GREEN SHORES
BC Native Shoreline Plants List

Native plants play an important role in maintaining shoreline health.

Protecting or establishing native shoreline vegetation and removing invasive species is essential to every **Green Shores®** project, including Green Shores for Homes and Green Shores for Shoreline Development projects. Native shoreline vegetation is hardy, requires little to no care once established, and enhances the beauty, stability, and resiliency of shorelines everywhere.

Once plants are established, the root systems of native plants help anchor the shoreline, preventing erosion. Vegetation in intertidal areas can buffer wave energy, reducing the damaging effects of powerful storms. Native plantings in the riparian and upland zones improve water quality by slowing storm runoff and filtering pollutants that would otherwise enter rivers, lakes, and marine environments. Native vegetation, including grasses, shrubs, trees, and fruiting plants, enhances wildlife habitat and biodiversity by providing shelter, nutrients, shade, and safe travel corridors for fish, birds, beneficial insects, and other wildlife.

Beach Pea, *Lathyrus japonicus*

Are you seeking inspiration for your shoreline project?

Browse the list below to discover native plants that thrive in lake and marine shoreline environments.

Next, see vibrant photos and detailed plant information on the Washington Native Plant Society website.

Consider visiting a Green Shores Demonstration Site near you to see examples of native shoreline plantings at various stages of maturity. Subscribe to Green Shores updates at Stewardship Centre for BC to be informed about projects near you.

Three recent Green Shores Demonstration Sites on Vancouver Island include:

Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach, in Victoria.
Esquimalt Gorge Park in the Township of Esquimalt.
Dyke Road Park in the Comox Valley Regional District.

Seashore Flowers and Grasses:

Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat	Height
Beach Wildrye	*Leymus mollis*	upper beach	1.7m
Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*	marine riparian zone	4m
Beach Pea	*Lathyrus japonicus*	upper beach	1.5m
Large-Leaved Lupine	*Lupinus polyphyllus*	marine riparian zone	1.5m
Common Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	marine riparian zone	1m
Wooly Sunflower	*Eriophyllum lanatum*	marine riparian zone	0.6m

Seashore Shrubs:

Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat	Height
Nootka Rose	*Rosa nutkana*	marine riparian zone	3m
Oceanspray	*Holodiscus discolor*	marine riparian zone	4m
Red Flowering Currant	*Ribes sanguineum*	marine riparian zone	3m
Snowberry	*Syphoricarpus albus*	marine riparian zone	1.8m
Mock-Orange	*Philadelphus lewisii*	marine riparian zone	3m
Sweet Gale	*Myrica californica*	marine riparian zone	10m
Salal	*Gaultheria Shallon*	marine riparian zone	3m
Oregon-Grape	*Mahonia nervosa*	marine riparian zone	0.6m
Timbleberry	*Rubus parviflorus*	marine riparian zone	2.4cm
Salmonberry	*Rubus spectabilis*	marine riparian zone	4m
Indian-Plum	*Oemleria cerasiformis*	marine riparian zone	6m
Black Twinberry	*Lonicera involucrata*	marine riparian zone	4.6m
Kinnikinnick	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	marine riparian zone	0.3cm
Pacific Ninebark	*Physocarpus capitatus*	marine riparian zone	4m

Seashore Trees:

Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat	Height
Douglas Fir	*Pseudotsuga menziesii*	marine riparian zone	100m
Sitka Spruce	*Picea sitchensis*	marine riparian zone	66m
Shore Pine	*Pinus contorta*	marine riparian zone	35m
Red Alder	*Alnus rubra*	marine riparian zone	15m
Big-Leaf Maple	*Acer macrophyllum*	marine riparian zone	36m
Shining Willow	*Salix lucida*	marine riparian zone	7m
Cascara	*Rhamnus purshiana*	marine riparian zone	10m
Hooker's Willow	*Salix hookeriana*	marine riparian zone	8m
Douglas Maple	*Acer douglasii*	marine riparian zone	10m
Scouler's Willow	*Salix scouleriana*	marine riparian zone	7m
Pacific Crab Apple	*Malus fusca*	marine riparian zone	13m

Lakeshore Groundcover:

Common Name	Latin Name	Exposure	Moisture	Height
Vanilla Leaf	*Achlys triphylla*	partial shade/shade	moist	0.3m
Nodding Onion	*Allium cernuum*	sun	dry/moist	0.3m
Wild Ginger	*Asarum caudatum*	partial shade/shade	moist	0.2m
Common Camas	*Camassia quamash*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	0.3m
Bunchberry	*Cornus canadensis*	partial shade/shade	moist	0.2m
Beach Strawberry	*Fragaria chiloensis*	sun/partial shade	dry	0.3m
Low Oregon Grape	*Mahonia nervosa*	sun/shade	dry/moist	0.6m
False Lily-of-the-Valley	*Maianthemum dilatatum*	partial shade/shade	dry/moist	0.3m
Inside-Out Flower	*Vancouveria hexandra*	partial shade/shade	moist	0.3m

Lakeshore Trees:

Common Name	Latin Name	Exposure	Moisture	Height
Noble Fir	*Abies procera*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	61m
Vine Maple	*Acer circinatum*	partial shade/shade	dry/moist	8m
Bigleaf Maple	*Acer macrophyllum*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	32m
Red Alder	*Alnus rubra*	sun/partial shade	moist/wet	21m
Paper Birch	*Betula papyrifera*	sun	moist	24m
Black Hawthorn	*Crataegus douglasii*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	8m
Suksdorf's Hawthorn	*Crataegus suksdorfii*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	6m
Oregon Ash	*Fraxinus latifolia*	sun/partial shade	moist/wet	21m
Pacific Crabapple	*Malus fusca*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	12m
Sitka Spruce	*Picea sitchensis*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	61m
Black Cottonwood	*Populus balsamifera*	sun	moist	30m
Trembling Aspen	*Populus tremuloides*	sun	dry/moist	23m
Douglas Fir	*Pseudotsuga menziesii*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	61m
Cascara	*Rhamnus purshiana*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	9m
Pacific Willow	*Salix spp.*	sun/partial shade	moist/wet	12m
Western Red Cedar	*Thuja plicata*	partial shade/shade	moist/wet	61m
Western Hemlock	*Tsuga heterophylla*	sun/partial shade	dry/moist	55m

The **BC Native Shoreline Plants List** was excerpted from the Stewardship Centre for BC's Green Shores for Homes Credits and Ratings Guide, a practical resource for waterfront property owners, landscape architects, contractors, and shoreline professionals. It provides detailed guidance on every aspect of nature-based shoreline rehabilitation.

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