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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groundcovers</th>
<th>Shrubs</th>
<th>Trees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swordfern</td>
<td>Redtwig Dogwood</td>
<td>Pacific Yew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deerfern</td>
<td>Common Snowberry</td>
<td>Pacific Madrone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trailing Blackberry</td>
<td>Nootka Rose</td>
<td>Douglas Fir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinnikinnik</td>
<td>Baldhip Rose</td>
<td>Bigleaf Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bunchberry</td>
<td>Clustered Wild Rose</td>
<td>Shore Pine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twin Flower</td>
<td>Red-Flowering Currant</td>
<td>Western Redcedar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oceanspray</td>
<td>Western Whitepine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>Sitka Spruce</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pacific Ninebark</td>
<td>Scouler Willow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mock-orange</td>
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<td>Beaked Hazel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vine Maple</td>
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<td>Twinberry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Polystichum munitum      Blechnum spicant           Rubus ursinus       
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi  Cornus canadensis            Linnaea borealis  
Cornus stolonifera       Symphoricarpos alba       Rosa nutkana        
Rosa gymnocarpa          Rosa pino carpa            Ribes sanguineum   
Rosa nivea             Holodiscus discolor        Amelanchier alnifolia 
Ribes sanguineum        Physocarpus capitatus       Philadelphus lewisii 
Acer circinatum         Lonicera involucrata         

*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**

- **WSU Extension**

- **Washington Native Plant Society**
  (206) 527-3210 – [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)
  - *Native Plants of Western Washington*, brochure

- **Puget Sound Action Team**
  1-800-54SOUND – [www.psat.wa.gov](http://www.psat.wa.gov)

- **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*

- **Shrink your Lawn!** [http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/shrunklawn.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/shrunklawn.htm)
- **King County Noxious Weeds**: [http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/index.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/index.htm)
- **Plant Right for Your Site** – A guide to creating your own native plant landscape: [http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/PI/Go-Native/index.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/PI/Go-Native/index.htm)
- **Where to purchase native plants**: [http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/npnursery.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/npnursery.htm)
- **Plant it Right Brochure**: [http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/misc0337/misc0337.pdf](http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/misc0337/misc0337.pdf)
- **Soils, compost and mulch use**: [www.metrokc.gov/soils](http://www.metrokc.gov/soils)
- **Mulch and Horticulture Myths**: [www.cfr.washington.edu/research/mulch/](http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research/mulch/)
- **Washington State University (WSU) Extension – Beach Watchers**: [www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu](http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu)
- **Island County Shore Stewards**: [www.shorestewards.org](http://www.shorestewards.org)

**Useful Publications**

- **Grow your Own Native Landscape.** Item MISC0273 WSU Cooperative Extension. Revised 1999. Order @ 1-800-723-1763
- **Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners.** Elliott Menashe, WA DOE Publication #31-93. Order @ (360) 407-6000

**Useful Video/DVD**

- **Shoreline Living: Protecting Our Shorelines and Puget Sound.** Produced by Erica Gutman, WSU Extension, Thurston Co. 2006. Available in downloadable format at: [http://wawater.wsu.edu](http://wawater.wsu.edu)