

## NATIVE GARDENING

As our wild spaces decrease the importance of adding native plants to the urban landscape grows. Planting natives is the best place to start when the goal is restoring ecosystems, attracting wildlife, and supporting pollinators.

Northwest plants, animals, and insects have lived together for thousands of years, so it's no surprise that our native critters prefer the familiar. Adding trees to support insects and caterpillars will bring birds. Using native perennials will bring butterflies. Almost all native plants have a role in supporting pollinators.

Many native plants will adapt to differing environments, but it is still important to put the right plant in the right place. Things to consider when choosing plants:

- **Sun/Shade requirements**
- **Size at maturity**
- **Purpose in the landscape**

## BENEFITS OF PLANTING NATIVES

- Attracting wildlife
- Ecological restoration
- Acclimatized plants
- Feeling more connected to nature
- Pest and disease resistance
- Reducing storm-water run-off



## GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

Just like other nursery plants, NW natives need proper care. Here are a few tips for successfully establishing new plantings:

- Planting in autumn is ideal, but spring is good too. The closer you get to summer, the more water you will need to provide.
- Soil preparation is important. Break up existing soil in an area as wide as possible, but dig holes only as deep as the root ball. Planting depth should be flush with existing soil or slightly raised.
- Water new plantings thoroughly on planting day (even if it's raining) and weekly during dry spells until plants are rooted into their new sites. We recommend a long....slow.....watering so roots are sure to get soaked.
- Apply 1-2" of mulch. This is the best way to amend heavy soil, keep moisture levels more even and protect against weeds.
- Remember that established plants need water in extreme conditions. They will appreciate a deep soaking during long, hot, dry spells.

Compiled by Stephanie Mack.

## REFERENCES

Pojar, Jim & MacKinnon, Andy, [Plants of the Pacific Northwest](#).

Bosky Dell Natives: [www.boskydellnatives.com](http://www.boskydellnatives.com)

Native Plant Society of Oregon:  
[www.npsoregon.org](http://www.npsoregon.org)

[Portland Metro, Native Plants for Willamette Valley Yards](#)



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## EVERGREEN NATIVE HEDGES

- Ceanothus cuneatus* – Buckbrush  
8-10', sun, heat, drought tolerant, Z6  
*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* – Blue Blossom  
8-10', sun, heat, drought tolerant, Z8  
*Mahonia aquifolium* – Tall Oregon Grape  
6-8', sun or shade, Z5  
*Myrica californica* – Pacific Wax Myrtle  
10-12', sun or shade, Z7  
*Vaccinium ovatum* – Evergreen Huckleberry  
4-6', sun or shade, Z7

## EROSION CONTROL

“Lace your soil with a supporting web of roots of varying depths” Lory Duralia

- Arbutus menzeisii* Madrone  
*Cornus sericea* Red Osier Dogwood  
*Fragaria* Strawberry  
*Gaultheria shallon* Salal  
*Holodiscus discolor* Oceanspray  
*Oemlaria cerasiformis* Indian Plum  
*Polystichum munitum* Sword Fern  
*Rubus parviflorus* Thimbleberry  
*Sambucus racemosa* Red Elderberry  
*Symphoricarpos alba* Snowberry  
*Thuja plicata* Western Red Cedar  
*Vancouveria hexandra* Inside-out Flower  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Kinnikinnick  
*Asarum caudatum* Wild Ginger

## GROUNDCOVERS

- Fragaria chiloensis* Coast Strawberry  
*Linnaea borealis* Twinflower  
*Polypodium glycyrrhiza* Licorice Fern  
*Sedum oreganum* Oregon Stonecrop

## NATIVES FOR WILDLIFE

### ANY AND ALL PNW NATIVE PLANTS SUPPORT WILDLIFE!

Whether you're adding a little or a lot, native plants will help our critters. Here are a few tips to get you started.

### BIRDS

Birds need high landing places (trees) and cover of varying heights (shrubs, perennials and groundcovers) so they can make their way from the sky to the ground while feeling safe. They also need food and water.

Insects are an important food source. Provide host plants for insects and allow for holes in leaves – *don't use insecticides.*

### INSECT HOST PLANTS INCLUDE:

- Abies grandis* Grand Fir  
*Acer macrophyllum* Bigleaf Maple  
*Calocedrus decurrens* Incense Cedar  
*Holodiscus discolor* Oceanspray  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii* Douglas Fir  
*Quercus garryana* Oregon White Oak

### FRUIT & SEED PLANTS:

- Alnus rubra* Red Alder  
*Amelanchier alnifolia* Serviceberry  
*Fragaria* Wild Strawberry  
*Lonicera involucrata* Twinberry  
*Mahonia* Oregon Grape  
*Malus fusca* Western Crabapple  
*Prunus emarginata* Bitter Cherry  
*Sambucus racemosa* Red Elderberry  
*Vaccinium ovatum* Evergreen Huckleberry

*These are by no means complete lists, but are a good place to start.*

### NECTAR PLANTS FOR HUMMINGBIRDS:

- Amelanchier alnifolia* Serviceberry  
*Aquilegia formosa* Western Columbine  
*Asclepias speciosa* Showy Milkweed  
*Camassia* Camas  
*Iris douglasii*, *Iris tenax*  
*Lupinus polyphyllus* Big-leaf Lupine  
*Mahonia* Oregon Grape  
*Mimulus cardinalis* Red Monkeyflower  
*Ribes sanguinium* Red Flowering Currant  
*Rubus spectabilis* Salmonberry  
*Sidalcea* Checkermallow  
*Symphoricarpos alba* Snowberry

### BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies need host plants for eggs and larva, along with nectar plants for adults.

**Plants to provide both nectar and hosting habitat for butterflies:**

### TREE

- Prunus emarginata* Bitter Cherry

### SHRUBS

- Arctostaphylos uva ursi* Kinnikinnick  
*Ceanothus* Buckbrush, Blue Blossom  
*Sambucus* Elderberry  
*Spiraea* Western, Sub-alpine, Birchleaf  
*Vaccinium* Huckleberry

### PERENNIALS

- Asclepias speciosa* Showy Milkweed  
*Fragaria chiloensis* Coast Strawberry  
*Mimulus* Monkeyflower  
*Viola glabella* Streambank Violet

*To find more host and nectar plants go to [boskydellnatives.com](http://boskydellnatives.com)*