

Trees

How do I use native trees in my landscape?

This guide will help you with incorporating native trees into your area including selection, planting, and maintenance.

Native trees provide more than shade—they form the foundation of a healthy, self-sustaining landscape. They support native birds, butterflies, and pollinators; improve soil health and water retention; offer seasonal beauty with low maintenance; clean the air; and are adapted to local climate and soil conditions.

How do I select the right tree?

- Consider mature size, light needs, and soil moisture.
- Avoid overhead wires and root conflict zone.
- Consider tree ordinances for your city.

How do I install a tree?

- Give roots time to establish before extreme temperatures.
- Dig a hole 2–3x wider than the root ball, but no deeper.

How do I maintain my tree?

- Use 2–3 inches of mulch, keeping it away from the trunk.
- Water deeply and slowly the first 1–2 years.
- Keep dead trees as snags for wildlife.
- Protect the Critical Root Zone (1 ft of radius per in of trunk diameter) around your tree.

What about street trees, roadway strips, and traffic circles?

- View restrictions for corners and traffic circles.
- Check local laws and regulations for street plantings.
- Avoid tall plants that block sightlines near roads.

How do I choose and work with an arborist?

- Only use an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist.
- Have a clear plan with measurable objectives.
- Get a written estimate and ask questions.
- Keep record of tree health and plan future appointments.

**Go Natives!
Website**

[OSU, Common Trees
of the Pacific
Northwest](https://gonativesnursery.com/)

[King County, Native
Tree List](#)

Turner and Kuhlmann,
2014. Trees and
Shrubs of the Pacific
Northwest

[https://gonativesnur
sery.com/](https://gonativesnursery.com/)

Trees Native to the Pacific Northwest



western red cedar

Thuja plicata

Part shade-shade, moist-wet



Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Sun-part shade, dry-moist



Pacific madrone

Arbutus menziesii

Sun-part shade, dry



bitter cherry

Prunus emarginata

Sun-part shade, dry-moist



cascara

Frangula purshiana

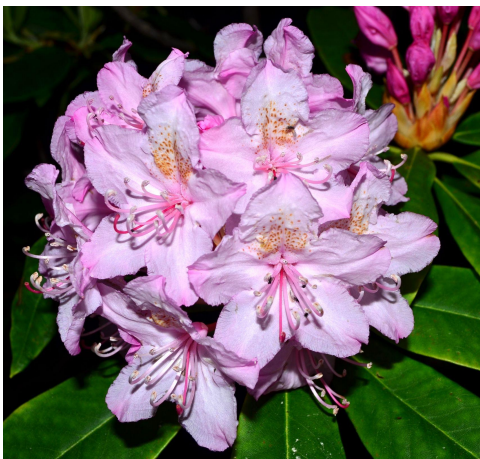
Sun-shade, dry-wet



red alder

Alnus rubra

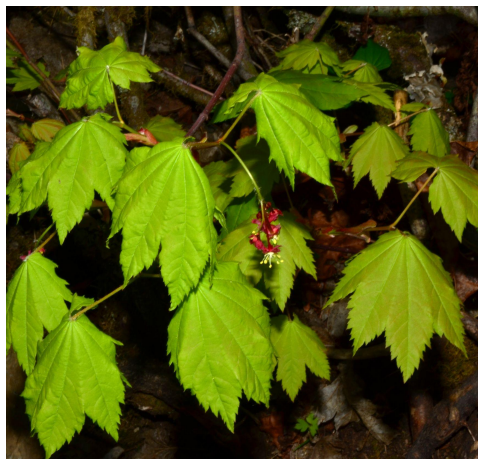
Sun-part shade, dry-wet



Pacific rhododendron

Rhododendron macrophyllum

Part shade-shade, dry-moist



vine maple

Acer circinatum

Part shade-shade, dry-moist



Oregon crabapple

Malus fusca

Sun-part shade, moist-wet