

Native Plants for Sandy or Gravelly Soil



Acer macrophyllum

Big-leaf Maple

A tree with a large, often multi-stemmed trunk and a loose, broad crown of large leaves.
Height: 65-100 feet (20-30 meters) tall with trunk 3-5 feet (1-1.5 meters) diameter.



Achillea millefolium

Yarrow

Aromatic herb with delicate fern-like leaves and flat-topped clusters of white flowers.

Achillea millefolium is capable of enduring poor soil and dry conditions.

Height: 4 inches to 3 feet (10-100 cm).



Allium acuminatum

Taper-Tip Onion

This native wild onion has grass-like basal leaves overtopped by umbels of purple flowers, and egg-shaped bulbs containing a fibrous network on the surface.

Can endure rocky, dry to moist open forest sites.

Height: Up to 12 inches (30 cm).



Allium cernuum

Nodding Onion

Clusters of long grass-like leaves overtopped by nodding umbels of pink flowers.

Prefers dry sandy to rocky soils.

Height: Up to 20 inches (50 cm).



Arbutus menziesii

Madrone

An attractive broadleaf evergreen with a twisting reddish trunk and irregular branches with an overall rounded outline.

Found in rocky sites with coarse-textured soils

Height: Up to 100 feet (30 meters).



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Kinnikinnick, Bearberry

A mat-forming evergreen shrub producing lovely pink flowers that later turn into red berries.

Prefers coarse, well-drained soils.

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



Brodiaea congesta

Harvest Lily

Long slender stems to 3 feet (1 meter) in length topped by a dense cluster of deep purple flowers.
Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meter) tall.



Brodiaea hyacinthina

Fool's Onion, White Brodiaea

Onion-like plant from an underground corm, with large clusters of white flowers at tip of stems.
Also found in sagebrush deserts east of Cascades.
Height: 10-30 inches (25-70 cm).



Ceanothus velutinus

Snowbrush

A tall shrub with glossy leaves and clusters of white flowers.
Height: Up to 10 feet (3 meters).



Claytonia perfoliata

Miner's Lettuce

Low-growing, mat-like herbaceous annual with succulent round leaves.
Height: 12 inches (30 cm).



Corylus cornuta

Beaked Hazelnut

Slender, multi-trunked deciduous shrub.
Prefers calcium and nitrogen rich soils.
Height: 3 feet - 13 feet (1 meter - 4 meters).



Deschampsia cespitosa

Tufted Hairgrass

Densely tufted perennial grass.
Grows vigorously in nutrient-rich sites.
Height: Up to 4 feet (120 cm) tall.



Epilobium brachycarpum

Tall Annual Willowherb

Taprooted annual of dry, gravelly or disturbed sites.
Height: 1-4 feet (30-120 cm) tall.



Equisetum arvense

Field Horsetail

Succulent, hollow, jointed stems with whorls of branches.
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.
Height: 3-7.5 (10) feet tall; 1-2.3 (3) meters tall.



Eriophyllum lanatum

Woolly Sunflower

Woolly leafy perennial with yellow daisy-like flowers.
Height: Up to 2 feet (60 cm).



Erythronium oregonum

White Fawn Lily

Showy white lily from segmented corm.
Height: Flower stem up to 1 foot (30 cm) tall.



Festuca rubra

Red Fescue

Perennial grass with thread-like leaves forming small patches.
Will withstand inundation if soil is well drained.
Height: Can grow up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) tall.



Fragaria chiloensis

Coastal Strawberry

Spreads low across ground with runners. White flowers and small red strawberries.
Commonly found on dunes and sea bluffs.
Height: Up to 10 inches (25 cm).



Gilia capitata

Globe Gilia

Upright taprooted annual with large ball-like heads of blue flowers.
Height: Up to 3 feet (1 meter).



Heuchera micrantha

Small-flowered Alumroot

Grows from rhizomes with one to many flower stems that are reddish and covered with fine hairs and topped with delicate panicles of tiny white flowers.

Height: Up to 2 feet (60 cm).



Holodiscus discolor

Oceanspray

Multi-stemmed upright shrub with ridged young stems and arching older stems with peeling bark. White flowers.

Prefers well-drained rocky soils.

Height: Up to 13 feet (4 meters).



Juncus ensifolius

Daggerleaf Rush

Height: Can grow up to 2 feet (60 cm) tall.



Lithophragma parviflorum

Small-flowered Woodland Star

Delicate herb from slender rhizomes with numerous small bulblets; white star-shaped flowers.

Height: 2-16 inches (10-40 cm).



Luetkea pectinata

Partridgefoot

Low-growing ground cover with spikes of small white flowers.

Prefers moist sandy acidic soil.

Height: Up to 6 inches (3 cm) tall.



Mahonia aquifolium

Tall Oregon Grape

Erect, stiff-branched shrub with holly-like leaves and clusters of yellow flowers.

Tolerant of nutrient-poor, rocky soils.

Height: 2.5 - 6.5 feet (0.8 meters - 2 meters).



Penstemon fruticosus

Lowbush Penstemon

Spreading shrub with numerous tubular purple flowers.

Height: Up to 40 cm (1.5 ft) tall.



Philadelphus lewisii

Mock Orange

Erect, loosely branched shrub with large fragrant white flowers.

Can tolerate several soil types.

Height: Up to 10 feet (3 meters).



Phlox diffusa

Spreading Phlox

Mat forming perennial with showy white to pink flowers.

Height: Up to 4 inches (10 cm).



Pinus contorta

Shore Pine

Short pine tree, often with crooked trunk and bushy habit.

Height: Up to 100 feet (30 meters).



Plectritis congesta

Sea Blush

Delicate annual herb with large dense clusters of small pink flowers.

Height: Up to 2 feet (60 cm).



Polemonium pulcherrimum

Showy Jacob's-ladder

Taprooted perennial with mostly basal leaves and blue bell-shaped flowers.

Height: Up to 14 inches (35 cm).



Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica

Silverweed

Low growing hairy herb with runners and solitary yellow flowers.

Height: Up to 16 inches (40 cm).



Prunus emarginata var. mollis

Bitter Cherry

Shrub or small tree with white flowers and small red cherries.

Height: Up to 50 feet (15 meters).



Pseudotsuga menziesii

Douglas fir

Large coniferous tree with thick, fluted bark.

Height: Up to 300 feet (90 meters).



Pteridium aquilinum

Bracken Fern

Rhizomous perennial fern with large, much-divided solitary fronds,
Height: Usually 3-6 feet (1-2 meters) tall, sometimes taller.



Quercus garryana

Garry Oak

Beautiful, deciduous, heavy limbed oak tree.
Height: Up to 82 feet (25 meters).



Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Softstem Bulrush



Scirpus maritimus

Seacoast Bulrush



Sisyrinchium californicum

Golden-eyed Grass

A small iris-like plant with yellow flowers.
Height: 16 inches (40 cm).