

Native Plants for the Georgia Basin

Everyone can enhance the enjoyment of their garden by incorporating plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Native plants are particularly valuable because they help indigenous wildlife populations of birds, insects and mammals survive while also saving water and maintenance time. The secret to successful gardening is putting the right plant in the right place according to your site sunlight and soil conditions.

If a native plant species you wish to acquire is not readily available it can often be obtained with advance notice from nurseries or seed suppliers either locally or within other regions. Many nurseries provide mail order catalogues of the plants they stock. When buying native plants from commercial sources, it is important to inquire about sources of the plants to ensure that they are nursery propagated from seeds or cuttings and not collected from the wild.

Native plants should not be transplanted from the wild unless they are being salvaged from an area slated for destruction, e.g. road building or building sites. It does not make sense to disturb one natural area just to create a natural area somewhere else. Furthermore, the success rate for nursery-raised native plants is much higher than for plants taken from the wild.

To learn more about creating wildlife habitat in your backyard call Naturescape British Columbia at 1-800-387-9853 (ext. 5) for a copy of the Naturescape BC kit with three guidebooks (retail for \$21) or visit www.hctf.ca/nature.htm.

Native Perennials

Common Name	Latin Name	Sun	Soil	Height	Features
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Full to part sun	Dry, well drained	50 cm	Small fragrant white or pink flowers, good bank stabilizer.
Pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Full to part sun	Dry	30-100 cm	Small yellowish disk flowers bloom mid summer into fall.
Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Shade	Needs some moisture	70 cm	Spurred red and yellow flowers. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
Pacific bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra Formosa</i>	Shade	Moist	50 cm	Pinkish-purple heart shaped flowers in May /June. Attracts hummingbirds.
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Full sun	Dry to moist	1-3 m	Spike of pink-purple flowers. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Spring food for deer.
Stream Violet	<i>Viola glabella</i>	Shade	Moist to wet	5-30 cm	Yellow flowers. Larval host of some butterflies.

Native Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name	Sun	Soil	Height	Features
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> ; <i>Cornus sericea</i>	Full to part sun	Moist to wet	1-6 m	Deciduous. Bright red stems, clusters of white flowers and white berries. Provides food and cover for wildlife, deer browse.
Saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Full	Dry to moist	1-5 m	Deciduous. Showy white flowers in early spring, purple good tasting berries. Provides food and cover for wildlife year round.
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Full or part sun	All types	0.2-5 m	Evergreen. White or pinkish flowers, reddish-blue to dark purple berries. Provides food and cover for wildlife year round.
Pacific rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	Shade	Dry to moist	2-8 m	Evergreen. Pink to rose-purple bell shaped flowers in showy clusters in the late spring.
Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Full or part sun	Dry	1-3 m	Deciduous. Reddish-pink flowers in April/May, bluish-black berries. Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Native Trees

Common Name	Latin Name	Sun	Soil	Height	Features
Vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Shade	Moist	Up to 7 m	Deciduous. White flowers, yellow-red fall colour. Provides food and shelter for wildlife.
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Full to part sun	Needs some moisture	Up to 40 m	Deciduous. White, papery bark, leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Provides food and cover for wildlife year round.
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Full	Dry to moist	Up to 70 m	Evergreen. Develops deep furrowed bark with age. Provides food and cover for wildlife.
Western redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Part to full shade	Moist to wet but does also occur in dry habitats.	Up to 60 m or can be pruned as hedge or windbreak.	Evergreen. Provides food and cover for wildlife.
Pacific dogwood	<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Part sun to shade	Moist	Up to 20 m	Deciduous. Flowers white to pink in spring, bright red berries in clusters. Provides food and cover for wildlife.