



Native Plant Spotlight

Common Silverweed

Argentina anserina

previously known as Potentilla anserina

Common silverweed is a low-growing herbaceous perennial plant related to the wild strawberry. It spreads across open areas using runners. Its single, bright yellow flowers resemble buttercups, while its basal leaves have a silvery appearance and a soft texture due to the silky hairs on their surface. Traditionally, Indigenous peoples utilized this versatile plant for various purposes: its roots were consumed as food, its red runners were used for dyeing and making cords, and other parts were valued for medicinal uses.

- Native to Pacific Northwest
- Thrives in full sun and sandy soil
- 0.5-2m ground spread
- Useful for shoreline erosion control
- Supports native pollinators

Where to source native plants for your shoreline.

<https://bit.ly/NativePlantVendors>

Silverweed photo by Adolf Ceska (e-Flora).

Welcome to the winter 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!](#)



Plants as anchors and stabilizers of shorelines

Primary threats faced by shoreline properties are erosion (loss of sediment), flooding and impact of waves. Nature-based solutions address those threats by creating a natural shoreline structure that retains sediment, lessens the impact of waves and regulates flooding and surface run-off. How? An important part of the answer is plants! It is no surprise that native plants evolve in local conditions and are adaptive to changing environments. While plants are known for their biological benefits (habitat and food for wildlife, organic material and nutrients for ecosystems), the structural support provided by plants is often overlooked.

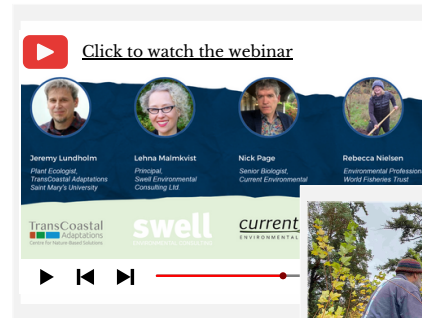
How do plants protect your shoreline property?

- Emergent plants, rooted underwater and growing above it, reduce wave intensity and speed, **making shorelines more resilient to rising sea levels and intense climatic events like storm surges.**
- Roots of herbs, shrubs and trees help **anchor the soil and protect it from erosion and sediment loss.**
- Ground cover plants form mats and create a cushion, **protecting the soil from physical disturbance** and footprints of humans and animals.
- Plants also help **absorb excess water from flooding and reduce run-off** of rainwater, providing **filtration of pollutants** and pesticides from upland areas.
- In the winter, shoreline vegetation helps **retain soil heat and microsites for plant seeds to survive and reestablish** readily in the spring.

To learn more about physical properties of plants, [watch a presentation by Jeremy Lundholm in our recent webinar](#) (see next page).

Biologists sharing about restoration projects on BC and NS shorelines

On December 3, 2024, we hosted a webinar with the TransCoastal Adaptations team to highlight the important work of biologists in shoreline restoration projects. Speakers shared about their participation in [Mahone Bay Living Shorelines](#), [Dyke Road Park](#) and [Esquimalt Gorge Park](#) Green Shores for Shoreline Development projects, a [Prospect Lake Green Shores for Homes project in Saanich](#) and discussed why plants are essential for waterfront protection and function. You can watch the webinar on [YouTube](#) and find presenters' slides in our [blog](#). They include examples of using nature-based solutions and native plants for successful restoration.



Green Shores Webinar for Biologists

*Community Planting at Esquimalt Gorge Park.
Photo: Kelly Loch.*



Do you own a waterfront property in one of these communities?

British Columbia:

East Coast of Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands

Nova Scotia:

Pictou County, West Hants, and the Kespukwitk/Southwest Nova Scotia Priority Place

If you live in one of these communities, and you'd like to explore Green Shores nature-based solutions for your shoreline, please visit <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Assessment> for more information and to get started.

Restoring shorelines together

As individuals, we can make a difference on private property by maintaining a native plant garden and healthy riparian shoreline vegetation. As a community, we can help maintain public green spaces and ensure they are benefitting both the environment and the people visiting them. In November, Stewardship Centre for BC partnered with the Township of Esquimalt, Gorge Waterway Action Society, and World Fisheries Trust to organize [Greenspace for All community planting parties](#) at the [Esquimalt Gorge Park](#) Green Shores for Shoreline Development project. We had a pleasure of spending two days in nature and adding hundreds of native plants to the newly restored park. Thanks to over 40 volunteers who took part in this event and "planted a seedling" for the green future of the park! We encourage everyone to participate in local community restoration and invasive species removal projects.

Contact us at:

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<https://bit.ly/GreenShoresForHomes>



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