

# Native plants for Willamette Valley yards



Good for wildlife.  
Good for gardens.



Metro

*From Metro and local partners*



Ladybug on lupine flower

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Silvery blue butterfly

Cover photo: Anna's hummingbird feeding at Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)

## Introduction

### 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.



Camas (*Camassia quamash*) and Yellow Monkey Flower (*Mimulus guttatus*)

## 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.

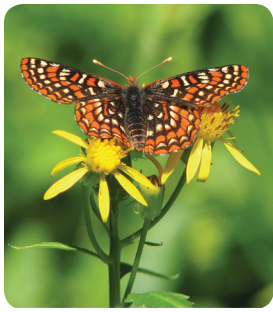
## Ecoregions of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington\*



- Coast Range
- Willamette Valley
- Cascades

 Portland metropolitan area from the *Portland Plant List*

\* Level III ecoregions data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey, 2003, [epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/ecoregions.htm](http://epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/ecoregions.htm)



Checkerspot butterfly

### 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.



Spotted Towhee

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

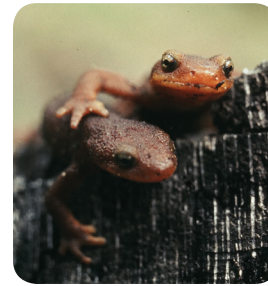
will still need to be watered regularly during the dry months in the first year or two after being planted. Typical urban soils can benefit from some added organic matter – compost is a great source.

### 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



Dark-eyed junco



Roughskin newts

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.



Earthworms tickle!

# 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\*

**PPL**

On Portland Plant List, native to metropolitan area\*\*

\*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

## Pacific madrone

*Arbutus menziesii*



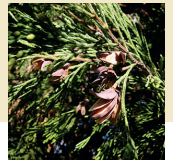
Large evergreen tree  
30-60 feet tall, 30 feet wide  
Moderately hard to grow

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



## Grand fir

*Abies grandis*



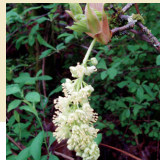
Large evergreen tree  
200 feet tall, 40 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Conifer; bluish-green needles; prefers well-drained soil



## Bigleaf maple

*Acer macrophyllum*



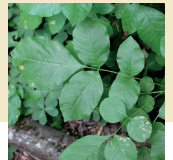
Large deciduous tree  
90 feet tall, 70 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Yellow flowers in early spring; large leaves are up to 10-inches wide



## 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, 1/2-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

## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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







# 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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

*Mahonia 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*



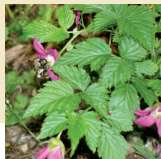
Large deciduous shrub  
6 feet tall, 3-7 feet wide  
Easy to grow

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*



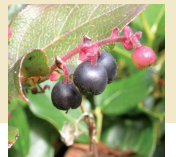
Small evergreen shrub  
3 inches tall, 1-3 feet wide  
Moderately hard to grow

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



## 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



## Birch-leaved spirea

*Spiraea betulifolia* var. *lucida*



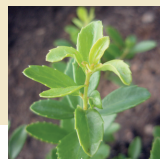
Small deciduous shrub  
3 feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Dark-green, shiny leaves; flat white flowers in summer; very adaptable



## Oregon boxwood

*Paxistima myrsinites*



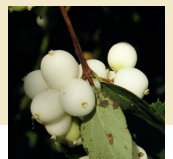
Small evergreen shrub  
3 feet tall, 3 feet wide  
Easy to grow

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



## 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



## Lady fern

*Athyrium filix-femina*



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

Large delicate leaves; great for shady rain gardens



## 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



## Deer fern

*Blechnum spicant*



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

Great for shady rain gardens



## 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



## Large boykinia

*Boykinia major*



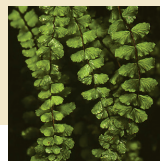
Perennial  
1-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

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



## Maidenhair spleenwort

*Asplenium trichomanes*



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

Notable black stems; great for shady rock gardens



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Bunchberry

*Cornus unalaschensis*



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*



## 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



## Scouler's corydalis

*Corydalis scouleri*



Perennial  
4 feet tall, 3 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Pink blooms in late spring; prefers highly organic soil



## 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



## Tufted hairgrass

*Deschampsia cespitosa*



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

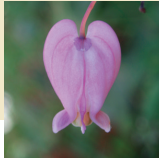
Densely-tufted grass with bronze spikelets; good wetland plant





## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Showy fleabane

*Erigeron speciosus*



Perennial  
6-30 inches tall, 2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Purple flowers all summer



## 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



## 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



## Globe gilia

*Gilia capitata*



Annual  
1-3 feet tall, 8-10 inches wide  
Easy to grow

Blue, globe-like flowers in late spring



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Western oak fern

*Gymnocarpium disjunctum*



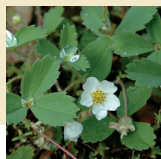
Deciduous fern  
6-16 inches tall, 6 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Groundcover; light green fronds; a.k.a. *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Tiger lily

*Lilium columbianum*



Perennial  
3-4 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

Large, nodding, orange blooms with maroon spots in summer



## 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



## 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



## Riverbank lupine

*Lupinus rivularis*



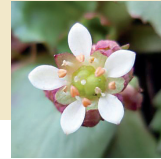
Perennial  
3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Purple flowers spring to summer; great for rain gardens; prefers well-drained soil; spreads vigorously by seed, but is easy to pull



## 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*



## 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



## 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



## 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*



## Creeping miterwort

*Mitella caulescens*



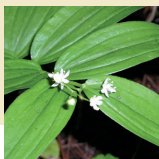
Perennial  
8-16 inches tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

Small, green blooms on stalks mid-spring to summer



## Starry false Solomon's seal

*Maianthemum stellatum*



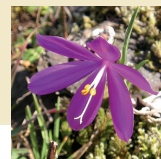
Perennial  
1-2 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

White flowers late spring; great for woodland gardens; a.k.a. *Smilacina stellata*



## 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



## 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



## 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



## Cardwell's penstemon

*Penstemon cardwellii*



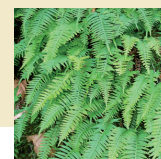
Evergreen perennial  
1 foot tall, 16 inches wide  
Moderately hard to grow

Purple tubular flowers in summer; good for rock gardens; prefers well-drained soil



## 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



## Richardson's penstemon

*Penstemon richardsonii*



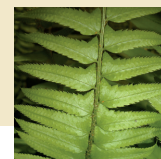
Perennial  
12-34 inches tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Finely-dissected leaves; lavender flowers late spring to summer; great for rock gardens



## 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



## Cascade penstemon

*Penstemon serrulatus*



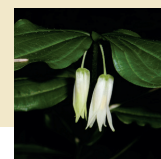
Semi-evergreen perennial  
1-2 feet tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

Purple flowers in summer; nice cut flowers; good for rain gardens



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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*



## Meadow checkerbloom

*Sidalcea campestris*



Perennial  
2-6 feet tall, 8-12 inches wide  
Easy to grow

Pink flowers in summer; prefers well-drained soil



## 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



## Western blue-eyed grass

*Sisyrinchium bellum*



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



## 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



## 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



## 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*



## 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 trillium

*Trillium ovatum*



Perennial  
4-18 inches tall, 6-24 inches wide  
Moderately hard to grow

White flowers in spring; great for woodland gardens



## Piggyback plant

*Tolmiea menziesii*



Perennial  
12-30 inches tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

Groundcover; maroon flowers spring to summer; spreads by seed



## Common cattail

*Typha latifolia*



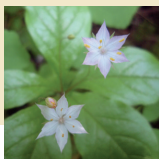
Evergreen perennial  
6 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide  
Easy to grow

Brown, cigar-shaped bloom in summer; wetland plant



## Western starflower

*Trientalis latifolia*



Perennial  
4-8 inches tall, 1 foot wide  
Easy to grow

Groundcover; white-pink, star-like flowers in late spring



## 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*



Perennial  
4-inches tall, 18-inches wide  
Easy 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*



Evergreen perennial  
5 feet tall, 4 feet wide  
Moderately hard to grow

Showy white flower on tall stalk late spring to late summer; grass-like leaves; fragrant; prefers well-drained soil



Bunchberry (*Cornus unalaschensis*)

## Resources

### Botanical references

Christy, John A., Angela Kimpo, Vernon Marttala, Philip K. Gaddis, and Nancy L. Christy. *Urbanizing Flora of Portland, Oregon, 1906-2008*. Native Plant Society of Oregon, 2009.

Krukeberg, Arthur R. *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, 1996.

Oregon Flora Project Plant Atlas, [oregonflora.org](http://oregonflora.org).

Pojar, Jim and Andy Mackinnon. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Lone Pine Publishing, 1994.

Portland Plant List 2011, [portlandoregon.gov](http://portlandoregon.gov).

Robson, Kathleen A., Alice Richter, and Marianne Filbert. *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes*. Timber Press, 2008.

Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*. Timber Press, 2006.

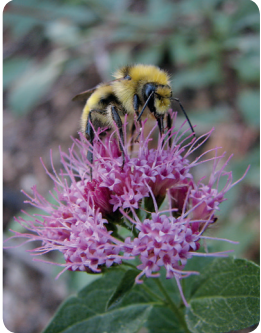
USDA, NRCS. 2013. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 11 April 2013). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.



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## 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



Bumblebee on Snakeroot (*Ageratina occidentalis*)

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](http://aslaoregon.org)

Association of Northwest Landscape Designers, [anld.com](http://anld.com)

Association of Professional Landscape Designers, [apldoregon.org](http://apldoregon.org)

Backyard Habitat Certification Program, [audubonportland.org/issues/backyardhabitat](http://audubonportland.org/issues/backyardhabitat) and [columbialandtrust.org](http://columbialandtrust.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](http://emswcd.org)

EcoBiz certified landscapers, [ecobiz.org/landlist.htm](http://ecobiz.org/landlist.htm)

Great Plant Picks, [greatplantpicks.org](http://greatplantpicks.org)

King County Native Plant Finder and planting plans, [kingcounty.gov/gonative](http://kingcounty.gov/gonative)

Oregon Tilth Organic Land Care accredited practitioners, [tilth.org/education-research/organic-land-care-accreditation/olc-practitioners](http://tilth.org/education-research/organic-land-care-accreditation/olc-practitioners)

Plant Native, [plantnative.org](http://plantnative.org)

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## Invasive plant information

Garden Smart Oregon, a guide to non-invasive plants, [portlandoregon.gov/bes/47570](http://portlandoregon.gov/bes/47570)

Invasive plant information from 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, [4countycwma.org](http://4countycwma.org)

Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program, [oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/index.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/index.aspx)

The Silent Invasion, [opb.org/programs/invasives](http://opb.org/programs/invasives)

## Other resources

Attracting Native Pollinators – Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies by Eric Mader, Matthew Shepherd, Mace Vaughn, Scott Hoffman Black and Gretchen LeBuhn. Storey Publishing, 2011.

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy, 2009, Portland, Oregon, Timber Press.

Clean Water Services Native Plant Finder, [cleanwaterservices.org/gonative](http://cleanwaterservices.org/gonative)

Gardening with Oregon Native Plants West of the Cascades, OSU Extension Service publication EC1577, [extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog)

Metro natural gardening program, [oregonmetro.gov/garden](http://oregonmetro.gov/garden)

Native Plants of the Southern Willamette Valley: a Resource List for Homeowners and Professionals by Bruce Newhouse, 2012. Salix Associates, [salixassociates.com/resources.html](http://salixassociates.com/resources.html)

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Using native plants for gardening, [npsoregon.org/landscaping1.html](http://npsoregon.org/landscaping1.html)

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, [pesticide.org](http://pesticide.org)

Oregon State University Department of Horticulture Landscape Plants database, [oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants)

Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardeners™, [metromastergardeners.org](http://metromastergardeners.org)

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, [xerces.org](http://xerces.org)



Meadowhawk dragonfly



Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)

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Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*)

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## Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes, spanning the width of the page.

# Native plants for Willamette Valley yards is a collaborative effort

This fully-revised and expanded resource, originally created by Metro, is the result of a broad collaboration led by the Adult Conservation Educators working group (ACE). ACE works strategically to cultivate land stewards who protect human health, habitat and clean water.

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## Additional collaborators

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