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Native Plant Species

The plants on this list are widely available across the province; local native plant nurseries may be able to suggest additional suitable species. We recommend planting nursery grown stock except where noted, although propagation is often possible using a variety of techniques. Conifers are best purchased as small trees

(plugs) from local forestry nurseries. **CAUTION:** Always check with local nurseries, resource people such as naturalists, and web sites to ensure that the plants you have selected are appropriate for your area, elevation and site conditions. Plants which are limited to specific elevations are noted in the chart.

Trees	shore stabilization	marine suitability	sun	part shade	shade	dry	some moisture	wet	maximum height (metres)	comments (also see notes Pg 137)
Grand Fir (<i>Abies grandis</i>)			●	●		●	●		60	best conifer for soil binding roots, adapted to broad range of habitats, drought-tolerant, well-drained soil
Vine Maple (<i>Acer circinatum</i>)	●	●	●	●	●		●		10	showy autumn colour, sprouts from roots, forms tree in open, more shrubby in shade, shade-tolerant, propagate from seed
Douglas Maple (<i>Acer glabrum</i>)	●		●	●	●		●		10	showy autumn colour, propagate from seed, well drained soil
Big-leaf/Broadleaf Maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>)		●	●	●	●		●		30	fast-growing, propagate from seed, rich soil
Red Alder (<i>Alnus rubra</i>)		●	●	●			●		25	fast-growing, hardy, nitrogen-fixing
Paper or White Birch (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)			●			●	●		30	fast-growing, yellow fall leaves, white peeling bark
Black Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>)	●	●	●				●	●	10	thorns, white flowers, good autumn colour, moist sites along streams and ponds, does not tolerate dry, cold climate
Western Crabapple (<i>Malus fusca</i>)		●	●				●		10	thorns, fragrant pink-white flowers, small edible fruits, low elevation, forms dense thickets, does well near salt water, sloughs and estuaries
Pacific Crabapple (<i>Malus diversifolia</i>)		●	●	●			●	●	2-12	good in swamps and edges of standing or flowing water
Sitka Spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>)	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	70	tolerates flooding but is shallow rooted, often found in wet forests or wetlands
Lodgepole or Shore Pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)		●	●			●	●		9-30 5-15	adaptable to many sites, salt-tolerant, fast-growing shorter maximum height on coast
Ponderosa Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)			●			●	●		15-30	tolerates heat and drought
Black Cottonwood or Balsam Poplar (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>)	●	●	●				●	●	30-65	very fast-growing, fragrant leaves, hardy, shallow-rooted, short-lived, low to mid elevation, trees will resprout when cut, valuable in restoring flooded lands or other wet habitat, propagate from cuttings
Trembling Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>)			●			●	●		20-30	fast-growing, hardy, yellow fall leaves, low elevation, forms dense groves by suckering, likes sandy or gravelly soils
Bitter Cherry (<i>Prunus emarginata</i>)		●	●	●		●	●		2-15	attractive white flowers, red fruits, likes loamy, sandy or gravelly soils
Pin or Bird Cherry (<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>)			●				●	●	5-12	white flowers, fruit attractive to birds
Choke Cherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)			●			●	●		10	white flowers, edible red fruit, rich moist soil preferred but adapts to dry, exposed sites
Douglas Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	●	●	●	●		●			75	grows rapidly, good soil binding roots, good for streamside, buffer zone plantings, well drained soil
Garry or Oregon Oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>)		●	●	●		●			20	low-elevation, exposed sites, S. Vancouver Is. and Gulf Islands, slow-growing but beautiful, easily propagated from seed (acorn) or cutting
Cascara (<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	10-12	good for soil binding, grows well on disturbed sites, south-coastal BC
Pussy Willow (<i>Salix discolor</i>)							●			lower elevation, southern two-thirds of BC, propagate from cuttings
Pacific Willow (<i>Salix lucida</i> spp. <i>lasiandra</i>)	●	●	●	●			●	●	9-12	fast-growing, likes to be near water, new growth is showy yellow, tolerates flooding, propagate from cuttings

Trees	shore stabilization	marine suitability	sun	part shade	shade	dry	some moisture	wet	maximum height (metres)	comments (also see notes Pg 137)
European Mountain Ash (<i>Sorbus acupera</i>)							●	●	1-5	several-stemmed, berry clusters attractive to birds
Sitka Mountain Ash (<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>)			●	●		●	●		1-4	white flower clusters, showy red fruit, red fall colour
Western Red Cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)		●	●	●	●		●	●	60	rapid-growing, moisture-loving, can be hedged, low elevation, tolerates seasonal flooding, excellent choice for wetland sites
Western Hemlock (<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>)		●	●	●	●		●	●	60	low elevation, long-lived, suitable for wetland edges and buffer zones
Shrubs and Shrubby Trees										
Sitka or Slide Alder (<i>Alnus sinuata</i> or <i>sitchensis</i>)			●	●			●		1-5	roots fix nitrogen, good for poor soils, disturbed sites and bare areas, high flood and snow resistance
Saskatoon, Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>)	●		●	●		●	●		1-5	showy white flowers, edible fruit, upright, spreading, good for dry sites, well-drained soil
Red-Osier Dogwood (<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> or <i>sericea</i>)	●	●	●	●	●		●		1-6	showy red twigs, white flowers, fast-growing, hardy, good in open sites and seepage areas, propagate from cuttings, well-drained soil
Beaked Hazelnut (<i>Corylus cornuta</i>)		●	●	●	●	●	●		1-4	yellow autumn colour, edible nuts, low elevation, good streamside plant, intolerant of saturated soil
Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		5	good slope stabilizer, prefers some shade, tolerant of poor soils
Ocean Spray (<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>)	●	●	●	●		●	●		4	showy white flowers, drought-tolerant, good on steep slopes or disturbed sites, resprouts readily, prefers rocky, gravelly hillsides
Black Twinberry (<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>)	●	●			●		●	●	0.5-3	low to mid elevation, fast-growing erect shrub, likes moist forest, clearings, streamside, wetlands
Tall Oregon Grape (<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>)			●	●		●	●		1-2	tough prickly leaves, evergreen, can be spindly in shade, drought-tolerant, slow-growing, will grow in dry shade or full sun
Indian Plum (<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>)		●	●	●		●	●		1.5-5	good for edges of stream banks, rivers and wetlands, very early flowering
Mock Orange (<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>)			●	●		●	●		3	spreading, fast growing, early fragrant white flowers, good for dry, open sites, good land reclamation plant, no pests
Pacific Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>)	●	●	●	●		●	●		4	likes wet, open places like edges of lakes and streams
Shrubby Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)			●			●	●		1	showy yellow flowers, good for ground layer on dry open sites
Red-Flowering Currant (<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>)		●	●	●		●			1-3	showy red flowers, blooms early, attracts hummingbirds, good for dry sites
Nootka Rose (<i>Rosa nutkana</i>)		●	●	●			●		3	thorns, pink flowers, red hips, hardy, fast growing, spreading, poor erosion control by roots, tolerates wet soils, will grow near salt water
Clustered Wild Rose (<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>)			●	●			●	●	2.5	wetland margin plant, hardy, tolerates flooding, fast-growing, sucker-ing, also tolerant of dry conditions and infertile soils.
Prairie Rose (<i>Rosa woodsii</i>)			●	●		●	●		2	poor erosion control through roots, needs water for establishment at low elevations
Thimbleberry (<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>)	●	●	●	●			●		0.5-3	thornless, spreads by underground stems, good soil-binder for steep, drier slopes, open sites, or exposed stream areas
Salmonberry (<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>)	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	4	excellent erosion control by dense thickets, spreads rapidly by underground stem system, good for eroded or disturbed sites
Scouler's Willow (<i>Salix scouleriana</i>)	●	●	●	●			●	●	2-12	fast-growing, tolerates flooding, drought-tolerant, propagate from cuttings
Sitka Willow (<i>Salix sitchensis</i>)	●	●	●	●			●	●	1-8	dense, fast-growing, tolerates flooding, propagate from cuttings
Blue Elderberry (<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>)	●		●	●		●	●		6	needs good drainage, good for dry, open sites, grows fast once established, edible berries

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Shrubs	shore stabilization	marine suitability	sun	part shade	shade	dry	some moisture	wet	maximum height (metres)	comments (also see notes Pg 137)
Red Elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>)	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	6	white flower clusters, showy red fruit, aggressive once established, berries edible when cooked
Hardhack (<i>Spirea douglasii</i>)		●	●	●	●		●	●	1-2	showy pink flowers, no pests, forms dense thickets, suckers profusely, adaptable, tolerates moist soil, can be invasive in shallow wet areas
Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>)	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	1	forms dense thickets, suckers readily, mid to high elevations
Evergreen Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>)	●	●		●	●		●		2	glossy evergreen, white flowers, edible black fruit, tolerant of salt spray
Red Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>)				●	●	●	●		4	edible red fruit, attracts hummingbirds and deer, good for upland, wooded areas, may grow on rotting wood
Ground Covers, Wetland Plants and Herbaceous Perennials										
Kinnikinnick (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>)	●		●	●		●	●		20 cm	trailing evergreen groundcover, drought tolerant, bright red berries, prefers full sun
Western Maidenhair Fern (<i>Adiantum aleuticum</i>)				●	●		●		30-60 cm	close to streams and waterfalls, humus soils
Western Columbine (<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>)							●			open to protected sites, southern half of BC, flowers attractive to birds and butterflies
Lady Fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>)			●	●	●		●	●	0.6 -1.5	grows rapidly, highly adaptable
Low Oregon Grape (<i>Berberis nervosa</i>)			●	●	●	●			1.2	slow-growing, thicket-forming, evergreen, good easy-care ground cover, well-drained soil
Deer Fern (<i>Blechnum spicant</i>)			●	●	●	●	●		0.5-1	prefers shade, acid soils
Lyngby's Sedge (<i>Carex lyngbyei</i>)	●	●	●	●				●		salt water, tidal marshes and mud flats
Slough Sedge (<i>Carex obnupta</i>)	●							●		wetlands, lake and stream edges, low elevations, southern BC
Beaked Sedge (<i>Carex rostrata</i>)			●	●			●	●	1.2	southern half of BC
Canada Bunchberry (<i>Cornus canadensis</i>)				●	●		●		5-25 cm	prefers shelter, low to sub-alpine elevations, along edges of wetlands, looks like mini dogwood in flower, acid soils
Common Rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>)	●	●					●	●		grows in clumps in wet soils or shallow standing water, open areas, disturbed sites, low to mid-elevations, south coast, can be invasive
Twinflower (<i>Linnaea borealis</i>)				●		●	●		under 5cm	forest, small fragrant flowers, acid soils
Skunk Cabbage (<i>Lysichiton americanum</i>)		●						●	0.3 -1.5	forest and seepage areas, coastal BC and wet interior, strong odour, prominent yellow "flower"
False Lily-of-the-Valley (<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>)	●	●		●	●		●		8-30 cm	coastal BC, near stream banks or wetlands, spreads rapidly
Sword Fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>)			●	●	●		●		0.6 -1.5	Vanc. Is and Lower Mainland, drought-tolerant, hardy, prefers some shade
Hardstem Bulrush (<i>Scirpus acutus or lacustris</i>)	●	●	●	●				●	1-3	wetlands, fresh to brackish water less than 1 m deep, low elevations, southern BC
Seacoast Bulrush (<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>)		●						●		marshes, fresh and brackish water, low elevation
Small-Flowered Bulrush (<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>)	●		●	●				●	1.5	marshes, streambanks, ditches
False Solomon's Seal (<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>)				●			●		0.5-1	forest, south of Fort St. John, fragrant white flowers, showy red berries
Cattail (<i>Typha latifolia</i>)	●		●	●				●	2+	wetlands, ditches, slow-moving water

Notes to Native Plant List

Shore stabilization: These species help stabilize an eroding bank.
Marine suitability: These species are also suitable for a marine shoreline.

Coastal residents may want to consider working with shoreline restoration groups to restore lost eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds, and to locate sources of other ocean plants such as Surfgrass (*Phyllospadix spp.*), Dunegrass (*Elymus mollis*) and sea rocket.

Grass mixes for riparian revegetation can be purchased from various sources (see our website). Take care that any seed mix you buy has a good balance of species and that it does not contain seeds of invasive species; avoid seed mixes labelled "Ground Cover" or "Forage" for this reason.

For further information, consult a standard reference book, resources listed in *Appendix 1*, or any of the following:

Streamkeepers Handbook. 1995. Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Native Species Suited for Riparian Revegetation Projects.
Access Near Aquatic Areas: A Guide to Sensitive Planning, Design and Management (The Stewardship Series), 1996, Appendix 3.
Suggested Live Barrier Species for Coastal BC (Native Plants). Naturescape BC, Native Plant and Animal Booklets for Southern Interior, Georgia Basin and other areas.
Grow Your Own Native Landscape. 1999. Michael Leigh. The Native Plant Salvage Project, Washington State University.
Devil's Club Streamside Native Plants mars.ark.com/~barport/streamside.htm
BC Landscape Nursery Association - Native Plants, A, B and C lists. www.canadanursery.com/bclna/natives.html

Alien Invasive Plant Species

Below is a partial list of alien invasive plants of greatest concern for BC. There may be additional plants that are problematic in your specific area; check with local experts and resource agency staff such as provincial and federal agrologists, local naturalists, and research scientists at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. See *websites listed in Appendix 1*.

Plants will often become invasive only if particular climatic and

site conditions are met; for example, English Ivy, an aggressive invader in many south coastal areas, is generally not a problem in the more extreme climate of the BC Interior. However, a plant may grow in a wider range of conditions than previously observed, and the current effects of climate change may actually increase the range of some plants, so it's best to err on the side of caution. *For further information, see Resources in Appendix 1.*

The Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands:

(*Buddleia davidii*) - Butterfly bush
(*Cytisus scoparius*) - Scotch broom**
(*Daphne laureola*) - Spurge laurel
(*Hedera Helix*) - English ivy
(*Ilex aquifolium*) - English holly
(*Polygonum cuspidatum*) - Japanese knotweed or bamboo
(*Rubus discolor*) - Himalayan blackberry
(*Senecio jacobaea*) - Tansy ragwort
(*Ulex europaeus*) - Gorse
(*Lythrum salicaria*) - Purple loosestrife (aquatic plant)**
(*Spartina pantens*) - Salt-meadow grass (in salt marshes)

The Interior:

(*Acroptilon repens*) - Russian knapweed**
(*Centaurea biebersteinii*) - Spotted knapweed**
(*Centaurea diffusa*) - Diffuse knapweed**
(*Chondrilla juncea*) - Rush skeletonweed**
(*Cirsium palustre*) - Marsh thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*) - Canada thistle
(*Cynoglossum officinale*) - Hound's tongue
(*Euphorbia esula*) - Leafy spurge**
(*Linaria genistifolia spp. dalmatica*) - Dalmatian toadflax**
(*Hieracium aurantiacum*) - Orange hawkweed
(*Potentilla recta*) - Sulphur cinquefoil**
(*Tribulus terrestris*) - Puncturevine
(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) - Russian olive (tree)
(*Lythrum salicaria*) - Purple loosestrife (aquatic plant)**
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*) - Eurasian water-milfoil (aquatic plant)**

**Of particular concern – very aggressive, or potential threat to sensitive ecosystems