

Native Riparian Plants Recommended for Saanich

| Coniferous Trees | | |
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| Common Name | Scientific name | Growth Characteristics |
| Douglas-fir | <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> | To 70m; full sun to part shade; prefers drier sites; roots provide stability in eroding areas and help create valuable fish habitat. |
| Western hemlock | <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> | To 60m; good choice for wetland edges and buffer zones |
| Western redcedar | <i>Thuja plicata</i> | To 60m; tolerates full sun to full shade on moist to wet sites; grows best on seepage or floodplain sites, common along streamsides. |
| Deciduous Trees | | |
| Common Name | Scientific name | Growth Characteristics |
| Douglas maple | <i>Acer glabrum</i> | Small tree or shrub to 10m tall; usually an understory tree in moist areas; showy fall colour; good for shore stabilization |
| Bigleaf maple | <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> | Large deciduous tree to 35m tall; dry to moist sites; deep wide root system provides good erosion control on slopes |
| Red alder | <i>Alnus rubra</i> | Fast growing hardy deciduous tree to 25m; nitrogen fixer that grows well and seeds prolifically on bare soil; typical 40-50 year lifespan; provides food for birds |
| Black hawthorn | <i>Crataegus douglasii</i> | Small tree to 10m; full sun to partial shade in moist open areas, deep roots and high resistance to beaver damage, good choice for streamside areas; provides good wildlife habitat and food; long sharp spines have a human buffering value. |
| Pacific crab apple | <i>Malus fusca</i> | Shrub or small tree 2-10m tall; prefers moist areas near standing or flowing water; small apples are edible but tart. |
| Black cottonwood | <i>Populus balsamifera</i> <i>ssp trichocarpa</i> | Fast growing deciduous tree to 60m; prefers moist to saturated soils including floodplains; good for streambank stabilization; propagates from cuttings |
| Cascara | <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> | Deciduous tree to 12m tall; good for slope stabilizing and erosion control; sun to partial shade; tolerates variety of moisture regimes; fruits are good food source for birds; bark is a powerful laxative which deters beavers, making this a valuable tree for riparian planting |
| Shrubs | | |
| Common Name | Scientific name | Growth Characteristics |
| Saskatoon | <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> | 1-5m tall; clusters of white flowers become small fruit; good for shore stabilization on drier sites |
| Red-osier dogwood | <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> | Freely spreading red-stemmed deciduous shrub to 6m tall; sun/shade tolerant; prefers moist soils; propagates from cuttings |
| Beaked hazelnut | <i>Corylus cornuta</i> var. <i>californica</i> | Many-stemmed shrub to 4m tall; prefers moist well-drained sites in sun to shade conditions; spreads via suckers; edible nuts provide good wildlife forage |
| Oceanspray | <i>Holodiscus discolor</i> | Several main stems to 4m tall; lilac-like clusters of white flowers become brown and remain through winter |

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| Black Twinberry | <i>Lonicera involucrata</i> | Several upright stems to 3m; prefers sun; good for moist forest, thicket and streamside habitats; stems and root systems grow quickly, making this a valuable riparian species; also provides excellent wildlife forage and cover. |
| Indian plum | <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i> | Deciduous shrub to 5m tall; early clusters of white flowers, edible plum-like fruits are bluish-black; prefers dry to moist sites in open areas |
| Pacific ninebark | <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> | Deciduous shrub, 1-3m tall; glossy dark leaves; terminal clusters of small white flowers; sun to shade in moist humus-rich soil |
| Red-flowering currant | <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> | 1-3m deciduous shrub; showy pink flowers attract hummingbirds; good choice for dry sites |
| Nootka rose | <i>Rosa nutkana</i> | To 3m tall; deciduous with broad pink flowers; red hips persist through winter; spreads readily by underground runners; forms thickets that create a formidable human barrier |
| Thimbleberry | <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> | Deciduous shrub to 3m; full sun to light shade; forms dense thickets via extensive network of underground stems; open sites, roadsides, exposed stream areas; invasive habit useful for stabilizing drier slopes and streambanks. |
| Salmonberry | <i>Rubus spectabilis</i> | Deciduous shrub to 4m tall; early showy pink flowers, tasty orange or red berries; tolerates full sun to full shade in moist sites, stream banks, swamps; early colonizer of wet areas; spreads rapidly; valuable riparian species. |
| Scouler's willow | <i>Salix scouleriana</i> | Fast-growing shrubby tree to 12m; common in streamside areas, clearings, forest edges; drought tolerant; propagates readily from cuttings, making it a valuable species for slope and streambank stabilization and bio-engineering. |
| Sitka willow | <i>Salix sitchensis</i> | Deciduous shrubby tree 2-12m; grows quickly in moist to saturated soils; excellent choice for streambank stabilization. |
| Red elderberry | <i>Sambucus racemosa</i> | Fast growing erect shrub to 6m; tolerates full sun to full shade along stream banks, swampy thickets, and moist clearings; root system develops rapidly, making this a good choice for streambank stabilization; provides excellent food and cover for wildlife. |
| Hardhack | <i>Spiraea douglasii</i> spp <i>douglasii</i> | Multi-branched shrub to 2m tall; dense terminal clusters of deep pink flowers; sun to semi-shade in moist to wet soils; Spreads quickly & aggressively in most sites |
| Snowberry | <i>Symphoricarpus albus</i> | 0.5 – 2m tall shrub, drought tolerant; excellent soil-binding characteristics |
| Perennials, Groundcovers, and Ferns | | |
| Common Name | Scientific name | Growth Characteristics |
| Kinnikinnick | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> | Trailing evergreen with woody stem; dark green leaves; red berries persist through winter; good ground cover |

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| Lady fern | <i>Athyrium felix-femina</i> | Clustered fronds grow to 2m tall; fast-growing fern prefers moist to wet sites; prefers more shade and moisture than sword fern |
| Deer fern | <i>Blechnum spicant</i> | Evergreen tufted fern 20-80cm tall; drought tolerant when planted in shade |
| Coast boykinia | <i>Boykinia elata</i> | Leafy-stemmed perennial to 60cm tall; white clusters of small flowers; common on streambanks, moist forest areas |
| Alumroot | <i>Heuchera</i> spp | Low-growing rosette of leaves with flower stalks to 60cm tall; perennial, spreads via rhizomes; common on streambanks, rocky meadows, forest edges |
| Skunk cabbage | <i>Lysichiton americanum</i> | Large lantern-shaped yellow flower grows first in early spring, followed by cluster of large elliptical leaves; prefers moist to wet soils |
| Dull Oregon grape | <i>Mahonia nervosa</i> | Evergreen to 60cm tall; leaves resemble holly; clusters of yellow flowers, edible blue berries; good ground cover in sun to shade, well-drained soil |
| False lily-of-the-valley | <i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i> | Perennial from creeping rhizome, 10-40cm tall; heart-shaped leaves, cluster of tiny white flowers on single tall stalk; good ground cover in shade to semi-shade, in moist humus-rich soil |
| Sword fern | <i>Polystichum munitum</i> | Large ornamental evergreen fern to 1.5m tall; grows in sun to shade; drought tolerant; easy to grow |
| Fringecup | <i>Tellima grandiflora</i> | Perennial herb 40-80cm tall; lobed basal leaves, small fragrant flowers on tall stalks; good ground cover in shade to semi-shade |
| Foamflower | <i>Tiarella trifoliata</i> | Basal rosette of toothed leaves surround a slender spike of tiny white florets to 60cm tall; prefers moist forest areas or seepages. |
| Stream violet | <i>Viola glabella</i> | Evergreen perennial from vigorous rhizome, to 30cm tall; yellow flowers on single stalks |

Grasses, sedges and rushes

| Common Name | Scientific name | Growth Characteristics |
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| Red fescue | <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Loosely clumping grass, stems to 20-100cm tall; reddish purple base; good choice for streambanks, meadows and river flats |
| Reed mannagrass | <i>Glyceria grandis</i> | Clumping grass with stout stems; good for streambanks and shady moist woods |
| Common rush | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | Perennial tufted rush with stout rhizomes, round stems to 25-130cm tall; prefers moist to wet fields, clearings and wetland areas |
| Cattail | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Perennial 1-3m tall; long flat leaves; distinctive brown club-shaped female flower spike 15-20cm long; does well in semi-aquatic or wet marsh habitats |
| Slough sedge | <i>Carex obnupta</i> | Densely tufted purplish sedge 60-150cm tall; spreads by long stout rhizomes; prefers marshy areas, streambanks and wet forest openings |