King Conservation District

Local Food
Healthy Forests
Clean Water
Better Ground

2027 Native Plant Descriptions

Evergreen Trees

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*	250'		Well-drained soils. Used for windbreaks, firewood and lumber. Fastest growing conifer.
Grand Fir *Abies grandis*	250'		Moist to dry sites. Used as Christmas trees and lumber. Fragrant needles. Rapid growth. Can establish under some shade.
Shore Pine *Pinus contorta*	50'		Highly adaptable. Found in wetland edges, dunes and rocky hilltops. Rapid growth. Can be planted in rows for boundary screening.
Sitka Spruce *Picea sitchensis*	200'		Moist to boggy sites. Stiff, bluish-green needles. Harvested for lumber. Prefers full sun.
Western Hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla*	200'		Prefers fairly dry to wet sites and shade. Found on humus as well as mineral soils. Graceful down-sweeping branches and feathery foliage. State tree of Washington. Often found growing on nurse logs.
Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata*	150'		Prefers moist soils. Majestic J-shaped branches. Does not tolerate full sun when young. Used as lumber and firewood.

Deciduous Trees

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Cascara *Rhamnus purshiana*	30'		Moist to wet, shady sites with full to partial sun. Valuable wildlife food source. Beautiful shiny leaves with good fall color.
Garry Oak *Quercus garryana*	80'		Prefers good drainage. A broad, gnarled, deciduous tree. Acorns are wildlife food source. Needs full sun.
Pacific Crabapple *Malus fusca*	35'		Prefers moist to wet habitats in full sun. A shrubby/small tree with attractive flowers and fruits, beneficial for many kinds of wildlife.
Pacific Willow *Salix lasiandra*	30-40'		Excellent wildlife tree/shrub and for stabilizing stream banks. Younger twigs can have a bright yellow color. Prefers wet soils and is very tolerant of seasonal flooding. Great for streambank planting for soil stabilization. Taller than other native willows.
Vine Maple *Acer circinatum*	22'		Prefers shade and moist to dry areas. Seeds provide wildlife food. Vibrant fall colors.

Legend

Evergreen	Deciduous	Full Sun	Partial Shade	Shade	Early Bloom	Middle Bloom	Late Bloom	Flowers	Fruit	Seeds	Rain Garden	Wildfire Resistant	Toxic

Pollinators need a variety of plants that bloom throughout the season for a continuous source of nectar and pollen. It is important to choose native plants that offer a variety of early, middle and late blooming flowers. The most essential pollinator plants often bloom at the margins of the season, early spring or late summer. Consider leaving water sources and habitat for pollinators such as leaf litter, dead wood, and undisturbed ground. *Plant toxicity information has not been verified.*

Evergreen Shrubs

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Evergreen Huckleberry *Vaccinium ovatum*	6'		Shorter and bushier in full sun. Tall and leggy in shade. Pink, bell-shaped flowers. Sweet purplish-black fruit.
Pacific Rhododendron *Rhododendron macrophyllum*	25'		Moist to fairly dry forests. State flower of Washington. Leathery leaves. Clustered, pink to rose-purple flowers. Prefers acidic soil.

Deciduous Shrubs

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Blackcap Raspberry *Rubus leucodermis*	5-10'		Prickly shrub with tasty black fruit. Arching branches will root at the tip to form new clumps. Tolerates rocky soils, partial shade.
Black Twinberry *Lonicera involucrata*	12'		Prefers moist soils. Fast growing. Small yellow flowers. Produces pairs of small yellow flowers in spring turning to two shiny black berries surrounded by red bracts. Provides nectar berries are eaten by some bird species.
Mock Orange *Philadelphus lewisii*	10'		Moist to dry soil. Showy, fragrant white flowers. Birds eat woody fruit capsules. Good for soil stabilization.
Nootka Rose *Rosa nutkana*	5-15'		Found in a wide variety of soil conditions, wet to dry. This plant is very hardy and easily establishes and will spread through roots. Pink five-petal flowers are fragrant. Red rose hips commonly eaten by wildlife.
Oceanspray *Holodiscus discolor*	To 14'		Great on dry, sunny open sites and forest edges. Arching, multi-stemmed branches. White to cream lilac-like flower clusters. Hardy, drought tolerant.
Orange Honeysuckle *Lonicera ciliosa*	20'		This vine looks great climbing up shrubs in your landscape. In addition to attracting hummingbirds, it isn't aggressive and won't smother the plant supporting it. It has attractive clusters of orange trumpet-shaped flowers.
Oso Berry (Indian Plum) *Oemleria cerasiformis*	4-12'		Found in moist to dry upland sites, stream banks and forests. One of the first plants to flower in spring. Highly beneficial pollinator plant. White bell-shaped flowers and small blue fruit. Edible, bitter fruit loved by birds. Good for erosion control.
Pacific Ninebark *Physocarpus capitatus*	15'		Prefers moist soils. Provides seeds and cover for birds. Attractive white flower clusters and peeling cinnamon-colored bark. Host plant for butterflies and small bees.

Legend

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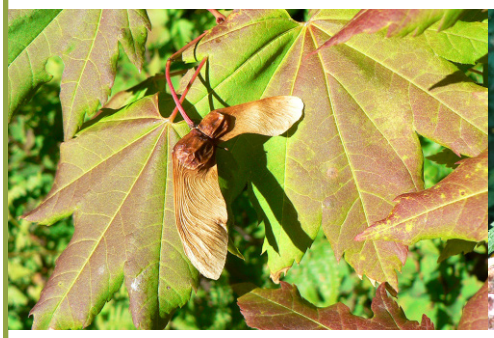
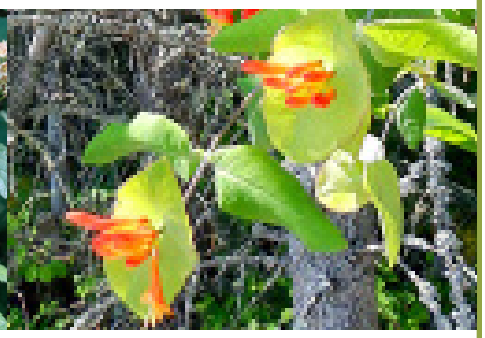
Deciduous Shrubs

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Red Elderberry *Sambucus racemosa*	12-20'		Prefers moist soils of stream banks, wetlands and clearings and open forests. Fast growing with soft pithy twigs with arching growth structure. Creamy white flower clusters are fragrant and visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruit is bright red and not edible unless cooked.
Red Flowering Currant *Ribes sanguineum*	12'		Prefers dry to somewhat moist sites. Chains of showy pink flowers are a hummingbird magnet in early spring. Inedible fruit eaten by birds. Great early blooming pollinator plant for native pollinators.
Red Osier Dogwood *Cornus sericea*	15'		Good in well-drained moist and wet soils near stream banks and wetlands. Attractive all year with its white clustered flowers in summer and bright red twigs in winter. Tolerates pruning.
Salmonberry *Rubus spectabilis*	8-10'		Found in moist to wet places including forests, streambanks and wetlands. Has pink flowers with that hummingbirds love. Grows in thicket formations and likes to spread via the root system. Prefers some shade but can tolerate full sun if moist enough through summer. Produces an early summer crowd-pleasing berry that ranges in color from deep red to orange and yellow. Has thorns that flake off easily.
Serviceberry *Amelanchier alnifolia*	3-17'		Dry to moist sites. Spreads by underground runners. Attractive large white fragrant flowers in spring. Followed by sweet, edible purple berry-like fruit.
Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*	3-8'		Grows in moist to dry soil. White berries persist through the winter for birds. Spreads by rhizomes, making it a good soil stabilizer.
Thimbleberry *Rubus parviflorus*	6'		Prefers high-moistures open sites such as clearings, road edges, shorelines, avalanche tracks or open forests at low to subalpine elevations. Thornless with delicious edible berries, similar to raspberry. Spreads via the root system.





Evergeen/Deciduous Groundcovers

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Bunchberry *Cornus canadensis*	2-10"		Attractive white flower in spring followed by small bright red berries that linger through late summer.
Deer Fern *Blechnum spicant*	1-2'		Commonly found in shady moist to wet forests, wet alder slide areas, as well as streambanks. Medium-sized fern with both deciduous and evergreen fronds.

Legend

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Evergeen Groundcovers

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Fox Sedge *Carex vulpinoidea*	3'		Slow spreading, it grows in clumps or tufts and reaches about 3 feet tall and wide. Commonly used as a grasslike ornamental in landscaping to conserve water and provide habitat.
Kinnikinnick *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	8"		Well-drained soils. Spreads by rooting branches. Good for erosion control. Red berries provide wildlife food.
Low Oregon Grape *Mahonia nervosa*	24"		Prefers moist soil and shade. Fragrant yellow flowers attract native pollinators. Birds eat the purplish-blue berries. Holly-like leaves turn red and purple in fall.
Salal *Gaultheria shallon*	2-7'		Prefers moist to dry soils. Spreads by suckering. Erosion control. Black berries provide wildlife food. Glossy leaves.
Sea Thrift *Armeria maritima*	2-18"		Unique plant found along coastal beaches, bluffs, and sometimes inland along river banks and grassy meadows. Flowers pink to lavender in color.
Sword Fern *Polystichum munitum*	3'		Moist forest at low to middle elevations, great for steep slope erosion control.

Deciduous Groundcovers

Common Name *Genus species*	Height	Characteristics	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
Big Leaf Lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus*	1-5'		Attracts hummingbirds, bees, and other beneficial insects. Enriches the soil with nitrogen. Low maintenance and deer resistant. Toxic to livestock.
Douglas' Aster *Aster subspicatus*	24"		Grows in clusters of erect leafy stems. Pale purple flowers with long narrow petals that bloom all summer. Grows in meadows, forest clearings, salt and fresh water wetlands. Attracts insects, bees and butterflies. Deer resistant.
Goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*	3-4'		Blooms in late summer to early fall showcasing pyramid clusters of bright, golden-yellow flowers that act as vital sources of nutrients for pollinators.
Gumweed *Grindelia integrifolia*	6-32"		Blooms from early summer through late fall with brith yellow flowers that sit atop sticky, resin coated bracts. Provides pollinators food in late season.
Nodding Onion *Allium cernuum*	1.5'		Perennial bulb grows best in full or partial sun and moist to medium wet soil. White to shades of purple flowers with a head that bend downward, thus its given name.
Oregon Iris *Iris tenax*	12-18"		A clumping perennial herb with lavender (blue to purple) flowers in spring. Native to northwest marshes, but also a good ornamental for your yard.
Pearly Everlasting *Anaphalismargaritacea*	24"		Spreading perennial has little white pearl-like blooms that dry on the stalk. Looks nice in combination with asters, goldenrods or other equally aggressive plants.
Red Columbine *Aquilegia formosa*	1-2'		Perennial herbaceous plant with red/yellow, drooping flowers. Found in moist, open to part shade from rocky slopes to beaches.

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