



Forest Perennials

In July we featured prairie perennials of the Puget Sound. Following that theme, we decided to feature forest perennials for the month of September. The following species are commonly found in open to dense forests within the Puget Sound. These species are adapted to our climate of wet winters and dry summers, making them ideal selections for drought-tolerant home gardening and landscaping. All have showy blooms through the spring and summer. All of these species are currently available---give us a call to discuss your planting.

Smith's fairy bells (*Disporum smithii* a.k.a. *Prostartes smithii*)

Grows in moist partially shaded areas. It can be up to 3' tall with white cluster blooms from April—June. Blooms are showy and very attractive to pollinators. The yellow orange berries appear in August and are a great source of food for wildlife.



Coastal Miterwort (*Mitella ovalis*)

This Saxifrage family plant grows in moist shaded areas. Kruckeberg indicates that these flowers offer hidden and exquisite beauty likened to that of snowflakes. Growing only about 4-6" tall it has greenish-yellow blooms from late March into May. The raceme flowers look like intricate stars and offer a unique addition to any garden.

Three leaf foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*)

Another Saxifrage family species that grows in moist shady areas with dainty white flowers that last throughout the summer. This species grows between 8-12" in height with trifoliate leaves and panicles of white bell shaped flowers.

Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)

This native is found in abundance around the Pacific Northwest and can be propagated from seed. It is found in dense moist forests. The whorled leaves can be up to 2' tall. The white blooms appear from March to June and turn a violet color when exposed to the sunlight. The flowers of the Trillium are a sure sign that Spring has returned.



Rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)

This low growing orchid family species is found in moist shady areas. The white blooms are born on a long stalk rising from the foliage from July-August. The foliage is variegated white and green and provides stark contrast for any garden. This is a very attractive species and amazes all who witness its beauty.



Woodland beardtongue (*Nothochelone nemorosa*)

This robust perennial is found in dense moist partially shady areas. It can be 16-32" high. The open inflorescence of tubular rose-purple flowers is very showy and will bloom from July-August. The opposite leaves are found along several stems and are coarsely toothed.

Twinflower (*Linna borealis*)

Twinflower loves shady moist areas and provides a wonderful evergreen groundcover for any garden. The 3" flowering stalks emerge from June-September and bear two pink funnel shaped flowers on each stalk. It is a prolific bloomer and creeps throughout your garden and into your heart.

The following references were used when compiling this information sheet: Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast by Pojar and Mackinnon, Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest by Link, Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest by Kruckeberg and the WTU Online Herbarium.



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