

Native Plants for Naturescaping



Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Why go Native?

- Less watering, fertilizing and maintenance
- Great for insects and wildlife
- Stormwater filtration
- They're beautiful!!!
- No risk of becoming invasive



- %37 of all animals are insect herbivores - the most important group in converting plant energy to animal energy
- %90 of these insects are specialists, eating only one or a handful of native plant species. This is because insects have evolved with these plants for thousands of years, synchronized their life cycles to them and developed resistance to their chemical and physical defenses.
- Studies show that native plants support over 4 times as much herbivore biomass (35 times as much for caterpillars!) and 3.2 times as many species than alien plants.

- For example, *Phragmites australis* (common reed) supports over 170 insect species in Europe and only 5 in North America

- 96% of N American bird species rely on insect protein to feed their young.

- Globally, at least 12% of bird species are on the verge of extinction.



Considerations when choosing species

- Size
- Sun requirements
- Moisture requirements
- Annual/Perennial
- Evergreen/Deciduous
- Rate of growth/reproduction



Red-Osier Dogwood

Cornus Stolonifera (sericea)

- White berries for birds
- Lovely red stems
- 5-20 ft tall
- Fast growth
- Deciduous
- Moist
- Partial-full Sun



Large Shrubs...



Red Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum

- Beautiful, aromatic pink flowers for hummingbirds and bees
- Berries for birds
- 6-12 ft tall
- Deciduous
- Partial-full sun
- Moderate growth
- Moist
- Well-drained soils



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

- White berries persist through winter. Birds may take berries or use as nesting site
- Non-showy flowers, great for bees
- Fast growth
- Upland, Moist
- Deciduous
- Partial Sun



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum



- Beautiful fall foliage
- Small red flowers
- Seeds eaten by squirrels and birds
- Up to 20 ft high
- Moderate growth rate
- Deciduous
- Partial Sun
- Upland

Douglas Spirea - *Spiraea douglasii*

- Large pink spikes attract butterflies and bees
- Forms dense thickets for nesting birds
- Up to 4 ft
- Deciduous
- *Fast* growth, many stemmed
- Full Sun
- Wet, but can withstand drought once established



Tall Oregon Grape

Mahonia aquifolium

- Evergreen
- Dense yellow flowers, great for insects
- Bluish berries for birds
- Sun-shade
- Moist
- Spiny, holly-like leaves make for good hedge row



Wild Roses - *Rosa spp.*

- Pink flowers

- Red, overwintering fruits

-Deciduous



- Cluster/Swamp Rose
 - *R. pisocarpa* 6 ft.
 - Wet, sun-shade
 - Flowers/fruits in clusters
- Nootka Rose
 - *R. nutkana*, 5-8 ft.
 - sun, moist-dryer habitat
 - large, solitary flowers
- Wood/Dwarf Rose
 - *R. gymnocarpa* 3 ft
 - Moist, shady habitat
 - Smaller, solitary flowers

Other large shrubs...



Red Elderberry

Indian Plum



Serviceberry

Ninebark



Mock Orange



Oceanspray



Other large shrubs, cont...



Evergreen
Huckleberry

Chokecherry



Douglas Hawthorn



Rhododendron

Western Crabapple



Red Huckleberry



Small, evergreen shrubs
and groundcovers...

Dull or Creeping Oregon Grape

Mahonia nervosa or *M. repens*

- Evergreen
- Bright yellow blooms
- Dry-Moist
- Sun-shade
- Growth
 - M. nervosa*: slow
 - M. repens*: moderate



Kinnikinnik - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*



- Evergreen
- Groundcover
- Small, urn-shaped flowers
- Bright red fruits
- Many cultivars
- Dry-moist
- Sun-shade

Oregon Boxflower - *Paxistima myrtifolia*

- 20-80cm tall,
- erect or prostrate growth habit
- Tiny, maroon flowers



Trailing blackberry – *Rubus ursinus*

- Evergreen
- Sprawling groundcover
- Small white flower
- Sweet, small fruits
- Shade-partial shade



Sword Fern - *Polystichum munitum*



- Evergreen
- Adaptable
- Full – partial shade
- Up to 3ft high

Gualtheria shallon

- Evergreen
- White, urn-shaped flowers
- Dark berries
- Dry-moist
- Partial sun- full shade (better)
- Thrive in any soils



Strawberries - *Fragaria chiloensis*, *F.* *vespa*, and *F.* *virginiana*

- Great groundcovers
- Fast spreading
- Evergreen or Deciduous
- Sun or shade



Great perennial flowers

- Red Columbine
- Bleeding Heart
- Trillium
- Inside Out flower
- Wood-Sorrel
- Pacific Waterleaf



Fringecup - *Tellima grandiflora*

- Deciduous
- Thick rosette-forming perennial
- Tall inflorescences
- Moist-dry
- Partial sun



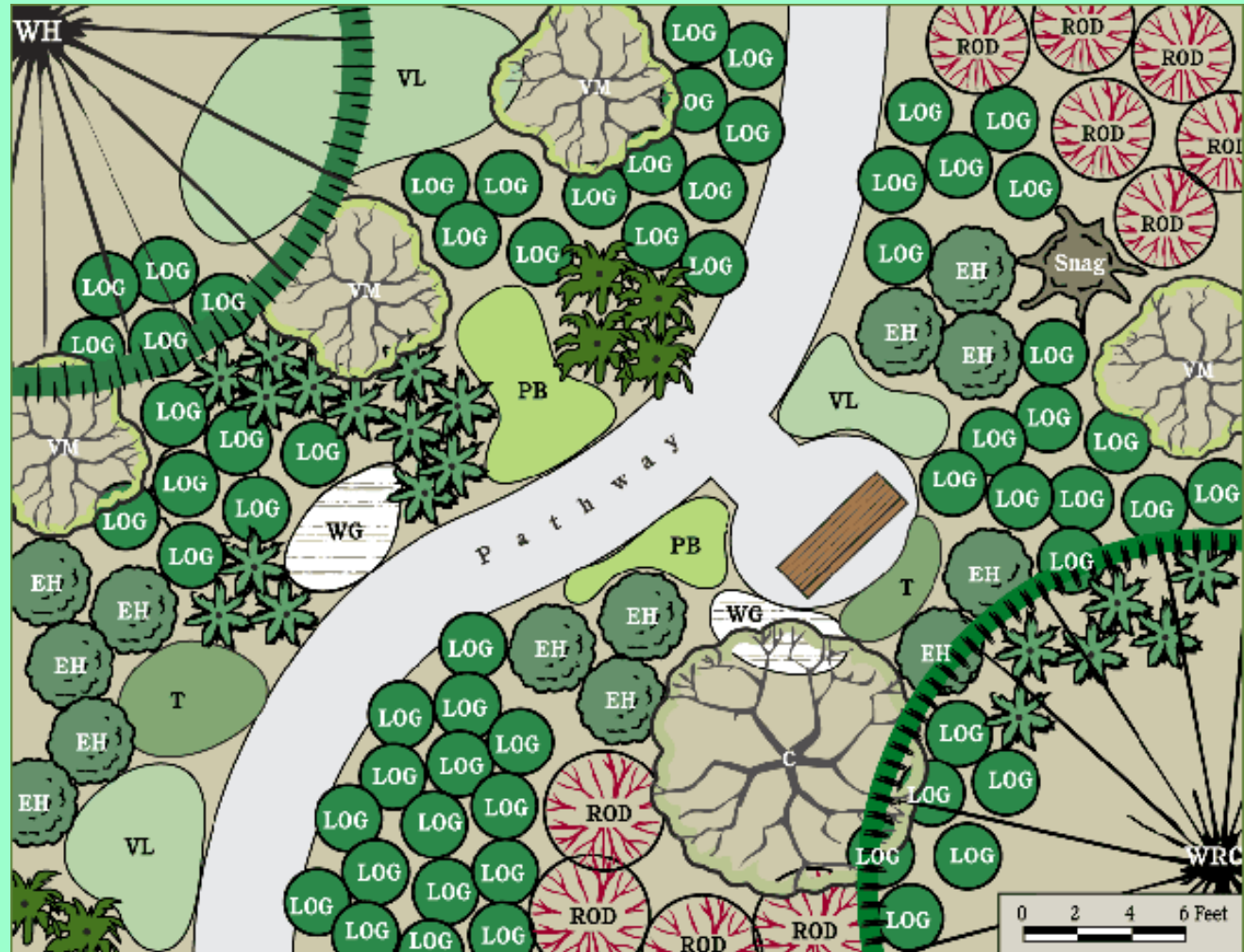
Plant Associations

- Mimicking plant communities after native ecosystems enhances beauty and wildlife benefits.



Shady, moist plant communities

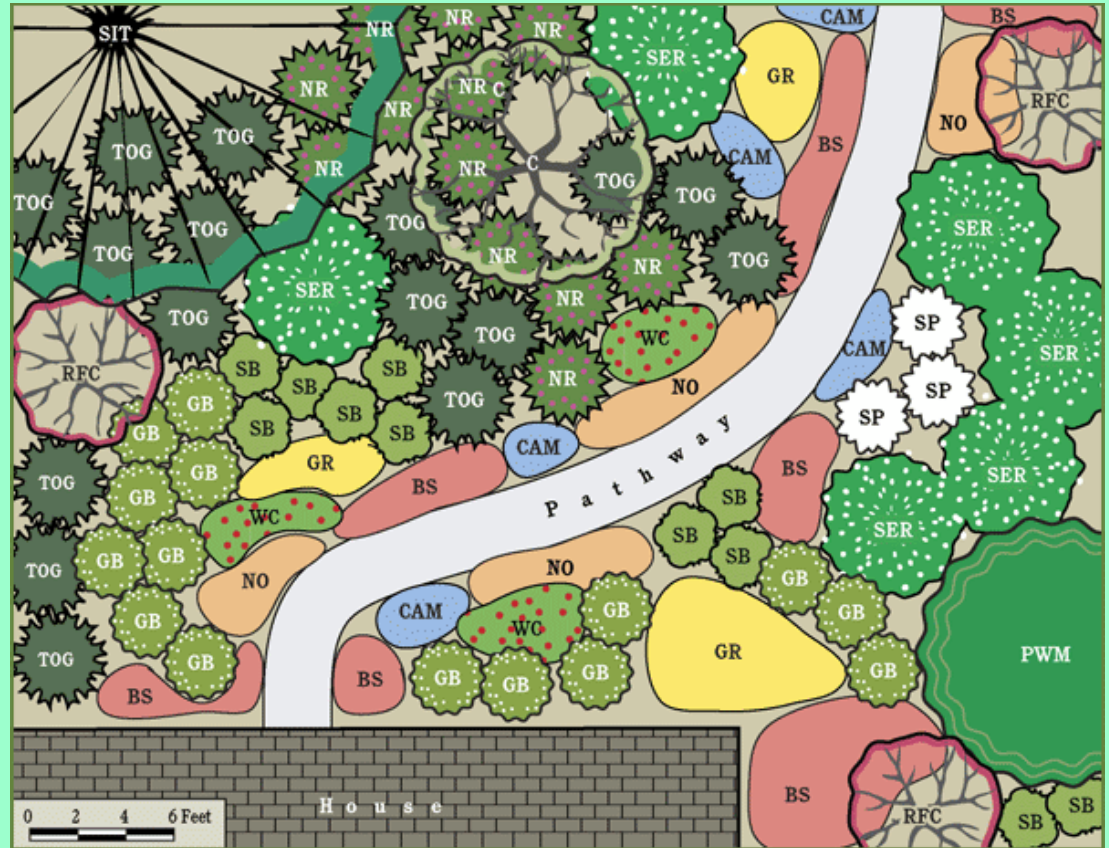
- Vine Maple
- Wood Rose
- Oregon grape
- Sword fern
- Salal
- Evergreen huckleberry
- Fringe-cup





Sunny plant communities

- Nootka rose
- Tall oregon grape
- Red flowering currant
- Lupine
- Coast Strawberry
- Red Elderberry
- Snowberry
- W Columbine





Go have fun!!!