

## Great Native Plants for Your Garden

Why should you plant natives in your garden? Native plants often are more beneficial to the wildlife, in that they produce appropriate habitats for different stages of their lives. The plants provide nectar and pollen which sustain our native butterfly, bee, and hummingbird populations. Many produce edible berries for us, as well as the birds. Some plants are great for erosion control. Natives also require less care in your yard. They naturally live in our environment, so you have less watering and soil amending to do once they become established. Besides that, they are beautiful. Many have fall color, or provide us with an evergreen cover year round.

Here are few favorites that are fabulous for our native butterfly and hummingbirds.

Name	Common Name	Light	Height	Butterfly	Hummingbird
<b>Perennials</b>					
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	Beard-tongues	Sun	Varies	Larval/Adult	Yes
<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	Bleeding heart	Mostly Shade	8-20"	Larval/Adult	No
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket flower	Sun	30"	Adult	Yes
<b>Shrubs/Vines</b>					
<i>Ribes</i> spp.	Currants	Mostly Sun	Varies	Larval/Adult	Yes
<i>Sambucus</i> spp.	Elderberries	Mostly Sun	to 20'	Adult	Yes
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	Orange honeysuckle	Mostly Sun	to 30'	Adult	Yes
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Evergreen huckleberry	Some Shade	4-12'	Adult	No
<b>Trees</b>					
<i>Pinus</i> spp.	Pine	Sun	Varies	Larval	No
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willows	Mostly Sun	Varies	Larval/Adult	No
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black Hawthorn	Mostly Sun	Varies	Larval/Adult	Yes

You might try *Symphoricarpos albus*, the Snowberry bush, for it's white winter berries and excellent erosion control. *Rubus parviflorus*, Thimbleberry and *Rubus spectabilis*, our Salmonberry. They both offer cover and erosion control and edible berries for humans and birds.

If you are in need of an evergreen cover, try *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, Berberis (barberry), *Mahonia aquifolium* (Oregon Grape), *Gaultheria shallon* (salal), or *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita). The latter three also provide edible fruit.

For fall color plant *Acer circinatum*, Vine Maple or *Fraxinus latifolia*, the Oregon ash. Their brilliant reds and yellows will bring interest to any garden.

Where can you get native plants? In Clark County, Washington you may find a variety at most large nursery operations, however, [Nothing But Northwest Natives](#), owned by Dr. Kali Robson, specializes in, as her business says, nothing but Northwest natives. Her business is located in Battle Ground, WA.

You can't go wrong when planting Pacific Northwest natives.

## Sources

Taylor, Patricia A. *Easy Care Native Plants*. Henry Holt & Company, 1996.

Pojar, Jim, and Andy Mackinnon. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska*. Lone Pine Publishing, 1994.

Sunset Editors. *Western Garden Book*.