



shade our streams

A CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL PROJECT



Red Osier Dogwood



Grand Fir



Salmonberry



Western Red Cedar



Native Rose

Why Plant Natives?

As we work with landowners to plant 30 miles of streamside property, Shade Our Streams is committed to providing participants with native plant species. We will also be purchasing those species from growers that collect seeds from local sources. This commitment to “keeping it local” will benefit your property in many ways.

- **Native plants thrive in our weather.** Native species are adapted to Northwestern Oregon’s climate - hot, dry, summers and cool, wet winters. Native plants are less likely to become stressed by these conditions than ornamental varieties.
- **Native plants are low-maintenance.** Because natives are adapted to Oregon’s climate, they don’t require the extensive care that non-native plants do. They’re also more resistant to insects and disease.
- **Native plants provide wildlife habitat.** The birds and other animals that call Oregon home rely on native vegetation for food and shelter.
- **Native plants make this place great.** Trees provide a link to the natural heritage of our region. Though you may not be able to visit an old-growth forest every day, you can still enjoy native plantings in your own backyard.

Images courtesy Pat Breen, OSU Extension.

Which native trees are best for my land?

The Shade Our Streams project has compiled extensive knowledge regarding the different habitat types in our watershed, and the plants that do well in each one. When we visit your property, we will conduct a site survey to look at different characteristics that will help us make the best plant selections. Soil type, the slope of the land, and other factors will be taken into consideration.

We will use that knowledge to select a diverse mixture of plants that will thrive on your land. As they mature, these plants will provide wildlife habitat, keep soil in place with their roots, and grow leaves that will shade our streams.



A diverse mix of native trees and shrubs creates functional and attractive streamside habitat.

Contact us

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Did you know...?

Facts about native trees and shrubs

- The Douglas fir is the official state tree of Oregon.
- Wildlife favor many of the native trees, with birds using twigs for perching and nesting, and small mammals eating the seeds and buds.
- Many of the plants available to you have edible berries. Thimbleberries and salmonberries can be eaten straight from the bush, while elderberries and Oregon grape can be cooked into syrup. Snowberries are edible, but unappetizing to humans.
- Several species flower, creating habitat for native pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Indian plum often flower first, followed by dogwood, salmonberry and Oregon grape. Later in the season, you can look forward to blooms on thimbleberry, snowberry, Douglas spiraea, ninebark, elderberry, and roses.
- Native Americans used extracts from elderberry bark and roots to treat colds and flu, and called the vine maple "basket tree" because its long straight stems were useful in basket weaving.
- The wood of the Pacific dogwood has been used to make many kinds of items, from piano keys to bows and arrows.