

Native Plants for Kitsap County

If you want a low maintenance landscape that can provide year round beauty, consider adding some native plants to your garden. Native plants are well adapted to Kitsap County's summer droughts and winter rains. Use this list to pick the right native plants for the type of soil, moisture conditions and amount of sunlight in your planting area. Native plants will thrive with no fertilizer, little extra water once established, and no pesticides. Many native plants listed here provide wildlife food and habitat. Many local garden centers carry native plants or can order them for you. The Kitsap Conservation District has a plant sale each spring featuring low cost native species. Also, check the sources listed and the end of this fact sheet for mail order or regional suppliers.



Photos of the native plants are available by clicking on the Common Name in the first column of the following pages.

For more information

Wally Hanson's Native Plant Nursery <http://www.nwplants.com/>

WSU Native Plants <http://cahedb.wsu.edu/nativeplant/scripts/webDisplaySoil.asp>

Washington Native Plant Society <http://www.wnps.org/photogallery1.html>

Washington Dept of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/rp/stewardship/bfs/WESTERN/introduction.html>

Kitsap Conservation District <http://www.kitsapcd.org/>

King County Conservation District http://www.kingcd.org/pub_nat_natret.htm

Abundant Life Seed Foundation <http://www.abundantlifeseeds.com/stores/1/index.cfm>

National Plant Database <http://plants.usda.gov/>

GROUNDCOVERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Broadleaf Stonecrop	Sedum spathulifolium	Sunny rock gardens.	Numerous tight rosettes of yellow flowers. Grows fast.
Bunchberry	Cornus canadensis	Deep shade. Damp acid soil.	Miniature dogwood flowers. Red berries. Deciduous.
Coastal strawberry	Fragaria chiloensis	Sun to part shade. Beaches.	6-12" tall. Evergreen. Compact mats. Large white flowers.
Fringecup	Tellima grandiflora	Partial shade. Moist soil.	15-30" tall. Delightful, pale cream flowers. Spreads easily.
Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Sun. Sterile, dry soils.	Good on hillsides. Spreads to 12'. Evergreen. Red berries.
Oregon grape, low	Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa	Partial shade. Moist, well drained soil.	2' tall. Holly-like leaves. Yellow flowers. Blue clusters of berries. Evergreen. Flowers attract butterflies.
Sorrel, redwood	Oxalis oregana	Shade. Moist soil.	2-8" tall. Perennial. Clover-like leaves. Pink flowers.
Trailing blackberry	Rubus ursinus	Sun. Dry, disturbed sites.	Only native blackberry. Trailing plant to 20' long. Seedy berry.
Twinflower	Linnaea borealis	Deep - partial shade. Forestsetting. 2" tall. Well drained soil.	Evergreen. Fragrant, pink-white flowers. Rapid but non-aggressive spreading by runners. Can form mats.
Wild Ginger	Asarum caudatum	Deep shade. Moist soil With high organic content.	Pretty, heart-shaped leaves. Develops colonies by spreadingrhizomes. Reddish-brown flowers concealed by leaves.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Ash, Oregon	Fraxinus latifolia	Full sun to partial shade. Moist or ponded soils.	40-80' tall. Compound leaves turn yellow in fall. Flowers are greenish and in dense clusters. Bark with thick, furrows.
Alder, red	Alnus rubra	Sun. Poor, moist soil.	Quick growing to 75 feet. Birch-like gray white bark.
Cascara	Rhamnus purshiana	Partial shade. Moist, well drained soil.	Grows up to 35'. Dark green, glossy leaves. Small, green-white flowers in loose clusters. Cherry-like fruit, liked by birds.
Cherry, bitter	Prunus emarginata	Full sun to partial shade. Dry to moist sites.	20-50' tall. Small, white to pinkish, flat-topped flower clusters. Small bright-red cherries. Bright yellow fall leaves.
Cottonwood, black	Populus trichocarpa	Sun. Moist to wet soil.	Rapid growth to 180'. Leaf buds emit a balsamic odor.
Crabapple, pacific	Malus (Pyrus) fusca	Sun. Moist to wet soil.	40' tall. White, clustered flowers. Fruit 1/2", liked by birds.
Dogwood, red-osier	Cornus sericea (<i>stolonifera</i>)	Shady stream banks. Moist, well drained soil.	15' tall. Crimson fall color. Reddish twigs. Greenish-white flowers. Bluish-white berries. Tolerates seasonal flooding.
Hawthorn, black	Crataegus douglasii	Sun to partial shade. Well drained, sand/gravel soil.	20-30' tall. Small white flowers in clusters. Black berries. New twigs often reddish in early summer. Forms thickets.
Hazelnut, western	Corylus cornuta	Part shade to sun. Well drained soil. Understory.	20' tall. Clumps form attractive fountains of vegetation. Birds, squirrels eat nuts. Catkins appear before the leaves in spring.
Madrone, pacific	Arbutus menziesii	Full sun. Well drained, poor, dry rocky soil.	30-50' tall. Elegant tree with smooth, reddish-brown bark that peels in thin or flakes. Berries good for birds. Evergreen.
Maple, big-leaf	Acer macrophyllum	Full sun to partial shade. Moist, well drained soils.	100' tall, spreading to 50'. Leaves foot in diameter. Yellow fall color. Creamy yellow flowers, emerging before leaves.

DECIDUOUS TREES (cont.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Maple, vine	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Partial shade. Moist soil.	10-15' tall. Brilliant red and orange fall colors. Nice form.
Mountain Ash, Sitka	<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>	Sun. Moist, rich soil.	10' tall. Multi-stemmed small shrub. Creamy white flowers. Orange red berry-like fruit, very attractive to birds.
Oak, Oregon white	<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Sun. Dry to moist, well drained, gravelly soils.	Slow growing to 75'. Can live 500 years. Noble tree with white and deeply furrowed bark, elegant branching pattern.
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Sun. Well drained soil. Very drought tolerant.	10' tall. Pure white flowers in 2" clusters. Brilliant red and yellow leaves in the fall. ½" diameter, purple fruit in fall.
Willow, pacific	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Sun. Moist, sand/gravelly soil. Tolerates flooding.	50' tall. One or a few main trunks. Catkins on female trees mature into light reddish-brown capsules, about ¼" long.
Willow, Scouler's	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Sun. Moist, sand/gravel soil.	30' tall. Hardy, rapid growing shrub. A fine "pussy willow."

CONIFERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Cedar, western red	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Deep shade to sun. Moist to swampy soil.	Fast growing to 180'. Buttressed trunk 3-10" diameter. Fragrant wood and foliage. Branches to ground. Small cones.
Fir, Douglas	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Sun. Well drained soil. Best in moist, sandy loam.	100-250' tall. Due to fast growth should not be planted near buildings. Dark green foliage, 4" cones.
Fir, grand	<i>Abies grandis</i>	Sun to partial shade. Deep, well drained, alluvial soils.	200' tall. 4" cylindrical cones held upright on upper branches. Dark green to bright green glossy needles. Hardy.
Hemlock, western	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Deep shade, wet soil.	200' tall. Small cones, horizontal branches with droopy tips.
Larch, western	<i>Larix occidentalis</i>	Sun. Rich, light moist soil.	100' tall. Fast growing. Deciduous. Needles turn yellow in fall.
Pine, shore	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Full sun. Well drained soil.	Usually small tree, could reach 50'. Perfect for smaller gardens.
Spruce, Sitka	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Full sun to partial shade. Moist or saturated soils.	250' tall. Gray, scaly bark; fairly straight branches raised sharply upward. Stiff, sharp-pointed green needles, 4" cones.
Yew, pacific	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Shade. Moist, well drained soil. Understory tree.	10-25' tall. Delightful ornamental. Bark flakes long red scales to reveal a smooth, red to purplish inner bark. Red berries.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Elderberry, Blue	<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Sun. Well drained soil.	12-20' tall. White flowers. Clusters of blue-black berries.
Elderberry, Red	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Sun - part shade. Moist soil.	5-8' tall. White clustered flowers. Bright red berries.
Huckleberry, red	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Shade. Rotted logs and soil.	4-10' tall. Bright green twigs and leaves. Salmon-egg red fruit.
Indian plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Part shade is best. Well drained, moist to dry soil.	5-16' tall. Greenish-white flower clusters appear before leaves in Feb. - early March. Orange to purple fruit.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (cont.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Mock orange	Philadelphus lewisii	Full sun to partial shade. Well drained soil.	5-10' tall. Multiple-stemmed, loosely branched. Highly prized ornamental. Showy, fragrant blooms. Deer browse. Hardy
Nootka rose	Rosa nutkana	Sun. Moist soil.	3-6' tall. Large, fragrant pink flowers. Lg. bright orange hips.
Ocean spray	Holodiscus discolor	Full sun to partial shade. Well drained, dry soil.	15' tall. Cascading clusters of creamy white flowers. Quick growing. Nectar source for butterfly flies. Birds eat seeds.
Oregon grape, tall	Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium	Partial shade. Well drained soil.	5' tall. Holly-like leaves. Yellow flower. Blue, grape-like clusters of berries. New growth is copper color in the spring.
Pacific ninebark	Physocarpus capitatus	Sun. Moist soil.	6-12' tall. Peeling bark shows layers. White flower clusters.
Red-flowering currant	Ribes sanguineum	Sun to partial shade. Well drained dry to moist soil.	8-10' tall. Gorgeous tubular clusters of 10-20 drooping deep-red flowers. Black fruit with white bloom. Fast growing.
Salmonberry	Rubus spectabilis	Sun - full shade. Moist soil.	3-10' tall. Big reddish purple flowers. Yellow, edible berries.
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus	Sun or part shade. Moist to dry, well drained soil.	2-6' tall. Pink-white bell-shaped flowers in short dense clusters. Large white berries. Fast growing. Forms thickets.
Spirea, Douglas	Spirea douglasii	Sunny wetlands, lake edge.	4-7' tall. Beautiful pink- purple flower plumes in July.
Thimbleberry	Rubus parviflora	Sun to partial shade. Moist but not saturated soil.	4-6' tall. Tart red edible berries. Large, downy maple-like leaves. Forms dense thickets. Quick growing. No prickles.
Twinberry, black	Lonicera involucrata	Partial shade. Moist soils.	2- 7' tall. Twin yellow flowers, black berries. Fast growing.

DECIDUOUS VINE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Orange honeysuckle	Lonicera ciliosa	Sun. Well drained soils.	10-20'tall. Orange flowers and berries. Hummingbirds visit.

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Huckleberry, evergreen	Vaccinium ovatum	Sun to shade. Well drained, moist to slightly dry soil.	3' tall and compact in full sun. 15' tall and spindly in deepshade. White flowers in August. Blue berries, good for pies.
Manzanita, hairy	Arctostaphylos columbiana	Sun. South/west exposure. Loose sandy/rocky, dry soil.	6-10' tall. Delightful clusters of white-light pink flowers. Reddish brown bark. One of the best ornamental natives.
Rhododendron, pacific	Rhododendron macrophyllum	Part shade to sun. Moist, well drained acidic soil.	3-15' tall. Compact, dense in open, leggy in shade. Floral display rivals hybrid rhododendrons. Grows under conifers.
Salal	Gaultheria shallon	Partial shade best for berry Growth. Well drained soil.	3-6' tall thickets under evergreens. Pink flowers in late spring. Purple berries. Provides food and cover of birds.
Snowbrush	Ceanothus velutinus	Full sun. Well drained, dry to moist soil.	20' tall. Shiny leaves produce sweet, spicy smell on warm days. Small, white flowers in fluffy, fragrant, conical clusters.

FERNS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Deer fern	Blechnum spicant	Deep shade. Moist soil.	2' tall. Deciduous central fronds, evergreen outer fronds.
Lady fern	Athyrium filix-femina	Shade. Moist-wet rich soil.	2-5' tall. Deciduous. Bright yellow-green, 3x pinnate fronds.
Maidenhair fern	Adiantum aleuticum	Shade. Heavy-textured soil rich in humus. Wet areas.	2' tall. Deciduous. Delicate fern with distinctive shiny blackstalks. Plant in bog areas, along stream-banks, pond edges.
Sword fern	Polystichum munitum	Part shade. Moist soil. Drought tolerant.	2-5' tall. Evergreen. Lance-shaped, toothed fronds. Hardy. Massive clumps make good garden focal point.

WILDFLOWERS AND HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Site Conditions	Comments
Alumroot	Heuchera micrantha	Shade. Moist soil.	6-24" tall. Perennial. Tiny white flowers in clusters on stems.
Beach pea	Lathyrus maritimus	Sun. Beach sand.	Trailing vine. Deep purple blossoms. Pea pods.
Bleeding heart, pacific	Dicentra formosa	Shade. Rich, moist soil.	6-20" tall. Perennial. Heart shaped flowers. Spreads easily.
Coast gumweed	Grindelia integrifolia	Sun. Beach sand.	6-36" tall. Perennial. Bright, cheery, yellow aster.
Columbine, western	Aquilegia formosa	Sun-part shade. Moist soil.	2' tall. Perennial. Nodding red flowers. Hummingbirds visit.
False lily of the valley	Maianthemum dilatatum	Shade to part shade. Moist soil. Under trees OK.	3-12" tall. Perennial. Heart shaped leaves, small white flower spikes. Red berries. Spreads quickly. Dense ground cover.
False Solomon's seal	Maianthemum (Smilacina) racemosa	Part shade. Moist soil.	1-3' tall. Perennial. Creamy white, fragrant flower clusters. Showy, red berries. Easy to grow. Birds eat fruit.
Fawn lily	Erythronium oregonum	Partial shade. Moist soil.	4-18" tall. Lily-like plant. Exquisite pale yellow flowers.
Fireweed	Epilobium angustifolium	Sun. Moist to dry soil.	3-8' tall. Perennial. Pink flowers. Spreads quickly.
Goat's beard	Aruncus sylvester	Partial shade. Moist soil.	3-6' tall. Perennial. Large plumes of tiny white flowers.
Lupine	Lupinus polyphyllus	Partial shade. Moist soil.	2-5' tall. Dense clusters of blue, purple or reddish flowers.
Monkey flower, yellow	Mimulus guttatus	Sun. Moist to wet soil.	6-30" tall. Perennial. Creeping. Good in ditches and seeps.
Sea blush	Plectritis congesta	Sun. Moist to wet soil.	12" tall. Masses of rosy pink blooms. Lime-green leaves.
Skunk cabbage	Lysichiton americanum	Partial shade. Boggy soil.	1-2' tall. Perennial. Beautiful bright yellow flower.
Trillium	Trillium ovatum	Shade. Moist soil.	6-18" tall. Perennial. Three leaves. Three-petal white flower.
Vanilla leaf	Achlys triphylla	Shade. Moist, rich soil.	4-8" tall. Perennial. Clover-like flowers. Tiny white flowers.
Violet	Viola glabella	Sun. Moist soil.	Largest native violet, delightful yellow flowers.
Youth-on-age	Tolmiea menziesii	Shade. Moist soil.	6-12" tall. Perennial. Brownish purple flowers.

Broadleaf Stonecrop

Photo courtesy of Michael L. Charters



