

Native Plants for Wet Areas



Acer circinatum

Vine Maple

Tall, erect, multi-trunked shrub or small tree with sprawling branches.

Favors well drained moist to wet soils.

Height: 13-26 feet (4-8 meters)



Alisma plantago-aquatica

Broadleaf Water-Plantain

A terminal cluster of small white flowers sits above a tall leafless stem. It grows in marshy or semi-aquatic environments.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: up to 48 inches (120 cm).



Asarum caudatum

Wild Ginger

Low-growing evergreen perennial that smells strongly of lemon-ginger when crushed.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Can grow up to 8 inches (20 cm) tall.



Aster chilensis

Common California Aster

A slender, sprawling perennial that produces light purple flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Can grow up to 3 ft. (100 cm.)



Aster modestus

Great Northern Aster

A tall, much-branched perennial with numerous heads of purplish flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Grows up to 40 inches (100 cm).



Aster subspicatus

Douglas Aster

Rhizomatous perennial wildflower with much-branched stems and light purple aster-like flower heads.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Grows up to 32 inches (80 cm).



Athyrium filix-femina

Lady Fern

Tall, delicate, light-green fronds from a basal cluster.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Grows 3-6 feet (2 meters) tall.



Betula glandulosa

Bog Birch

Spreading, small-branched perennial shrub of bogs and wet areas.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.

Height: Up to 10 feet (3 meters) tall; usually shorter.



Caltha biflora

Marsh Marigold

Perennial herb with large white flowers held above broadly rounded leaves; grows in wet subalpine meadows.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 16 inches (40 cm).



Caltha palustris

yellow marsh marigold

Large yellow flowers top this creeping, perennial, semi-aquatic herb.

Prefers wet conditions.

Height: Up to 16 inches (40 cm).



Camassia quamash

Common Camas

Bulbous perennial producing a spike of large blue flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 28 inches (70 cm).



Carex cusickii

Cusick's Sedge

A woodland sedge with grass-like leaves and small clusters of tiny greenish flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Carex obnupta

Slough Sedge

Large grass-like plant creating thick patches in coastal wetlands.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.

Height: 1-5 feet (30-150 cm).



Cornus stolonifera

Red-osier Dogwood

Spreading, thicket-forming shrub with bright red stems.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 20 feet (6 meters).



Dryopteris expansa

Spiny Wood Fern

A semi-evergreen fern of woodland areas with triangular fronds from a stout rhizome.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: To 3 feet (1 meter) tall.



Eleocharis palustris

Creeping Spikerush

A wetland plant with leafless, grass-like stems topped by small brownish spikes of flowers.

Prefers flooded conditions.

Height: Up to 3 feet (100 cm).



Equisetum arvense

Field Horsetail

Succulent, hollow, jointed stems with whorls of branches.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 6-24 inches (15-60 cm).



Equisetum telmateia

Giant Horsetail

More robust and larger than common horsetail. Sheaths around its sterile stems have 14-18 teeth.

common in areas with high water tables.

Height: 3-7.5 (10) feet tall; 1-2.3 (3) meters tall.



Eriophorum chamissonis

Chamisso's Cotton-grass

Extensive beds growing from spreading rhizomes or stolons with tufts of cotton-like seed heads.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 8-28 inches (20-70 cm).



Erythronium revolutum

Pink fawn lily

Large nodding pink flowers grow from a thick and segmented corm.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 14 inches (35 cm).



Fraxinus latifolia

Oregon Ash

Tough-wooded tree with gray bark and compound leaflets arranged oppositely around twigs. Prefers to be near streams or areas that flood.

Height: Up to 82 feet (25 meters).



Galium trifidum

Small Bedstraw

Sprawling perennial with numerous stems from slender rhizomes.

FACW+

Height: up to 28 inches (70 cm).



Geum macrophyllum

Large-leaved Avens

Hairy perennial with short rhizomes and big leaves topped by small yellow flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meters).



Glyceria elata

Tall Mannagrass, Fowl Mannagrass

Tall wetland grass.

FACW+

Height: Up to 5 feet (1.5 meters).



Glyceria grandis

Reed Mannagrass

very similar to *G. elata*

FACW+

Height: up to 5 feet (1.5 meters)



Gymnocarpium dryopteris

Oak Fern

Delicate, deciduous fronds. Usually solitary, but often forms a mat of herbaceous cover in forests.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: To 16 inches (40 cm).



Iris tenax

Oregon Iris

Clumped, perennial iris with large purple flowers.

Prefers areas that are wet in spring and dry in summer.

Height: Up to 16 inches (40 cm).



Juncus acuminatus

Tapertip Rush

Tufted perennial grass-like plant.
Preferred moisture levels: wet.
Height: Up to 32 inches (80 cm).



Juncus ensifolius

Daggerleaf Rush

Preferred moisture levels: wet.
Height: Can grow up to 2 feet (60 cm) tall.



Juncus tenuis

Slender Rush

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Kalmia microphylla ssp. occidentalis

Bog Laurel

Small, slender-branched shrub with dark green waxy leaves and clusters of bright pink flowers.
Preferred moisture levels: wet.
Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meter).



Ledum groenlandicum

Labrador Tea

Evergreen, branching shrub with rusty-hairy leaf undersides and white flowers.
Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.
Height: Up to 5 feet (1.5 meters).



Lonicera involucrata

Twinberry

Tall shrub with opposite leaves and pairs of small yellow flowers in leaf axils.
Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.
Height: Up to 10 feet (3 meters tall).



Lupinus polyphyllus

Large-leaved Lupine

A large perennial native forb with spikes of blue flowers from one to many hairy stems.
Moist to wet.
Height: 3-6 feet (1-2 meters).



Lysichiton americanum

Skunk Cabbage

A wetland plant with very large waxy erect leaves and yellow flower spikes enclosed in a large yellow sheath.

Prefers wet habitat.

Height: 1-5 feet (30-150 cm).



Malus fusca

Pacific Crabapple

Small tree, slender in form, appears thorny; bushy in the open.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 16.5-40 feet (5-12 meters).



Mentha arvensis

Field Mint

A wild mint with small groups of light purple flowers in the leaf axils.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Menyanthes trifoliata

Buckbean

White, curly-haired flowers and large trifoliate leaves decorate this patch-forming plant found in shallow water.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Mimulus guttatus

Yellow Monkey-flower

Large yellow tubular flowers top this deciduous-leaved wetland perennial.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Myrica gale

Sweet Gale

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Nuphar luteum ssp. polysepalum

Yellow Pond-Lily

An aquatic water lily with large, round, floating leaves and fleshy, yellow flowers held at the water surface.

Aquatic, grows in shallow water.



Oenanthe sarmentosa

Pacific Water Parsley

Semi-aquatic, often reclining or scrambling herb, with stem tips ascending or curled and small flat-topped clusters of white flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.

Height: Up to 40 inches (1 meter).



Petasites palmatus

Palmate Coltsfoot

Many-stemmed perennial with umbrella-like leaves from creeping rhizomes.

FACW-

Height: Up to 30 inches (80 cm).



Physocarpus capitatus

Pacific Ninebark

Erect to spreading shrub up to 4 meters tall with clusters of white flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 13 feet (4 meters).



Platanthera dilatata

White Rein-Orchid, Bog Candle

Perennial orchid with spikes of white flowers from tuber-like roots.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 28 inches (70 cm).



Populus balsamifera

Black Cottonwood

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Populus tremuloides

Quaking Aspen

Deciduous thicket-forming tree with smooth white bark and leaves that "quake" in the wind.

Can tolerate a wide range of moisture levels.



Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica

Silverweed

Low growing hairy herb with runners and solitary yellow flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 16 inches (40 cm).



Potentilla gracilis
Graceful Cinquefoil

Light green herb with toothed palmate leaves and diffuse panicles of yellow, saucer-shaped flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 32 inches (80 cm).



Potentilla palustris
Marsh Cinquefoil

Perennial from long, creeping, often floating, somewhat woody rhizomes, with small maroon flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.

Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meter).



Pteridium aquilinum
Bracken Fern

Rhizomous perennial fern with large, much-divided solitary fronds,

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Usually 3-6 feet (1-2 meters) tall, sometimes taller.



Ranunculus sceleratus
Cursed Buttercup

A much-branched herb of wet areas, with tiny yellow flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Rhamnus purshiana
Cascara

Erect, tall shrub or small tree with alternate leaves and inconspicuous flower clusters.

FAC-

Height: Up to 33 feet (10 meters).



Rorippa palustris
Bog Yellowcress

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Rosa pisocarpa
Swamp Rose

Thicket forming shrub with spiny stems and clusters of pink rose flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Rubus spectabilis

Salmonberry

Erect and branching shrub with early spring pink flowers and reddish-orange raspberry-like fruits.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: Up to 13 feet (4 meters).



Sagittaria latifolia

Wapato, Arrowhead

Tall semi-aquatic perennial of marshes or lake margins, with large arrowhead shaped leaves and small white flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet.

Height: 3 feet (90 cm).



Salix lucida

Pacific Willow

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Salix piperi

Piper's Willow

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Salix sitchensis

Sitka Willow

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Softstem Bulrush

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Scirpus maritimus

Seacoast Bulrush

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Scirpus microcarpus

Small-flowered Bulrush

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Sisyrinchium californicum

Golden-eyed Grass

A small iris-like plant with yellow flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 16 inches (40 cm).



Sisyrinchium idahoense

Blue-eyed Grass

A small clump-forming iris-like plant with small blue flowers.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 28 inches (40 cm).



Sium suave

Water-parsnip

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Sparganium angustifolium

Narrowleaf Bur-reed

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Sparganium eurycarpum

Broadfruit Bur-reed

Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Spiraea douglasii

Douglas' Spirea

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.



Thuja plicata

Western Red Cedar

Large conifer with branches that droop and then turn back up (J-shaped), broad crowns.

Can establish in drier sites with rich soils.

Height: 100-230 feet (30-70 meters).



Trillium ovatum

Western Trillium

Short stout stems topped with a whorl of three leaves and a single large white flower.

Preferred moisture levels: wet, moist.

Height: 12-18 inches (30-45 cm).



Typha latifolia

Broad-leaved Cattail

A tall wetland plant with long, erect sword-like leaves and dense brown flower spikes.
Preferred moisture levels: wet.



Vaccinium oxycoccus

Bog Cranberry

Creeping perennial of peat bogs, producing pink flowers and dark red cranberries.
Preferred moisture levels: wet.