

Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Marine Backshore in Saanich

Steep Banks/Erosion Control
 Rocky Dry Outcrops
 Moist Forest Edges
 Dry, Sandy, Salty
 Widely Adaptable

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Characteristics					
Evergreen Trees							
Arbutus	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Large broadleaf evergreen tree to 30 m tall; reddish peeling bark, white flowers and red fruit (in fall).		✓			
Shore pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i> <i>var. contorta</i>	To 20 m; often has crooked form; tolerant of low-nutrient conditions and exposed windy coastal sites.					✓
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Fast growing to 70 m; bright green needles with reddish brown thick bark; full sun to part shade; roots provide stability in eroding areas; provides excellent habitat especially when mature.		✓			
Western Redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	To 60 m; tolerates full sun to full shade on moist to wet sites; grows best on seepage or floodplain sites, common along streamsides.			✓		
Deciduous Trees							
Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Shrub or small tree to 7 m; prefers moist sites in the understory; bright red in fall.			✓		
Bigleaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Large fast-growing deciduous tree to 35 m tall; dry to moist sites; deep wide root system provides good erosion control on slopes; short lived.	✓				✓
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Fast growing hardy deciduous tree to 25 m; nitrogen fixer that grows well and seeds prolifically on bare soil; typical 40-50 year lifespan; provides food for birds; copious pollen producer.	✓				✓
Black Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Small tree to 10 m; full sun to partial shade in moist open areas, deep roots and high resistance to beaver damage, provides good wildlife habitat and food; long sharp spines have a human buffering value.			✓		
Garry Oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>	To 25 m but can be much smaller on exposed coastal sites; beautiful form in winter when bare; associated with many native wildflowers; very drought resistant.		✓			
Cascara	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Deciduous tree to 12 m tall; sun to partial shade; tolerates variety of moisture regimes; fruits are good food source for birds.					✓
Scouler's Willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Fast-growing shrubby tree to 12 m; common in streamside areas, clearings, forest edges; drought tolerant; propagates readily from cuttings, making it a valuable species for slope and streambank stabilization and bio-engineering.	✓		✓		
Sitka Willow	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Deciduous shrubby tree 2-12 m; grows quickly in moist to saturated soils; excellent choice for streambank stabilization.	✓		✓		

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Shrubs							
Saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	1-5 m tall; clusters of white flowers become small fruit; good for shore stabilization on drier sites	✓	✓			
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Freely spreading red-stemmed deciduous shrub to 6 m tall; sun/shade tolerant; prefers moist soils; propagates from cuttings	✓				✓
Beaked Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta var. californica</i>	Many-stemmed shrub to 4 m tall; prefers moist well-drained sites in sun to shade conditions; spreads via suckers; edible nuts provide good wildlife forage			✓		
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Evergreen shrub, 0.5 to 2 m tall, large leathery thick leaves, dark purple berries, very common along the coast; tolerates poor soils.					
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Several main stems to 4 m tall; lilac-like clusters of white flowers become brown and remain through winter; tolerant of dry coastal sites.	✓				✓
Indian Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Deciduous shrub to 5 m tall; early clusters of white flowers and leaves, edible plum-like fruits are bluish-black.					✓
Tall Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Evergreen, holly-like, glossy leaves; showy, fragrant yellow flowers in spring; blue, edible berries in fall.					✓
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Large deciduous shrub to 5 m tall; fragrant white flowers.	✓				✓
Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Deciduous shrub, 1-3 m tall; glossy dark leaves; terminal clusters of small white flowers; sun to shade in moist humus-rich soil	✓		✓		
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	1-3 m deciduous shrub; showy pink flowers attract hummingbirds.		✓			
Nootka Rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	To 3 m tall; deciduous with pink flowers; red hips persist through winter; spreads readily by underground runners; forms thickets that create a formidable human barrier.	✓				✓
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Deciduous shrub to 3 m; full sun to light shade; forms dense thickets via extensive network of underground stems; open sites, roadsides, exposed stream areas; invasive habit useful for stabilizing drier slopes and streambanks.	✓				
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Deciduous shrub to 4 m tall; early showy pink flowers, tasty orange or red berries; tolerates full sun to full shade; early colonizer of wet areas; spreads rapidly; valuable riparian species.	✓				✓

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Shrubs Continued							
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Fast growing erect shrub to 6 m; tolerates full sun to full shade along stream banks, swampy thickets, and moist clearings; root system develops rapidly, making this a good choice for streambank stabilization; provides excellent food and cover for wildlife.	✓		✓		
Hardhack	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i> <i>spp douglasii</i>	Multi-branched shrub to 2 m tall; dense terminal clusters of deep pink flowers; sun to semi-shade in moist to wet soils; Spreads quickly & aggressively in most sites	✓		✓		
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	0.5 – 2 m tall shrub; drought tolerant; excellent soil-binding characteristics	✓				✓
Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Evergreen shrub to 3 m; small glossy leaves; will tolerate both wet and dry soils.			✓		
Groundcovers, Perennials and Grasses							
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Trailing evergreen with woody stem; dark green leaves; red berries persist through winter; good ground cover					✓
Dune Grass	<i>Elymus mollis</i>	Clumping grass to 0.5-1.5 m; spreads by rhizomes; coastal dunes and beaches, forest edges.				✓	
Woolly Sunflower	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Perennial to 60 cm; yellow daisy like flowers and grey leaves.		✓			
Coastal Strawberry	<i>Fragaria or Rubus chiloensis</i>	Low growing perennial strawberry; white flowers followed by small edible fruits; propagates by runners; prefers sandy beaches and coastal bluffs.		✓		✓	
Entire leaved Gumweed	<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>	Yellow daisy-like flowers; rubbery leaves; deep taproot.				✓	
Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Perennial, trailing or climbing plant with typical pea vine characteristics; pink/purple flowers in summer; grows right near gravel or sandy beaches in amongst driftwood				✓	
Seashore Lupine	<i>Lupinus littoralis</i>	Low growing perennial; fuzzy green leaves and stems; pea-like blue or white flowers; found on sandy beaches and dunes.				✓	
Dull Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Evergreen to 60 cm tall; leaves resemble holly; clusters of yellow flowers, edible blue berries; good ground cover in sun to shade, well-drained soil		✓			

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Groundcovers, Perennials and Grasses Continued							
Sea Blush	<i>Plectritis congesta</i>	Annual wildflower; clusters of small pink or dark pink flowers at tip of stem; forms meadows of pink flowers on coastal bluffs in late spring.		✓			
Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Large ornamental evergreen fern to 1.5 m tall; grows in sun to shade; drought tolerant; easy to grow					✓
Pacific Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i> or <i>Potentilla egedii</i>	Low growing perennial with silvery compound leaves; yellow buttercup-like flowers; common on beaches and wet areas.				✓	

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