



Native Plant Spotlight

Beach Strawberry

Fragaria chiloensis

Beach Strawberry is an evergreen perennial with shiny, lobed leaves. It produces small white flowers in spring, edible red fruits in summer, and its leaves turn red in the winter, providing year-round colour. This ground cover is ideal for stabilizing slopes and sand dunes, requiring little to no water or care once established. It's also one of the parent species of cultivated strawberries.

- Native to the Pacific Coast
- 15-30cm tall
- Tolerates light foot traffic
- Thrives in hot sandy soil
- Ideal for upper beach environments.

Learn more about native plants for shorelines.

<https://bit.ly/NativePlantsBC>

Welcome to the spring edition of **Shoreline Spotlight**, a quarterly newsletter that shares useful science-based information, resources, and inspiration for those interested in nurturing healthy, resilient waterfront properties using Green Shores® nature-based solutions for shoreline protection and rehabilitation. **Please feel free to subscribe and share!**



Why Plant Native Species?

Native species are naturally adapted to our climate, soil, precipitation levels, and light. They are not fussy, requiring little to no care once established in the right place. Nor are they overly competitive, tending to stay in their place. They provide shelter and food for insects, birds, and other wildlife; and their deep root systems anchor shorelines, protecting against erosion from wind, waves, and heavy rains. They also serve as nature's filters, slowing the flow of stormwater runoff, and preventing pollutants from entering our waterways.

While native plants tend to be self-sufficient when left alone, they can be crowded out or starved of essential resources when invasive species take hold. Therefore, it is important to monitor your property and act quickly when invasive species such as English ivy, knotweed, and Himalayan blackberry appear. Some preventative measures you can take include buying plant stock from reputable native plant nurseries, avoiding seed mixes, and being sure to establish healthy stands of your preferred native species as soon as possible once the ground is disturbed.

Are You a Waterfront Homeowner?

If you live on the east coast of Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands, you may be eligible for a free Green Shores Shoreline Assessment. Check the back page for eligible communities!

Shoreline assessments are conducted in person, on site, by a qualified shoreline professional. Participating homeowners will receive a Green Shores Shoreline Assessment Report detailing site conditions and options for nature-based techniques to restore and protect their property.

Help, I'm losing my beach!

Erosion is the natural action of wind and water as it moves sand, soil, and rocks from one location to another. It is not unusual for beaches to shift and change when currents alter course or are disrupted by hard structures. Many hard armoured properties lose their beach as sediment is scoured away by high-energy waves reflecting off the walls.

- Gently sloped shorelines absorb wave energy, slowing them down as they approach shore.
- Vegetation offers a natural barrier to erosion because the root systems of plants and trees hold onto sediments, even during heavy rainfalls.

“Between 1970 and 2020, walls were built, rebuilt, and reinforced. We didn't realize back then that we were actually contributing to the erosion problem with these walls.”

“The project has positively impacted our eastward neighbours. Due to restoring natural sediment movement, their beach has returned.”

Craig Hodge, GSH Homeowner, Qualicum Beach, BC

Homeowners Craig Hodge and Darla Furlani wanted to restore their double-lot residential shoreline which had dropped 3 meters from historical levels due to erosion despite being extensively hard armoured.

They engaged a team of coastal engineers who created an innovative Green Shores hybrid design resilient to sea level rise and increasingly powerful storms. The design incorporates strategic placement of rocky headlands to buffer wave energy, and raising the beach through addition of sand and gravel sufficient to bury the seawall. Large woody debris and native plants were also added to anchor the shoreline, provide habitat, increase aesthetic appeal, and improve beach access. Completed in 2022, the project successfully restored the natural look and function of the shoreline and achieved Green Shores for Homes Gold rating.

Higson Crescent, Qualicum Beach, BC



Significant erosion and drop in beach height due to reflected wave energy scouring the foreshore. Seawalls are overtopped during storms, flooding the property.



The seawalls were buried by adding sand and gravel. Native vegetation anchors the shore. The beach is stable, accessible from the house, and wildlife habitat is restored.



Do You Own Waterfront Property in One of These Communities?

British Columbia:

Comox Valley Regional District
Town of Qualicum Beach

Nova Scotia:

Pictou County, West Hants, and the Kespukwitk-Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

Thanks to our funding partners, the Stewardship Centre for BC and TransCoastal Adaptations are offering a limited number of free Green Shores Shoreline Assessments to homeowners in select communities of BC and NS.

If you live in one of these communities, and you're interested in exploring Green Shores nature-based solutions for your shoreline, please visit <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Assessment> for more information and to apply.



Stay Tuned for Future Editions

Upcoming editions of **Shoreline Spotlight** will feature further case studies; Green Shores training opportunities in your community; explanations of ecosystem services provided by natural shorelines and why hard-armouring techniques, such as seawalls, may work against you; tips on what you can do to support habitat and biodiversity on your property using native plants, and more!



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Do you have friends or neighbours with shoreline property? Please share this newsletter and encourage them to subscribe!

If you'd like to receive future editions of the Shoreline Spotlight newsletter by email, please click the subscribe button, sign up at <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Spotlight>, or scan the QR Code below.

Do You Have Questions?

Contact us at info@stewardshipcentrebc.ca
<https://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/>
<https://bit.ly/GreenShoresForHomes>



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