

WILDFLOWERS THAT ATTRACT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Restore habitat. Not introducing invasive non-natives. Low maintenance. Preserve botanical heritage. We have lots to choose from. Enjoy wildlife and be partner to nature.

EASY TO GROW PLANTS NATIVE TO LINCOLN COUNTY THAT ATTRACT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES AND CAN BE FOUND IN THE NURSERY TRADE

Common, and Botanical name: Key, (A) aggressive, (G) garden worthy, (S) sun, (SH) shade, (W) can take wet soils, add organic matter, (D) fast draining dry soil required, add rock, (H) useful for hedgerows. A list of some birds and butterflies that are attracted to the plants.

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

BLUE BLOSSOM, (Wild Lilac) *Ceanothus thrysiflorus* and *prostratus*:(G)(S)(D) *Thrysiflorus* is a tall shrub that blooms in late spring, *Prostratus* is a groundcover that blooms in early spring. Its lustrous green foliage is the only host for the California Tortoiseshell and the primary host for the Pale Swallowtail. It also hosts the Brown Elfin butterfly. *Thrysiflorus* can be pruned for shape and compactness or allowed to grow to a large shrub or small tree reaching 20 feet tall and wide. More compact forms are available in the nursery trade. Many species are expanding their range from the south due to climate change. This is one, along with Oregon myrtle, *Umbellularia californica*. Respect their normal range so you don't have problems. That means full sun, wind protection, fast draining soil and little summer water once established. It is covered in fuzzy fragrant flowers humming with bumble bees. The only downside is that they are short lived, 10 to 15 years. California Tortoiseshells, Pale Swallowtails, Brown Elfins

SALAL, *Gaultheria shallon*:(A)(H) If a prophet is without honor in his own land, salal is the God of native plants. Generally disregarded because of its commonness, it is a formidable friend to wildlife. Providing cover with its dense growth, hosting caterpillars with its leaves, butterflies with its flowers and birds with its fruit. A staple of the interior of a native hedgerow. At least think twice before you remove salal if you already have it. You can dig out areas within it to plant different natives or exotics. If you are the kind of person who needs the opinions of others to support your appreciation of beauty, know that tons of lowly salal is picked every year and shipped all over the globe to be used in formal flower arrangements. Oregon coast sunsets are common but that doesn't make them any less beautiful. Hummingbirds, Robins, Wrens, Thrushes, Juncos, Pigeons. Brown Elfins, Spring Azures.

OREGON GRAPE, *Mahonia aquifolium* and *nervosa*:(G) The tall form is our state flower while the lower species is more commonly seen along the coast and makes a fine groundcover. Its bright yellow, lightly fragrant flowers mature to tart blue berries. Hummingbirds. Waxwings, Thrushes, Towhees. Brown Elfins, Painted Ladies.

EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY, *Vaccinium ovatum*:(G)(H) Its pink bell shaped flowers help identify this versatile shrub as one of our many garden worthy native Heaths. Sun or shade, moist or dry soils in the wind or salt its going to thrive. It can be used as formal low boxwood like

hedge or allowed to ramble up to twelve feet in the shade. New shoots are a bronze red and in sun, mature foliage turns reddish purple. It is a host plant for Brown Elfins and Spring Azure butterflies, a nectar plant for hummingbirds and its purplish black berries often persist into December when they are a vital food source. Also Waxwings, Juncos, Jays, Chickadees,

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

SERVICEBERRY, *Amelanchier alnifolia*:(D)(H)(S) Another choice garden ornamental. The white fragrant flowers ripen into tasty berries and the leaves have good yellow to red fall color. It needs to be in full sun out of the wind on fast draining soil to avoid disease. It's a good plant for the inside of the hedgerow. Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Thrushes, Towhees, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Finches, Juncos, Hummingbirds. Lorquin's Admirals, Pale Tiger Swallowtails, Brown Elfins.

Many plants including Serviceberry and a number of other natives are used to rocky soil, yet rock seldom gets the status that it should as a soil amendment. The addition of 1/4 minus for a large raised area or 10 minus for smaller beds will help immensely in preventing root rot.

CREEK DOGWOOD, *Cornus stolonifera/sericea*:(G)(H)(W) White flowers in dense terminal clusters mature to white berries. It provides excellent songbird cover and is a host plant for butterflies and numerous birds eat the fruits. Creek dogwood has striking red twig color on new growth that brightens the winter landscape. It can be left wild if you want it to get taller or can be pruned back at the end of winter for a compact mass of dense color. It is very easy to propagate from hardwood cuttings. Just cut a winter twig and poke it in wet ground. Vireos, Warblers, Pigeons, Robins, Flickers, Flycatchers, Wood Ducks, Quail, Hummingbirds. Spring Azures, Orange Sulfurs.

OCEANSPRAY, *Holodiscus discolor*:(H) The large white lilac like flower clusters are a nectar source for butterflies while succulent, and a late season seed source for birds after they mature and turn brown. The seeds will last through the winter if not deadheaded. Chickadees, Bushtits, Hummingbirds. Brown Elfins, Pale Tiger Swallowtails, Spring Azures, Lorquin's Admirals.

TWINBERRY, *Lonicera involucrata*:(H)(W) Purplish green bracts surround the twin yellow flowers which produce shiny black twin berries. The bark is peeled by birds for nesting material. This is a good shrub for the windy side of a hedgerow once it's established it'll take the full brunt of the wind even on exposed headlands. Grosbeaks, Juncos, Waxwings, Thrushes, Flickers, Finches, Quail, Hummingbirds.

WESTERN CRAB APPLE, *Malus fusca*:(H)(W) Another member of the rose family with white to pink fragrant flowers best used in the middle of the hedgerow due to its shedding of leaves, twigs, bark and flowers. There it serves as a host for caterpillars and its rotting apples feed adult butterflies. Geese, Woodpeckers, Sapsuckers, Jays, Robins, Waxwings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, Hummingbirds.

INDIAN PLUM, *Oemleria cerasiformis*:(H) It's one of the earliest flowering shrubs blooming in late February to early March and therefore provides an early food source. Has a vertical habit.

Fruits are on the female plants only. Female flowers are fragrant while male flowers smell like cat urine. Birds eat the berries. Jays, Robins, Chickadees. Brown Elfins.

NINEBARK, *Physocarpus capitatus*:(S)(W) The dense snowball shaped flowers are nectar sources for butterflies and the reddish brown seed husks fall food for birds while the multicolored bark adds interest. Spring Azures.

WESTERN AZALEA, *Rhododendron occidentale*:(G)(S) Our native deciduous azalea serves as a nectar plant for butterflies with its fragrant blooms. This is a parent plant for Knaphill and Koster hybrids. Its late spring early summer bloom time and fall foliage display make it one of our finest natives. As we are in the northern end of its range it does best in full sun. Be sure to pick your specimens in bloom as the intensity of fragrance will vary significantly from one individual to another. Mike Bloom's nursery north of Florence usually has a number of plants to choose from. Anise Swallowtails, Western Tiger Swallowtails, Brown Elfins, Satyr Angelwings.

Western Azalea is considered a bog plant but most bog plants of the heath family actually sit above water on a significant amount of fast draining rotted organic matter. If you are a serious native plant or woodland gardener you should find a place in your yard where you can deposit a pile of organic matter, and let it rot. Things like alder chips which you can often get for free from local tree pruners or a large load of hemlock bark dust which you can buy from landscaping supply firms. Leave it exposed in the winter, tarp it and occasionally water it in the summer. The longer you can let it sit and be worked on by soil microbes and fungi the better amendment it will make.

RED FLOWERING CURRANT, *Ribes sanguineum*:(D)(G)(S) One of our choice native garden ornamentals. Since the berries are persistent and ripen sequentially they provide a long term food source. It is listed as shade tolerant but it will perform much better in full sun which will help to give its winter twigs an orange-like color. The northern migration of Rufus hummingbirds coincides with its bloom time and early butterflies enjoy its blooms as well. With fast growth of at least a foot a year and a month long bloom time this plant should be in every native garden. Be sure to select the more common red or pink forms if you want to attract hummingbirds that are attracted to light in the red color spectrum. Hummingbirds

The University of California at Davis did a study on the success of transplants in the garden and found that summer watering the first year or two was the most critical factor in transplant success. This is true for natives as well as other plants because transplanting damages the fine root hairs and mycelium that take up water. However many native plants can be killed if they are excessively watered after they are established and red flowering currant is one.

WILD ROSES, *Rosa gymnocarpa* and *nootkana*:(A)(H)(S) You won't have to worry about black spot with this aggressive native. The flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies and the rose hips provide a long term seed source. Hummingbirds, Juncos, Grosbeaks, Quail, Thrushes. Mourning Cloaks.

SALMONBERRY/THIMBLEBERRY, *Rubus spectabilis* and *parviflorus*:(A)(H) These are functional brambles best suited for the middle of a hedgerow. Their small magenta and white flowers respectively, reveal their rose family heritage and are hummingbird favorites. The

salmonberry's early fruits are vital for young fledglings and Swainson's thrush was known as the Salmonberry bird in native languages. Chickadees, Grosbeaks, Jays, Robins, Sparrows, Tanagers, Towhees, Warblers Waxwings, Wrens, Hummingbirds. Margined Whites, Orange Sulfurs.

RED ELDERBERRY, *Sambucus racemosa pubens*:(H)(W) This is a fast growing tropical looking shrub with large pinnately compound leaves. Its fragrant flower clusters attract both hummingbirds and butterflies and produce berries that are eaten by a variety of songbirds. Elderberry is one of the few natives that requires occasional pruning to look its best but keep an eye out for nests as the acute angle of the branches is a favorite nesting location. It works in a variety of locations including deep shade and poor soil. Sparrows, Thrushes, Warblers, Tanagers, Jays, Grosbeaks, Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds. Spring Azures.

SPIRAEA, *Spirea douglasii*:(S)(W) Our native spirea is a summer bloomer with large rose pink pyramid shaped plumes that are a nectar source for butterflies and provide late season seed heads. Its common name of hard hack refers to the effort required by early explorers to hack through its many stems when traversing wet bogs dominated by this aggressive shrub. It should be placed in the garden with care keeping its dominate tendencies in mind. Like our other native members of the rose family it serves as a host plant for a variety of butterflies. Hummingbirds. Mourning Cloaks, Pale Tiger Swallowtails, Lorquin's Admirals.

The aggressive nature of most plants is related to their cultural conditions. If given optimum locations they will spread much faster. If given poor conditions they may not spread at all. My spirea is in a shadier location and although it doesn't bloom as riotously as it would in full sun, it's easier to control.

SNOWBERRY, *Symphoricarpos albus*:(A) Has delicate pink flowers which produce white berries which persist through the winter providing a late season food source for wildlife while the dense twiggy growth provides cover. Pheasants, Juncos, Chickadees, Hummingbirds.

RED HUCKLEBERRY, *Vaccinium parvifolium*:(G) The small greenish-white bell shaped flowers are set on bright lime green stems and turn into tart, salmon-pink berries. Its attractive habit and color make this another choice garden ornamental. Its status in the heath family marks it as a host plant for butterflies while any berries that don't make it into breakfast muffins can be consumed by wildlife. It likes to be planted over lots of organic material as witnessed by its natural location on nurse logs. Robins, Jays, Hummingbirds. Spring Azures, Brown Elfins.

PERENNIAL GROUND COVERS AND A VINE

ASTERACEAE, (S)(D)(most) All of our native members of the Sunflower family are excellent nectar sources for butterflies. Their flat landing pad structure and multiple florets are perfect

lunching spots. Douglas Aster (*Aster subspicatus*), Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*), and Oregon sunshine (*Erophyllum lanatum*), are some of the best for the formal garden. A serious butterfly gardener will also include Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), or Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) in the wilder portions for a season long food supply.

WILD ONION, *Allium cernuum*:(G)(S) Our most garden worthy native onion provides contrasting visual structure with its slender grass like foliage and whitish buds that open to deep pink umbels which sway in the breeze. Hummingbirds, Gray Hairstreaks.

COLUMBINE, *Aquilegia formosa*:(G) Another hummingbird favorite. Like all columbines it hybridizes easily with others of its genus. Hummingbirds. Anise Swallowtails, Western Tiger Swallowtails, Pale Swallowtails.

KINNIKINNICK, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*:(D)(G)(S) Our most well known and used native evergreen groundcover. The white to pink flowers contrast against the dark green leaves. It's a butterfly hosting, hummingbird attracting, red berry and seed providing, wildlife wonder. It starts slowly but will expand successfully if given great drainage, minimal summer water and full sun. Like most native plants fertilizing will do more harm than good. Pigeons, Juncos, Towhees. Brown Elfins, Spring Azures.

GOAT'S BEARD, *Aruncus sylvestris/dioicus*:(G)(SH)(W) An herbaceous perennial which masquerades as a shrub. The male plants have showier flowers and do not seed themselves. Looking like an astilbe on steroids its height requires a location out of the wind. The tall plumes of white flowers turn into early winter seed and feed. Hummingbirds.

BUNCHBERRY, *Cornus canadensis/unalashkensis*:(G)(SH) A beautiful native carpeting perennial for the shady portion of the garden. It has a typical dogwood flower with four white bracts surrounding a central floret cluster which produce bright red, late season berries. In the wild it often grows on nurse logs so you need to add lots of rotted chips from your pile to be successful with this beauty. Also place it in an area where it won't get root disturbance if you want it to spread.

As a design feature in the native portion of my garden I use logs to line the path, what I call rot logs. Dig them into the ground and use them as a border with raised beds behind them. They are great for a variety of our choice low woodland plants and you will also get some mushrooms from them.

BLEEDING HEART, *Dicentra formosa*:(A)(G)(SH) Although the flowers are not as large as *spectabilis* it will flower over a long period if given supplemental summer water. This is the obligate host of the *Clodius Parnassian* butterfly which lays its eggs on the ground near this herbaceous perennial. Hummingbirds. *Clodius Parnassians*.

STRAWBERRY, *Fragaria chiloensis*:(A)(S) Our coast strawberry is one of the parents of the garden cultivar. It makes an attractive aggressive groundcover in full sun with fast drainage and will even bind sand. White flowers give way to edible fruits and the leaves turn a bright red in

the fall. Purplish Coppers, Two-Banded Checkered Skippers, Brown Elfins.

HONEYSUCKLE, *Lonicera ciliosa*:(G)(S) This honeysuckle is one of our few native vines. The odorless, trumpet shaped orange red flowers attract hummingbirds while the fruit hangs on through autumn and into winter to serve as a food source for other birds. Hummingbirds.

LUPINE, *Lupinus sp*:(S)(W) There are a number of native lupines which attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Our tall native polyphyllus and the introduced arboreus were the parents of the Russell Lupine hybrids. Hummingbirds. Orange Sulphurs.

MONKEYFLOWER, *Mimulus guttatus, lewisi*:(A)(W) In shades from yellow to pink red monkeyflowers make good aggressive ground covers for the wetter part of the garden. Hummingbirds. Common Buckeyes.

COAST PENSTEMON, *Penstemon serrulatus*:(D)(G)(S) Our native penstemon can use the rock to keep it happy as well as a location in full sun. Hummingbirds. Anise Swallowtails, Western Tiger Swallowtails, Pale Swallowtails.

SILVERWEED *Potentilla pacifica*:(S) With buttercup yellow flowers and indented compound pinnate leaves this aggressive ground cover is well adapted to wet sandy areas. As a member of the Rose family along with Oceanspray, Serviceberry, Spirea, Indian Plum, Roses, and Strawberry it is a host as well as great nectar plant and birds eat the seeds. Purplish Coppers.

SEDUMS *Sedum oreganum, spathulifolium*:(G)(S)(D) The native stonecrops are best placed in full sun with excellent drainage where their grey green rosettes will tinge rose red and provide a contrast to the bright yellow flowers. Moss-Elfins.

FRINGECUP, *Tellima grandiflora*:(A)(G)(SH)(W) This ground cover looks good all year but its capacity to self seed aggressively in good soil should limit it to the wild portion of the garden. Plant in clusters for a wonderful carnation fragrance. Hummingbirds.

VIOLETS, *Viola adunca, glabella, sempervirens*: Like many endangered species that have narrow niches the Oregon Silverspot butterfly or Zerene Fritillary chooses only one species as its host; the early blue violet, *Viola adunca* which grows in dry open locales on exposed coastal headlands. Our yellow woodland violets make serviceable low ground covers for shadier setting. Spring Azures, Hydaspe Fritillaries, Zerene Fritillaries aka Oregon Silverspots? Good Luck!

There are many more natives that are garden worthy and beneficial to wildlife.