

Beneficial Planting Under Trees

If done correctly, understory planting beneath trees can be beneficial for the trees and the environment. Planting low maintenance shrubs and groundcovers can reduce the need for weeding, help retain moisture and lessen the demand for irrigation and provide shade, cover nesting areas and food for wildlife. Choosing the right plants is essential and thought must be put into avoiding any clearance issues, creating a maintenance burden or future fire fuel hazard. Care also must be taken when planting beneath established trees to avoid encroaching on critical surface roots.

Recommended Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Attributes
*Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Full sun to full shade. White flowers and dark purple berries are very important to native birds and insects.
*Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Attractive red twigs that provide bird friendly thickets. Tolerates moist soil. Flowers and berries important to insects and birds.
Buttercup Winter Hazel	<i>Corylopsis pauciflora</i>	Deciduous spreading shrub with masses of pale yellow fragrant pendant flowers in early spring. Prefers partial shade.
*Beaked Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Attractive catkins in the late winter, nuts are important to wildlife.
Enkianthus	<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Upright deciduous shrub with red veined bell-shaped flowers in the spring and brilliant fall color. Full sun to part shade
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>	Fragrant flowers in the late winter with spectacular fall color. Deer resistant and pest free.
*Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Useful in disturbed or burned areas. Creamy lilac-like flowers in early summer. Drought tolerant.
*Tall Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Tolerant of open, rocky, dry disturbed areas. Bright yellow flowers in mid spring are attractive to pollinators and hummingbirds. Berries are eaten by birds.
*Pacific Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>	Best native plant for screening and can tolerate salt spray. A nitrogen fixer ideal for restoration plantings. Fruit eaten by many bird species.
*Osoberry	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	First native to bloom in the spring. Flowers are important pollinator and berries for wildlife.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Attributes
*Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Useful in wetter locations, many cultivars that are smaller growing with attractive colored foliage.
*Western Azalea	<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Fragrant funnel shaped flowers. Prefers acidic soils, tolerates shade to full sun. Popular with bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.
*Red-Flowering Current	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Reddish pink flowers in the spring are important to migrating Rufous hummingbirds. Several cultivars available. Drought tolerant.
*Woods Rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Sun to part shade. Rose hips are an important food source for many species of wildlife.
*Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemose ssp pubens</i>	Adaptable to a wide range of environments, can be severely pruned if overgrown. All parts are used by native wildlife.
*Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Adaptable to a multitude of habitats and important to many wildlife species. Attractive white berries in the winter.
*Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Shade tolerant. Flowers are important to pollinators and berries in the fall and winter are vital to wildlife.
*Deciduous Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Shade tolerant. Flowers are important to pollinators and berries in the fall and winter are vital to wildlife.
*American Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Technically a viburnum, berries provide important late season food for many species of wildlife.

*Denotes PNW native plant or relative

Recommended Perennials & Ground Covers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Attributes
*Kinnikinnik	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Low growing, drought tolerant evergreen. Flowers and fruit popular with wildlife.
*Bunchberry/Creeping Dogwood	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Semi-evergreen ground cover for moist woodland settings. Long flowering period with fruit that is popular with birds.
Epimedium/Barrenwort	<i>Epimedium spp.</i>	Deciduous or evergreen varieties available. Tolerates shade and drought once established.
*Dunes/Coastal Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Soil binding plant that thrives in sandy, gritty soil.
*Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Tolerates a wide range of environments and provides flowers and fruit for wildlife.
Seashore Lupine	<i>Lupinus littoralis</i>	Evergreen trailing or mat forming perennial. Very popular with butterflies.
*Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i> or <i>Mahonia repens</i>	Tolerates shade and provides nectar and berries.
*Redwood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	Herbaceous broadleaf perennial that grows in shade to part shade. Good for unmanaged areas.
*Oregon Boxwood	<i>Paxistima myrsinites</i>	Prostrate evergreen shrub that grows in sun to part shade in well drained soils.
*Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Semi-evergreen that tolerates a wide range of environments.
Creeping Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus'	Low growing evergreen herb with dense foliage. Drought tolerant for full sun. Flowers attract birds and bees.
Crinkle-leaf Creeper	<i>Rubus pentalobus</i>	Evergreen that grows in dense, low mats. Insect and pest free.
Wall germander	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Evergreen herb in the mint family. Likes well drained soil in full sun.
Common Thyme	<i>Tymus vulgaris</i>	Woody broadleaf evergreen perennial.
*Siskiyou Inside-Out Flower	<i>Vancouveria chrysantha</i>	Tolerates extreme dry shade, not bothered by pests.

*Denotes PNW native plant or relative