

# Portland Public Schools Preferred Plant Lists

All garden plans must be approved through Facilities Project Management prior to installation.

NOTE: This list is “suggestive”, not inclusive. PPS Facilities staff and grounds crew could be open to other proposed plant material and placement, depending on current and ongoing garden conditions.

## General Guidelines:

- Very low maintenance
- Infrequent pruning
- Not rapid growth
- Moderately pest free
- Low water use once established
- Easy to rejuvenate
- Must be able to see over or under
- No thickets
- No thorns
- Nothing that attracts large populations of stinging insects in close proximity to students

## Examples of easy to rejuvenate plants, good for building foundation plantings:

Rhododendrons

Camellias

Nandina

Mountain Andromeda

David Viburnum

Hinoki cypress

Vine Maple

The plants listed below are intended primarily for approved native gardens.

**Acceptable Oregon Natives** (This list will change as we learn more about plants and how they do in our environments, including their drought tolerance and growth habits.)

### Tree/shrubs:

California hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta var. californica*)

Osoberry/Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)  
Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) – may need to be limbed up or thinned  
Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)  
Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)  
Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*)  
California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)  
Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)  
Dwarf Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)  
Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parviflorum*)  
Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)  
Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)  
Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)  
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)  
Mockorange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)  
Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) (use caution: forms thicket)  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*) (use caution: forms thicket)

## Flowers

Western buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*)  
Shooting star (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*)  
Western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)  
Meadow checkerbloom (*Sidalcea campestris*)  
Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* ssp. *Brachteata*)  
Oregon iris (*Iris tenax*)  
Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii* or *quamash*)

Western columbine (*Aquilegia Formosa*)

Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*)

Varileaf phacelia (*Phacelia heterophylla*)

Lance selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Slender cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*)

Harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*)

### Bunchgrasses

Blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*)

California brome (*Bromus carinatus*)

Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*)

Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemerii*)

California fescue (*Festuca californica*)

Slender rush (*Juncus tenuis*)

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list, but rather intended to be a guide, a place to start, with enough variety that a lovely garden could be developed from this list. If there are other plants that meet our general criteria, please ask us to consider them in your design.

With thanks to the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Sustainable Stormwater Division

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