

Water-Wise PLANTS

for LANDSCAPING on the NORTH OLYMPIC PENINSULA

The plants listed here are excellent choices for particularly dry sites, such as those with sandy-gravelly soils.

Whenever possible, opt for native plants. They have the best odds for survival because they evolved under our local climate and soil conditions. Also, local fauna evolved with them.

Fall is the ideal time for planting. Plants are going dormant, minimizing transplant stress. The soil is still warm enough for roots to begin growing. And fall rains provide necessary water.

For any new planting, mulch heavily to conserve soil moisture and inhibit competing vegetation. Get new plants off to a healthy start by watering deeply (entire root zone) but infrequently. After a couple growing seasons, plants should be well established and capable of surviving without supplemental watering, except for during extremely hot and dry spells.

NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS		
Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Evergreen for sun, poor soil. Most cultivars not native.
Wild Ginger	Asarum caudatum	Evergreen; prefers shade and high organic matter.
Coastal Strawberry	Fragaria chiloensis	Semi-evergreen, spreads by runners, filling in rapidly.
Salal	Gaultheria shallon	Evergreen; prefers shade when young, high organic matter soil and mulch. Spreads from roots.
Twin Flower	Linnaea borealis	Sparse evergreen for shade and high organic matter.
Low Oregon Grape	Mahonia nervosa	Evergreen for shade or part sun. Spreads from roots.
Sword Fern	Polystichum munitum	Evergreen for shade or part sun.
NON-NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS (all prefer full sun to part shade)		
Heather	Calluna spp.	Summer bloomer.
Heath	Erica spp.	Early winter to late spring bloomer.
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster dammeri or microphyllus are best choices.
Blue Fescue	Festuca glauca	Short, clumping ornamental grass.
Ornamental Strawberry	Fragaria spp.	Red or pink blossomed coastal strawberry hybrid.
Sun Rose	Helianthemum nummularium	Evergreen. Blooms late spring and summer.
Juniper	Juniperus spp.	Evergreen. Choose from various prostrate species. Semialpine native.
Lithodora	Lithodora diffusa	Evergreen. Dark blue blossoms late spring and summer.
Creeping Phlox	Phlox subulata	Spring bloomer. Semi-alpine native.
Ornamental Raspberry	Rubus calycinoides	Evergreen. Rapid spreader.
Sedums	Sedum spp.	Very drought-tolerant succulents.
Hens & Chicks	Sempervivum	Very drought-tolerant succulent.
Thyme	Thymus spp.	Herb that includes various ornamental varieties.



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TREES		
Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Vine Maple	Acer circinatum	NATIVE deciduous small tree/large shrub. Excellent fall color.
Douglas Maple	Acer glabrum var. douglasii	NATIVE deciduous small tree or large shrub.
Madrona or Madrone	Arbutus menziesii	NATIVE broadleaf evergreen with unique bark. Requires well drained soil and full sun.
Incense Cedar	Calocedrus decurrens	Conifer Native to southern Oregon, Northern Cal.
Flowering Dogwood	Cornus spp.	Pacific is NATIVE, Kousa is good nonnative choice.
Pacific Wax Myrtle	Myrica californica	Evergreen shrub/small tree, Native to SW WA.
Shore Pine	Pinus contorta 'Contorta'	NATIVE smaller (<100') conifer. Requires full sun.
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	NATIVE fast-growing conifer. Requires full sun.
Garry Oak	Quercus garryana	NATIVE slow-growing, deciduous; Requires full sun and well drained soil.
Blue Elderberry	Sambucus cerulea	NATIVE deciduous small tree or large shrub.
·	SH	RUBS
Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia	NATIVE deciduous large shrub/small tree.
Strawberry Tree	Arbutus unedo	Evergreen similar to Madrona. 'Compacta' is smaller.
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos spp.	Evergreen. Hairy Manzanita is Native.
California Lilac	Ceanothus spp.	Evergreen; fragrant spring blossoms. Full sun.
Rock Rose	Cistus x purpureus	Blooms in summer. Low cold hardiness.
Hazelnut	Corylus cornuta	NATIVE large shrub or small tree.
Escallonia	Escallonia exoniensis	Evergreen, blooms in summer. May be damaged by extended freezes.
Oceanspray	Holodiscus discolor	NATIVE early summer bloomer. Sun or shade.
Juniper	Juniperus spp.	Many evergreen shrubs and small trees, some native.
Lavender	Lavandula spp.	Fragrant summer bloomer. Full sun.
Oregon Grape (Tall)	Mahonia aquifolium	NATIVE evergreen; spreads by roots.
Indian Plum	Oemlaria cerasiformis	NATIVE deciduous. First to leaf out in late winter. Shade to part shade.
Mock Orange	Philadelphus lewisii	NATIVE deciduous. Fragrant early summer blossoms.
Potentilla	Potentilla fruticosa	NATIVE evergreen blooms in summer. Full sun.
Red-Flowering Currant	Ribes sanguineum	NATIVE deciduous. Blooms March to May.
Nootka Rose	Rosa nutkana	NATIVE deciduous. Spreads aggressively by roots.
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis	Evergreen; may be damaged by extended freezes.
Thimbleberry	Rubus parviflorus	NATIVE deciduous. Spreads by roots.
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus	NATIVE deciduous. Spreads aggressively by roots.
Lilac	Syringa vulgaris	Deciduous with fragrant spring blossoms.
Evergreen Huckleberry	Vaccinium ovatum	NATIVE evergreen. Shade/part sun, heavy mulch.
Laurustinus	Viburnum tinus 'Compacta'	Evergreen, blooms early spring. May be damaged by extended freezes.