

# Native Plants

Native plants can offer a beautiful, water-efficient, landscape alternative that is culturally rich and promotes continuity with the diverse surrounding ecosystems.

## Native Plant Benefits

- Native species are adapted to local soil and climate conditions. This means that they do not require excessive watering, chemical fertilizers or pesticides in order to thrive.
- Many native species thrive in poor soils.
- Native species provide food and habitat for local bird, mammal, butterfly, and insect populations.
- Growing native plants encourages biodiversity and creates local seed sources.
- Planting native species and connecting existing green spaces provides migration corridors for urban wildlife.
- Selecting native plants is key to reducing or eliminating the need for supplemental irrigation.
- Landscapes that depend on native plants can be beautiful and functional as well as water efficient.



## Vancouver Island Native Plant Examples

Evergreen Huckleberry, Oregon Grape, Salal, Flowering Current, Kinnikinnick, Wild Strawberry, Columbine, Alumroot, Pearly Everlasting, Vine Maple, Vanilla Leaf, Wild Ginger, Common Camas, Bunchberry, Cow Parsnip, White Flag Iris, Mock Orange, Nootka Rose, Salmonberry, Marsh Violet, Red-Twig Dogwood, Bleeding Heart, Coast Penstemon, Oval-leaf Blueberry, Black Hawthorn, Pacific Yew, Cascara, Saxifrages, Lupine, Onions, Sedums, Willows, Wild Roses, Snowberry, Garry Oak, and various Ferns.

Look for Native Plants with small, fuzzy or waxy Leaves, which are common water efficient indicators!



# Native Plant Basics

## Steps for Establishing your Native Plant Garden:

- 1) Establish the goals you want for your yard.
- 2) Make a map of your property (or a simple sketch).
- 3) Inventory soil, light, and moisture patterns.
- 4) Make a plan based on what you know.
- 5) Carry your plan out.
- 6) Enjoy minimal maintenance!



## Native Plant History

- Native plants arrived by means of flooding, wind, the fur of migrating mammals, or bird or animal droppings.
- Native plants evolved over a long time period, allowing them to thrive in local areas.
- Native plants have a rich cultural history. Nearly every native plant has a traditional use by local First Nations.

**British Columbia is one of the most geographically and biologically diverse areas of North America! Be sure that the native plant you're planting belongs to your local region.**

## Native Plant Resources

- NALT Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery <http://www.nalt.bc.ca/>
- E-Flora BC [www.eflora.bc.ca](http://www.eflora.bc.ca)
- Evergreen Native Plant Database <http://www.evergreen.ca/nativeplants/search/index.php>
- Native Plant Society of BC [www.npsbc.org](http://www.npsbc.org)
- Native Plant Study Group <http://www.npsg.ca/links.shtml>

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