

Which Native Plants Should I Use?

NATIVE PLANT ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE LANDSCAPE

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1. DEEP SHADE & MOIST SOILS

Description: If you have a yard with evergreen trees that provide consistent year-round shade, the following plants will do well on your site. If your yard has seasonal shade that deciduous trees furnish during the summer months, these plants will thrive. The plants in the following list are tolerant of a moist soil due to poor drainage, or proximity to a stream or lake.

While developing your planting scheme, keep in mind that in a natural setting with deep shade, the understory shrubs are usually sparse and located near pockets of light or along the edges of the shady area. In contrast, the groundcover layer consisting of ferns and perennials grows thickly in deep shade.

Native huckleberries do well in a moist soil, with plenty of organic matter; they do not like heavy clay soils. Avoid using huckleberries if you have clay soils.

Canopy: western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*); western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*); cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*); Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).

Understory: black twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata* var. *involucrata*); evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*); low Oregon-grape (*Berberis nervosa*); red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* ssp. *pubens* var. *arborescens*); red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*, usually on stumps and logs); red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis*); vine maple (*Acer circinatum*).

Ground Covers: bunchberry (*Cornus unalascensis*); deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*); false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum* ssp. *ampexicaulis*); foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*); lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosum*, in the wettest sites); Pacific bleeding-heart (*Dicentra formosa* ssp. *formosa*); piggy-back plant (*Tolmeia menziesii*); redwood oxalis (*Oxalis oregana*); salal (*Gaultheria shallon*); snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*); wood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*); sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*); trailing yellow violet (*Viola sempervirens*); twinflower (*Linnaea borealis* ssp. *longiflora*); western trillium (*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *ovatum*); wild-ginger (*Asarum caudatum*); wild strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.).

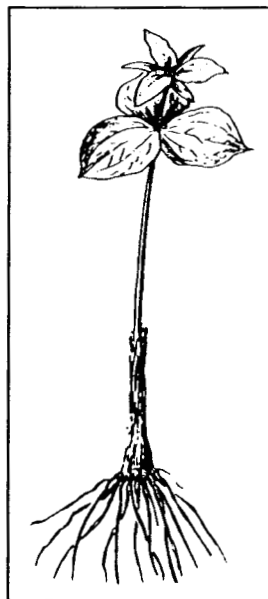
2. PARTIAL SHADE & WELL-DRAINED SOILS

Description: In a native plant community with partial shade, enough dappled light passes through the tree canopy to support a diverse understory layer of shrubs. In this plant community the tree canopy consist primarily of Pacific dogwood, bitter cherry, bigleaf maple and a scattering of conifers. The soils are well drained, and dry out during the summer months. Soils that tend to dry out in the summer months consist mostly of sand or the rocky glacial till common in the Puget Sound region. If this description matches the conditions in your yard, the plants listed below will do well.

Canopy: bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*); bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata* var. *mollis*); Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*); western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*); grand fir (*Abies grandis*); high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*); Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*).

Understory: baldhip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa* var. *gymnocarpa*); beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*); evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum* var. *ovatum* or var. *saporosum*); Indian-plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*); low Oregon-grape (*Berberis nervosa*); mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii* var. *gordonianus*); oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*); Oregon-boxwood (*Paxistima myrsinites*); Pacific rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*, in moist spots); western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia* var. *humptulipensis* or var. *semiintegrifolia*); red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *sanguineum*); snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*); red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*, on stumps and logs); salal (*Gaultheria shallon*); vine maple (*Acer circinatum*).

Ground Covers: sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*); trailing yellow violet (*Viola sempervirens*); twinflower (*Linnaea borealis* ssp. *longiflora*); deerfoot vanilla-leaf (*Achlys triphylla* ssp. *triphylla*); western trillium (*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *ovatum*).



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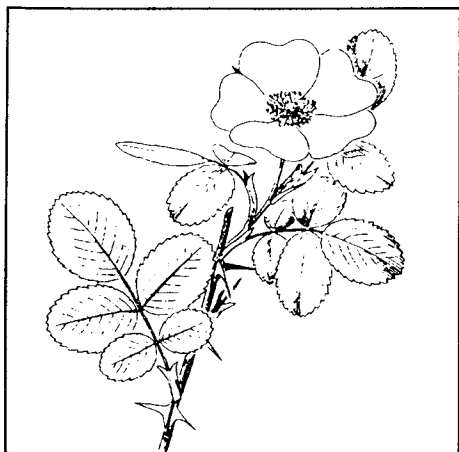
3. SUN & MOIST SOILS

Description: The plants in the following list are well-suited for sites near lakes, rivers, or wetlands that may experience periodic flooding or seasonal high water tables. As a result of their closeness to lakes, rivers, and wetlands, the soils are moist to wet many months of the year. If your site has moist to wet soils and does not currently have trees to provide shade, the plants on this list will do well. These plants love a sunny location.

Canopy: bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*); bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata* var. *mollis*); black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*); black hawthorn (*Crataegus suksdorfii*); common chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*); Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*); Pacific crabapple (*Malus fusca*); red alder (*Alnus rubra*); Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*, in well-drained sites).

Understory: black twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata* var. *involucrata*); clustered wild rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*); Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana* var. *muriculata* or var. *nutkana*); Pacific willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*); red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis*); Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*); red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* ssp. *pubens* var. *arborescens*); salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis* var. *spectabilis*); Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*); thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus* var. *parviflorus*); vine maple (*Acer circinatum*).

Ground Covers: false lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*); Pacific bleeding-heart (*Dicentra formosa* ssp. *formosa*); sawbeak sedge (*Carex stipata*); small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*); lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*); sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*); violets (*Viola* species).



4. SUN & WELL-DRAINED SOILS

Description: The plants in this community are tolerant of sun but prefer a well-drained soil. Soils that are well drained often are sandy or coarse with various sizes of rocks. A well drained soil typically will dry out during the summer months. Therefore the plants in the following list can survive summer drought once established. Included in the list are both red huckleberry and evergreen huckleberry. Our native huckleberries prefer a soil enriched with organic matter. Often seen growing on decaying logs and stumps, our native huckleberries benefit from both composted organic matter and partially composted organic matter such as wood chips. Before planting huckleberries always improve the soils with organic matter.

Canopy: bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*); bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata* var. *mollis*); common chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*); Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*); grand fir (*Abies grandis*); Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*, most common along the shores of Puget Sound); Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*); shore pine (*Pinus contorta*); beaked hazel (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*).

Understory: baldhip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa* var. *gymnocarpa*); blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea* var. *cerulea*); common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*); evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum* var. *ovatum* or var. *saporosum*); hairy manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana* ssp. *columbiana*); Indian-plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*); mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii* var. *gordonianus*); oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*); red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *sanguineum*); red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*); salal (*Gaultheria shallon*); western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia* var. *humptulipensis* or var. *semiintegrifolia*); snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus* var. *hookeri*); vine maple (*Acer circinatum*); orange honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*).

Ground Covers: kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*); Mahala mat (*Ceanothus prostratus*); coastal strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*); twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*) (requires organic matter); sedum (*Sedum*) (several varieties); sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*); lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*); Cardwell's penstemon (*Penstemon cardwellii*).