

# Creating interest with native landscaping

## benefits

- ✓ improve your landscape
- ✓ control runoff
- ✓ receive technical assistance
- ✓ receive financial reimbursement
- ✓ protect Lake Whatcom



### maximize impact

Trees, especially evergreens, provide large water quality benefits and add structure to your landscape.



### reduce maintenance

A thick layer of mulch reduces time spent watering and mowing and increases time to relax and enjoy your healthy yard.

### add color and coverage

Shrubs and groundcovers can add texture and color to your landscape while providing important weed control and water retention benefits.



### Add some excitement to your yard!

Lawns can't absorb nutrients fast enough to keep them from washing away when it rains. Creating a landscaped area with a thick mulch layer and native plants reduces the amount of phosphorus in runoff by more than 80% and beautifies your yard.

Whether you're considering removing all or just portions of your lawn, native landscaping can provide interest, new features in your yard, and water quality protection. HIP reimburses \$2.00 per square foot of property that is converted from phosphorus-generating lawn to native landscaping.

## What is meant by “native” plants?

Native plants are adapted to our environment, drought-resistant, require no fertilizer, and can establish themselves easily. There are more than 900 species of native plants—the following list shows some of the most common plants you’d find at your local nursery.

plant name	type	sun or shade?	wet or dry soils?	flower or leaf color	bloom time	deer resistant
Shore pine	evergreen tree	full sun	wet	light green	none	★
Vine maple	deciduous tree	shade	dry	red/orange	early	★
Blue elderberry	tall shrub	full sun	dry	white	mid-summer	
Red-flowering currant	medium shrub	sun or shade	dry	red/pink	earliest	★
Oregon grape	low shrub	shade	wet or dry	dark green	later	★
Kinnikinnick (bearberry)	ground-cover	sun or shade	dry	dark green	mid-summer	★
Blue-eyed Grass	grass-like	full sun	wet	blue-purple	mid-summer	
Orange honeysuckle	vine	part sun	dry	orange	later	★
Sword fern	fern	shade	wet or dry	dark green	none	★

## 1 Project Design

- ✓ Attend a workshop
- ✓ Define areas to plant
- ✓ Complete a plant list
- ✓ Choose your favorite mulch

## 2 Review and Approval

- ✓ Complete project application
- ✓ Receive free permit

## 3 Construction & Installation

- ✓ Spread mulch
- ✓ Install plants

## 4 Maintain your system

- ✓ Weeding and watering for two years until plants are established.
- ✓ Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

### form and function

*Native landscaping can be structured like any other landscaped garden, and provide the same aesthetic function. The bonus is the water quality protection benefit. You don't have to sacrifice the beauty and uses of your yard when including natives as part of your landscape.*



## QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at [www.lakewhatcomHIP.org](http://www.lakewhatcomHIP.org).