

COASTAL PLANTING

Plants for Seaside Gardens



This flier can serve as a guideline for customers inquiring about flora that would do well at the Pacific coast. My research with the micro climates led me to consult with nurseries in Lincoln City, Oregon. The microclimates may vary from block to block or from one side of the lake to the other. A gardener at the pacific coast will have alkaline soil closer to the ocean. With this type of soil amending with compost is highly recommended. The further away from the beach, generally the less alkaline the soil will be. It is strongly suggested customers become thoroughly familiar with their particular microclimate(s). Observing what types of plants do well in your neighbors' gardens can be a fine starting point.

Portland Nursery hopes that this guide will aid you in being a successful gardener at the Oregon coast.

FURTHER READING

Taylor's Guide to Seashore Gardening
The Pacific Northwest Gardeners Book of Lists
Sunset Western Garden Book

Reference sources used in this flier:
Taylor's Guide to Seashore Gardening-Boston, New York
1996
Blake's Coastal Garden- Lincoln City, Oregon
Bear Valley Nursery-Lincoln City, Oregon

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LIST OF PLANTS FOR COASTAL GARDENS

CONIFERS

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana-Port Orford Cedar. Nice pyramidal shape with lacy, drooping foliage. Grows to 60'.

Chamaecyparis obtuta 'Gracilis'-Slender Hinoki Cypress. Slender, upright growth habit to 20'.

Cupressocyparis leylandii-Leyland Cypress. Can grow very fast with long, slender branches.

Picea sitchensis-Sitka Spruce. Tall, pyramidal tree to 100'.

Pinus contorta-Shore pine. Quick growing to 20-35'. Needs regular water.

Pinus thunbergii-Japanese Black Pine. Very tolerant conifer.

Pseudotsuga menziesii- Douglas Fir. Pyramidal habit when young. PNW native.

Sequoia sempervirens-Coast Redwood. Fast growing. Needs regular water.

Thuja plicata-Western Red Cedar. Moderate to fast growth can get to be enormous, but can be kept smaller with annual pruning.

Tsuga heterophylla-Western Hemlock. Also a native to the PNW, but much slower growing than the Western Red Cedar.

TREES

Acer macrophyllum- Big Leaf Maple. Large native tree.

Alnus rubra- Red Alder. Grows 45-50' and has a beautiful smooth gray bark.

Arbutus x 'Marina'- Strawberry Tree. Evergreen tree to 40'.

Cotinus spp.- Smoke Tree. Normally multistemmed. Sizes vary with species. Thrives in poor soils.

Eucalyptus spp.- Sizes vary by species.

Robinia pseudoacacia-Black Locust. Fast growing to 75'. Wonderful fragrant flowers.

Salix caprea-French Pussy Willow. Fast growing to 25'. Can be kept small by cutting back every year.

Vitex agnus-castus- Chaste Tree. Easily pruned into standard form. Blooms summer to fall with fragrant blue flowers.

SHRUBS

Abelia grandiflora-Glossy Abelia.

Evergreen shrub with tubular flowers.

Buxus sempervirens-English Boxwood. Evergreen, great hedging.

Carpenteria californica- Bush Anemone. Nice evergreen to 4-6'. Flowers appear in late spring and summer.

Ceanothus spp.- California/Wild Lilac. Large variety of evergreen shrubs that vary with size. Once established a very carefree plant.

Choisya ternata-Mexican Orange. Evergreen for shady situations. Grows 6-8'.

Cistus spp.- Rockrose. Great evergreen, flowering choice for the coast. Sizes vary, most flower throughout spring into summer.

Clethra alnifolia- Summersweet. Deciduous flowering shrub growing 4-10'.

Comptonia peregrine- Sweet Fern. Lovely spreading shrub with fern-like, aromatic foliage.

Duranta 'Sweet Memory'- Sky Flower. Evergreen shrub bearing attractive blue flowers in the summer.

Escallonia spp.- Fast growing evergreen shrubs. Flowering in summer and fall. Can be used as an alternative for hedging.

Garrya elliptica 'James Roof'- Coast Silktassel. Another great native! Large shrub reaching 10-20'.

Heaths & Heathers- Erica and Calluna, these plants are a great evergreen choice for the coast. Most are low and spreading.

Hebe- Evergreen shrubs with interesting foliage (they flower, too!). Sizes vary depending on variety.

Hippophae rhamnoides- Sea Buckthorn. Usually an open, mounding shrub that grows 8-10'. Flowers are small, but the fruit is very showy and lasts through winter.

Hydrangea spp.- Hydrangea. Needs rich, porous soil.

Myrica californica-Pacific Wax Myrtle. Evergreen shrub or tree. Can reach 30'.

Phormium tenax- New Zealand Flax. Evergreen shrub that needs excellent drainage. Sizes vary by variety, sword-like foliage throughout the year.

Prunus x cistena- Dwarf Purple-leaved Plum. 6-8' multi-stemmed shrub with fragrant flowers.

Pyracantha spp.-Firethorn. Fast growing evergreen shrub. Sizes vary by species.

Rosa rugosa- Rugosa Rose. Grows 3-6'. This type of rose is especially hardy and well suited for the coast.

Syringa vulgaris-Common Lilac. Can reach 20'.

Vaccinium ovatum-Evergreen Huckleberry. Can be grown in sun or shade!

PERENNIALS

Achillea-Yarrow

Arabis- Rockcress

Armeria-Thrift, Sea Pink

Artemisia-Wormwood

Carex-Sedge

Coreopsis-Tickseed

Crocsmia

Dianthus-Pinks

Echinops-Globe Thistle

Erigeron-Fleabane

Festuca-Fescue

Gaillardia-Blanket Flower

Geranium

Gypsophila-Baby's Breath

Helianthemum-Sunrose

Hemerocallis-Daylily

Kniphofia-Red-Hot Poker

Limonium-Sea Lavender

Sempervivum-Hens and Chicks

Stachys-Lamb's Ears

HERBS	GROUND COVERS
Lavender	Arctostaphylos
Oregano	Ceanothus 'Point Reyes'
Rosemary	Fragaria chiloensis
Sage	Gautheria shallon
Santolina	Juniperus spp.
Thyme	Lithodora

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