



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

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## Shoreline Management and Landscaping: Educational Resources for Landowners

The way we develop shoreline property, build our homes and businesses, landscape and garden can profoundly affect the environment which sustains our quality of life. Learn how to preserve native plant communities and use native species in landscaping which can help to reduce erosion and maintain slope stability. You will also help improve water quality, salmon habitat, the beauty of the region, and reduce landscaping and maintenance costs.

The plants listed below are provided only as a starting point and introduction to the landscaping value of native plants. Each plant has specific needs as to soil type, sun exposure, and soil moisture. The references provided here will help you develop a planting plan of species best suited to your particular situation and site conditions. Native plant landscaping can be specifically beneficial for shoreline property owners who are concerned about erosion and landslides. Increasing shoreline buffer widths and reducing the extent of lawns are two simple and effective steps that shoreline owners can take to help keep the Puget Sound area green.

### Selected Native Species for Planting to Reduce Erosion and Maintain Slope Stability\*

#### Groundcovers

Swordfern	Polystichum munitum
Deerfern	Blechnum spicant
Trailing Blackberry	Rubus ursinus
Kinnikinnik	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Bunchberry	Cornus canadensis
Twin Flower	Linnaea borealis

#### Shrubs

Redtwig Dogwood	Cornus stolonifera
Common Snowberry	Symphoricarpos alba
Nootka Rose	Rosa nutkana
Baldhip Rose	Rosa gymnocarpa
Clustered Wild Rose	Rosa piso carpa
Red-Flowering Currant	Ribes sanguineum
Oceanspray	Holodiscus discolor
Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia
Pacific Ninebark	Physocarpus capitatus
Mock-orange	Philadelphus lewisii
Beaked Hazel	Corylus cornuta
Vine Maple	Acer circinatum
Twinberry	Lonicera involucrata

#### Trees

Pacific Yew	Taxus brevifolia
Pacific Madrone	Arbutus menziesii
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii
Bigleaf Maple	Acer macrophyllum
Shore Pine	Pinus contorta
Western Redcedar	Thuja plicata
Western Whitepine	Pinus monticola
Sitka Spruce	Picea sitchensis
Scouler Willow	Salix scouleriana

\*Note: It should be clearly understood that the use and success of plants to reduce erosion and slope problems is dependent on site specific conditions such as slope, aspect, geology, light and water availability, and soils. Planting on slopes requires a clear understanding of the processes affecting slopes, techniques to be employed to ensure success, and the potential hazards of working on steep slopes in vulnerable areas. Permits may be required before slope restoration planting begins. Check with the appropriate local city or county agency.

### Useful Web Resources

- **Washington State Department of Ecology**  
(360) 407-6000 – [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pugetsound/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pugetsound/)
  - *Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Bluff Property Owners*, 1993, Elliott Menashe, WA Dept of Ecology. Publication 93-31. [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-31/intro.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-31/intro.html)
  - *Surface Water & Groundwater on Coastal Bluffs: A Guide for Puget Sound Property Owners*, 1995, WA Dept of Ecology Publication #95-107. [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/95-107/intro.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/95-107/intro.html)
- **WSU Extension**
  - *Grow Your Own Native Landscape: A Guide to Identifying, Propagating, and Landscaping with Western Washington Native Plants*. 1997, WSU Extension- Thurston County, Native Plant Salvage Project. <http://jeffersoncd.org.s13831.gridserver.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Grow-your-own-native-landscape.pdf>
- **Washington Native Plant Society**  
(206) 527-3210 – [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)
  - *Native Plants of Western Washington*, brochure
  - *Landscaping Ideas for the Environment*, series
- **Greenbelt Consulting**  
(360) 341-3433 – [www.greenbeltconsulting.com](http://www.greenbeltconsulting.com)
  - [Low Impact Development Techniques for Wooded Shoreline Homesites](#)
  - [Preserving Native Vegetation to Reduce Stormwater Impacts](#)
  - [Restoring Native Vegetation on Coastal Bluffs in Puget Sound – An Overview](#)
  - [Slope Revegetation: A Checklist of Factors to Consider](#)
  - [Value, Benefits and Limitations of Vegetation in Reducing Erosion](#)
- **WA DEPT of Fish & Wildlife Publications:**
  - Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01583/wdfw01583.pdf>
  - Your Marine Waterfront; A Guide to Protecting Your Property While Promoting Healthy Shorelines: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01791/wdfw01791.pdf>
- **WSU Extension:**
  - Shore Stewards Guide for Shoreline Living: [http://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/11/GuideforShorelineLiving\\_Update\\_4-15\\_P3-1.pdf](http://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/11/GuideforShorelineLiving_Update_4-15_P3-1.pdf)
- **WA State Geological Survey:**
  - A Homeowner's Guide to Landslides: [http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger\\_homeowners\\_guide\\_landslides.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger_homeowners_guide_landslides.pdf)
- **Shore Friendly Program:** <http://www.shorefriendly.org/>
- **Shrink your Lawn!** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden/shrunk-lawn.aspx>
- **King County Noxious Weeds:** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds.aspx>
- **Plant Right for Your Site** – A guide to creating your own native plant landscape: <https://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/plantright.asp>
- **Where to purchase native plants:** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden/native-plant-nurseries-washington.aspx>
- **Soils, compost and mulch use:** <https://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/soilbuilding.asp>  
Horticultural Myths: <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>
- **Washington State University (WSU) Extension – Beach Watchers:** <http://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/naturalresources/beachwatchers/>
- **Island County Shore Stewards:** [www.shorestewards.org](http://www.shorestewards.org)

### Useful Publications

- *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. Russell Link. UW Press, Seattle. 1999.
- *Grow your Own Native Landscape*. Item MISC0273 WSU Cooperative Extension. Revised 1999. Order @ 1-800-723-1763
- *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Arthur R. Kruckeburg. UW Press, Seattle 1996.
- *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, BC. 1994.
- *Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners*. Elliott Menashe, WA DOE Publication #31-93. Order @ (360) 407-6000