

Marion SWCD Native Plant Descriptions

LEGEND

Sunlight Conditions

- A** Prefers full sun
B Partial shade
C Prefers shade

Special Uses

- 1** Attracts insects, bees, butterflies
2a Birds
2b Hummingbirds
3 Wildlife forage, cover, food
4 Bank stabilization

EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREES

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
DOUGLAS FIR <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	200'+	A	All but wet soil	Timber 1, 2a	Oregon's State tree can live over 1000 years; thick bark enables it to survive moderate fire
INCENSE CEDAR <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	100'	A-B	Dry, well drained	2a, 3	Dense, narrow conical shape with reddish brown bark; resists pests; fragrant; grows quickly
WESTERN HEMLOCK <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	50'-150'	A-C	Fairly dry to wet sites	2a, 3	Attractively shaped, adaptable conifer, seedlings prefer to develop under shade; seeds important food source for birds and small mammals
WESTERN REDCEDAR <i>Thuja plicata</i>	180'	A-B	Moist to poorly drained	Timber 1, 2a, 4	Excellent for wildlife cover, restoration projects, and as an ornamental; fragrant wood and foliage; reddish-gray bark
WILLAMETTE VALLEY PONDEROSA PINE <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	180'	A	Adaptable – wet and dry sites	Timber 3	Native pine to Willamette Valley also known as Yellow Pine; popular for its straight growth habit which exposes scaled, colored bark with a vanilla fragrance

DECIDUOUS TREES

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
BEAKED HAZELNUT <i>Corylus cornata</i>	15'	A-B	Moist to dry, well drained	1, 2a, 3	Evergreen; native to coastal forests of western North America; pungent leaves have a similar flavor to bay leaves (though stronger); used in woodworking
OREGON ASH <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	60'	A-B	Moist to wet	2a, 3, 4	Deciduous; leaves turn bright yellow in fall; tolerates seasonal flooding; excellent for wetlands and streambanks; attracts birds and wildlife
OREGON WHITE OAK <i>Quercus garryana</i>	100'	A	Moist to dry, well drained	1, 2a, 2b	Oregon's only native oak; forms wide spreading branches; important wildlife species; produces edible acorns; slow growing; long lived
PAPER BIRCH/WATER BIRCH <i>Betula spp.</i>	100'	A-B	Moist	1, 2a, 3	Paper birch: white peeling bark; attracts wildlife and some butterfly larvae; resists boring and mining insects; attracts other insects and birds
PACIFIC DOGWOOD <i>Cornus nutallii</i>	25-35'	B	Moist to dry, well drained	2a, 2b, 3	Branched irregular tree with clusters of showy white flowers in mid spring to early summer turning to red berries; can be difficult to grow
QUAKING ASPEN <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	60'	A	Moist	2a, 3	Rapidly reproduces from suckers forming colonies; smooth greenish white bark; heart shaped leaves that turn gold in fall; good for wildlife and birds
WESTERN CRABAPPLE <i>Pyrus fusca</i>	25-35'	A-B	Moist, wet areas	2a, 2b, 3	Large shrub/small tree that is popular for wildlife and birds; tart edible "apples"; tolerates flooding; leaves turn red/orange in fall
WHITE ALDER <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	50-75'	A-B	Moist, wet areas	1, 2a, 2b, 3,4	Plant along streams to provide shade and erosion control; not drought tolerant; tolerates poor soils

DECIDUOUS & EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
BLACK TWINBERRY <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	10'	A-C	Moist to wet	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Produces pairs of yellow tubular flowers from mid spring to late summer that turn to shiny black berries; attracts hummingbirds and wildlife; berries not edible to humans
BLUE ELDERBERRY <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	10-30'	A	Dry to moist	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Deciduous shrub that has small white flowers followed by blueberry-like fruits; drought tolerant; attracts birds
CASCARA <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	30'	A-C	Moist, well drained	1, 2a	Known as Chitum; shrub/small tree with silver gray bark and black berries attractive to birds; bark has medicinal purposes
CHOCKECHERRY <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	10-15'	A-B	Moist to dry well drained	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Attractive suckering shrub or small tree; creamy white flowers in racemes in late spring; fruit bright red, with a very astringent, sour taste; attracts birds
COYOTE WILLOW <i>Salix exigua</i>	10-25'	A-B	Wet to moist	2a, 3, 4	Narrow lance shaped, light silvery green leaves; forms thickets; tolerates long periods of flooding; good for erosion control along ditches and streambanks
DEW BERRY/ TRAILING BLACKBERRY <i>Rubus ursinus</i>	to 15'	A-B	Moist to dry	1, 2a, 3	Native blackberry species; produces white to pink flowers in mid spring and summer and black edible fruits; can be aggressive in the garden
DOUGLAS SPIREA <i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	3-6'	A-B	Dry to moist	1, 3, 4	Known as Hardhack; erect leggy shrub producing pink-purple flower blooms during summer; good along stream banks for erosion control; attracts butterflies
EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	10'	A-B	Moist, well drained	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Small, leathery, glossy leaves; pink flowers followed by showy, edible, dark purple berries which ripen in early autumn; attracts birds and butterflies
GOLDEN CURRANT <i>Ribes aureum</i>	3-9'	A-B	Tolerates full range of soils	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Beautiful shrub with yellow flowers. Valuable food source for songbirds, hummingbirds chipmunks, ground squirrels, and other animals
HAIRY HONEYSUCKLE <i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	2-5'	A-B	Moist to dry	2a, 2b, 3	A vine that crawls more than climbs; hairy branches; pinkish-purple to yellowish-pink flowers; commonly found in dry, open forests and thickets
INDIAN PLUM <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	8-15'	A-C	Dry to moist	1, 2a, 2b	One of the first plants to bloom (Jan/Feb) with white flowers that yield small purple edible plums; highly sought by birds and hummingbirds
KINNIKINICK <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	6-8"	A-B	Moist to dry, well drained	1, 2a, 3, 4	Low spreading shrub; light pink urn-shaped flowers in small clusters near tips of stems; produces small red berries
MOCK-ORANGE <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	6-12'	A-B	Adapted to all but wet soil	1, 2a, 2b	Clusters of aromatic white flowers that attract bees and butterflies; blooms late spring to mid summer; drought tolerant; can be propagated from cuttings
NOOTKA ROSE <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	6'	A-B	Wet to dry	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 4	Spindly; grows with large pink flowers; fruit eaten by birds and small mammals; browse for deer and elk; forms dense thickets; good erosion control
OCEANSPRAY <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	8-12'	A-B	Dry to moist	1, 2a, 3	Multi-stemmed shrub with creamy white flowers; used for riparian restoration and wildlife habitat; drought-tolerant; attracts birds and butterflies
OREGON GRAPE- CREEPING <i>Mahonia repens</i>	12"	A-C	Moist to dry, well drained	1, 2a, 3	Evergreen; best as groundcover for dry shade; drought tolerant; provides food and cover for birds
OREGON GRAPE- TALL <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	5-8'	A-C	Dry to moist	1, 2a, 2b, 3	State flower of Oregon; holly-like leaves and dark blue edible berries; yellow flowers; drought-tolerant
PACIFIC NINEBARK <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	6-12'	A-B	Moist to wet along wetlands	2a, 3, 4	Large, spreading, attractive shrub with rounded clusters of white flowers; maple-like leaves, thin shreddy bark
PACIFIC WILLOW <i>Salix lucida (lasiandra)</i>	40'	A-B	Wet to moist	2a, 3, 4	Deciduous shrub or small tree; lance shaped leaves with a long tapered tip; tolerates long periods of flooding; attracts birds and wildlife
RED ELDERBERRY <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	15'	A-C	Moist to wet	1, 2a, 2b	White flowers and bright red berry like clusters by summer that are highly sought by birds; fast growing; berries not edible by humans
RED FLOWERING CURRANT <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-8'	A-B	Moist to dry well drained	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Beautiful ornamental shrub; flowers may be white, pink, to deep red; blooms from early spring to early summer; Attracts hummingbirds and other wildlife
RED OSIER DOGWOOD <i>Cornus sericea</i>	3'-18'	A-C	Tolerates full range of soils	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 4	Attractive red stems with white flower cluster that produce white berry clusters; fast growing; good along stream banks

DECIDUOUS & EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
SALAL <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	2'- 10'	A-C	Moist, well drained soils	1, 2a, 3	Dark green leathery leaves and white or pink flowers after establishment; has edible berries; attracts butterflies and wildlife
SNOWBERRY <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	6'	A-B	Dry-moist, well drained	1, 2a, 3	An important browse for game animals; many birds feed on the white, waxy berries which persist through winter; drought tolerant
TWINFLOWER <i>Linnea borealis</i>	3'	B-C	Moist to dry	1, 2a, 3	Evergreen shrub with slender trailing stems that form mats; glossy leaves; fragrant pink flowers in pairs from early summer to early fall; tolerates dry shade
VINE MAPLE <i>Acer circinatum</i>	20-25'	A-B	Moist, well drained	1, 2a, 2b,3	Attractive fall colors; suitable for shade; large shrub or small tree; ornamental or forest under-story plant
WESTERN AZALEA <i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	3-10'	A-B	Moist, well drained	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Loosely branched shrub with flowers that are trumpet-shaped, white or tinged with pink, 1 to 2 inches long, borne in loose clusters, appearing in early summer
WESTERN SERVICEBERRY <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	3-15'	A-B	Moist to dry well drained	1, 2a, 2b, 3	Known as Saskatoon; showy white flowers in mid spring to early summer; dull red edible fruit that birds eat; Important winter browse for deer/elk

FLOWERING PLANTS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Notes
BEARGRASS <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	16-20" 5' stalk	A-B	Moist, well drained	Evergreen perennial forms dense clumps of wiry, grass-like leaves; flowers are cream colored on a large stalk (up to 5'); blooms late spring to late summer; prefers open woods and clearings; does well after a disturbance
BLUE-EYED GRASS <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	16"	A-B	Moist, well drained	Grass-like clumps with individual blue-purple flowers ¾" in diameter; somewhat drought tolerant once established
BOLANDER'S LILY <i>Lillium bolanderi</i>	36"	B-C	Moist to dry, fast draining	Produces a nodding, funnel shaped, crimson to purple flower with dark purple spots; blooms from early to late summer; tolerates a wide range of conditions; protect from cold; attracts hummingbirds
BROAD-LEAVED SEDUM <i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	8"	A-B	Moist to dry, fast draining	Forms mats of flat, fleshy, spoon-shaped leaves; older stems and leaves are red; produces bright yellow flower clusters in late spring to late summer; easy to grow in the rock or butterfly garden
BUNCHBERRY <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	4"-6"	B-C	Moist, well drained	Trailing, rhizomatous ground cover; bright orange/red berry is eaten by sparrows, thrushes, vireos, grouse, and pheasants
CASCADE PENSTEMON <i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	24"	A-B	Moist or wet	Herbaceous perennial with a woody base; produces blue to purple tubular flowers in clusters; tolerates a range of soil conditions; attracts hummingbirds
COAST/BEACH STRAWBERRY <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	4"	A	Well drained, sandy	Trailing perennial with evergreen leaves that turn red in the winter; produces showy white flowers from mid spring to early summer and tasty strawberries; excellent groundcover or plant in rocky crevices; can be aggressive
COMMON CAMAS <i>Camassia quamash</i>	1-2'	A-B	Wet in winter Dry in summer	Herbaceous perennial; lovely blue violet flower that is a nectar source for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds; native to meadows and oak savannas
COMMON YARROW <i>Achellia millifolium</i>	1-3'	A-B	Dry to moist	Aromatic perennial; narrow fern like leaves with a large umbel of small white flowers; blooms from mid spring to mid fall; drought tolerant; can be used as a lawn substitute if mowed; attracts butterflies; medicinal properties
DEER FERN <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	3'	B-C	Wet or moist	Excellent addition to a shade or woodland garden; stays green year round; may be burned by cold weather; can be a winter food plant for wildlife
DOUGLAS' ASTER <i>Aster subspicatus</i>	1-3'	A-B	Moist with organic matter	Deciduous perennial with creeping rhizomes; blue to purple flowers; blooms from mid summer to mid fall; excellent plant for the butterfly garden or perennial flower bed; attracts insects and butterflies
EARLY BLUE VIOLET <i>Viola adunca</i>	4"	A-B	Moist, well drained	Oval to heart shaped perennial has light purple flowers, and spreads to form a groundcover; blooms mid spring to early or late summer; tolerates a range of conditions
FAIRY SLIPPER <i>Calypso bulbosa</i>	6-10"	B	Moist, rich	Perennial from a bulb; produces a large showy rose purple flower with a sweet fragrance; root system is sensitive to disturbance
FALSE LILY OF THE VALLEY <i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	14"	C	Moist	Deciduous perennial; produces heart shaped leaves and small white flowers and red berries; spreads aggressively, competes with weeds; good understory plant

FLOWERING PLANTS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Notes
FALSE SOLOMAN SEAL <i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	1-3'	B-C	Moist, organic	Tall rhizomatous perennial; large smooth leaves on a single branchless stalk; small white flower clusters on end of stem; fragrant flowers; green to red mottled fruits; blooms mid spring to early summer
FOOL'S ONION <i>Brodiaea hyacinthina</i>	up to 2'	A	Moist in spring dry in summer	Produces an umbel with up to 50 bell shaped white to pale blue flowers; blooms from late spring to late summer; beautiful addition to rock or wildflower garden; self propagating once established
FRINGECUP <i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	1-2'	B-C	Moist	Perennial; heart shaped leaves; tall slender stalks of fragrant greenish white flowers that become pink with age; blooms from mid spring to mid summer; evergreen in mild winters; leaves turn reddish in the cold; easy to grow
GRASS WIDOWS <i>Sisyrinchium douglasii</i>	12"	A-B	Moist in spring dry in summer	Deciduous perennial; forms clumps; bright reddish purple flowers blooming from early spring to early summer; good plant for the rock garden
GREAT CAMAS <i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	to 3'	A	wet winter dry summer	Perennial bulb; flowers range in color from creamy white to dark blue-violet; flowers grow on a long stalk; easy to grow
HARVEST BRODIAEA <i>Brodiaea coronaria</i>	12"	A-B	Dry to moist	Perennial; small violet-purple vase shaped flower; narrow grass-like leaves; common in grassy meadows and rocky areas; blooms in late summer
INSIDE-OUT FLOWER <i>Vancouveria hexandra</i>	4-16"	B	Moist to dry high organics	Deciduous, rhizomatous perennial; produces 10-30 dainty, white, nodding flowers on leafless stems with the petals flared back; blooms from late spring to early summer; excellent groundcover
LADY FERN <i>Atherium filix-femina</i>	6'	C	Moist or wet	Produces tall clusters of lacy fronds; can be aggressive; fronds die back in cold weather
LARGE-LEAVED LUPINE <i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	to 5'	A-B	Moist to wet	Perennial; produces large flower stalk up to 16" tall; blue to violet flowers bloom from early to late summer; attracts butterflies; will reseed itself
LEOPARD LILY <i>Lilium pardalinum</i>	36"	A-B	Moist to wet	Perennial flower that has orange to red petals that curve back toward the stem. Form clumps with multiple flowers on each stem; blooms from early to mid summer; attracts hummingbirds
MOUNTAIN STRAWBERRY <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	4-6"	A-B	Moist, well drained	Attractive bluish foliage that turns deep red in fall; flowers are white to pink in late spring and late summer; produces small sweet strawberries; excellent groundcover
ONION-NODDING <i>Allium cernuum</i>	6-20"	A-B	Well drained, moist to dry	Grows from bulbs that form clusters; produces nodding pink to white flowers from early to mid summer; good choice for perennial flower bed, rock garden, or butterfly garden as a nectar plant; can spread aggressively by seed
OREGON FAWN LILY <i>Erythronium oregonum</i>	12"	A-B	Moist, well drained with mulch	Perennial; Leaves mottled with maroon (up to 8" long); leafless stems bear 1-3 nodding white to slightly pink flowers with a band of yellow on the inner base; flowers grow to 2" long; blooms from early to late spring
OREGON IRIS <i>Iris tenax</i>	4-20"	A-B	Wet to dry	Perennial herb that resembles commercial iris varieties; grows in clumps with purple to blue flowers; blooms from mid-spring to early summer
OREGON STONECROP <i>Sedum oreganum</i>	6"	A-B	Dry, rocky, well-drained	Succulent, fleshy green leaves that turn bronze to red in the fall; numerous pale yellow flowers that turn pinkish as they dry; evergreen; good for rock or butterfly garden
OREGON (WOOLY) SUNSHINE <i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	6-24"	A	Dry, well drained	Perennial herb with hairy leaves and stems; solid bright yellow "daisy-like" flowers on long stalks; blooms from late spring to late summer; tolerant of drought and rocky soil
PACIFIC BLEEDING HEART <i>Dicentra formosa</i>	16"	B-C	Moist to wet, high organics	Perennial rhizomatous plant that has fern-like leaves and pink heart-shaped flowers; blooms from early spring to mid summer; may spread aggressively once established; makes a lovely understory plant
PRAIRIE SMOKE <i>Geum triflorum</i>	12"	A-B	Moist to dry, well drained	Perennial herb; forms clumps up to 12" across; plants have basal leaves and produce clusters of 1-9 yellow to pink blooms; after blooming, the achenes (seeds) form a fluffy cluster; blooms longer with more moisture
RED COLUMBINE <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	12-36"	A-B	Moist, well drained	Produces beautiful nodding red and yellow flowers from late spring to late summer; prune flower stalks to the ground once a year in early spring; great for hummingbird or butterfly gardens.
RED MONKEY FLOWER <i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	2'	A-B	Moist to wet	Perennial; produces light green foliage and showy red-orange tubular flowers; attracts hummingbirds and other wildlife
REDWOOD SORREL <i>Oxalis oregana</i>	6-8"	B-C	Moist	Rapidly spreading ground cover with heart shaped leaves in groups of 3; white or pink flowers; aggressive ground cover where no other herbaceous plants are present; competes with weeds

FLOWERING PLANTS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Notes
SHOOTING STAR <i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	4-8"	A-B	Moist, well drained	Produces up to 15 purple/pink flowers on a leafless stalk; blooms early April to June; beautiful perennial for the rock garden or wildflower meadow
SHOWY MILKWEED <i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	1-2'	A	Moist to dry	Produces pink to purple flowers and large seed pods; host and nectar plant for monarch butterflies; found in moist meadows
SLENDER-TUBED IRIS <i>Iris chrysophylla</i>	8-16"	A-B	Moist to dry, well drained	Rhizomatous; long grass-like leaves; yellowish-white flowers; blooms from late spring to mid summer; commonly found in open coniferous forest
SPREADING PHLOX <i>Phlox diffusa</i>	3-5"	A	Well drained rocky	Low growing perennial produces abundant pink to lavender blooms and forms dense patches; good for rock gardens and landscape beds
SWORD FERN <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	3-5'	B-C	Dry to moist	An attractive and hardy species for the home landscape; can be kept smaller by trimming back old foliage; easily transplanted
TIGER LILY <i>Lilium columbianum</i>	2-4'	A-B	Moist, well-drained, organic	Beautiful perennial flower with bright orange petals curving back toward the stem; forms clumps with multiple flowers on each stem; blooms late spring and summer; attracts hummingbirds
TROLLIUS-LEAVED LARKSPUR <i>Delphinium trolliifolium</i>	5'	B	Moist	Produces beautiful blue/purple flowers up to 1" long; flowers from mid spring to early summer; good plant for the shady woodland garden
WESTERN GERANIUM <i>Geranium oreganum</i>	15-30"	A-B	Moist	Perennial; produces large reddish purple flowers from May to August; grows in moist meadows and forests
WESTERN TRILLIUM <i>Trillium ovatum</i>	12-20"	B-C	Moist to wet	Showy perennial; white flowers with three petals and dark green leaves; usually found as an understory plant; blooms early to late spring
WILD GINGER <i>Asarum caudatum</i>	8-14"	A-B	Moist, high organic content	Lush slow growing groundcover; evergreen; large shiny heart-shaped dark green leaves (up to 4" long and 6" wide); maroon to white flowers hidden under the leaves; delicious ginger aroma; beware of slugs and snails!
WOODLAND STRAWBERRY <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	2-4"	A-B	Dry to moist	This drought tolerant strawberry has smaller fruit and is often found in more open parts of forests where it sends out runners and provides ground cover; attracts butterflies and wildlife
YELLOW-EYED GRASS <i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>	10-16"	A-B	Moist to wet	Small deciduous perennial; forms clumps of basal leaves; 2-7 bright yellow flowers bloom at the tips of stems from early to mid summer; does well in wet sunny areas
YELLOW MONKEY FLOWER <i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	to 36"	A-B	Wet to moist	Trailing perennial or annual; produces many bright yellow tube-like flowers from early spring to early fall; vigorous growth; grow larger with higher moisture
YELLOW WOOD VIOLET <i>Viola glabella</i>	12"	B-C	Moist to wet	Herbaceous, spreading perennial; yellow flowers in early spring to mid summer; can be used as a ground cover, provides colorful spots in the shaded garden; largest of native violets

GRASS-LIKE PLANTS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Notes
DENSE SEDGE <i>Carex densa</i>	10-20"	A-B	Moist to wet	Short stout stems growing from thick black rhizomes; flower spikes are tightly arranged and oval shaped from 1-2"; excellent species for erosion control; provides cover for birds and wildlife
SLOUGH SEDGE <i>Carex obnupta</i>	to 5'	A-B	Very wet or shallow water	Produces tufts of shoots from thick creeping rhizomes; tough grass like leaves; inflorescence consists of several arching cylindrical spikes up to 5" long; good in ponds and wetlands; provides cover for birds and wildlife
SOFT/Common RUSH <i>Juncus effusus</i>	3'	A-B	Moist to wet	Produces large tufts of rounded stems from rhizomes; leaves are all basal; inflorescence has many flowers clustered on one side of the stem; provides cover for birds and wildlife
SPREADING RUSH <i>Juncus patens</i>	1-2'	A-B	Moist to wet	Clumps of round, blue-grey leaves provide an upright, grassy effect; great plant for the sunny wet garden; provides cover for birds and wildlife