

# Selecting Native Plants

This section introduces some of the more common plant species found in the marine shoreline environment. To find the plants best-suited to the unique conditions of your site, work with a local professional and/or native plant nursery. Additional resources are provided at the end of this section.



*Shore Pine*  
Courtesy Wikipedia



*Vine Maple*  
Courtesy WSU- Plant Guide



*Western Red Cedar*  
Courtesy WSU Plant Guide

## Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure Needs	Moisture Needs	Height (ft)	Growing Ease
Grand Fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	250	Medium
Sitka Spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	sun- part shade	moist-wet	200	Medium
Shore Pine	<i>Pinus contorta var. contorta</i>	sun - part shade	dry - wet	50	High
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	sun - part shade	dry - moist	250	Medium
Western Red Cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	part shade - shade	moist - wet	200	Medium
Western Hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	part shade - shade	moist - wet	225	Medium
Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	25	High
Big-leaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	100	Medium
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	sun - part shade	dry - wet	120	Medium
Madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	sun - part shade	dry	90	Low
Pacific Crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i>	sun - part sun	moist - wet	40	Medium
Hookers willow	<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	sun	moist - wet	20	High



*Graceful cinquefoil*  
Courtesy Wikipedia



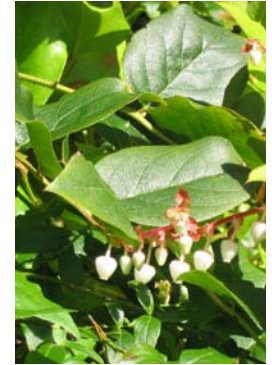
*Low Oregon Grape*  
Courtesy Great Plant Pics



*Sweetgale*  
Courtesy King County



*Nootka Rose*  
Courtesy King County



*Salal*  
Courtesy Wikipedia

## Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure Needs	Moisture Needs	Height (ft)	Growing Ease
Serviceberry; Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	20	High
Beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta var. californica</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	20	Medium
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	5	Medium
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	15	High
Low Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	3	Medium
Sweet Gale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	4.5	Medium
Indian Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	15	Medium
Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	3	High
Graceful cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla gracilis</i>	sun	moist	2	Medium
Bald hip rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	sun - shade	dry - wet	4	High
Nootka Rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	10	High
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	8	Medium
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	sun - shade	moist - wet	10	High
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	sun - shade	dry - moist	5	High
Evergreen huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	part shade - shade	dry - moist	6	Medium



*Western Columbine*  
Courtesy King County



*Tufted Hairgrass*  
Courtesy King County



*Golden-eyed Grass*  
Courtesy King County



*Yarrow*  
Courtesy King County



*Pickleweed*  
Courtesy Jerry Kirkhart

## Perennial/Grass-like

Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure Needs	Moisture Needs	Height	Growing Ease
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	sun - part shade	dry - moist	1	High
Sea-watch	<i>Angelica lucida</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	5	Medium
Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	sun-part shade	moist	2	Medium
Douglas aster	<i>Aster subspicatus</i>	sun - part shade	dry - moist	3	High
Lyngbye's sedge	<i>Carex lyngbyei</i>	sun - part shade	wet	3	Medium
Slough-sedge	<i>Carex obnupta</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	3	High
Tufted hairgrass	<i>Dechampsia cespitosa</i>	sun - part shade	dry - wet	3	High
Common spikerush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	full sun	wet	to 3'	Medium
Dune wildrye	<i>Elumus mollis</i>	full sun	moist	to 5	High
Gumweed	<i>Grindella integrifolia</i>	sun	dry - moist	3	Medium
Fleshy jaumea	<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	sun - part shade	wet	.5	
Large-leaved Lupine	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	sun - part	moist - dry	to 5	High
Pickleweed	<i>Salicornia virginica</i>	sun	moist - wet	1	
Seacost Bulrush	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	full sun	wet	to 2	Low
Golden-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	1.5	Medium





*H. Checker Mallow*  
Courtesy King County



*Kinnikinnick*  
Courtesy King County



*Beach Strawberry*  
Courtesy King County



*Thrift*  
Courtesy King County



*Broad-leaved Stonecrop*  
Courtesy King County

## Groundcovers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure Needs	Moisture Needs	Height	Growing Ease
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	sun - part shade	dry	1	Medium
Thrift; Sea Pink	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	sun	dry - moist	1	High
Beach/Coastal Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	sun - part shade	dry	1	High
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina var.pacifica</i>	sun - part shade	moist - wet	1.5	High
Broad-leaved stonecrop	<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	sun	dry	0.5	High
Hendersons checker mallow	<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>	sun	moist - wet	5	Medium

For more information on selecting native plants for marine shoreline environments, visit the following resources;

- King County Native Plant Guide: <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/Index.aspx>
- Washington Native Plant Society, Saltwater Shoreline Plants: <http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/saltwaterlist.html>

Native plant nurseries can help with proper plant selection. Visit the following websites to find a nursery near you;

- Plant Native: [http://www.plantnative.org/nd\\_wa.htm](http://www.plantnative.org/nd_wa.htm)
- King County - Native plant nurseries in Washington State: <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/Index.aspx>