

Bioretention & Rain Garden

Plant Guide



Teresa Brooks

**Identification****Habitat****Maintenance**

Zone 1—The bottom of the rain garden, subject to frequent standing and flowing water. May become dry in summer. Plants should be able to withstand prolonged wet soil and standing water as well as drought.



Zone 2—The sides of the rain garden. Periodically wet, sometimes saturated during large storms. Plants should be able to withstand saturated soil, as well as standing water and drought for intermittent periods.



Zone 3—The upper area of the rain garden. Infrequently subject to saturation, but often wet in the winter and dry in the summer. Plants should be able to tolerate wet to dry soil and be drought tolerant.



This guide is not intended to be an all inclusive list of all genus, species and varieties of plants suitable for rain gardens, but rather a representation of some of the most commonly seen rain garden plants in Kitsap County at the time this guide was created.



Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

Less than 6 in. H

Characteristics

Perennial groundcover that spreads by trailing stems that take root and form new plants.

Dark green, coarsely toothed, leathery leaves grow in clusters of 3 and often turn red in the winter.

Spring blooming white flowers occur in clusters of 5–15. Red strawberries may follow.

May spread freely; allow ample space.

Coastal Strawberry

Fragaria chiloensis

Groundcover



Native Habitat

PNW native found on seaside bluffs and sand dunes

Light Conditions

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to dry, well-drained sandy soil

Zone

2 and 3



Weed around plants until full coverage is established.



Cheryl Bosley



Debbie Sweet

Japanese Sweet Flag
Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

**Grass &
Emergent**

Colleen Miko



Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

1 ft. H

Characteristics

Leaves grow in a fan shape from the ends of rhizomes. Rhizomes eventually form a round clump.

Narrow, arching, golden variegated leaves form a low growing mound.

Leaf color will be more intense in full sun.

Flowers and seed heads are inconspicuous.

***Native Habitat***

Non-native ornamental variety used in bogs, along pond edges and in shallow water

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet to moist

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Prune foliage to the ground in late winter to tidy plant. Rhizomes can be divided every 2–3 years in early spring.



Michael Korchnoff



Colleen Miko



Slough Sedge

Carex obnupta

Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen
to evergreen

Mature Size

2–3 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Densely tufted growth spreads by thick, creeping rhizomes.

Coarse, leathery grass-like leaf blades are arching and have sharp edges.

Leaf color is yellowish green to reddish purple at the base of the plant.

Slender, drooping, brown seed heads can persist into winter.

**Grass &
Emergent**



Native Habitat

PNW native found in marshes, swamps, bogs, wet forest openings and meadows

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Standing water, saturated to moist soil, dry conditions

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: To improve appearance, cut back at the base of the plant in late summer, after the sedge has produced seeds.





Sawbeak Sedge

Carex stipata

Grass &
Emergent

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

1–3 ft. H

Characteristics

A slow growing fibrous rooted sedge that forms clumps of cascading foliage.

Mounds of narrow, floppy, yellowish green leaves are produced in profusion.

Noticeable inflorescence and seed heads are prickly in appearance. Seed heads are brown.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in wet meadows, ditches, clearings, swamps, along streams and lake shorelines

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to wet

Zone

1



Optional: Cut back foliage before new growth begins in spring.



Ingrid Wachtler



Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

2 ft. H x 2 ft. W

Characteristics

A clump forming sedge with arching foliage.

Finely textured leaves turn deep orange in sun and olive green in shade.

May spread by self-seeding in moist soils.

New Zealand Orange Sedge
Carex testacea

**Grass &
Emergent**

***Native Habitat***

Non-native ornamental
variety of sedge

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to wet

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Comb
through with gloved
hand to remove dead
foliage. Can be cut
back or divided every
few years in early
spring.





Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous to
Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

1–2 ft. H x 2 ft. W

Characteristics

Densely tufted grass with narrow stiff green leaves and clumps of upright to arching foliage. Leaf color is medium green.

The inflorescence is upright to nodding, open and airy and held on stems that are up to 4 ft. in height.

Seed heads are purplish to tawny in color and decorative through fall.

Variegated forms are available.

Tufted Hairgrass
Deschampsia cespitosa

**Grass &
Emergent**

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in tidal marshes, moist meadows, rocky areas of bogs and on beaches

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to wet

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Cut back dead foliage in early spring before new growth begins.



Sally & Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center



Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

2–3 ft. H

Characteristics

A densely tufted perennial that can have short rhizomes.

Stems are leafy and rounded. Green leaves are half round and have a hollow cross section.

The inflorescence has groups of small flowers that bloom from late spring to late summer and are greenish brown to straw colored.

Seed heads are small, brown, 3 sided capsules.

Tapertip Rush
Juncus acuminatus

**Grass &
Emergent**

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in marshes, bogs, ditches and shallow water

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet

Zone

1



Optional: Remove dead foliage by combing through the plant with a gloved hand or cut back in late winter or early spring, before new growth begins.





Common Rush

Juncus effusus

Grass & Emergent

Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

2–4 ft. H

Characteristics

A clump forming rush with upright slightly fanning growth. Spreads slowly from rhizomes that are 6–10 in. long and grow just beneath the surface.

Rounded stems and leaves are deep green.

Tiny greenish brown flowers bloom in small clusters from late spring to mid-summer. Small straw colored seeds form in a 3 celled capsule.

May spread freely; allow ample space.



Native Habitat

PNW native found in moist to wet pond margins, pastures, coastal tide flats, ditches, clearing bogs, and along roads

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

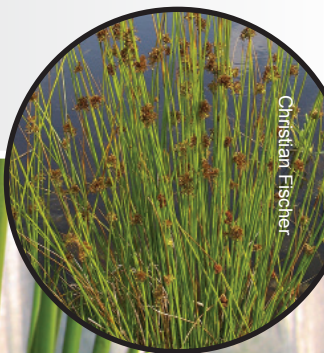
Moist to wet

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Remove dead foliage and old flowering stems in early spring.





Dagger-leaf Rush

Juncus ensifolius

Grass &

Emergent

Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

2 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Annual shoots grow from thick extensive rhizomes.

Medium green leaves are flattened and resemble iris leaves.

Small dense roundish inflorescences are greenish to purplish brown. They occur at the tips of the flowering stalks and bloom from early to late summer. Seeds form in small oblong capsules.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in moist to wet pond margins, wet meadows, on lake shores and along stream banks

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet

Zone

1



Optional: Remove dead foliage in spring.



Elk Blue Rush
Juncus patens 'Elk Blue'

**Grass &
Emergent**



Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

2 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Stiff upright vigorous growing rush that spreads by rhizomes.

Rounded foliage is a striking blue grey color.

Dark brown inflorescence sprout from the sides of the stems summer through fall. Seed heads are reddish to brown spherical capsules.

***Native Habitat***

Cultivar of a California native

Light

Sun to shade

Soil

Wet, moist to dry

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Cut back in late winter every 3–4 years. Other years comb through with gloved hand to remove dead foliage.



Jenny Morgan

Chris Cook@edl.org



Slender Rush

Juncus tenuis



Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

6 in.–2 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

A tufted rush with a fibrous root system.

Stems are slender, round and bright green.
Leaves are approximately ½ in. wide and
slightly rounded.

Small inflorescences are green to tan colored
and form a compact to loose cluster. Blooms
from June to September.

Seeds form in small capsules that are pointed
at the tip.

**Grass &
Emergent**

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in moist usually disturbed sites such as road sides, ditches and pastures

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet to moist, tolerates dry

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Remove dead foliage in spring by combing with a gloved hand or cutting back.



R.W. Smith, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Small Fruited Bulrush
Scirpus microcarpus

**Grass &
Emergent**



Ben Legler



Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

2–4 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Clustered growth from a sturdy rhizome.

Stems are coarse and triangular shaped. The green leaves are flat and grass like, about ½ in. wide and 8 in. long and reddish purple where they attach to the stem.

Inflorescences are made up of many tiny dark scaly flower spikes arranged in large rounded clusters at the ends of the stem. Flowers bloom from early to late summer.



Native Habitat

PNW native found in wetlands, roadside ditches, wet clearings and along stream banks

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet to moist

Zone

1



Optional: Remove dead foliage before new growth begins in spring.



Ben Legler



Fred Weinmann

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Perennial



Evergreen/Deciduous

Dormant in winter

Mature Size

2–4 ft. H

Characteristics

Flowering perennial that grows in expanding clumps and will re-seed.

Smooth straight stems grow in dense clumps. Bristly oblong leaves are up to 3 in. wide by 6 in. long with widely spaced teeth.

Flowers bloom mid-summer to fall and have a spiny, domed, orange center and drooping lavender petals.

Seed heads provide food for birds.



Native Habitat

North American native perennial found primarily in prairies and open woods

Light Conditions

Sun to part shade

Soil

Rich to sandy well drained soil

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Either leave the late season flowers on the plant to attract birds or cut the stems back once the blooms fade for a tidier look.

Divide plants every 3–4 years by lifting the clump when new growth is beginning and splitting it into smaller divisions.

Cheryl Bosley





Douglas Aster

Aster subspicatus

Evergreen/Deciduous
Deciduous

Mature Size
3–4 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Flowering perennial that grows from a creeping rhizome.

Stems are leafy, unbranched and hairy. Leaves are alternate and leaf shape varies from lance shaped to oval depending on where it occurs on the stem. Leaves are up to 5 in. long and often have toothed edges.

Flowers bloom from July through October and have blue to purplish overlapping petals and yellow centers.

Perennial



Native Habitat

PNW native found in meadows and moist clearings, along stream banks and on beaches

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to dry, tolerates salt spray

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Remove dead stalks before new growth begins in spring.



Cheryl Bosley



Common Camas

Camassia quamash

Perennial



Colleen Miko



Evergreen/Deciduous

Dormant in winter.

Mature Size

1–3 ft. H

Characteristics

Ground covering perennial that grows from a bulb.

Grass like leaves, approximately 1 in. wide x 20 in. long, grow from the base of the plant.

Large light to dark blue, sometimes white flowers, bloom in spiked clusters from mid to late spring.

Seeds are papery, egg shaped capsules on stalks which curve in toward the stem.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in moist, open, grassy slopes and meadows

Light

Sun

Soil

Wet to moist

Zone

2 and 3



No maintenance recommendations





Douglas Iris

Iris douglasiana

Perennial

Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

2–3 ft. H x 2–3 ft. W

Characteristics

A perennial iris that grows from clumping rhizomes.

Flowering stems are approximately 20 in. tall and often branched.

Dark green evergreen leaves are 1 in. wide x approximately 36 in. long.

Flowers bloom from early to late spring in shades that include cream, reddish and bluish purple and lavender. Plants will re-seed.



Native Habitat

PNW native found on seaside bluffs and grassy hillsides

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to dry well drained soil

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Remove dead foliage from the center of the clumps in autumn. Cut back flowering stems after blooms fade.

Plants can be divided in late fall or winter after roots are developed but before blossoms form. Remove a division of rhizome with roots, set in prepared soil, and water.



Sally & Andy Wasowski,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Blue-eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium idahoense

Perennial



Gary Monroe@eol.org



Evergreen/Deciduous

Semi-evergreen

Mature Size

6–18 in. H

Characteristics

A clump forming perennial plant in the iris family.

Thin erect grass-like leaves grow from the base of the plant.

Star shaped flowers with blue to purple petals and a yellow center, bloom on a flat stem from mid spring to mid-summer.

Seed capsules turn brown to black and split open to reveal black seeds. May self sow.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in moist and wet grassy meadows, near seeps and in ditches

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet to moist

Zone

1 and 2



Optional: Can be divided every 2–3 years.



Gary Monroe@eol.org



Jenny Morgan



Deer Fern

Blechnum spicant

Evergreen/Deciduous

outer fronds: evergreen,
inner fronds: deciduous

Mature Size

2–3 ft. H x 2–3 ft. W

Characteristics

Arching evergreen fronds, often lying flat on the ground, surround a central clump of upright deciduous fronds.

Leaflets on the upright deciduous fronds are narrow and often curled. Leaflets on both fronds are bigger at the center of the frond and get progressively smaller at either end.

Leaflets are attached to the stem along the entire base of the leaflet, unlike leaflets of sword ferns, which are attached by small stalks.

Fern



Native Habitat

PNW native found in moist conifer forests, along stream banks and occasionally in bogs

Light

Part to dappled shade or sun
(with adequate moisture)

Soil

Wet, moist or dry (in shade only)

Zone

1, 2, and 3



Optional: Cut back the deciduous fronds in the center, once they begin to die back in the fall and winter.



Ben Legler



Clayton J. Antieau



Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum

Fern

Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

2–5 ft. H x 2–5 ft. W

Characteristics

Roots are dense, fibrous woody rhizomes.

Lance shaped fronds arise in clusters from the center of the plant. Young fiddleheads unroll from the center of the plant in spring.

Individual leaflets are dark green, and have sharply toothed edges. Each leaflet has a small upward pointing lobe at its base and is attached to the stem by a small stalk.



Native Habitat

PNW native found in moist coniferous and deciduous forests

Light

Part sun to shade

Soil

Moist organic to dry soil

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Trim oldest fronds in spring. Large clumps can be divided when dormant to make more plants.



Cheryl Bosley



Linda Martin

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

Shrub



Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

3–6 ft. H x 4–6 ft. W

Characteristics

A thicket-forming shrub that spreads by dense woody rhizomes.

Slender twigs grow in an opposite branching pattern.

Leaves are $\frac{3}{4}$ –2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, oval shaped and opposite. New leaves may be lobed. Older leaves have smooth edges.

Pink to white, bell shaped flowers bloom from late spring to early summer in dense clusters.

White, berry-like fruits remain on the plant through winter.

May spread freely; allow ample space.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found on open slopes, in dense woods, and moist to dry thickets

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to dry

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Prune in early spring if needed to control size.



Linda Martin





Nootka Rose

Rosa nutkana

Shrub

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

6–8 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Rhizomatous thicket-forming shrub with thorny to almost thornless stems.

Leaves up to 3 in. long with serrated edges. A pair of thorns appears immediately below where leaves attach to stem.

Pink, fragrant flowers up to 3 in. wide bloom singly or in pairs at the tips of the stem late spring to late summer.

Round hips (fruit) are 1½–3 in. wide, purplish-red when ripe and persist until winter.

May spread freely; allow ample space.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found along streams, lakes and forest edges, in meadows and forested areas

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

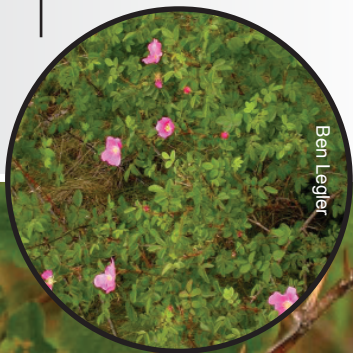
Moist to dry

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Prune after flowers fade to improve appearance or control size.



Ben Legler



Swamp Rose

Rosa pisocarpa

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

6–8 ft. H and
widely spreading

Characteristics

Rhizomatous thicket-forming shrub with stems that range from thorny to almost thornless.

Leaves are up to 1½ in. long and have serrated edges. There is a pair of thorns immediately below where the leaves attach to the stem.

Small, pink, fragrant flowers bloom in clusters at the tips of the stem from late spring to late summer.

Clusters of small bright to dark red hips (fruit) often remain on the shrub into winter.

May spread freely; allow ample space.

Shrub

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in wetlands, roadside ditches, and along streams

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Wet, moist to fairly dry

Zone

1, 2 and 3



Optional: Prune after flowers faded to improve appearance or control size.



Red Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum

Shrub

www.kingcounty.gov/native



Linda Martin



Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

3–10 ft. H

Characteristics

Thornless, upright, loosely bunched stems with reddish brown bark.

Leaves are 1½–3 in. long, slightly hairy, with 3–5 lobes.

Reddish buds stand out on bare branches in winter. Showy flowers bloom in drooping clusters from early spring to early summer, and range from light to deep pink, sometimes white.

Dark blue-black berries are small, waxy and have a whitish bloom.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in dry to lightly moist wooded or open sites

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Dry to moist; does not tolerate saturated soil

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Cut back shoots to strong buds after flowering if desired to reduce size.



Cheryl Bosley



Linda Martin



Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

4–10 ft. H

Characteristics

Spreads easily from tough rhizomatous roots.
Has stiff branched upright stems.

Green glossy, prickly foliage is oval shaped and resembles holly leaves. Cold and sun can turn the foliage burgundy-red.

Bright yellow fragrant flowers bloom in clusters at the tips of the stems in early to late spring.

Small blue waxy grape-like fruit.

Tall Oregon Grape
Mahonia aquifolium

Shrub



Native Habitat

PNW native found in conifer forests, in thickets and on rocky slopes

Light

Sun to shade

Soil

Moist to dry soil

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Can be pruned back to control spreading. Leaves are very prickly; avoid planting near paths.



Joanne Bartlett



Julie Makin, Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center

Low Oregon Grape

Mahonia nervosa

Shrub



Evergreen/Deciduous

Evergreen

Mature Size

1–2 ft. H

Characteristics

Spreads by rhizomes and produces stiff upright stems.

Green glossy, holly like leaves grow in tufts at the ends of the stems. Prickly leaves have spiny margins. Cold and sun turn the foliage a reddish purple color. Older foliage turns red before falling off.

Pale yellow fragrant flowers bloom in narrow clusters in early to late spring.

Small blue waxy grape-like fruit.

***Native Habitat***

PNW native found in conifer forests, in thickets and on rocky slopes

Light

PNW native found in forested areas

Soil

Moist to dry soil

Zone

2 and 3



Can be slow to establish and may need to be watered during drought.



Linda Martin

Sally & Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird
Johnson Wildflower Center



W.D. & Dolfia Bransford, Lady
Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

2–4 ft. H x 3–5 ft. W

Characteristics

Compact rounded shrub with dark red stems in winter.

Foliage is glossy green with red to maroon color in autumn. Leaves are narrow and oblong.

Cream colored flowers in late spring are followed by white fruits.

Dwarf Red Twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea 'Kelsey'

Shrub

***Native Habitat***

Ornamental cultivar of a
PNW native

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to wet

Zone

2



Optional: Cut back before new growth begins in spring to increase red stem color. To control leaf spot and/or anthracnose, avoid overhead irrigation, rake and dispose of leaves in the fall, prune out and destroy affected twigs.





Red Twig Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

15–20 ft. H

Characteristics

A multi-stem thicket-forming shrub with a dense root system. Low growing branches may take root where they touch the ground.

Bark on younger stems is smooth and bright red and on older stems is grayish green.

Oval leaves, approximately 4 in. long, have parallel veins and pointed tips. Light green summer foliage turns deep red in fall.

Flat top clusters of small white to cream colored flowers bloom from late spring to mid-summer. Clusters of light blue to white fruit follow flowers.

May spread freely; allow ample space.

Shrub



Native Habitat

PNW native found in wetlands, moist to wet woods and along streams

Light

Sun to shade

Soil

Moist to wet

Zone

1, 2, and 3



Optional: Cut back before new growth begins in spring to increase red stem color. To control leaf spot and/or anthracnose, avoid overhead irrigation, rake and dispose of leaves in the fall, prune out and destroy affected twigs.





Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

6–13 ft. H

Characteristics

A large shrub with multi-stemmed trunk, angled branches and an upright to arching form. Shredded peeling bark is reddish to yellowish brown.

Leaves are alternate, lobed with serrated edges and grow approximately 3 in. long.

Small white star-shaped flowers bloom in dense rounded clusters, from late spring to early summer.

Small, red to pinkish brown clusters of seeds often remain on the plant into winter.

Pacific Ninebark
Physocarpus capitatus

Shrub



Native Habitat

PNW native found in wetlands and moist woods, along lakes and streams

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to wet;
can tolerate drought

Zone

1, 2 and 3



No maintenance
recommendations





Serviceberry

Amelanchier alnifolia

Shrub

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

14–25 ft. H

Characteristics

A multi-trunked shrub or small tree that forms thickets. Extensive root system with horizontal and vertical rhizomes. Bark is smooth, brown-red.

Leaves are alternate, oval to round, toothed, about 1 ½" long. New leaves reddish, turning blue-green in summer, red to gold fall color.

White flowers with 5 narrow petals, in clusters from mid-spring/early summer.

Small fruits resemble blueberries, start red, turning purplish.

May spread freely; allow ample space.



Native Habitat

PNW native found in open forests and on hillsides

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist to dry, drought tolerant

Zone

2 and 3



No maintenance recommendations





Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

4–7 ft. H

Characteristics

A thicket-forming shrub spreading by rhizomes; multiple stems are slender and upright.

The 3–4 in. long, oblong, alternate leaves have a rounded tip and upper half of leaf margins are toothed. Leaf undersides are sometimes fuzzy and are paler than the top.

Light to dark pink flowers bloom early to late summer, in dense spires at stem ends. The long flower stamens cause clusters to appear fuzzy.

Dry, brown flower heads remain on the plant through winter.

Will spread freely; allow ample space.

Douglas' Spiraea
Spiraea douglasii

Shrub



Native Habitat

PNW native found along streams, in wet meadows, marshes and bogs

Light

Sun to part shade

Soil

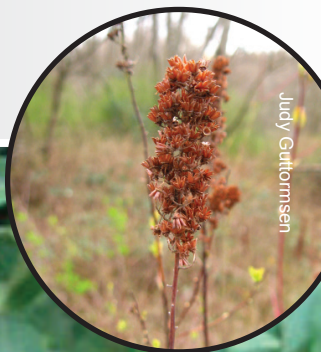
Wet to moist

Zone

1 and 2



No maintenance recommendations



Judy Gutormsen



Magic Carpet Spirea

Spiraea japonica 'Magic Carpet'

Shrub



Judy Guttormsen



Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

2' to 3' H

Characteristics

Compact growing shrub with a mounded and somewhat spreading form.

Small oval leaves with pointed tips and serrated edges emerge bright orange-yellow and change to an orange tinged chartreuse over time.

Bright to deep pink flowers bloom in early summer, in flat clusters at the ends of the branches.

Showy leaf color, in shades of orange, continues into fall.

***Native Habitat***

Non-native ornamental
variety of spirea

Light Conditions

Sun to part shade

Soil

Moist well drained

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Prune a few
stems to the ground
every year in the
winter or cut the entire
plant back every 3–4
years, to control size.



Colleen Milko



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Mature Size

10–25 ft. H

Characteristics

Often a multi-trunked tree with leggy branches that can take root and form new plants.

Slender new branches have thin greenish bark; older bark is reddish.

Fan shaped leaves 2–4 in. across with 5–9 lobes. New leaves are reddish and fuzzy, later turning green; red, orange, gold fall color.

Reddish-purple flowers in small clusters early spring to early summer.

Typical “helicopter” seeds in late summer.

Tree



Native Habitat

PNW native found in forests, clearings and along stream banks

Light

Sun to shade

Soil

Moist to dry

Zone

2 and 3



Optional: Prune to reduce size or improve form.



Cheryl Bosley



BOOKS

Plants of The Pacific Northwest Coast, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska, compiled and edited by Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon

Sunset Western Garden Book, 2001 and 2012 editions

Grow Your Own Native Landscape, Micahel Leigh

Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plant for Gardens and Landscapes, Kathleen A. Robson, Alice Richter and Marianne Filbert

WEBSITES

American Beauties Native Plants.
www.abnativeplants.com

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture: WTU Image Collection: Plants of Washington. <http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php?>

Fine Gardening
www.finegardening.com

folio: Social Garden Tracker and Organiser <http://myfolia.com>

gardenguides.com
www.gardenguides.com

Great Plant Picks
www.greatplantpicks.org

Guide for Cutting Back Common Ornamental Grasses
<http://garthruffner.com/0-GrassCare.pdf>

Illinois Wildflowers: Grasses, Sedges and Plants without Flowers. www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/grass_index.htm

King County Native Plant Guide, <http://green.kingcounty.gov/gonative>

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