

Regional Roots: Native Alternatives to Common Landscape Plants

Small Trees and Large Shrubs

- **Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)** approx 20ft tall x 15 ft wide. Size and shape depends on exposure.
Use: Smallish tree in full sun through moderate shade. Best fall color in irrigated sunny location.
Replaces: Japanese Maple, other smaller to moderate Maples, small shade trees like Hornbeams.
larger fall color shrubs like some of the Viburnums, Smoke Trees
- **Cascara (*Frangula purshiana*)(*Rhamnus Purshiana*)** 30ft tal x 20 ft wide
Use: For a shade or wildlife tree in sun to shade. Will tolerate extremes, but best in bright part shade.
Replaces: Shade trees like Ash, Hornbeam, some Maples; Hawthorn, Holly, Crabapple for berries
- **Coast Silk-tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)** Eventually 10-15ft high and wide.
Use: Evergreen shrub for all but the hottest locations – sun on coast, a little shade inland. Unusual late winter-early spring catkin blooms
Replaces: Camellias, Laurels, Photinia in partial shade. Slower growing, some patience is required.
- **Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)** 12-15ft tall x 8-10ft wide
Use: Flowering large shrub in sun or shade. Huge pollinator plant, looks best in full sun or part shade.
Replaces: Large later blooming plants like Rose of Sharon, some Viburnums, Lilacs
- **Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*)** 15-20ft tall and wide
Use: Tough evergreen shrub for sun or part shade. Reasonably fast growing hedge or screen
Replaces: Laurel, Photinia, Arborvitae in sunny locations.
- **Oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)** 15-20ft tall x 10-12ft wide, usually a loose open habit
Use: Early blooming large shrub or small tree in partial shade. Pollinator and wildlife plant.
Replace: Large early bloomers like Star Magnolia and Forsythia, some Viburnums.
- **Western Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)** 12-15ft tall x10-12ft wide. Smaller clones available.
Use: Large flowering shrub in late spring for sun or mostly sun. Fragrant.
Replace: Flowering shrubs such as Lilac, Rose of Sharon, or non-native Mock Orange.
- **Western crabapple (*Pyrus fusca*)(*Malus fusca*)** 20-30ft tal x 15-20ft wide
Use: Spring flowering tree for sun or partial shade and moist to wet soil. Wildlife and pollinators.
Replace: Flowering Pears and Cherries, Crabapples, Hawthorn, Dogwood.
- **Red flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)** 10-12ft tall x 8-10ft wide
Use: Showpiece large flowering shrub in sun or partial shade. Pollinator and wildlife habitat.
Replace: Lilacs, Viburnums, Flowering Quince.
- **Elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea* and *Sambucus racemosa*)** 10-12ft tall x 8-10 ft wide
Use: Coarse bold shrub for sun or shade in a variety of soil conditions. Summer berry interest.
Replace: Lilac, Viburnum, shrub Willows, Enkianthus

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Small to Moderate Shrubs

- **Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)** 2-3ft tall x 5-6ft wide. May self-seed. Can prune to control spread.
Use: Evergreen shrub for dry locations in sun, very tough and adaptable. Pollinator plant.
Replace: Barberry, Abelia, small flowering shrubs like Deutzia and Genista or evergreens like Juniper.
- **California Lilac [and cousins] (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*)** 7-9ft tall and wide.
Use: Evergreen shrub for full sun and dry locations. Showy flowers and pollinator plant.
Replace: medium hedge plants like Privet, flowering shrubs such as Weigela, Lilac, and Mexican Orange
- **Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)** 6-7ft tall and wide, somewhat thicket spreading.
Use: Early blooming evergreen shrub for sun or part shade. Drought tolerant bird and pollinator plant.
Replace: Forsythia, Flowering Quince, Viburnums, Barberries, Fothergilla
- **Red-twig Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)** 8-10ft tall and wide, somewhat thicket spreading.
Use: Winter interest shrub for wet soils in sun or shade. Prune regularly. Birds and pollinators.
Replace: Beautyberry, Burning Bush, or taller twiggy shrubs like Willows, Spiraeas
- **Western Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)** 8-10ft tall x 7-8ft wide
Use: Fast flowering shrub for sun or shade – best irrigated in full sun. Wet tolerant wildlife habitat.
Replace: Weigela, Snowball Bush, Spiraea, Willow
- **Nootka rose (*Rose nutkana*)** 5-6ft tall and wide, spreading thicket over time
Use: Long blooming shrub for sun or part shade. Wet tolerant, best in irrigated sun
Replace: Other Roses, Butterfly Bush, other summer bloomers
- **Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)** 6-8ft tall and wide, spreading thicket over time
Uses: edible berry, wildlife habitat for wet to moist sites in sun or shade
Replace: semi-woody perennials like Hardy Fuchsia, or shrubs like Sweetspire, Hydrangea, Rhododendron
- **Western Spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*)** 6-7ft x 5-6ft, somewhat thicket spreading
Use: summer flowering shrub for sunny sites wet or moist soils. Pollinators and wildlife.
Replace: other Spiraea, Rose of Sharon, smaller Crepe Myrtles, Butterfly Bush
- **Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)** 3-4ft tall and wide, somewhat thicket spreading
Uses: adaptable shrub with winter berries for sun or shade – best in moist part shade. Pollinators and wildlife habitat
Replace: Azalea, Sweetspire, Fothergilla, Hardy Fuchsia
- **Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)** 4-6ft tall and wide
Use: evergreen shrub for sun or shade, best in partial shade or in irrigated full sun. Pollinator and wildlife habitat.
Replace: Azaleas and small to medium Rhododendrons, Skimmia, Sweet Box, Boxwood and Euonymus

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Perennials

- **Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)**
Use: Long lasting late-season flowers for dry sun or partial shade. Pollinator plant.
Replace: Other Yarrows, Sedums, Bellflowers, Salvia, Tickseed
- **Western Columbine (*Aquilegia Formosa*)**
Use: bright flowers early summer, wildlife habitat, in sun or part shade and moist to dry
Replace: other Columbines, Penstemons, Hummingbird Mint, Peruvian Lily
- **Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)**
Use: Late season flowers in moist shade. Pollinator plant
Replace: Astilbe, Hosta, Fall Anemone, Foamflower and Coral Bells
- **Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*)**
Use: Bright spring flower bulb for wet sun or part shade
Replace: Tulips and Narcissus, Lily of the Nile, Alliums
- **Umbrella Plant / Wild Rhubarb (*Darmera peltate*)**
Use: spring color and bold tropical leaves for wet sun or shade. Bog or pond.
Replace: Gunnera, Iris, Canna, Calla
- **Larkspur (*Delphinium trolliifolium*)**
Use: Showy spring flowers for wet shade
Replace: other Delphiniums and Monkshood, Jacobs Ladder, Bleeding Heart
- **Western bleeding heart (*Dicentra formoasa*)**
Use: Flowering groundcover for part shade to shade. Drought tolerant, will flower longer with Irrigation
Replace: Woodruff, Non-native Bleeding Heart, Corydalis, Carpet Bugle
- **Showy fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*) and Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*)**
Use: long and later flowering plants for sun or part shade. Drought tolerant, pollinator plant.
Replace: Shasta Daisy, Blanket Flower, Tickseed, other composites.
- **Coast Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*) and Wood Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)**
Use: Fruiting groundcover in sun or shade. Pollinator and wildlife habitat.
Replace: Barren Strawberry, Periwinkle, Creeping Phlox, Carpet Bugle
- **Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristasta*)**
Use: Long-blooming summer flower for dry to moist sites in sun or part shade
Replace: Coneflower, Shasta Daisy, Black Eyed Susan
- **Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*) and Tough Lef Iris (*Iris Tenax*)**
Use: Showy spring flowers for moist to dry sun or shade. Douglas Iris is evergreen.
Replace: Other Iris, Bellflower, Foxglove, late spring to early summer bulbs like Lily,

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- **Lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*, *Lupinus polyphyllus*, and others)**
Use: showy wildflowers for tough sites and soils. Pollinator and wildlife habitat.
Replace: Non-native Lupines, other larger flowers such as Peony, Bellflower, Russian Sage, Foxglove
- **False lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) and false Solomons seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)**
Use: tough woody flowers or groundcovers for moist to wet part or full shade, edible berries, major wildlife habitat
Replace: Forget Me Not, Coral Bells, Lily of the Valley, Solomon's Seal
- **Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*, *Mimulus lewisii* / *Erythranthe guttatus*, *Erythranthe lewisii*)**
Use: Showy wildflowers for wet sun or part shade. Bog or pond. Pollinators
Replace: Turtlehead, Dead Nettle, Sweet Flag, Catmint
- **Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)**
Use: Groundcover for moist to wet part shade to shade. Pollinator plant. Can be assertive
Replace: Periwinkle, Woodruff, Violets, Forget Me Not
- **Stonecrop (*Sedum oregonum*, *Sedum spathulifolium*)**
Use: Slow groundcover in well drained to moist sun or part shade. Pollinators
Replace: Non-native Sedums, Creeping Phlox, Saxifrage,
- **Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea virgata*, *Sidalcea campester*, *Sidalcea cusickii* and others)**
Use: Tall showy pollinator friendly flowers for moist to wet soils in sun
Replace: Canna, Bellflower, Foxglove, Gaura
- **Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)**
Use: Very tough flower for dry to moist full sun. Spreading to aggressive. Pollinator
Replace: Black Eyed Susan, Helenium, Asters
- **Native Asters (*Symphyotrichum hallii*, *Symphyotrichum subspicatum*)**
Use: Late and long blooming flower for full dry sunny sites. Major pollinator plant.
Replace: Non-native Asters, Coneflower, Fall Anemone, Russian Sage
- **Western Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum occidentale*)**
Use: Airy woodland flower for moist sites in mixed sun to mostly shade. Long blooming
Replace: Non-native meadow rue, Rodgersia, Bleeding Heart, Astilbe, Columbines
- **Native grasses (*Festuca roemerii*, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, many others)**
Use: bunch grasses to use in mass in mostly sunny sites. Critical habitat for many creatures
Replace: Non-native Blue Fescue, Blue Oat Grass, Maiden Grass, Feather Reed Grass
- **Native Ferns (*Polystichum munitum*, *Adiantum aleuticum*, *Blechnum spicant*)**
Use: Classic expressions of our native woodland flora, moist shade but some are more tolerant
Replace: Non-native Ferns, Bear's Breech
- **Native bulbs (*Camas spp.*, *Brodiaea spp.*, *Calochortus tolmeii*, *Erythronium oregonum*, many more)**
Use: brief but impactful seasonal blomers. A few are adaptable, most require a good site match
Replace: Non-native bulbs such as Crocus, Hyacinth, Narcissus