



# Plant Information

POLE MILL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 Activities in Natural Resource Management



## CONIFEROUS TREES

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
Douglas fir - <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	200'+	✓	✓	-	grows on all but wettest soil	I, B, T	Oregon's State tree, can live over 200 years. Thick bark enables it to survive moderate fire. Is commonly used as a Christmas tree. Native Americans used parts as a food source, chewing gum, medicine, antiseptic, tea, vitamin C, baskets, dye, insecticide, cork, resin, mouthwash, and as firewood.
grand fir - <i>Abies grandis</i>	300'+	✓	✓	✓	variety	B, T, W	A tall, stately, coniferous tree with grayish brown bark. Needles are flat with rounded tips, cones are cylindrical, erect and ~4" long. Grand fir is distinguished from other firs by its sprays of lustrous needles in 2 distinct rows such that both the upper and lower sides of the branch are clearly visible.
incense cedar - <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	100'+	✓	-	-	prefers dry sites	B, T, W, L	Attractively shaped conifer with dense foliage often used in home landscapes. Wood has pleasant odor. Important commercial softwood species. Used by Native Americans of California in the process of leaching acorn meal, for relieving stomach upset, and sometimes for making bows.
lodgepole pine - <i>Pinus contorta murrayana</i>	60'+	✓	-	-	variety, prefers moist	B, T, W, S, L	<i>P. contorta</i> var. <i>murrayana</i> is native to the Sierra Nevadas, and is also called Sierra lodgepole pine or tamarack pine. Very versatile, withstanding hot/cold and wet/dry extremes. Used for framing, paneling, posts, poles, railroad ties, and pulpwood. Traditionally used by Native Americans for building lodges and some medicinal purposes.
noble fir - <i>Abies procera</i>	200'+	✓	✓	-	rich, deep	B, T, W, L	A tall, beautifully symmetric coniferous with large cylindrical cones up to 6" long distinguished by shaggy edged sharp pointed bracts that nearly conceal the scales and their erect position on the branch. Largest of the true firs in overall size, its lumber was used to build the R.A.F. Mosquito planes in WWII.
ponderosa pine - <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	200'	✓	-	-	adaptable, wet or dry sites	T, W, L	Popular for its straight growth habit that exposes scaled, colored bark with a vanilla fragrance. Native Americans ate the pine seeds and sweet phloem in the inner bark.
sitka spruce - <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'+	-	✓	✓	moist, well-drained	B, W, L	A large coniferous tree with thin and scaly bark which flakes off in small circular flakes. The crown is broad and conical in young trees and cylindrical in older ones. Sitka spruce is known for its stiff, sharp needles pointing out on all sides of the branch.
western hemlock - <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	180'	✓	✓	✓	wet, dry, variety	B, T, W, L	Adaptable, Attractively shaped conifer with a narrow long crown. Numerous very small cones and delicate short needles. The bark is reddish brown with scaling ridges. Seeds - important food source for birds and small mammals.
western red cedar - <i>Thuja plicata</i>	180'	-	✓	-	moist to poorly-drained sites	I, B, T, W, S, L	Fragrant. Resistant to rot it is used for shingles, siding, utility poles, fence posts, outdoor construction, and boatbuilding. NW Coast Native Americans used it for totem poles, their lodges, canoes, containers, and fibrous inner bark for rope, roof thatching, and blankets.

Attract: I - Insects, butterflies, & bees B - Birds H - Hummingbirds Use for: T - Timber W - Wildlife (forage, cover, feed) S - Bank stabilization L - Landscaping

## DECIDUOUS TREES

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
alder, red - <i>Alnus rubra</i>	75'	✓	-	-	moist soils, wet areas	I, B, H, T, W, S, L	Good to plant along streams for shade and erosion control. Name is from the bright red color that develops when the bark is scraped. Used by Native Americans to dye fishing nets to make them less visible underwater. The bark was used to treat poison oak, insect bites, and skin irritations. It has been used to make bowls, masks, rattles, and smoking salmon or other fish. Some tribes used to treat lymphatic disorders and tuberculosis.
alder, white - <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	75'	✓	-	-	moist soils, wet areas	All	Common riparian tree with smooth whitish to gray bark, straight trunk and open, rounded crown, showy in winter. Has been used for dyes and as a tea to induce perspiration.
big leaf maple - <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	100'	✓	✓	-	well-drained	I, B, T, W, L	Supports mosses, ferns and lichens and provides seeds for wildlife. Yellow fall color. Has been used for making containers, paddles, and syrup.
black cottonwood - <i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	180'	✓	-	-	moist soils, streambanks, floodplains	B, W, S	Fast growing with dark gray bark. Important browse for deer and elk. Nesting habitat for large birds. Valued by many Native Americans for its antiseptic, expectorant, and pain killing properties. The inner bark was used as a sweet food either raw or dried.
cascara - <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	30'	✓	✓	-	moist, well-drained	I, B, W	Silver gray bark and produces black berries attractive to birds. Bark used for medicinal purposes. The dried, aged bark of this tree has been used continually for at least 1,000 years by both native and immigrant Americans as a laxative. Commercially called "Cascara Sagrada", old timers call it "chitticum bark". Over-harvesting of bark from wild trees in the middle 1900's eliminated mature trees near many settled areas.
chokecherry - <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	16'	✓	✓	-	wide variety, semi-drought tolerant	I, B	A small tree with wide distribution. Dried fruit often mixed with meat and eaten by Indigenous Groups. The pits have been used in blowguns, the bark for baskets, fires made from its wood produced little smoke, and the juice was used to color pictographs. Fruits commonly used for jelly and jam making.
oak, Oregon white - <i>Quercus garryana</i>	100'	✓	-	-	well-drained	I, B, H, T, W	Oregon's only native oak. Forms wide spreading branches and grows slowly to 100 ft. Oregon's oak habitats are seriously threatened by encroachment of young dense patches of oak and by overcrowding conifers. The Oak Savannah is a very important habitat that was maintained by Native Americans with fire to keep it open, providing key food source and habitat for both humans and wildlife.
Oregon ash - <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	80'	✓	✓	-	moist to wet	B, W, S	Traditionally it was thought that rattlesnakes would not crawl over an Oregon Ash branch so it was used for protection from snakes. Has been used for axes, spears, and vessels. Makes excellent firewood as splits easily and has high heat value.
Pacific dogwood - <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	50'	✓	✓	-	moist to dry, needs drainage	I, B, H, L	Medium irregular shaped tree. Large white or pinkish blossoms in spring. Orange-red fruit are especially attractive to birds. Very showy from spring to fall. The hard wood was used to make weapons and tools by Indigenous peoples.
quaking aspen - <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	85'	✓	-	-	moist, riparian	W, L	Has flat leaf stalks which allow the leaves to flutter in even the slightest breeze. Excellent tree for wildlife. Bark buds, new sprouts, twigs from fallen trees, foliage, and fallen leaves are provide feed for wildlife.
willow, Pacific - <i>Salix lucida</i>	40'	✓	-	-	moist soils, streambanks, floodplains	I, W, S, L	One of the largest native willows. Excellent for streambank stabilization and erosion control. Also known as Shining Willow. Has traditionally been used for basketry. Medicinally it produces salicin, a compound similar to aspirin, which relieves pain and swelling. The inner bark is haemostatic and has been applied to stop bleeding cuts.

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## SHRUBS

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
black twinberry - <i>Lonicera involucrate</i>	2 - 10'	✓	✓	-	moist soils along wetlands	I, B, L	Bark used medically for a variety of conditions from digestive tract issues to contraceptives. The Haida rubbed the berries in their scalp to keep their hair from going grey. Also known as Bearberry honeysuckle.
buckbrush - <i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	8'	✓	✓	-	well-drained	I, B, W, L	Species is variable in appearance because it easily hybridizes with similar species. Mature seed capsules burst and cast seed up to 35 feet. Germination of seeds is enhanced by fire. Native to Southwestern Oregon and parts of the Willamette Valley. Preferred forage species of deer.
currant, golden - <i>Ribes aureum</i>	6 - 9'	✓	-	-	moist, well-drained	I, B, W, L	Perennial shrub. Fragrant yellow flowers bloom in late spring. Fruits are eaten by chipmunks, songbirds, ground squirrels, and the leaves are browsed by many species of wildlife. The fruits are used for jams, jellies, and making pemmican. It was also used to color clay pots. Likes grasslands, coniferous forests, riparian areas, and floodplains.
currant, red flowering - <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	9'	✓	✓	-	best on well-drained	I, B, H, L	Beautiful ornamental shrub with flowers that may be white, pink, to deep red. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Some Native Americans ate the small black tart fruit. Introduced to the horticultural world in 1826.
Douglas spirea - <i>Spirea douglasii</i>	3 - 6'	✓	✓	-	prefers moist	I, B, W, S, L	Fast growing, erect leggy shrub producing pinkish flowers in July. Attractive ornamental that is a good butterfly-bush alternative, and that wildlife like.
elderberry, blue - <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	12'	✓	✓	✓	prefers well-drained	I, B, W	Fast growing handsome shrub. White flower clusters. Used for some medicinal purposes by Native American tribes. Parts of the plant can be toxic. Deer love to browse the leaves.
elderberry, red - <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	18'	✓	✓	✓	prefers well-drained	I, B, W	White flowers and bright red berry like clusters highly sought by birds. Used for medicinal needs by Native American tribes. Parts of the plant can be toxic. Good browse for deer.
evergreen huckleberry - <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	14'	-	✓	✓	near tidewater, forests areas	I, B, W	Also known as Winter huckleberry. The berries are high in vitamin C and fresh from the plant in the past they would often be mixed with oil or were dried into cakes by native peoples. Tastes best after first frost. Valuable for winter forage to wildlife.
Indian Plum - <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	16'	✓	✓	-	dry to moist	B, W	One of first plants to bloom, January - February. White flowers yield small purple edible plums. Highly sought by birds. The fruit, which looks plum-like was eaten raw or cooked in small quantities (can be toxic if too much is eaten), but has a poor flavor. The bark is mildly laxative and a poultice has been made to treat soreness.
mockorange - <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	12'	✓	✓	-	adapted to all but wet	I, W, L	Clusters of aromatic white flowers at branch ends that attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Seeds are a good food source for birds. Deer and elk like to browse the foliage. Plant at low elevation. Good for border plantings, hedgerows, and as a stand alone if thinned occasionally. Fragrance reminded Meriwether Lewis of oranges.
oceanspray - <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	15'	-	✓	✓	dry to moist	W, S, L	Multi-stemmed shrub with creamy white flowers. A perennial shrub of the rose family with multiple arching stems up to 20' long and deciduous leaves. Flowers are long angular clusters that often dangle because of their weight. One of the first species to come back after a fire. Used for riparian restoration and wildlife habitat. Used by Native Americans to treat small and chicken pox. The wood was used to make baby cradles, knitting needles, arrows, spears, harpoons, and halibut hooks.

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Shrub descriptions continued on next page.

## SHRUBS *continued...*

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
Oregon grape, tall - <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	6'	✓	✓	✓	dry to moist	I, B, W, L	Great landscaping shrub, Oregon state flower. The berries are edible, making a good food source for wildlife and good jellies. Used by several Native American tribes to treat loss of appetite, stomach, and digestive issues. Externally, it has been used as a gargle for sore throats and as a wash for blurry or bloodshot eyes.
Pacific crabapple - <i>Malus fusca</i>	6 - 40'	✓	✓	-	moist to seasonally wet	I, B, W, L	Fragrant white to pink flowers in spring, red or yellow fruits in fall. Nice fall colors. Great wildlife plant for gardens or restorations. Slow growing. Edible fruit and good made into jellies. They can be left on the tree until there have been some frost, this will soften the fruit and make it less acid. Rich in pectin so can be added to pectin-low fruits when making jams. Medicinally used by several Native American tribes to treat a variety of conditions has a reputation with some tribes as a heal-all. It is little, if at all, used in modern herbalism.
Pacific ninebark - <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	14'	-	✓	-	moist	B, W, S, L	Brown shedding bark, small white flowers in rounded clusters; erect to spreading and arching angled branches. Traditionally has been used to make wooden spoons.
red osier dogwood - <i>Cornus sericea</i>	10'	✓	✓	✓	moist soils along wetlands	B, W, L	Fast growing, tall, deciduous shrub with red stems, clusters of white flowers that produce white berries. White berries have attractive contrast to the leaves which by then have changed to a deep red color. Was used by Native Americans for baskets, dye, ribbons, bows, arrows, and tanning. One of the most valuable native shrubs for habitat reclamation, wildlife cover, and soil conservation.
rose, nootka - <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	6'	✓	✓	-	dry, well-drained	I, B, W, S, L	Has large reddish-pink flowers April through July and showy red hips in winter. Used by Native Americans as a wash to strengthen babies and a poultice applied to bee stings. Form dense thickets along coastal marshes, disturbed areas, and forest edges.
salal - <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	2 - 6'	✓	✓	✓	well-drained	I, B, W, L	Low growing evergreen groundcover, dark green lustrous leaves, white or pink flowers and edible blue berries. Grows larger in shade, compact in sun.
salmonberry - <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	12'	✓	✓	✓	dry to moist, seasonally wet	I, B, W, S, L	Vigorous spreading shrub, often forms dense thickets. Bright pink flowers and attractive golden-brown bark, some thorns, yellow to reddish edible fruits (much like raspberries). Native Americans used it for a food source and as a dressing for burns, disinfectant, for stomach aches, and as a pain reliever.
snowbrush - <i>Ceanothus velutinus</i>	10'	✓	-	-	dry to moist	B, W, S, L	Sprawling plant with spicy scented green bark that forms thickets. It is a pioneer species, and a nitrogen-fixer.
thimbleberry - <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	8'	✓	✓	-	dry to moist	I, B, W, S, L	Fast-growing shrub, berries taste like raspberry-strawberry cross. No thorns, large white flowers. Fruits make great jams. Used by Native Americans for food and medicinally as a tonic, for stomach aches, treating wounds, and other needs.
vine maple - <i>Acer circinatum</i>	25'	✓	✓	✓	moist	B, W, S, L	Small tree or shrub, attractive showy brilliant fall colors. Suitable for shade ornamental, forest under-story, and restoration. Has been used for making snowshoes and dishes.

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## ASSORTED PLANTS

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
beargrass - <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	3 - 6'	✓	✓	-	well-drained, cool, dry	I, W, L	Also known as Indian Basket Grass, beargrass is actually a member of the lily family. It flowers in the Pacific Northwest after fire. Natives would use the leaves to weave water tight baskets for cooking. The leaves were also used for trim on the edges of mats. Modernly used for basket making and in the floral industry.
blue-eyed grass, Idaho - <i>S. idahoense</i>	6 - 20"	✓	✓	-	moist	I, L	An attractive smaller Iris relative with thin grass-like leaves and symmetrical showy blue-purple flowers with yellow anther clusters. Blooms March through June. Easy to grow.
camas, common - <i>Camassia quamash</i>	8 - 30"	✓	✓	-	moist in spring, dryer in summer	I, W, L	Perennial herb from a bulb. Pale to deep blue flowers. Likes grassy slopes and meadows. Native Americans used as a staple food. The bulbs are highly nutritious. A decoction of the roots was used to help women after birthing.
checkermallow, meadow - <i>Sidalcea campestris</i>	2 - 6'	✓	✓	-	moist, well-drained	I, W, L	Tall herbaceous perennial with a loose cluster of white to pink flowers at the top of the stem. Leaves on flowering stems are deeply lobed and the stem has branched hairs. Is a nectar source for Fender's blue butterfly. Blooms throughout mid-late summer.
coast penstemon - <i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	1 - 3'	✓	✓	-	moist to wet	I, H, L	Member of the snapdragon family, the genus name means "five-threads" and it is also known as Beards tongue for the characteristic long stamens that hang out over the lower lip of the flower like a tongue. Blue-purple saw tooth leaves, triangular shaped flowers. Likes middle elevations and open forests.
Douglas aster - <i>Aster subspicatus</i>	1 - 3"	✓	✓	-	moist	I, W, L	Perennial herb with familiar aster flower shape that blooms with blue to purple hues. A hardy species that grows in tight clumps.
fringe cup - <i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	2.5'	-	✓	✓	moist, rich	I, L	Spreading perennial. Delicate flowers vary from white to pink. According to fairy tales it was eaten by woodland elves to improve their night vision. A decoction of the pounded plant has been used to restore the appetite and to treat a range of sicknesses.
goats beard - <i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	4 - 6'	-	✓	✓	moist to wet	I, W, L	A graceful woodland perennial of the rose family with compound leaves and billowy plumes of tiny white flowers. The male plants are preferred for their showier flowers. Also known as Brides feathers. Can be used for a shrub accent plant in landscaping.
inside-out flower - <i>Vancouveria hexandra</i>	16"	-	✓	✓	moist to somewhat dry	I, L	Delicate looking, vigorous perennial ground cover that blooms delicate white 'inside-out' looking flowers in April-June. Likes forested areas. Slowly spreads by rhizomes.
lily, harvest - <i>Brodiaea coronaria</i>	1'	✓	-	-	rocky, dry soils	I, W, L	Hardy perennial with violet purple flowers which grow in clusters. Full sun, requires little water once established, drought resistant. Will add nice color to dry areas that are hard to establish flowers in. Found in valley grasslands, foothill woodlands, and mixed conifer forests. Used and processed much like camas. Also known as Indian potato.
lily, tiger - <i>Lilium columbianum</i>	2 - 4'	✓	✓	-	moist to dry	I, W, L	A showy perennial in the lily family; flowers are bright orange with dark red spots near the center of the flower. Blooms between May and August. Adapted to damp, open woods, grassy meadows, and dry slopes. Native Americans used its bitter or peppery-tasting bulbs as a staple food source.
lupine, streambank - <i>Lupinus rivularis</i>	2'	✓	✓	-	moist	I, H, S, L	Perennial in the Pea family. Has blue-violet flowers growing loosely on heads up to 20 inches tall. Likes sandy or gravel areas of streambanks and marshes.

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*Assorted Plant descriptions continued on next page.*

## ASSORTED PLANTS *continued...*

Common Name - Scientific Name	Mature Height	Prefers Full Sun	Part Sun & Shade	Prefers Shade	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Notes / Description
nodding pink onion - <i>Allium cernuum</i>	20"	✓	✓	-	sandy soils, rocky areas	I, B, L	Nodding pink flower clusters. Also known as wild onion. Was used for some medicinal purposes by Native Americans and early settlers. Likes rocky low elevation areas.
Oregon geranium - <i>Geranium oregonum</i>	3'	✓	✓	-	moist	I, L	A showy perennial with reddish-purple flowers. Strongly associated with prairie and oak woodland remnants throughout the Willamette Valley in Oregon.
Oregon iris - <i>Iris tenax</i>	16"	✓	-	-	tolerates a range of conditions	I, L	Perennial herb with purple-blue flowers that resembles commercial iris varieties. Grows in clumps, will spread, can be regularly separated and transplanted. Foliage makes a nice border. "The most common and certainly most beautiful grass iris in the NW" A.R.K.
Oregon stonecrop - <i>Sedum oregonum</i>	3 - 6"	✓	✓	-	well-drained, rocky	I, L	Fast growing cool climate perennial succulent with small fleshy edible leaves (best fried). The Kwakiutl of B.C. called it Crow's strawberries. Also known as Hens and Chickens. Dense yellow flowers late spring and summer.
red columbine - <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	1 - 4"	✓	✓	-	moist	I, B, L	Erect perennial herb with soft foliage and ornate drooping red to yellow flowers. Likes forest or flower bed areas.
shooting star - <i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	16"	✓	✓	-	moist to dry	I, L	Many small magenta to lavender flowers on long stalks. Egg shaped broad leaves at base. Naturally grows in dry grassy meadows and open woods.
strawberry, woodland - <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	4 - 12"	✓	✓	-	dry to moist	I, B, W, L	Native strawberry, sweet delicious fruit. Spreads easily, low growing, deeply toothed leaves with prominent veins, berries ready in mid-summer. The berries and leaves are small. Likes partly shaded forested areas.
violet, blue - <i>Viola species</i>	5"	✓	✓	-	dry to moist	I, L	Perennial with short to long, slender rhizomes, usually stemless in the early part of the growing season, later develops aerial stems.
western buttercup - <i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	2'	✓	✓	-	moist	I, L	Perennial, delicate yellow flowers. Common in meadows, spreads and mixes well with other wildflowers.
western meadowrue - <i>Thalictrum occidentale</i>	1 - 3'	✓	✓	-	moist	I, L	A delicate perennial forb whose male plant bears many small flowers and the female plant has little more than red seed bearing pistils for flowers. Likes open woodlands or semi-shaded areas. Some Native Americans used for headaches, eye trouble, sore legs, to loosen phlegm, and to improve blood circulation.
yarrow - <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	.5 - 3'	✓	✓	-	dry to moist	I, L	Aromatic perennial herb, usually rhizomatous; fern like leaves, white to pink or reddish flowers.

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