

# Native Plants in the Landscape - Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees

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By Kathy Hutton, Plants of the Wild, Tekoa, WA. [www.plantsofthewild.com](http://www.plantsofthewild.com)

## KINNICKINNICK – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

- Evergreen groundcover forming a dense mat
- Leathery tear shaped leaves with pink flowers and red berries
- Needs well drained soil
  - PROS – very hardy and drought tolerant
    - Provides year-round interest
  - CONS – susceptible to root rot
    - can be slow to establish

## WILD GINGER – *Asarum caudatum*

- Ground cover with heart shaped leaves and purplish-brown flowers
- Likes moist acidic soils
  - PROS – nice texture in landscape
    - foliage smells like ginger

## WESTERN CLEMATIS – *Clematis ligusticifolia*

- Climbing vine or ground cover
- Whitish-yellow quarter sized flowers followed by white fuzzy seed clusters
  - PROS – very adaptable and hardy
    - Provides good cover for wildlife
  - CONS – can be invasive if not controlled

## BUNCHBERRY – *Cornus canadensis*

- Groundcover dogwood less than 6" high
- White dogwood flowers and clusters of red berries
- Semi-evergreen with red fall color
  - PROS – extremely beautiful plant
  - CONS – needs shade and acid soil
    - fairly slow to establish

## WILD STRAWBERRY – *Fragaria virginiana*

- Semi evergreen, fast spreading ground cover
- White flowers and small strawberry fruit
  - PROS – nice year-round interest
  - CONS – can be aggressive

CREEPING OREGON GRAPE – *Mahonia repens*

- Evergreen ground cover Oregon Grape to 1' tall
- Yellow flowers and purple, edible berries
  - PROS – nice year round interest
  - CONS – can winter burn in our area

-----SHRUBS-----

SNOWBRUSH CEANOTHUS – *Ceanothus velutinus*

- 2-4' evergreen shrub
- dark green leathery leaves and white flowers
  - PROS – beautiful year-round in the landscape
  - CONS – susceptible to winter burn without snow cover  
- hard to establish

COMMON SNOWBERRY – *Symphoricarpos albus*

- 4' shrub with pink flowers and white berries
  - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
  - CONS – problems with suckers, especially in wet areas

THIMBLEBERRY – *Rubus parviflorus*

- Fast growing shrub to 4-5'
- Pink raspberry-like fruit after 1" white flowers
  - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
  - CONS – problems with suckers, especially in wet areas

GOLDEN CURRANT – *Ribes aureum*

- 4-6' shrub with yellow trumpet flowers and red berries
  - PROS – good for hummingbirds and wildlife food  
- drought tolerant
  - CONS – some problems with suckers

RED FLOWERING CURRANT – *Ribes sanguineum*

- 4-6' shrub with bright red flowers in early spring
  - PROS – good for hummingbirds and butterflies
  - CONS – not very hardy, need protection

OCEANSPRAY – *Holodiscus discolor*

- 6-8' shrub with creamy white flower clusters
- tolerant of poor soils and drought
  - PROS – nice growth habit and flowering
  - CONS – some people do not like persistent seed heads

MOCKORANGE or SYRINGA – *Philadelphus lewisii*

- 6' shrub with beautiful white fragrant flowers
- tolerant of poor soils and drought
  - PROS – flowering
  - CONS – not attractive when not in flower

REDOSIER DOGWOOD – *Cornus sericea*

- 6-12' shrub with white flower clusters and white berries
- bright red twigs are nice contrast in winter
  - PROS – can be pruned
  - CONS – requires pruning to keep in small spaces

MALLOW NINEBARK – *Physocarpus malvaceus*

- 6' shrub with white pom-pom like flower clusters of flowers and peeling bark
  - PROS – tolerates poor soils and partial shade of full sun
  - CONS – needs moisture to look good in a landscape

WOODS ROSE – *Rosa woodsii*

- Pink flowered wild rose 3-4' high with persistent rose hips
  - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
  - CONS – spreads rapidly by suckers

SERVICEBERRY – *Amelanchier alnifolia*

- 6-12' shrub with white flowers and blue berries
  - PROS – superb wildlife cover and food, very adaptable to wide range of conditions

-----TREES-----

WATER BIRCH – *Betula occidentalis*

- Fast growing, multi-stemmed tree to 30'
- Bronze bark
  - PROS – nice soft textured tree
  - CONS – susceptible to birch borer

PAPER BIRCH – *Betula papyrifera*

- Similar to Water Birch but get larger (40'+) and has white peeling bark
  - PROS – nice soft textured tree
  - CONS – susceptible to birch borer

SITKA ALDER – *Alnus sinuata*

- Fast growing, multi-stemmed tree to 30' in wetter areas
  - PROS – good for screen tree, very little disease problems

- CONS – need water

#### DOUGLAS HAWTHORNE – *Crateagus douglasii*

- 10-15' tree with white flowers and small crabapple type fruit
  - PROS – great wildlife cover and food
  - CONS – large thorns

#### ROCKY MT. MAPLE – *Acer glabrum*

- Multi-stem tree
- New twigs bright red, and nice red fall color
  - PROS – fast growing tree
  - CONS – short lived tree

#### ROCKY MT. JUNIPER – *Juniperus scopulorum*

- Upright blue-green juniper to 20' high
  - PROS - Good for screens and hedges, very drought tolerant
  - CONS – somewhat difficult to transplant, susceptible to root rot

#### QUAKING ASPEN – *Populus tremuloides*

- Fast growing tree usually 20-30' with soft textured appearance
  - PROS – tolerates wide variety of soil conditions
  - CONS – suckers readily

#### CHOKECHERRY – *Prunus virginiana*

- Multistem tree or large shrub with white flowers and red berries
  - PROS – adaptable to a wide range of conditions
    - good wildlife habitat
  - CONS – can sucker if to wet

#### BLUE ELDERBERRY – *Sambucus cerulea*

- Small tree or large shrub with large flat topped flower clusters followed by purple berries
  - PROS – excellent bird feeder
  - CONS – old growth dies back

#### DWARF MT. ASH -*Sorbus scopulina*

- Small tree or large shrub with white flower clusters followed by red berries
  - PROS – beautiful year round interest
    - good wildlife food and cover
  - CONS – can be messy

Plants can be ordered online and shipped from their nursery in Tekoa, WA.