

Wetlands

Wetlands are common in the Pacific Northwest, especially in areas adjacent to riparian zones. They are important for slowing the flow of water, reducing flooding, recharging the water table, reducing erosion and filtering water resources.

Wetlands are diverse and rich ecosystems & the plants are a very important component. Plants are often at the base of the food chain for the environment supporting mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, amphibians, invertebrates and insects.

Planning a planting plan for a wet site should begin with observation of the soils. Soils in wet sites lack oxygen so it is important to choose the correct plants that are able to adapt. Different plants thrive in wetland soils and help to create a functioning ecosystem.

Native plants are often associated with indicators of how frequently they are found in wetlands. The common indicators are listed inside the brochure along with native plants that correspond.

Wetland Facts

- An acre of wetland can store 1 to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater.
- Up to one-half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands.
- Approximately 5 percent of the land surface in the United States is made up of wetlands.
- Over 31% of plant species are found in wetlands.
- 43% of the federally listed species rely directly, or indirectly, on wetlands for their survival.
- The EPA estimates that the US loses approximately 10,000 acres of wetlands each year.
- In the United States, over 70% of the wetlands are on private property.
- Prior to the 1500's, the lower 48 states had approximately 220 million acres of wetlands. Less than half remain today.



Native Plants for Wet Sites



Putting Conservation on the Ground

WACD Plant Material Center
16564 Bradley Road
Bow, WA 98232



Phone: 360-757-1094
E-mail: pmcsales@gmx.com
Web: <http://www.wacdpmc.org/>

Northwest Native Plants for Wet Soils



American Cranberry
(*Viburnum opulus*)
FAC, FACW



Ninebark
(*Physocarpus capitatus*)
FAC, FACW



Red Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus stolonifera*)
FAC, FACW



Big Leaf Maple
(*Acer macrophyllum*)
FAC



Oregon Ash
(*Fraxinus latifolia*)
FACW



Salmonberry
(*Rubus spectabilis*)
FAC



Black Cottonwood
(*Populus trichocarpa*)
FAC, FACW



Pacific Crabapple
(*Malus fusca*)
FACW



Shore Pine
(*Pinus contorta contorta*)
FAC



Black Hawthorn
(*Crataegus douglasii*)
FAC



Paper Birch
(*Betula papyrifera*)
FACW



Sitka Spruce
(*Picea sitchensis*)
FAC



Cascara
(*Frangula purshiana*)
FAC



Peafruit Rose
(*Rosa pisocarpa*)
FAC



Thimbleberry
(*Rubus parviflorus*)
FAC



Douglas Spirea
(*Spiraea douglasii*)
FACW



Red Alder
(*Alnus rubra*)
FAC, FACW



Twinberry
(*Lonicera involucrata*)
FAC



Willow Species
(*Salix sp.*)
FACW



Red Elderberry
(*Sambucus racemosa*)
FACW



Western Red Cedar
(*Thuja plicata*)
FAC

- Obligate Wetland Species (OBL)**

Obligate wetland plants are found in wetlands 99% of the time.

- Facultative Wetland Species (FACW)**

Facultative wetland plants are found in wetlands 67%-99% of the time.

- Facultative Species (FAC)**

Facultative plants are equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands 34%-66% of the time.

- Obligate Upland Species (UPL)**

Obligate upland plants are found in 99% of non-wetland sites.