

RIGHT FOR THE SITE:

CHOOSING TREES AND SHRUBS FOR UPLAND SITES IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

Selecting the right trees and shrubs for a site is one of the most important steps in successful planting. This guide is designed to help landowners and managers choose appropriate species for upland areas in Western Washington. By planting “right for the site,” you’ll support resilient landscapes, improve habitat, and ensure your efforts thrive well into the future.

■ = Least tolerant ■ ■ ■ ■ = Moderately tolerant ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ = Most tolerant

*tolerance values are relative to the other species listed

Shrubs & Ferns	Height	Drought	Shade	Wet Soil
Baldhip rose (<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>)	5 ft	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■
Beaked hazelnut (<i>Corylus californica</i>)	3-13 ft	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Blue elderberry (<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>)	3-20 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Indian plum (<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>)	5-15 ft	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Mock orange (<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>)	10 ft	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Nootka rose (<i>Rosa nutkana</i>)	10 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Oceanspray (<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>)	4-12 ft	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■	■
Oregon grape - dull (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	2 ft	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Oregon grape - tall (<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>)	3-5 ft	■ ■	■ ■	■ ■
Pacific serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>)	3-16 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■
Red-flowering currant (<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>)	3-10 ft	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>)	1-8 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■
Salmonberry (<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>)	4-10 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>)	3-7 ft	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■
Sword fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>)	5 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Thimbleberry (<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>)	4-7 ft	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■



Uplands: Areas with well-drained soils that stay mostly dry between rainfall events; not seasonally flooded.

Tolerance: A plant’s ability to survive or perform well under challenging conditions such as drought, shade, or wet soils.

Broad-Leaved Trees	Height	Drought	Shade	Wet Soil
Bitter cherry (Prunus emarginata)	7-50 ft			
Black cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa)	150 ft			
Cascara (Rhamnus purshiana)	35 ft			
Maples: Bigleaf (Acer macrophyllum)	65 ft			
Maples: Douglas (Acer glabrum)	35 ft			
Maples: Vine (Acer circinatum)	25 ft			
Oregon ash (Fraxinus latifolia)	80 ft			
Oregon white oak (Quercus garryana)	80 ft			
Pacific crabapple (Malus fusca)	7-40 ft			
Pacific dogwood (Cornus nuttallii)	65 ft			
Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii)	100 ft			
Paper birch (Betula papyrifera)	100 ft			
Red alder (Alnus rubra)	110 ft			
Scouler's willow (Salix scouleriana)	40 ft			

Coniferous Trees	Height	Drought	Shade	Wet Soil
Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)	200-300 ft			
Grand fir (Abis grandis)	200 ft			
Lodgepole/shore pine (Pinus contorta)	60-100 ft			
Pacific yew (Taxus brevifolia)	50 ft			
Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa)	150 ft			
Seaside juniper (Juniperus maritima)	25 ft			
Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis)	250 ft			
Western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla)	200 ft			
Western redcedar (Thuja plicata)	200 ft			
Western white pine (Pinus monticola)	160 ft			

