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Native Plant Resources for San Juan County

This handout addresses the questions: Where can I buy plants and seed native to San Juan County? And how do I grow them?

Sea blush *(Plectritis congesta)* dominates the spring bloom in a garden planted with native wildflowers.

PLANT AND SEED NURSERIES

There are a lot of great native plant nurseries. This list concentrates on those that provide species native to San Juan County and the greater region.

The Center for Natural Lands Management sells native seed, some of which is of San Juan County origin. cnlm.org/native-seed-nursery

Fourth Corner Nursery is a well-established, wholesale native plant nursery in Whatcom County. They sell primarily bare-root stock of shrubs, trees, wetland plants, forbs. Much of their material is of western Washington origin. fourthcornernurseries.com 360-592-2250

Heritage Seedlings in Oregon sells native seed wholesale, most of it of Willamette Valley origin. Their website also has great information about site preparation and seeding. heritageseedlings.com 503-585-9835

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Inside Passage Seeds in Port Townsend sells wild-collected seeds from the Salish Sea region. insidepassageseeds.com 360-385-6114

The Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County holds an annual native plant sale in early spring, specializing in resales of purchased bare root trees and shrubs and as well as some container plants: mgfsjc.org

Northwest Meadowscapes based on Whidbey Island sells a regional wildflower mix and other native grass and wildflower seed. Some of their offerings are of Whidbey Island or nearby origin. northwestmeadowscapes.com

Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center near Carnation grows a wide variety of Western Washington container plants using organic and sustainable practices. oxbow.org 425-788-1134 ext. 4

The Pacific Rim Institute on Whidbey Island runs a plant and seed nursery primarily for restoring their own site, but also takes orders and sells seeds and plants when available. pacificriminstitute.org

Plantas Nativas is a retail native plant nursery in Whatcom County, selling species native to western Washington. plantasnativa.com 360-715-9655

The Plant Materials Center in Bow, Washington, sells bare-root shrubs and trees, some of western Washington origin. wacdpmc.org 360-757-1094

Saanich Native Plants on Vancouver Island is a retail nursery selling local, native container plants and seed. While their offerings are perfect for San Juan County, permits are likely required to bring plants and seeds across the border. Their website has excellent resources on plant selection. saanichnativeplants.com

The Salish Seeds Project in San Juan County specializes in grasses and wildflowers of oak, prairie, and coastal habitats of San Juan County. Plants and seed are grown primarily by special order with occasional local plant sale events. sjclandbank.org/the-salish-seeds-project-bringing-back-island-wildflowers

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LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING GUIDES

This is just a small selection of what's out there.

"Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Guide" by Arthur Kruckeberg, University of Washington Press, 1996.

"Planting Native Oak in the Pacific Northwest", USDA booklet, free download available at arlis.org/docs/vol1/B/547193245.pdf

"Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington" by Hinman et. al. is available for free download at fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1310027.pdf

"The Garry Oak Gardeners Handbook" contains good ideas and landscaping plans using native wildflowers and grasses in the Salish Sea region. Free download available from the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) at goert.ca/publications_resources/general.php

King County has a number of native plant resources on their website, such as this western Washington planting guide. your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/yard-and-garden/native-plant-guide-western-washington.pdf

Northwest Meadowscapes based on Whidbey Island has good instructions on meadow-making and many other useful tidbits: northwestmeadowscapes.com

Saanich Native Plants offers a variety of resources tailored to the Salish Sea region, such as a list of plants suitable for green roofs, a hedgerow guide, planting for pollinators, and more. saanichnativeplants.com

The Xerces Society offers many resources about planting for pollinators, including this excellent general guide to creating a wildflower meadow. Free download at xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/EstablishingPollinatorMeadows.pdf