

Native Plant Landscaping in Coastal Humboldt County

By Eddie Tanner (Fall 2003)

Growing native plants will beautify your yard, and save you work. Because they are acclimated to our climate and soils, native plants are able to thrive without irrigation or fertilization. Many of them require little pruning, and all of them provide food and habitat for local birds and insects. The following is only a sample of the species native to coastal Humboldt County. The listed spacing distances are recommended minimum spacing. As trees and tall shrubs grow, it may be possible to plant herbs and short shrubs beneath them. Planting in winter is ideal for all woody plants; early fall for herbaceous perennials. Plants may need irrigation the first year, and mulching/weeding the first few years. Try not to mix water-needing plants with non-irrigated plantings. Shredded bark, conifer needles, and even wood shavings make excellent mulch when applied in thick layers. Contact Freshwater Farms or Six Rivers Restoration for lists of available native plant nursery stock.

Trees

Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) - medium tall tree, deciduous, fast growth, spreading branches moist/shady places.

Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) - tall tree, evergreen, moderately fast growth, do not top.

Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) - tall tree, evergreen, slow growth.

Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyperus lawsoniana*) - tall tree, evergreen, slow growth.

Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) - medium tree, deciduous, fast growing.

Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) - tall tree, evergreen, moderate growth.

Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) - medium tree, evergreen, slow growth.

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) - tall tree, evergreen, moderate growth.

Willow (*Salix* spp.) - short tree, deciduous, fast growth - good for wind-blocks & visual screens.

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) - Small tree (shrub-like), deciduous, moderate growth, beautiful foliage.

Shrubs

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) - evergreen, slow growing, groundcover, full sun/partial shade, 5' spacing.

Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) - evergreen, fast growing, nitrogen fixer, to 5' tall, full sun/partial shade, 6' spacing.

Bush Mallow (*Malacothamnus fremontii*) - evergreen, fast growing, to 5' tall, showy flowers, full sun, needs yearly pruning, 4' spacing.

California Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*) - evergreen, fast growing, to 15' tall, prune to desired height, good hedge, 10' spacing.

Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) - evergreen, moderate growth, to 4' tall, tolerates poor/compacted soil, full sun/partial shade, 8' spacing.

Oregon Grape (*Berberis nervosa*) - evergreen, slow growth, to 18" tall, 5' spacing. Also *Berberis aquifolium* - to 5' tall, 3' spacing.

Elderberry (*Sambucus* spp.) - deciduous, fast growth, to 10' tall, prefers shade, few low branches, 10' spacing.

Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) - evergreen, slow growth, to 8' tall, grow in full sun for berries, 5' spacing.

Hazel (*Corylus cornuta*) - deciduous, slow growth, to 6' tall, full/partial shade, 8' spacing.

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) - evergreen, slow growth, many species, 4-10' tall, full sun, 8' spacing.

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) - deciduous, moderate growth, to 6' tall, full sun/partial shade, 6' spacing.

Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) - deciduous, moderate growth, to 8' tall, full sun, 8' spacing, profuse, long-lasting blooms.

Pacific Rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) - deciduous, slow growth, to 12', prefers shade, 8' spacing.

Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) - deciduous, moderate growth, to 7' tall, showy flowers, partial shade or full sun, 6' spacing.
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) - evergreen, moderate growth, low growing, prefers shade, 4' spacing.
Silk Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*) - evergreen, moderate growth, to 12' tall, good hedge, 8' spacing.
Spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*) - deciduous, fast growth, to 5' tall, wet places, 3' spacing.
Sticky Monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) - deciduous, moderate growth, to 3' tall, showy flowers, full sun, 3' spacing.
Sweet Shrub (*Chalycanthus occidentalis*) - deciduous, moderate growth, to 6' tall, dense branching, full sun, 6' spacing.
Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) - deciduous, fast growth, to 6' tall, good berries, 3' spacing.
Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) - deciduous, slow growth, to 6' tall, full sun, 5' spacing.
Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*) - evergreen, fast growth, vining, partial shade/full sun, 3' spacing.
Wood Rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*) - deciduous, slow growth, to 3' tall, prefers shade, 3' spacing.

Herbs

California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) - semi-annual, full sun, naturalizing, dense plantings.
Chile Aster (*Aster chilensis*) - perennial, full sun, 1' spacing.
Coastal Mugwort (*Artimesia douglasiana*) - perennial (from rhizomes), prefers shade, spreading, 8" spacing.
Coltsfoot (*Petasites frigitus*) - perennial (from rhizomes), prefers shade, spreading, 1' spacing.
Coral Bells (*Heuchera micrantha*) - perennial, full sun/partial shade, 10" spacing.
Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) - perennial, full sun, 6" spacing.
Iris (*Iris douglasiana*) - perennial, full sun/partial shade, 1' spacing.
False Lily of the Valley (*Mianthemum dilatatum*) - perennial, full/partial shade, ground cover, 8" spacing.
Goldenrod (*Solidago spathulata*) - perennial, full sun, 1' spacing.
Monkey Flower (*Mimulus* spp.) - perennial, full sun, 1' spacing, many species w/ different flower colors.
Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.) - perennial, full sun/partial shade, 1' spacing, many species w/ differing habits.
Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) - perennial, partial shade, 2' spacing.
Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis Oregonum*) - perennial, prefers shade, spreading, ground cover, 6" spacing.
Redwood Violet (*Viola Sempervivrons*) - perennial, prefers shade, bedding plant, 6" spacing.
Inside-Out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*) - perennial, partial/full shade, 18" spacing.
Western Lily (*Lilium occidentale*) - perennial (from bulb), moist places, 1" spacing.
Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) - perennial, full/partial shade, ground cover, 10" spacing.
Wood Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) - perennial, partial shade, ground cover, 6" spacing.

Ferns

Deer Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) - keep moist, 18" spacing.
Five Finger Fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*) - prefers shade, moist places, 1' spacing.
Giant Chain Fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) - prefers shade, 3' spacing.
Lady Fern (*Athyrium felix-femina*) - keep moist, 18" spacing.
Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) - hardy, 18" spacing.