

# **QUICK GUIDE: Native Plants for Specific Situations in the Portland area**

(Not an exhaustive list; always check light & moisture requirements & mature size before planting)

## Plants for erosion control

*Acer circinatum*; *A. macrophyllum* (maple)  
*Alnus rubra* (red alder)  
*Amelanchier alnifolia* (western serviceberry)  
*Arbutus menziesii* (madrone)  
*Arctostaphylos columbiana* (manzanita)  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (kinnikinnick)  
*Cornus sericea* (red-twig dogwood)  
*Gaultheria shallon* (salal)  
*Holodiscus discolor* (oceanspray)  
*Festuca californica*; *F. roemeri* (fescue)  
*Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry)  
*Lupinus polyphyllus* (large-leaved lupine)  
*Mahonia aquifolium*; *M. nervosa* (Oregon grape)  
*Polystichum munitum* (western sword fern)  
*Philadelphus lewisii* (mock orange)  
*Quercus garryana* (Oregon white oak)  
*Ribes sanguineum* (red-flowering currant)  
*Rosa nutkana* (Nootka rose)  
*Rubus parviflorus* (thimbleberry)  
*Salix scouleriana* (Scouler's willow)  
*Symphoricarpos albus* (snowberry)  
*Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew)  
*Thuja plicata* (western red cedar)  
*Vancouveria hexandra* (inside-out flower)

## Plants with high drought tolerance

*Achillea millefolium* var. *occidentalis* (yarrow)  
*Allium cernuum* (nodding onion)  
*Amelanchier alnifolia* (western serviceberry)  
*Arbutus menziesii* (madrone)  
*Arctostaphylos columbiana* (manzanita)  
*Ceanothus velutinus*; *C. sanguineus* (ceanothus)  
*Crataegus suksdorfii* (Sukdorff's hawthorn)  
*Camassia leichtlinii*; *C. quamash* (camas)  
*Dodecatheon hendersonii* (shooting star)  
*Festuca roemeri* (fescue)  
*Gaultheria shallon* (salal)  
*Holodiscus discolor* (oceanspray)  
*Lonicera hispidula* (pink honeysuckle)  
*Mahonia* spp. (Oregon grape)  
*Penstemon richardsonii* (Richard's penstemon)  
*Philadelphus lewisii* (mock orange)  
*Pinus ponderosa* (ponderosa pine)  
*Polystichum munitum* (western sword fern)  
*Prunus emarginata* var. *mollis* (bitter cherry)  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir)  
*Quercus garryana* (Oregon white oak)  
*Sedum oreganum*; *S. spathulifolium* (sedum)  
*Symphoricarpos albus* (snowberry)

## Plants for rocky areas/rock gardens

*Achillea millefolium* var. *occidentalis* (yarrow)  
*Allium cernuum* (nodding onion)  
*Aquilegia formosa* (western columbine)  
*Arbutus menziesii* (madrone)  
*Arctostaphylos columbiana* (manzanita)  
*Campanula rotundifolia* (common harebell)  
*Dodecatheon hendersonii* (Henderson's shooting star)  
*Erigeron decumbens* (Willamette daisy)  
*Erythronium oregonum* (Oregon fawn lily)  
*Festuca californica*; *F. roemeri* (fescue)  
*Heuchera micrantha* (small-flowered alumroot)  
*Holodiscus discolor* (oceanspray)  
*Iris tenax* (Oregon iris)  
*Lupinus bicolor* (miniature lupine)  
*Penstemon cardwellii*; *P. richardsonii* (beardtongue)  
*Sedum oreganum*; *S. spathulifolium* (sedum)  
*Viola adunca* (early blue violet)

## Plants for unpruned hedgerows

*Acer circinatum* (vine maple)  
*Amelanchier alnifolia* (western serviceberry)  
*Ceanothus sanguineus*; *C. velutinus* (ceanothus)  
*Cornus sericea* (red-twig dogwood)  
*Corylus cornuta* var. *Californica* (Cal. hazelnut)  
*Crataegus douglasii* (black hawthorn)  
*Holodiscus discolor* (oceanspray)  
*Lonicera ciliosa*; *L. hispida* (honeysuckle vines)  
*Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry)  
*Mahonia aquifolium* (tall Oregon grape)  
*Oenleria cerasiformis* (Indian plum)  
*Philadelphus lewisii* (mock orange)  
*Ribes sanguineum* (red-flowering currant)  
*Rosa nutkana*; *R. gymnocarpa*; *R. pisocarpa* (rose)  
*Salix scouleriana* (Scouler's willow)  
*Sambucus racemosa*, *S. nigra* spp. *cerulea* (elderberry)  
*Symphoricarpos albus* (snowberry)  
*Viburnum ellipticum* (western viburnum)

## Plants for wetlands or along streams/ponds

*Acer circinatum*; *A. macrophyllum* (maple)  
*Adiantum aleuticum* (maidenhair fern)  
*Aruncus dioicus* (goat's beard)  
*Asarum caudatum* (wild ginger)  
*Blechnum spicant* (deer fern)  
*Carex* spp. (sedge)  
*Cornus sericea* (red-twig dogwood)  
*Corydalis scouleri* (Scouler's corydalis)  
*Deschampsia cespitosa*; *D. elongata* (hairgrass)  
*Dodecatheon pulchellum* (pretty shooting star)  
*Erythronium revolutum* (Oregon fawn lily)  
*Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash)  
*Gaultheria shallon* (salal)  
*Juncus* spp. (rush)  
*Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry)  
*Lupinus polyphyllus*; *L. rivularis* (lupine)  
*Mimulus guttatus* (monkey flower)  
*Oenleria cerasiformis* (Indian plum)  
*Polystichum munitum* (western sword fern)  
*Rhamnus purshiana* (cascara)  
*Rosa pisocarpa*; *R. nutkana* (wild rose)  
*Rubus parviflorus* (thimbleberry); *R. spectabilis* (salmonberry)  
*Salix* spp. (willow)  
*Sambucus racemosa*; *S. nigra* spp. *cerulea* (elderberry)  
*Sidalcea nelsoniana*; *S. campestris* (checker mallow)  
*Sisyrinchium bellum* (blue-eyed grass)  
*Spiraea douglasii* (Douglas spiraea)  
*Symphyotrichum subspicatum* (Douglas aster)  
*Thuja plicata* (western red cedar)  
*Viola glabella* (stream violet)

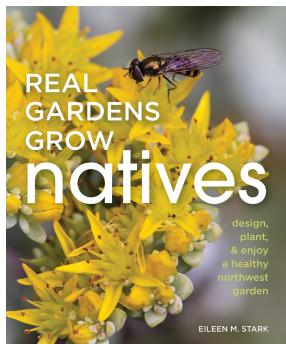
## Plants for very acidic soil

*Arbutus menziesii* (madrone)  
*Arctostaphylos columbiana* (manzanita)  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (kinnikinnick)  
*Asarum caudatum* (wild ginger)  
*Actaea elata* (tall bugbane)  
*Cornus unalaschkensis* (bunchberry)  
*Erythronium revolutum* (Oregon fawn lily)  
*Gaultheria shallon* (salal)  
*Mahonia aquifolium*, *M. nervosa* (Ore. Grape)  
*Maianthemum canadense*; *M. stellatum* (false solomon's seal)  
*Oxalis* spp. (oxalis)  
*Polystichum munitum* (western sword fern)  
*Pinus ponderosa* (ponderosa pine)  
*Thuja plicata* (western red cedar)  
*Trillium ovatum* (western trillium)  
*Vaccinium parvifolium* (red huckleberry)

# Tips For a Healthy Northwest Eco-garden

- Take ample time to get to know your yard and its wild visitors before devising a plan.
- Remove invasive non-natives, in stages if they are supplying wildlife habitat.
- Minimize your footprint and disturbance to soil. Preserve topography & microclimates.
- Use permeable paving materials and disconnect downspouts when possible to help manage storm water.
- Choose local native plants—preferably in their natural associations (communities)—based on your light, moisture, & soil conditions, instead of buying first and trying to fit them in later.
- Rethink “pretty” and strive to increase diversity to support diverse wildlife.
- Unused lawn can be replaced with native trees, shrubs and ground cover in a layered effect, or create a wildflower “meadow,” using the plant community that’s native to your area.
- Use a variety of trees—including conifers—and understory plants and repeat them when possible, for a natural look. Be sure to note mature widths of shrubs, and place them so pruning won’t be necessary. Arrange plants with similar needs together.
- Plant trees first, then smaller plants, arranged so there is slight overlap and connectivity, both horizontal & vertical.
- Provide a variety of flowering plants for pollinators—grow at least 3 different species that bloom at the same time—from early spring through fall, and group them in masses (drifts or swathes) so pollinators can easily find them and to provide enough nectar & pollen.
- Provide host plants for butterfly larvae.
- Use groundcover plants instead of wood or bark mulch to discourage weeds, prevent erosion, & create habitat. But leave some soil bare for native ground nesting bees (70% nest in bare soil).
- Leave autumn leaves on bare soil (no leaf blowers, please!) to protect the soil and provide for overwintering creatures and their predators.
- Don’t cut back small plants, which also supply habitat, until well into springtime.
- Allow dead wood (logs, branches, twigs) and snags to remain when possible.
- Build brush piles for cover and/or nesting.
- Provide a source of clean water.
- Keep predatory pets away from wildlife. “Catos” are great!
- Make reflective windows visible to birds, who die in the millions from collisions.
- Keep outdoor lighting to a bare minimum or simply use motion sensors—artificial lighting has devastating effects on many species.
- Don’t use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers.
- Talk to neighbors about the importance of habitat connections.
- Buy from reputable nurseries and never dig up plants from the wild.
- Avoid native cultivars (“nativars”) and instead use “straight species.”

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*Real Gardens Grow Natives:*  
*Design, Plant & Enjoy a Healthy Northwest Garden*

By Eileen M. Stark

(Mountaineers Books, 2014)

*Much more info at: [www.realgardensgrownatives.com](http://www.realgardensgrownatives.com)*