

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



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

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.



Roughskin newts

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

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



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



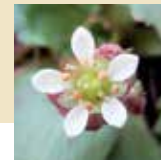
Perennial
3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
Easy to grow

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



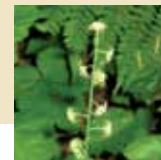
Perennial
1-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
Easy to grow

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



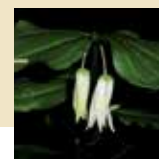
Semi-evergreen perennial
1-2 feet tall, 1 foot wide
Easy to grow

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.

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

Portland Plant List 2011, 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.

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

Association of Northwest Landscape Designers, anld.com

Association of Professional Landscape Designers, apldoregon.org

Backyard Habitat Certification Program, audubonportland.org/issues/backyardhabitat and 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

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

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

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

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

Meadowhawk dragonfly





Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)

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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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