreads by root runners

Western hemlock  
*Tsuga heterophylla*

- Large evergreen tree
- 120-200 feet tall, 30-40 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Fairly fast-growing conifer with short needles; 1-inch cones

Douglas fir  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii*

- Large evergreen tree
- 120-240 feet tall, 30 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Fairly fast-growing conifer; great for wind break

Mountain hemlock  
*Tsuga mertensiana*

- Large evergreen tree
- 60-120 feet tall, 15 feet wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Slow-growing alpine conifer
Small trees

Vine maple
*Acer circinatum*
Small deciduous tree
20-25 feet tall, 15-20 feet wide
Easy to grow
Red and white flowers in spring; showy fall foliage

Western crabapple
*Malus fusca*
Small deciduous tree
30 feet tall, 25 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow
White fragrant flowers in spring; small yellow fruits for wildlife; orange fall foliage

Bitter cherry
*Prunus emarginata*
Small deciduous tree
30 feet tall, 20 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flowers in spring; edible red fruit for wildlife

Cascara
*Rhamnus purshiana*
Small deciduous tree
30 feet tall, 20 feet wide
Easy to grow
Small, greenish-yellow flowers in spring; small black berries for wildlife

Scouler’s willow
*Salix scouleriana*
Small deciduous tree
35 feet tall, 30 feet wide
Easy to grow
Fast growing; brown flower bracts in spring; male flowers great for pollinators; multi-stemmed

Pacific yew
*Taxus brevifolia*
Small evergreen tree
20-40 feet tall, 30 feet wide
Easy to grow
Conifer; notable red-brown, scaly bark; red berries for wildlife
Large shrubs

Serviceberry
*Amelanchier alnifolia*

- Large deciduous shrub
- 6-18 feet tall, 10 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers in spring; edible fruit; fall foliage color

Blue blossom
*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*

- Large evergreen shrub
- 15 feet tall, 6 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Bright blue blossoms in spring and fall; shiny, dark-green leaves year-round; prefers well-drained soil

Hairy manzanita
*Arctostaphylos columbiana*

- Large evergreen shrub
- 10 feet tall, 10 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Pink flowers in early summer; smooth reddish bark; requires well-drained soil

Snowbrush
*Ceanothus velutinus var. laevigatus*

- Large evergreen shrub
- 8-10 feet tall, 8 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers in summer; glossy, sticky leaves; sprawling form

Coyote brush
*Baccharis pilularis*

- Large evergreen shrub
- 8 feet tall, 2-9 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Tiny white flowers late summer to early winter; deer resistant; male and female plants; prefers well-drained soil

Red twig dogwood
*Cornus sericea*

- Large deciduous shrub
- 15 feet tall, 6-9 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers in late spring; blue fruits; red fall color; showy red bark; spreads by rhizomes

Oregon tea tree
*Ceanothus sanguineus*

- Large deciduous shrub
- 8 feet tall, 3-10 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers late spring to mid summer; reddish stems and bark

Plant icon key on pages 7 and 8
**Oceanspray**  
*Holodiscus discolor*

Large deciduous shrub  
8-10 feet tall, 3-7 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
White to cream flowers late spring to late summer

**Lewis’ mock orange**  
*Philadelphus lewisii*

Large deciduous shrub  
6-10 feet tall, 4-10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Fragrant white flowers late spring to mid-summer; prefers well-drained soil

**Black twinberry**  
*Lonicera involucrata*

Large deciduous shrub  
8-10 feet tall, 4-10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Yellow flowers spring to summer; smooth black berry inside red bracts

**Pacific ninebark**  
*Physocarpus capitatus*

Large deciduous shrub  
8-12 feet tall, 4-7 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Clusters of white flowers in late spring; red seed clusters; great for rain gardens

**Tall Oregon grape**  
*Mabonia aquifolium (Berberis aquifolium)*

Large evergreen shrub  
5-8 feet tall, 2-8 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Yellow flowers in early spring; edible (sour) fall fruit; spreads by rhizomes

**Western azalea**  
*Rhododendron occidentale*

Large deciduous shrub  
4-8 feet tall, 3-8 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
White to pink flowers spring to early summer; fragrant

**Indian plum**  
*Oemleria cerasiformis*

Large deciduous shrub  
15 feet tall, 5-10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
White flowers in early spring; plum-like fruit for wildlife; male and female plants

**Red-flowering currant**  
*Ribes sanguineum var. sanguineum*

Large deciduous shrub  
4-10 feet tall, 3-10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Red or pink flower clusters in early spring; berries for wildlife in fall; prefers well-drained soil
Nootka rose
*Rosa nutkana var. nutkana*

Large deciduous shrub
6-10 feet tall, 3-4 feet wide
Easy to grow
Large pink flowers spring to mid summer; large scarlet rosehips; pair of thorns at the base of each leaf; spreads by rhizomes

Blue elderberry
*Sambucus mexicana*

Large deciduous shrub
10-25 feet tall, 18 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flower clusters spring to summer; blue edible berries in September

Swamp rose
*Rosa pisocarpa*

Large deciduous shrub
6 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide
Easy to grow
Clustered pink blooms in early summer; small purple hips; thicket forming; spreads by rhizomes

Red elderberry
*Sambucus racemosa*

Large deciduous shrub
8-20 feet tall, 6.5-20 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flowers in spring; edible red fruit must be boiled for human consumption

Thimbleberry
*Rubus parviflorus*

Large deciduous shrub
4-6 feet tall, 3-6 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flowers spring to summer; edible, raspberry-like fruit; thicket forming; spreads vigorously by rhizomes

Douglas spirea
*Spiraea douglasii*

Large deciduous shrub
6 feet tall, 3-7 feet wide
Easy to grow
Upright, pink flower plumes mid to late summer; spreads by rhizomes; good for rain gardens

Salmonberry
*Rubus spectabilis*

Large deciduous shrub
4-10 feet tall, 4-10 feet wide
Easy to grow
Magenta flowers spring to summer; edible, orange, raspberry-like fruit; thicket forming

Evergreen huckleberry
*Vaccinium ovatum*

Large evergreen shrub
4-8 feet tall, 3-6 feet wide
Easy to grow
Light pink flowers spring to summer; edible fruit for people and wildlife; great foliage plant; slow-growing; prefers well-drained soil
Red huckleberry
*Vaccinium parvifolium*

Large deciduous shrub
8-10 feet tall, 6 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow
Creamy bell flowers spring to summer; delicate foliage; edible red berries for wildlife; prefers soil high in compost

**Western viburnum**
*Viburnum ellipticum*

Large deciduous shrub
6-10 feet tall, 5-8 feet wide
Easy to grow
Clusters of small, white flowers in early summer; berries in fall for wildlife; red fall color

**Kinnikinnick**
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Small evergreen shrub
5-8 inches tall, 2-15 feet wide
Easy to grow
Groundcover; pink flowers in spring; edible red berries for wildlife; prefers well-drained soil

**Oregon wintergreen**
*Gaultheria ovatifolia*

Small evergreen shrub
3 inches tall, 1-3 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow
Pink bell-shaped flowers in summer; edible fruit for wildlife; good for rain gardens

**Salal**
*Gaultheria shallon*

Small evergreen shrub
1-5 feet tall, 1-5 feet wide
Easy to grow
Pink flowers spring to summer; edible berries in fall; spreads by rhizomes
**Western twinflower**  
*Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*  
Small evergreen shrub  
6 inches tall, 2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Trailing groundcover; bell-shaped, paired, pink flowers in summer

**Pink honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera hispidula* var. *hispidula*  
Deciduous vine  
12 feet tall, 10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink flowers in summer

**Dull Oregon grape**  
*Mahonia nervosa* (Berberis nervosa)  
Small evergreen shrub  
2 feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Yellow flowers in early spring; fall fruit for wildlife

**Gummy gooseberry**  
*Ribes lobbii*  
Small deciduous shrub  
4 feet tall, 4 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Reddish, fuchsia-like flowers in late spring; sticky, green berries for wildlife

**Pink honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera hispidula* var. *hispidula*  
Deciduous vine  
12 feet tall, 10 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink flowers in summer

**Baldhip rose**  
*Rosa gymnocarpa*  
Small deciduous shrub  
5 feet tall, 2-8 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink, fragrant flowers in late spring; small scarlet rosehips; spreads by rhizomes

**Dull Oregon grape**  
*Mahonia nervosa* (Berberis nervosa)  
Small evergreen shrub  
2 feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Yellow flowers in early spring; fall fruit for wildlife

**Baldhip rose**  
*Rosa gymnocarpa*  
Small deciduous shrub  
5 feet tall, 2-8 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink, fragrant flowers in late spring; small scarlet rosehips; spreads by rhizomes

**Oregon boxwood**  
*Paxistima myrsinites*  
Small evergreen shrub  
3 feet tall, 3 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Small, fragrant, maroon flowers spring to summer; glossy leaves; prefers well-drained soil

**Common snowberry**  
*Symphoricarpos albus*  
Small deciduous shrub  
3-6 feet tall, 6-13 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink flowers spring to summer; inedible white berries in fall and winter; spreads by rhizomes
Perennials, annuals and ferns

Yarrow
*Achillea millefolium*

- Perennial
- 1-2 feet tall, 24 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers spring to fall; can spread vigorously by rhizomes and seed

Vanilla leaf
*Achlys triphylla*

- Perennial
- 8-16 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- White flower spike atop large flat leaf spring to summer; fragrant dried leaves

Northern maidenhair fern
*Adiantum aleuticum*

- Deciduous fern
- 10-30 inches tall, 12-30 inches wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Delicate foliage on black stems; grows best in wet soil

Nodding onion
*Allium cernuum*

- Perennial
- 6-20 inches tall, 12-18 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Pink flowers in summer; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil

Pearly everlasting
*Anaphalis margaritacea*

- Perennial
- 1-3 feet tall, 18-24 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers summer to fall; silver-gray foliage; tolerates full sun; spreads by rhizomes and seed

Columbian windflower
*Anemone deltoidea*

- Perennial
- 10 inches tall, 8-10 inches wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- White flowers in late spring to summer

Red columbine
*Aquilegia formosa*

- Perennial
- 3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Red to orange flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; self-seeds; prefers well-drained soil

Deciduous fern
10-30 inches tall, 12-30 inches wide
Moderately hard to grow
Delicate foliage on black stems; grows best in wet soil

Plant icon key on pages 7 and 8
Sea pink
*Armeria maritima*

Evergreen perennial
6-10 inches tall, 8-12 inches wide
Easy to grow

Lavender to pink flowers spring to early summer; good rock garden plant; prefers well-drained soil

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Wild ginger
*Asarum caudatum*

Evergreen perennial
6 inches tall, 3 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow

Groundcover; unique maroon flowers hidden under heart-shaped, glossy leaves in spring; edible roots

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Showy milkweed
*Asclepias speciosa*

Perennial
3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
Easy to grow

Fragrant pink flowers in summer; Monarch butterfly host plant; spreads by seed; prefers well-drained soil

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Maidenhair spleenwort
*Asplenium trichomanes*

Evergreen fern
6-12 inches tall, 30 inches wide
Easy to grow

Notable black stems; great for shady rock gardens

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Lady fern
*Athyrium filix-femina*

Deciduous fern
4 feet tall, 24 inches wide
Easy to grow

Large delicate leaves; great for shady rain gardens

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Deer fern
*Blechnum spicant*

Evergreen fern
1-3 feet tall, 2 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow

Great for shady rain gardens

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Large boykinia
*Boykinia major*

Perennial
1-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
Easy to grow

White flowers in summer; great for woodland gardens; spreads vigorously by rhizomes

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Common camas
*Camassia quamash*

Perennial
30 inches tall, 6-12 inches wide
Easy to grow

Purple flowers in spring; great for rain gardens; needs dry summer soil
**Common harebell**  
*Campanula rotundifolia*  
Perennial  
1 foot tall, 16 inches wide  
Easy to grow  
Thin, papery, bell-like blue flowers early summer to early fall; good groundcover

**Fireweed**  
*Chamerion angustifolium*  
Perennial  
6 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink spiked flowers in summer; grows after burns; a.k.a. *Epilobium angustifolium*; spreads vigorously by seed

**Enchanter’s nightshade**  
*Circaea alpina ssp. pacifica*  
Perennial  
4-10 inches tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Small white-pink flowers atop stalks; good riparian plant; spreads by seed, but is easy to pull

**Farewell-to-spring**  
*Clarkia amoena*  
Annual  
2 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow  
Bright pink flowers with red spots in early summer; prefers well-drained soil; great for rock garden

**Small blue-eyed Mary**  
*Collinsia parviflora*  
Annual  
2-16 inches tall, 2-3 inches wide  
Easy to grow  
Groundcover; showy white-blue flowers in mid-late spring

**Bunchberry**  
*Cornus unalaschkensis*  
Evergreen perennial  
4-8 inches tall, 6-12 inches wide  
Moderately hard to grow  
Greenish-white flowers in late spring; red berries; needs acidic, organic soil; a.k.a. *Cornus canadensis*

**Scouler’s corydalis**  
*Corydalis scouleri*  
Perennial  
4 feet tall, 3 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Pink blooms in late spring; prefers highly organic soil

**Tufted hairgrass**  
*Deschampsia cespitosa*  
Perennial grass  
2-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Densely-tufted grass with bronze spikelets; good wetland plant
**Pacific bleeding heart**  
*Dicentra formosa ssp. formosa*

- Perennial
- 12-18 inches tall, 18-24 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Pink flowers spring to summer; spreads by seed

**Seaside daisy**  
*Erigeron glaucus*

- Evergreen perennial
- 1-2 feet tall, 2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Showy light-purple and yellow flowers spring to fall; nice groundcover; spreads by rhizomes

**Cluster lily**  
*Dichelostemma congestum*

- Perennial
- 1-3 feet tall, 6 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Pale lavender flower clusters in spring; prefers well-drained soil

**Showy fleabane**  
*Erigeron speciosus*

- Perennial
- 6-30 inches tall, 2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Purple flowers all summer

**Henderson’s shooting star**  
*Dodecatheon hendersonii*

- Perennial
- 1 foot tall, 6 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Pink flowers spring to summer; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil

**Oregon sunshine**  
*Eriophyllum lanatum var. leucophyllum*

- Perennial
- 6-24 inches tall, 2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Yellow flowers spring to summer; prefers well-drained soil; reseeds easily

**Blue wildrye**  
*Elymus glaucus*

- Perennial grass
- 4 feet tall, 1.5-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Bunchgrass; thin, flat blades with erect flower spike; good riparian plant

**White fawn lily**  
*Erythronium oregonum*

- Perennial
- 1 foot tall, 6-8 inches wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Showy white nodding flowers in spring; great for woodland gardens; prefers well-drained soil
California fescue
*Festuca californica*

Perennial grass
2-3 feet tall, 3 feet wide
Easy to grow
Blue-green clumping bunchgrass; tan flower stalks spring to summer; good for erosion control

Coastal strawberry
*Fragaria chiloensis*

Evergreen perennial
4 inches tall, 3 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flowers spring to summer; edible fruit for wildlife; spreads vigorously by runners, but is easy to remove; prefers well-drained soil

Woodland strawberry
*Fragaria vesca ssp. bracteata*

Perennial
6 inches tall, 1 foot wide
Easy to grow
White flowers in late spring; good groundcover; edible fruit; spreads; prefers well-drained soil

Wild strawberry
*Fragaria virginiana ssp. platypetala*

Semi-evergreen perennial
3-5 inches tall, 1 foot wide
Easy to grow
Groundcover; white flowers in late spring; edible fruit

Globe gilia
*Gilia capitata*

Annual
1-3 feet tall, 8-10 inches wide
Easy to grow
Blue, globe-like flowers in late spring

Rattlesnake plantain
*Goodyera oblongifolia*

Evergreen perennial
6-18 inches tall, 8-12 inches wide
Easy to grow
Small white flowers in late summer; rattlesnake skin-like look on leaves; prefers well-drained soil

Western oak fern
*Gymnocarpium disjunctum*

Deciduous fern
6-16 inches tall, 6 feet wide
Easy to grow
Groundcover; light green fronds; a.k.a. *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*

Small-flowered alumroot
*Heuchera micrantha var. micrantha*

Evergreen perennial
1-2 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
Easy to grow
White flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; prefers well-drained soil

Plant icon key on pages 7 and 8
Pacific waterleaf  
*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*

Perennial  
12-30 inches tall, 5 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Groundcover; white flowers in spring; competes with English ivy; goes dormant without summer water

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Oregon iris  
*Iris tenax var. tenax*

Perennial  
10-20 inches tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Moderately hard to grow  
Purple blooms in spring; great for rain gardens

---

Pacific rush  
*Juncus effusus ssp. pacificus*

Evergreen perennial  
1-3 feet tall, 3-4 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Grasslike; inconspicuous brown flowers in summer; great for rain gardens; spreads by rhizomes

---

Dagger-leaf rush  
*Juncus ensifolius*

Perennial  
1-2 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Iris-like leaves; great for rain gardens; spreads vigorously by rhizomes and seeds

---

Spreading blue rush  
*Juncus patens*

Evergreen perennial  
1-2 feet tall, 1.5-3 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Groundcover; clustered brown blooms in summer; good riparian plant

---

Prairie junegrass  
*Koeleria macrantha*

Perennial grass  
1-2 feet tall, 3-4 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Bluish-gray leaves; tiny yellow flowers in summer; silvery-spiked seed heads

---

Tiger lily  
*Lilium columbianum*

Perennial  
3-4 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow  
Large, nodding, orange blooms with maroon spots in summer

---

Large-leaved lupine  
*Lupinus polyphyllus var. polyphyllus*

Perennial  
4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide  
Easy to grow  
Purple-blue summer blossoms; great for rain gardens; spreads vigorously by seed, but is easy to pull

---

Plant icon key on pages 7 and 8
Riverbank lupine
*Lupinus rivularis*

- Perennial
- 3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Purple flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; prefers well-drained soil; spreads vigorously by seed, but is easy to pull.

---

False lily of the valley
*Maianthemum dilatatum*

- Perennial
- 1 foot tall, 2-3 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Groundcover; white flowers spring to summer; spreads by rhizomes.

---

False Solomon’s seal
*Maianthemum racemosum*

- Perennial
- 1-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Clusters of white flowers late spring; fragrant; a.k.a. *Smilacina racemosa*

---

Starry false Solomon’s seal
*Maianthemum stellatum*

- Perennial
- 1-2 feet tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers late spring; great for woodland gardens; a.k.a. *Smilacina stellata*

---

Rusty-hair saxifrage
*Micranthes rufidula*

- Perennial
- 10 inches tall, 6 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers spring to summer; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil; a.k.a. *Saxifraga occidentalis var. rufidula*

---

Yellow monkey flower
*Mimulus guttatus*

- Perennial
- 6 -24 inches tall, 1-3 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Yellow flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; spreads vigorously by seed.

---

Creeping miterwort
*Mitella caulescens*

- Perennial
- 8-16 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- Small, green blooms on stalks mid-spring to summer.

---

Grasswidow
*Olsynium douglasii var. douglasii*

- Perennial
- 6-16 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Reddish-purple spring flowers on grass-like foliage; great for rain gardens; needs good drainage and dry soil in summer.

---

Plant icon key on pages 7 and 8
Oregon redwood sorrel  
*Oxalis oregana*

- Perennial
- 8 inches tall, 2-3 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- White flowers with red veins spring to summer; great groundcover for dry shade; spreads by rhizomes

Cardwell’s penstemon  
*Penstemon cardwellii*

- Evergreen perennial
- 1 foot tall, 16 inches wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Purple tubular flowers in summer; good for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil

Richardson’s penstemon  
*Penstemon richardsonii*

- Perennial
- 12-34 inches tall, 1-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Finely-dissected leaves; lavender flowers late spring to summer; great for rock gardens

Cascade penstemon  
*Penstemon serrulatus*

- Semi-evergreen perennial
- 1-2 feet tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- Purple flowers in summer; nice cut flowers; good for rain gardens

Spreading phlox  
*Phlox diffusa*

- Evergreen perennial
- 4 inches tall, 12-18 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Pink flowers in spring; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil

Licorice fern  
*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*

- Semi-evergreen fern
- 6-12 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Edible roots taste like licorice; grows well with moss; grows on Bigleaf maple branches

Sword fern  
*Polystichum munitum*

- Evergreen fern
- 2-5 feet tall, 2-4 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Beautiful leaves with a dramatic shape; thrives in most conditions

Smith’s fairy lantern  
*Prosartes smithii*

- Perennial
- 1-3 feet tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- White, bell-shaped flowers in late spring; orange-red berries in fall
Perennial
8-12 inches tall, 6-12 inches wide
Easy to grow
Blue blossoms spring to summer on grass-like foliage; great for rain gardens

**Western blue-eyed grass**
*Sisyrinchium bellum*

Perennial
4-6 inches tall, 6 inches wide
Moderately hard to grow
Purple flowers late winter to spring; great for woodland gardens; prefers well-drained soil

**Spring queen**
*Synthyris reniformis*

Perennial
4-6 inches tall, 6 inches wide
Moderately hard to grow
Purple flowers late winter to spring; great for woodland gardens; prefers well-drained soil

**Golden-eyed grass**
*Sisyrinchium californicum*

Perennial
8-20 inches tall, 6-12 inches wide
Easy to grow
Yellow summer flowers on grass-like foliage; great for rain gardens; spreads vigorously by rhizomes

**Canada goldenrod**
*Solidago elongata*

Perennial
2-5 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide
Easy to grow
Clusters of yellow flowers summer to fall; spreads by seed; a.k.a. *Solidago canadensis* ssp. *elongata*

**Douglas’ aster**
*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*

Perennial
1-4 feet tall, 2 feet wide
Easy to grow
Purple flowers summer to fall; great for rain gardens; a.k.a. *Aster subspicatus*; spreads vigorously by rhizomes and seed

**Meadow checkerbloom**
*Sidalcea campestris*

Perennial
2-6 feet tall, 8-12 inches wide
Easy to grow
Pink flowers in summer; prefers well-drained soil

**Broadleaf stonecrop**
*Sedum spathulifolium*

Evergreen perennial
2-8 inches tall, 18 inches wide
Easy to grow
Yellow flowers spring to summer; succulent-leaved groundcover; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil

**Oregon stonecrop**
*Sedum oreganum*

Evergreen perennial
3-6 inches tall, 18 inches wide
Easy to grow
Yellow flowers in summer; succulent-leaved groundcover; great for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil
**Fringe cup**  
*Tellima grandiflora*

- Perennial
- 12-30 inches tall, 1-3 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Creamy flowers on stalks in spring; spreads vigorously by seed

---

**Western meadow rue**  
*Thalictrum occidentale*

- Perennial
- 20-40 inches tall, 1-3 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Small pink and greenish flowers spring to summer; requires male and female plants if seed production desired

---

**Western starflower**  
*Trientalis latifolia*

- Perennial
- 4-8 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- Groundcover; white-pink, star-like flowers in late spring

---

**Piggyback plant**  
*Tolmiea menziesii*

- Perennial
- 12-30 inches tall, 1 foot wide
- Easy to grow
- Groundcover; maroon flowers spring to summer; spreads by seed

---

**Sweet trillium**  
*Trillium albidum*

- Perennial
- 1.5 feet tall, 1.5 feet wide
- Moderately hard to grow
- Large, 3-petaled, white flowers in spring; a.k.a. *Trillium chloropetalum*

---

**Common cattail**  
*Typha latifolia*

- Evergreen perennial
- 6 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
- Easy to grow
- Brown, cigar-shaped bloom in summer; wetland plant

---

**Inside-out flower**  
*Vancouveria hexandra*

- Perennial
- 8-16 inches tall, 12-24 inches wide
- Easy to grow
- Slender white flowers mid to late spring; great for woodland gardens
Early blue violet
*Viola adunca*

Evergreen perennial
5 feet tall, 4 feet wide
Moderately hard to grow
Purple flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; spreads by seed

Stream violet
*Viola glabella*

Perennial
4-9 inches, 6-12 inches wide
Easy to grow
Yellow flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; spreads by seed

Beargrass
*Xerophyllum tenax*

Perennial
4-9 inches tall, 4-18 inches wide
Easy to grow
Showy white flower on tall stalk late spring to late summer; grass-like leaves; fragrant; prefers well-drained soil

Resources

Botanical references


Portland Plant List 2011, portlandoregon.gov.


Plant sources

Many garden centers carry plants native to the Pacific Northwest. Reward them with your patronage and tell them about your interest in having them carry more local native plants – especially ones that are grown from seeds or cuttings from the wild in your ecoregion. The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District maintains a list of Northern Willamette Valley native plant sales and retail and wholesale nurseries (emswcd.org). To find retail garden centers near you, consult the Oregon Association of Nurseries (plantsomethingoregon.com).

Design help

American Society of Landscape Architects, aslaoregon.org
Association of Northwest Landscape Designers, anld.com
Association of Professional Landscape Designers, apldoregon.org
Backyard Habitat Certification Program, audubonportland.org/issues/backyardhabitat and columbiaelandtrust.org
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District list of self-identified designers and contractors for “naturescaping and sustainable landscapes” and free naturescaping workshops, emswcd.org
EcoBiz certified landscapers, ecobiz.org/landlist.htm
Great Plant Picks, greatplantpicks.org
King County Native Plant Finder and planting plans, kingcounty.gov/gonative
Oregon Tilth Organic Land Care accredited practitioners, tilth.org/education-research/organic-land-care-accreditation/olc-practitioners
Plant Native, plantnative.org

Invasive plant information

Garden Smart Oregon, a guide to non-invasive plants, portlandoregon.gov/bes/47570
Invasive plant information from 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, 4countycwma.org
Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program, oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/index.aspx
The Silent Invasion, opb.org/programs/invasives

Other resources

Clean Water Services Native Plant Finder, cleanwaterservices.org/gonative
Gardening with Oregon Native Plants West of the Cascades, OSU Extension Service publication EC1577, extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog
Metro natural gardening program, oregonmetro.gov/garden
Native Plant Society of Oregon, Using native plants for gardening, npsoregon.org/landscaping1.html
Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, pesticide.org
Oregon State University Department of Horticulture Landscape Plants database, oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardeners™, metromastergardeners.org
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, xerces.org.
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