



SOUND
NATIVE
PLANTS

Marine shoreline species

This list features plant species that most commonly occur on marine shorelines and bluffs. Because those who are drawn to this information sheet are often concerned about stabilization issues we have noted if a species excels at controlling erosion in the comments section. Just because all of these species occur on marine shorelines does not mean all will work for your planting – consult our catalog for site requirements for each species. An asterisk (*) denotes species we do not carry. Consult two excellent publications by WA Department of Ecology for more information on stabilizing marine bluffs: Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-31/intro.html) and Controlling Erosion Using Vegetation (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-30/index.html).

Trees	Species	Comments
Grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	wind-firm, excellent at the level top of a slope
Big-leaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	fast-growing, reliable species; good for stabilization
Pacific madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	not recommended for restoration projects, extremely difficult to establish
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	
Shore pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	good for stabilization
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	good for stabilization
Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	Pacific, Scouler's and Sitka, among others; good stabilizers, try live stakes
Hooker's willow	<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	primarily occurs near shorelines
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	shade
Western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	shade
Shrubs		
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	
Beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	shade
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	good for stabilization
Low Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	shade
Bald hip rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	shade
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	good for stabilization
Poison-oak*	<i>Toxicodendron diversiloba</i>	surface oil (urushiol) can cause dermatitis
Evergreen huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	shade
Herbaceous/Ground cover		
Kinnikinnik	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	can be slow to establish
Costal strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	primarily occurs near shorelines
Hairy honeysuckle*	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	spreading, prostrate habit
Sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	good soil stabilizer
Trailing blackberry*	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	spreads quickly, protects well against surface erosion, can be invasive

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