



\*This list is representative, but not exhaustive, of the native trees and shrubs historically found in the natural terrestrial habitats of Vancouver, Washington.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Growth Form	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Spread (feet)	Growth Rate	Light / Shade Tolerance			Moisture Tolerance				Leaf Type
						Full Sun	Part Sun	Full Shade	Dry	Moist	Seasonally Wet	Perennially Wet	
<i>Abies grandies</i>	grand fir	tree	150	40	medium	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple	arborescent shrub	25	20	medium		✓	✓		✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	bigleaf maple	tree	75	60	fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	red alder	tree	80	35	very fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Amalanchier alnifolia</i>	serviceberry / saskatoon	arborescent shrub	15	8	medium	✓	✓		✓	✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific madrone	tree	50	50	very slow	✓	✓		✓				evergreen, broadleaf
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	kinnikinnick	low creeping shrub	0.5	mat-forming	fast	✓			✓	✓			evergreen, broadleaf
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> ( <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> )	tall Oregon-grape	shrub	8	3	medium	✓	✓		✓	✓			evergreen, broadleaf
<i>Berberis nervosa</i> ( <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> )	low Oregon-grape	shrub	2	3	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			evergreen, broadleaf
<i>Cornus nuttalli</i>	Pacific flowering dogwood	tree	40	20	medium		✓	✓		✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red-osier dogwood	shrub	15	thicket-forming	very fast	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> var. <i>californica</i>	California hazel / beaked hazelnut	shrub	20	15	fast	✓	✓	✓		✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> ( <i>Crataegus suksdorfii</i> )	black hawthorn	arborescent shrub	40	25	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Euonymus occidentalis</i>	Western wahoo	shrub	10	6	medium		✓	✓		✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Oregon ash	tree	75	25	medium	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal	low shrub	3	mat-forming	medium		✓	✓	✓	✓			evergreen, broadleaf
<i>Holdiscus discolor</i>	oceanspray	shrub	10	5	fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	black twinberry	shrub	10	5	fast	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Malus fusca</i>	Pacific crabapple	arborescent shrub	30	35	medium	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf

# City of Vancouver

# Native Trees and Shrubs

## Plant Notes & Ecosystem Information (A - M)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Notes	Approved Street Tree	Good for Urban Yards	Good for Natural Areas	Mesic coniferous - deciduous mixed forest	Riparian Forest	Steep, Dry Sites	Oak Woodlands	Forested wetlands & Floodplains	Columbia River Floodplain	Scrub-Shrub Wetlands
<i>Abies grandies</i>	grand fir	somewhat difficult to establish at very low elevation; often found in understory of Douglas-fir forest		●	●	○	○		○			
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple	excellent native substitute for Japanese maple; trunk often multi-stemmed; beautiful fall color (yellow/red); often in understory of conifer forest with sword fern, thimbleberry, and Oregon-grape		●	●	●	●					
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	bigleaf maple	extremely large leaves give this tree its name; trunk often multi-stemmed, especially in shady moist sites; common locally; colonizes open sites; dense shade prevents regeneration of many species; in older stands, trunk and branches are often covered with lichens and moss; often associated with Douglas-fir		●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	red alder	locally common in riparian areas along streams; colonizes open disturbed sites; often found with Oregon ash and willow species, eventually being replaced by redcedar; improves soil by fixing nitrogen; short-lived			●	●	●	○		●	●	●
<i>Amalanchier alnifolia</i>	serviceberry / saskatoon	edible fruit; large white flowers		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific madrone	red berries, food source for many bird species, appear in fall and persist into winter; white flowers, in spring; very attractive orange peeling bark; often found on rocky cliffs or in open woodlands with Oregon oak; prefers coarse-textured soils; plant young seedlings		●	●	●		○	○			
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	kinnikinnick	forms dense groundcover; excellent alternative to English ivy in sunny locations; prefers well-drained coarse-textured soil		●	●							
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> ( <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> )	tall Oregon-grape	usually found on open forested slopes or on forest edge; can be planted and maintained as evergreen hedge; excellent for screening unsightly yard objects; yellow flowers in spring		●	●	○	○	●	○			
<i>Berberis nervosa</i> ( <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> )	low Oregon-grape	common understory plant in conifer forest, often with sword fern and vine maple; yellow flowers in spring		●	●	●	●	○				
<i>Cornus nuttalli</i>	Pacific flowering dogwood	large showy whitish bract around tiny true flowers, in spring; often in understory or edge of conifer forest; susceptible to anthracnose; several hybrids exist with greater urban tolerance		●	●	○	○					
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red-osier dogwood	common in wetlands and riparian areas; forms dense thicket; roots are excellent at soil binding and erosion prevention; bright red twigs provide beautiful winter interest; important habitat plant for wildlife			●	●	●			●	●	●
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> var. <i>californica</i>	California hazel / beaked hazelnut	nuts are a favorite food source for squirrels; nuts are edible		●	●	●			○			
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> ( <i>Crataegus suksdorfii</i> )	black hawthorn	small white flowers, in spring; very tolerant of wide range of conditions; small tree excellent for small planting strips; fruit remains on trees over winter, providing important food source for birds; has thorns	●	●	●	○	●	○		●	●	●
<i>Euonymus occidentalis</i>	Western wahoo	Threatened species in WA; purplish mottled flowers in spring		●	●	●	●					
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Oregon ash	often found in forested wetlands and riparian areas with red alder and black cottonwood		●	●	○	●			●	●	○
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal	usually creeping form; often in understory of western red-cedar; forms dense patches		●	●	●	●					
<i>Holdiscus discolor</i>	oceanspray	graceful, arching branches; creamy flower clusters emerge in summer, turn brown and remain on plant over winter		●	●	●		●	○			
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	black twinberry	black berries borne in pairs surrounded by red or purple bracts		●	●	○	○					○
<i>Malus fusca</i>	Pacific crabapple	small fragrant pinkish-white flowers, in spring; small apples excellent food source for birds and small mammals; beautiful fall color (orange/red)		●	●	○	○			○	○	○



\*This list is representative, but not exhaustive, of the native trees and shrubs historically found in the natural terrestrial habitats of Vancouver, Washington.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Growth Form	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Spread (feet)	Growth Rate	Light / Shade Tolerance			Moisture Tolerance				Leaf Type
						Full Sun	Part Sun	Full Shade	Dry	Moist	Seasonally Wet	Perennially Wet	
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	osoberry / indian-plum	shrub	12	8	fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	mock-orange	shrub	10	6	fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark	shrub	18	15	fast		✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	ponderosa pine	tree	200	30	fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i>	black cottonwood	tree	150	40	very fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	bitter cherry	tree	30	20	medium	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	choke cherry	arborescent shrub	20	15	medium	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir	tree	200	60	fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Oregon oak / Garry Oak	tree	65	45	very slow	✓	✓		✓				deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rhamnus purshiana (Frangula purshiana)</i>	cascara	tree	30	25	slow	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	red flowering currant	shrub	8	5	medium	✓	✓		✓	✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose	shrub	6	thicket-forming	medium		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rosa nootkana</i>	Nootka rose	shrub	8	thicket-forming	medium	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	swamp rose / clustered wild rose	shrub	8	thicket-forming	medium	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry	shrub	6	5	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	salmonberry	shrub	8	thicket-forming	medium		✓	✓		✓			deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Salix fluviatilis</i>	Columbia River willow	shrub	20	20	fast	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow	tree	40	30	fast	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow	tree	40	40	fast	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	sitka willow	shrub	25	25	fast	✓	✓			✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf

# City of Vancouver

# Native Trees and Shrubs

## Plant Notes & Ecosystem Information (O - Sal)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Notes	Approved Street Tree	Good for Urban Yards	Good for Natural Areas	Mesic coniferous - deciduous mixed forest	Riparian Forest	Steep, Dry Sites	Oak Woodlands	Forested wetlands & Floodplains	Columbia River Floodplain	Scrub-Shrub Wetlands
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	osoberry / indian-plum	often found in riparian areas with alder and ash; first native shrub to flower in spring; fruit is favorite food source of birds		●	●	●	●	○		●	●	
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	mock-orange	beautiful white, sweet fragrant flower blossoms appear in late spring; commonly planted as an ornamental shrub		●	●	○		○	○			
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark	named for multi-layered shredding bark; often in riparian areas; dense root structure makes this an excellent shrub for erosion control on stream banks		●	●	●	●			●	●	●
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	ponderosa pine	typically found east of Cascades on drier sites, however less common Willamette Valley race of <i>P. ponderosa</i> tolerates moist conditions; prefers coarse-textured soils		●	●	○		○	○			
<i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i>	black cottonwood	short-lived; very messy - produces sticky resin and cotton-like seeds; typically found in riparian areas, especially along Columbia River; often with Oregon ash and willow species			●	○	●			●	●	○
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	bitter cherry	white flowers, in spring; fruit important food source for birds		●	●	○		○				
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	choke cherry	white flowers, in spring; fruit important food source for birds				○	○	○		○	○	
<i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir	most common conifer in region; important timber species; extremely long-lived		●	●	●	○	○	○			
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Oregon oak / Garry Oak	once widespread locally, but now much more rare; acorns are important food source for deer, many small mammals, and birds; winter silhouette very striking	●	●	●	○		●	●	○	○	
<i>Rhamnus purshiana (Frangula purshiana)</i>	casacara	understory tree in moist forests; berries are attractive to raccoons and many bird species	●	●	●	○	○	○		○	○	
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	red flowering currant	pink or red flowers, in spring; hummingbirds feed on nectar and birds feed on berries		●	●	●		○	○	○	○	
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose	small pink roses appear in May or June; rose hip (fruit) lacks sepals; often on forested slopes with Douglas-fir		●	●	○		○	○	○	●	●
<i>Rosa nootkana</i>	Nootka rose	new plants sprout from underground stems (rhizomes); 2" pink roses appear in May; rose hip remains on plant over winter and are important food source for animals			●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	swamp rose / clustered wild rose	new plants sprout from underground stems (rhizomes); flowers appear in clusters of 3 to 20; often found in riparian areas or moist open woodlands			●	○	●			○	○	○
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry	large velvety leaves; berries are similar to blackberry in appearance but are usually not very palatable		●	●	●	●	○	○			○
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	salmonberry	related to blackberries; new plants sprout from underground stems (rhizomes); small pink flowers, in spring; fruit is edible, but usually quite bland; very common in riparian areas			●	●	●					
<i>Salix fluviatilis</i>	Columbia River willow	found only on banks of Columbia River			●		○			●	●	●
<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow	found in wetlands and riparian areas; tallest native willow			●		●			●	●	●
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow	often found in disturbed open areas; resprouts following fire			●	○	●			●	●	●
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	sitka willow	very common; colonizes sites following disturbance; tolerates harsh conditions			●	○	●			○	○	●



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Botanical Name	Common Name	Growth Form	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Spread (feet)	Growth Rate	Light / Shade Tolerance			Moisture Tolerance				Leaf Type
						Full Sun	Part Sun	Full Shade	Dry	Moist	Seasonally Wet	Perennially Wet	
<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	blue elderberry	arborescent shrub	20	10	fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	red elderberry	shrub	15	10	fast	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	hardhack	shrub	5	thicket-forming	fast	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry	shrub	4	4	fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		deciduous, broadleaf
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Pacific yew	tree	40	30	slow	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western redcedar	tree	100	30	medium	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western hemlock	tree	150	40	fast	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		evergreen, conifer
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	red huckleberry	shrub	6	4	medium		✓	✓	✓	✓			deciduous, broadleaf

# City of Vancouver

# Native Trees and Shrubs

## Plant Notes & Ecosystem Information (Sam - V)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Notes	Approved Street Tree	Good for Urban Yards	Good for Natural Areas	Mesic coniferous - deciduous mixed forest	Riparian Forest	Steep, Dry Sites	Oak Woodlands	Forested wetlands & Floodplains	Columbia River Floodplain	Scrub-Shrub Wetlands
<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	blue elderberry	usually found on drier sites than red elderberry; extremely important food source for multiple animal species		●	●	○	○	○		●	●	○
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	red elderberry	usually found on wetter sites than blue elderberry; extremely important food source for multiple animal species		●	●	●	●			●	●	●
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	hardhack	spreads aggressively by rhizomes; often found in disturbed wet sites; flower clusters often remain on plant over winter			●		●			○	○	●
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry	very common locally; highly adaptable plant found in a variety of habitats; white fruits (poisonous to humans) remain on plant over winter and provide food for birds		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Pacific yew	usually found in shady understory of conifer forest; once common, now quite rare; seeds poisonous to humans but eaten by birds		●	●	○	○					
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western redcedar	common in riparian areas along streams; long-lived; dense foliage provides excellent cover from predators for birds and squirrels		●	●	●	●			○	○	
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western hemlock	state tree of Washington; late-successional (climax) species for dominant native forest type; often grows on decaying logs or stumps; often associated with Douglas-fir and Western redcedar; requires organic-rich soil; canopy forms dense shade		●	●	●	○					
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	red huckleberry	not common locally, usually found at higher elevations; edible berries		●	●	●		○				

### Books

Hitchcock, C. & Cronquist, A. Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Manual. 1973. University of Washington Press.  
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 Kruckeberg, Arthur. Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest. 2003, University of Washington Press.  
 Pojar, J. & Mackinnon, A. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast. 1994, Lone Pine Publishing.

### Websites

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 OSU Native & Naturalized Woody Plants <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/native-or.htm>  
 U.S.D.A. National Plants Database <http://plants.usda.gov/>  
 Portland Plant List <http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?&a=59039&c=35517>  
 Washington Native Plant Society <http://www.wnps.org/>  
 West Multnomah County native plants brochure [http://westmultconserv.org/Publications/native\\_plants%20brochure.pdf](http://westmultconserv.org/Publications/native_plants%20brochure.pdf)  
 King County native plants website <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/PI/Go-Native/index.aspx>  
 Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture <http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php>  
 Washington Natural Heritage Program (DNR) <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/index.html>  
 Willamette Valley Native Nurseries <http://www.biodiversitypartners.org/pubs/Campbell/07af.shtml>  
 Plant Native <http://www.plantnative.com/>

### Key to Species Presence in Habitat Types:

- commonly present
- sometimes present
- rarely present

### Questions?

Call (360) 619-1108