

Handout
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NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND GROUND COVER IN THE ISSAQUAH AREA



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Native plants are diverse in color, form and texture. Planting native plants will enable your home, office, or community to blend with the surrounding Northwest environment. Native plants are adapted to the Northwest climate of wet winters and dry summers. Lack of summer rains is the limiting factor for plant growth in our area. After an initial one to two seasons of watering, many native species become established and require little or no irrigation. Native plants have developed ways to respond to naturally occurring attacks by insects and disease and provide excellent erosion control. While native plants are adapted to our area, planting sites can vary in climate, soil, and topography. Wetlands, uplands, open meadows, estuaries, and forests all have different plants that thrive in them. For native vegetation to do well without extra care, it is important to plant them in areas with appropriate soils, water, and light that mimic the natural conditions in which they are found.

Plants are the key to habitat and habitat is the key to wildlife. By planting native vegetation, you can encourage wildlife to visit or live in your neighborhood. Local wildlife is adapted to native vegetation because they co-evolved over thousands of years. Native plants provide the kind of food and shelter needed by local wildlife. While some animals and birds are carnivorous and eat insects and other animals, many only eat the leaves, seeds and fruit that plants provide. Some species, such as the red-breasted nuthatch and the northern flicker, need seeds in the winter months when insects, which compose their normal diet, are not as abundant. To provide a food source, plants that attract wildlife should produce seeds, nuts, fruit, foliage, berries, grains, flower nectar, or bark. Plants provide wildlife cover for roosting, nesting, breeding. To provide cover, a variety of vegetation types will maximize habitat value. Planting vegetation from each of the following categories will diversify habitat: ground cover, shrubs, small trees, large trees. A combination of coniferous and deciduous will also enhance diversity. Providing snags, fallen trees, and brush piles will increase habitat complexity. Consider mimicking the existing natural vegetation in the area, leaving a portion of the yard wild, and minimizing activity in an area where wildlife can rest undisturbed.

For more information:

[Native Plant Resources](#) - King County

[Native Plants for Wildlife](#) - Washington Native Plant Society

[Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture](#), University of Washington

[Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program](#) – WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

[Green Shorelines](#) Shoreline Native Habitat – City of Seattle

NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND GROUND COVERING THE ISSAQUAH AREA

Trees			
Species	Habitat Value	Size	Culture
Bigleaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Squirrels, finches, & evening grosbeaks eat the seeds.	To 100'	Moist-dry soil, sun-part shade
Bitter Cherry <i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Fruit provides food for wildlife; deer and elk eat foliage.	To 45'	Moist; sun
Black Cottonwood <i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Eagles and osprey perch and nest in branches.	To 80'	Wet-moist soil; sun
Black Hawthorn <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Fruit provides food for birds, branches provide nesting sites.	To 30'	Moist soil; sun
Douglas-Fir* <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Black bears eat sap of young trees; birds, squirrels eat seeds.	To 300'	Moist-dry soil; sun
Grand Fir* <i>Abies grandis</i>	Trunks provide den sites for small mammals.	To 175'	Dry-moist soils; sun-shade
Lodgepole (Shore) Pine* <i>Pinus contorta</i>	Porcupines eat sap; birds nest in branches; squirrels eat seeds.	To 100'	Vast range of environments
Oregon Ash <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Provides wildlife habitat for many wetland species.	To 75'	Wet soils; partial sun to sun
Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Flowers attract bees; Fruit eaten by band-tailed pigeons, quail.	To 100'	Often found in drier sites with rocky soils; partial to sun
Pacific Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttali</i>	Fruit cluster eaten by wildlife; bees pollenate flowers.	To 50'	Moist soils; sun-shade; can be difficult to grow successfully
Paper Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Seeds valued by goldfinches, siskins.	To 100'	Moist-wet soils; partial sun to shade
Quaking Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Deer browse twigs, foliage; beavers eat bark.	To 60'	Moist, sun - partial sun.
Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i>	Birds eat the seeds; fast-growing and quickly provides habitat.	To 80'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Sitka Spruce* <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Deer and elk eat new shoots on saplings; raptors roost in big trees.	To 200'	Moist soils; often found near coast;
Western Crabapple <i>Malus fusca</i>	Fruit provides food for birds, mammals.	To 40'	Moist soil; sun to partial shade
Western Hemlock* <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Deer browse foliage, prolific seed crop provide food for many birds.	To 200'	Moist-wet soil; shade
Western Redcedar* <i>Thuja plicata</i>	Raccoons, skunks den in cavities of roots.	To 200'	Moist-wet soil; shade
Western White Pine* <i>Pinus monticola</i>	Seeds provide food for birds; branches provide nesting sites.	To 175'	Moist - dry; sun

*Conifer

NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND GROUND COVERING THE ISSAQUAH AREA

Shrubs			
Species	Habitat Value	Size	Culture
Black Twinberry <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Many species of wildlife eat the berries.	To 10'	Wet-moist soil; shade
Cascara <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Pileated woodpeckers eat the berries.	To 30'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Douglas spiraea <i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Birds and small mammals use for cover.	To 7'	Wet-well drained soil; sun-shade
Dewberry <i>Rubus ursinus</i>	This native blackberry provide fruit for many wildlife species.	To 2'	Common in thickets and dry, open forest areas
Evergreen Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Berries provide food for many species of wildlife.	To 10'	Moist Soils; sun-shade
Hazelnut <i>Corylus ornuta</i>	Birds use for cover; many wildlife species utilize nuts for food.	To 15'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Many wildlife species eat the fruit	To 15'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Provides cover to small mammals; small fruit provides food for animals.	To 1'	Dry to moist soils; sun to shade
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Fragrant flowers attract bees.	To 10'	Moist-dry soil; sun-part shade
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Deer browse foliage; birds use for cover, perching.	To 10'	Moist-dry soil; sun-part shade
Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Birds use foliage for cover, perching.	To 20'	Moist-well drained soil; sun-shade
Pacific Rhododendron <i>R. macrophyllum</i>	Cover for birds, small mammals.	To 25'	Moist; partial shade-sun
Red Elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Many bird species eat the berries and use branches for cover.	To 20'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Red Flowering Current <i>Ribes sanguinum</i>	Spring flowers attractive to hummingbirds.	To 12'	Prefers sun to light shade
Red Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Berries provide food for birds, mammals; cover for small mammals.	To 12'	Moist; partial shade-sun
Red-osier Dogwood <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Many bird species eat the berries	To 20'	Wet-well drained soil; sun-shade
Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Ground cover for birds, small mammals; wildlife eats fruit.	To 10'	Moist; understory of forests, shade
Salmonberry <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Many bird species eat the berries	To 10'	Wet-dry soil; sun-shade

Shrubs (Cont.)			
Species	Habitat Value	Size	Culture
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Many bird species eat the berries.	To 30'	Well-drained-dry soil; sun
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Provides food and cover for birds and rodents.	To 3'	Moist-well drained soil; sun-shade
Snowbrush <i>Ceanothus velutinus</i>	Provides cover for birds.	To 10'	Does well on nitrogen-deficient soils; sun
Tall Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Fruit eaten by many bird species.	To 7'	Dry to fairly moist; partial sun to shade
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Berries eaten by many birds and mammals.	To 10'	Found in open sites - alder stands, clearings, shorelines
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	Provides good cover and food for wildlife.	To 35'	Moist-dry soil; sun-shade
Wild Rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Provides good nest sites and food for birds.	To 4'	Dry-moist soil; sun-partial shade
Willow <i>Salix spp.</i>	Rabbits and deer eat twigs; birds use for cover.	To 40'	Moist-wet soil; sun

Ground Cover

The following are just a few of the native ground covers that provide food and cover for wildlife while enhancing aesthetics: inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), piggy-back plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*), false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), false lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria spp.*), white fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*), Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*), and several fern species.