

Common Regional Wetland and Riparian Plants

Name	Form	Mature Size	Setting	Comments
Red Alder, (<i>Alnus rubra</i>)	Deciduous tree [seeds prolifically on bare soil]	Height: 80 ft - 120 ft, Spread: 40 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Aggressive seeder and fast grower, even in poor soil. Relatively short lifespan (50 years). Provides food for birds.
Alumroot, Small-flowered, (<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>)	Perennial forb	Height: 12 in - 24 in	Riparian, Forest, Rocky	Often found on stream banks and in rocky crevices. Numerous, very small flowers in open clusters bloom May to July.
Oregon Ash, (<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>)	Deciduous tree	Height: 40 ft - 80 ft, Spread: 25 ft	Wetland Riparian	Has winged fruit, not berries like other ashes. Often grows near streams or areas that flood
Western Bleeding Heart, (<i>Dicentra formosa</i>)	Perennial forb, spreads by rhizome	Height: 6 in - 12 in	Wetland Forest F.Slope	Fernlike leaves. April to June bloom. Prefers rich soil. Would do well along a stream bank.
Blue-eyed Grass, (<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>)	Perennial forb	Height: 8 in - 20 in	Wetland, Grassland	Grass-like, sharp pointed leaves. Does well on edge of streams.
Small-Fruited Bullrush, (<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>)	Perennial forb, spreads by rhizomes	Height: 2 ft - 5 ft	Wetland Forest Grassland	Grasslike plant common in wetlands and roadside ditches. Good soil-binding characteristics. Spreads fairly rapidly.
Common Camas, (<i>Camassia quamash</i>) and (<i>Camassia leightinii</i>)	Perennial forb, Bulb	Height: 1 ft - 2.5 ft	Wetland Grassland	Can be used in wet meadow or wetland settings. Late spring or early summer bloom. Tolerates heavy soil.
Cascara, (<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>)	Deciduous tree	Height: 30 ft - 40 ft, Spead: 25 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Also called chittim or buckthorn. Purplish black berries are bitter but edible; they attract birds. Cannot tolerate deep shade. Seldom reach maturity. Historically, the bark has been collected and used for laxatives.
Western Red Cedar, (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	Evergreen tree	Height: To 200 ft, Spread: 30 ft	Wetland Riparian Forest	Found mostly in moist to wet soils, usually in shaded forests. Will grow in drier areas with rich soil. Probably most important tree to coastal Indians. Scale-like leaves. Bark shreds easily.
Bitter Cherry, (<i>Prunus emarginata</i>)	Deciduous tree	Height: 30 ft - 50 ft, Spread: 20 ft	Riparian F.Slope Thicket	Also called wild cherry. Often grows in moist woods or along streams. Can succeed in sunny, dry sites, too? Produces bright red cherries that are very bitter.

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Sweet Coltsfoot, (Petasites frigidus)	Perennial forb, spreads from rhizomes	Height: 12 in - 24 in	Wetland Riparian Forest Grassland	Needs large, moist, wild setting in wet meadow, bog or riparian area. One of earliest wildflowers to bloom.
Red Columbine, (Aquilegia formosa)	Perennial forb, taproot	Height: 12 in - 18 in	Riparian Forest Thickets Grassland Rocky	Can grow in wide variety of settings. Prefers light shade. Easy to start from seed. One of our most beautiful wildflowers; spring bloom. Flowers very attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies.
Northern Black Cottonwood, (Populus trichocarpa)	Deciduous tree	Height: 100 ft - 175 ft, Spread: 25 ft - 40 ft	Wetland Riparian	Fast grower in moist to saturated soils; widely used for streambank stabilization
Red-Flowering Current, (Ribes sanguineum)	Deciduous shrub	Height: 3 ft - 9 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope Thicket Grassland	Very attractive, erect, non-spiny shrub with red, tubular flowers that bloom early in the spring. Produces bluish, unpalatable berries that are quickly eaten by birds.
Red-Osier Dogwood, (Cornus sericea)	Deciduous tree-like shrub; spreads to form thicket	Height: 6 ft - 18 ft, Spread: 20 ft	Wetland Riparian Thicket	Attractive shrub that produces bright red stems. Makes good barrier hedge. Sometimes called <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> .
Red Elderberry, (Sambucus racemosa)	Deciduous tree-like shrub	Height: 4 ft - 30 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Fast growing, with sprawling branches. Hollow stems. Berries are not edible, but birds love them. Bloom and ripen earlier than Blue Elderberry.
Western Fescue, (Festuca occidentalis)	Perennial forb	Height: 6 in - 40 in	Riparian, Thicket	Tufted perennial grass with hairlike leaves. Common understory plant west of Cascades.
Grand Fir, (Abies grandis)	Evergreen tree	Height: 150 ft - 250 ft, Spread: 40 ft	Wetland Riparian Forest F.Slope	Largest true fir. Tall, straight and stately. Cones sit upright on the branches.
Goats Beard, (Aruncus sylvestris)	Perennial forb	Height: 36 in - 72 in	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Also known as Sea Foam. Commonly found in 'edge' habitats (edges of roadsides, forests and streams).
Grass-widow, (Sisyrinchium douglasii)	Perennial forb	Height: 4 in - 16 in	Wetland Grassland	Showy, tufted perennial. Leaves like iris but much smaller. Attractive spring bloom. Does well on edge of streams.

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Tufted Hairgrass, (Deschampsia caespitosa)	Perennial forb	Height: 12 in - 48 in	Wetland Riparian	Densely tufted perennial grass. Grows in bunches.
Western Black Hawthorn (upland form), (Crataegus douglasii var. suksdorfii)	Deciduous treespreads	Height: 25 ft - 45 ft, Spread: 15 ft - 25 ft	Wetland Riparian Forest F.Slope Thicket	Sometimes called Douglas hawthorn or black haw. Good fall color. Common; thorny; thicket forming; good hedgerow plant. Doesn't spread as aggressively as non-native species. Grows slowly. Valuable food & cover for wildlife.
Western Hemlock, (Tsuga heterophylla)	Evergreen tree	Height: 125 ft +, Spread: 40 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Can be used as hedge. Not for average yard due to size. Fairly fast growth. Prefers moist, acid soil.
Indian Plum, (Oemleria cerasiformis)	Deciduous tree-like shrub	Height: 8 ft - 15 ft	Riparian Grassland	Also called osoberry. Fruit resembles small plums, edible but bitter. One of first to flower in spring. Open woods, streambanks, roadsides.
Monkey Flower, (Mimulus guttatus)	Perennial forbspreads by runners	Height: 3 in - 30 in	Wetland Riparian	Summer bloom of bright yellow flowers.
Pacific Ninebark, (Physocarpus capitatus)	Deciduous Shrub	Height: 15 ft, Spread: 10 ft	Riparian Forest	Maple-like leaves; shredding bark. Produces masses of tiny white flowers which change to reddish seed clumps. Excellent soil-binding characteristics.
Piggyback Plant, (Tolmiea menziesii)	Perennial forb spreads by rhizomes	Height: 12 in - 24 in	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Good along stream banks. Sometimes called youth-on-age. Buds form at base of leaves, making the leaf appear to carry a second, smaller leaf. Often used as houseplant.
Rose Species (Swamp and Nootka), (Rosa pisocarpa, Rosa Nootkana)	Deciduous shrub	Height: 4 ft - 10 ft	Riparian, F. Slope	Also called Clustered Rose because the pink flowers usually occur in groups of 3 - 20. Produces small purplish, pear-shaped hips. Nootka is larger, reseeds itself and creates flowering thicket.
Rush species, (Juncus ensofolius, and other Juncus species)	Perennial forb	Height: varies	Wetland Riparian	Use in wetland or riparian areas. They provide excellent soil-binding for erosion control. The most common rush (Juncus effusus) can be invasive, but is good for erosion control in poor soil conditions.
Salmonberry, (Rubus spectabilis)	Deciduous shrubspreads by rhizomes	Height: 3 ft - 12 ft	Riparian	Grows in wet slopes or valleys. Often grows under red alder in forested wetlands. Good soil-binding characteristics and well-adapted to eroded or disturbed sites. Edible fruit. Tends to be spiny. Can spread aggressively.

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Sedge, (Carex obnupta and other Carex species)	Perennial forb	Height: varies, (8 in - 46 in)	Wetland	An important family of wetland plants with many native species. Grasslike with triangular stems. All possess excellent soil-binding characteristics. Carex obnupta especially good for swales.
Snowberry, (Symphoricarpos albus)	Deciduous shrub, spreads by rhizomes	Height: 2 ft - 6 ft	Forest F.Slope Thicket	Erect form of snowberry. White berries not palatable. Important wildlife food because berries persist into winter. Excellent soil-binding characteristics.
False Solomon's Seal, (Smilacina racemosa)	Perennial forb	Height: 12 in - 36 in	Wetland Forest F.Slope Thicket	Similar to Star-Flowered Solomon's Seal; more robust; leaves are larger, flowers more fragrant. Good ornamental in shady gardens. Large, many-branched flower clusters.
Douglas Spirea, (Spirea douglasii)	Deciduous shrub	Height: 3 ft - 6 ft	Wetland Riparian Thicket	Also called hardtack or steeple-bush. Erect, leggy, often forming thickets. Blooms in mid-summer; pyramid shape clusters of fragrant pink flowers that appear fuzzy.
Sitka Spruce, (Picea sitchensis)	Evergreen tree	Height: 150 ft - 200 ft	Wetland Riparian	Fast-growing, long-lived conifer found in low-lying, moist forests. Root mass can become very dense and resistant to erosion in riparian settings. Needles stiff and sharp.
Thimbleberry, (Rubus parviflorus)	Deciduous shrub, spreads by rhizomes	Height: 3 ft - 6 ft	Riparian Forest F.Slope	Large maple-like leaves with velvety texture. Berries edible, resemble raspberries. Stems lack thorns. Can spread to form dense thickets. Drought tolerant.
Clasping Leaved Twisted-stalk, (Streptopus amplexifolius)	Perennial forb	Height: 18 in - 36 in	Riparian, Forest, F. Slope	Single, greenish-white bell-shaped flowers hang from thread-like stem on under-side of leaf.
Stream Violet, (Viola glabella)	Perennial forb, spreads by rhizomes	Height: 4 in - 12 in	Wetland, Riparian, Forest	Small but showy yellow flowers. Heart-shaped leaves.
Pacific Willow, (Salix lucida spp. lasiandra)	Deciduous tree	Height: 10 ft - 60 ft, Spread: 25 ft - 30 ft	Wetland, Riparian	Also called yellow willow. Fast grower in saturated or shallowly flooded areas. Only native willow likely to grow into large tree. Excellent soil-binding characteristics.
Scouler Willow, (Salix scouleriana)	Deciduous tree	Height: 10 ft - 50 ft, Spread: 15 ft	Wetland Riparian Forest	Also called black willow or mountain pussy-willow. Grows in upland forests under larger trees, clearings, dry sites. Excellent soil-binding characteristics.