Go Native
Living near a shoreline provides unique landscaping opportunities. Choosing native plants helps keep water clean, control erosion and reduce flooding; they require less maintenance and are great for local wildlife.

This list is a limited selection of native plants, suitable for shorelines, that are commonly carried at nurseries that specialize in natives. Before purchasing plants, do three simple things: assess the conditions; identify which plants will thrive in those conditions; and be familiar with those plants that are problematic in our local waters or listed as noxious weeds (see reverse).

Selected Native Wetland and Aquatic Plants by Type and Habitat

### HERBACEOUS PLANTS

#### Emergent in wet or moist soil
- Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)
- Tall mannagrass (*Glyceria elata*)
- Reed mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*)
- Daggerleaf rush (*Juncus ensifolius*)
- Common rush (*Juncus effusus*)
- Other rushes (*Juncus sp.*)
- Small-flowered woodrush (*Luzula parviflora*)
- Skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*)
- Yellow monkey-flower (*Mimulus guttatus*)
- Coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*)
- Cooley hedgenettle (*Stachys cooleyae*)

#### Emergent in standing water
- Bulrushes
  - Tule, Hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*)
  - Wooly sedge, woolgrass (*Scirpus atrocinclus, S. cyperinus*)
  - Small fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*)
- Sedges
  - Slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*)
  - Lenticular sedge (*Carex lenticularis*)
  - Sawbeak sedge (*Carex stipata*)
  - Beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*)
- Other emergents
  - Creeping spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*)
  - Water-parsley (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*)
  - Wapato, arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
  - Bur-reeds (*Sparganium emersum, S. angustifolium*)
  - Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)

### SHRUBS

#### Tolerate standing water
- Red stem dogwood (Cornus sericea or C. stolonifera)
- Pacific ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus)
- Labrador tea (Rhododendron, or Ledum, groenlandicum)
- Hooker’s willow (*Salix hookeri*)
- Sitka willow (*Salix stitchensis*)
- Mountain or subalpine spirea (*Spiraea densiflora*)
- Hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*)

#### Wet or moist soil
- Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*)
- Pacific crabapple (*Malus fusca*)
- Swamp gooseberry, swamp currant (*Ribes lacustre*)
- Swamp rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*)
- Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
- Scouler’s willow (*Salix scouleriana*)

#### Moist or damp soil
- Indian plum, Osoberry (*Oemleria, or Osmeronia, cerasiformis*)
- Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
- Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)

#### Floating
- Yellow pond-lily/Spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*)

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Lake Stewardship Program
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King County Lake Stewardship Program
Selected Native Wetland and Aquatic Plants (Continued)

**State of Washington Quarantine Plant List (Prohibited from Sale)**
- Indigo bush (Amorpha fruticosa)
- Flowering rush (Butomus umbellatus)
- Great- or hairy willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum)
- European frog-bit, water poppy (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)
- Wand loosestrife (Lythrum virgatum)
- Marsh Dayflower, Asian Spiderwort (Murdannia keisak)
- Grass-leaved arrowhead (Sagittaria graminea)
- Water chestnut (Trapa natans)

**Select List of Weeds with Potential for Local Problems**
- Giant reed (Arundo donax)
- Asian anacharis (Egeria najas)
- Water hyacinth (Eichornia sp.) — Any species.
- Watercress (Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum)
- Bur- or sessile-fruited arrowhead (Sagittaria rigida)
- Giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta)
- Narrowleaved cattail (Typha angustifolia)

Non-native Species of Recent Concern in King County
- Curly leaf pondweed (Potamogeton crispus)
- Tapegrass (Vallisneria americana)

**REFERENCES**

Books
- A Field Guide to the Common Wetland Plants of Western Washington and Northwestern Oregon by Sarah Spear Cooke
- Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Guide by Arthur Kruckeberg
- Grow Your Own Native Landscape by Michael Leigh (To order, call 206-296-6519)
- Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest by Russell Link
- Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska by Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon
- Wetland Plants of Oregon and Washington by Jennifer B. Guard

Web Sites
- King County: Pacific Northwest Native Plant Resources [http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/npresrcs.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/npresrcs.htm)
- King Conservation District: Wetland Plants [http://www.kingcd.org/pro_wet.htm](http://www.kingcd.org/pro_wet.htm)

**Selected Aquatic Plants on the King County Noxious Weed List**

**Class A Weeds (Eradication is required by law.)**
- Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)

**Class B Weeds (Control is required by law.)**
- Fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana)
- Brazilian elodea (Egeria densa)
- Policeman’s helmet (Impatiens glandulifera)
- Water primrose (Ludwigia hexapetala)
- Garden loosestrife (Lysimachia punctata)
- Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)
- Parrotfeather (Myriophyllum aquaticum)
- Yellow floating heart (Nymphoides peltata)

**Weeds of concern**
- Yellow-flag iris (Iris pseudacorus)
- Fragrant water-lily (Nymphaea odorata)
- Reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea)
- Common reed (Phragmites australis)
- Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum)
- Hybrid Japanese knotweed or Bohemian knotweed (Polygonum Xbohemicum)
- Himalayan knotweed (Polygonum polystachyum)
- Giant knotweed (Polygonum sachalinense)

**WARNING: PLANTS TO AVOID!**

Some nurseries and pond or aquarium supply stores may sell plants that are suitable for small, isolated artificial ponds but could wreck havoc in natural lakes and wetlands. Some may even be listed as noxious weeds with the state or county. Avoid these plants to save yourself considerable time and money in eradication efforts later on. It is best to put only native plants in natural water bodies. And remember, most plants have many different common names, so when in doubt, go by the scientific name.