



salish seeds project

Native Plant Resources for San Juan County

This handout suggests resources to answer these questions:

- *Where can I buy plants and seed native to San Juan County?*
- *And how do I grow them?*

PLANT AND SEED NURSERIES

There are quite a few native plant nurseries in Washington state. This list concentrates on those that provide species native to San Juan County and the nearby region, and is not intended to be comprehensive, not to endorse or exclude nurseries. Let us know if there's a nursery you think should be added to the list.

Biodiversity Nursery on San Juan Island sells container stock of a wide assortment of native plants, many of them native to San Juan County. They also offer a free plant salvage service. <https://www.biodiversitynursery.com/>

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

Ecotone Plants on Lopez Island supplies mostly container stock of drought-tolerant landscape trees and shrubs including a selection of native species. <https://www.ecotoneplants.com/>

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

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



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

Northwest Meadowsclapes based on Whidbey Island sells a regional wildflower mix and other native grass and wildflower seed, with detailed species descriptions. Some of their offerings are of Whidbey Island or nearby origin. northwestmeadowsclapes.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 sometimes 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

The Salish Seeds Project in San Juan County specializes in grasses and wildflowers 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

LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING GUIDES FOR NATIVE PLANTS

This is just a small selection of what's available.

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



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“The Garry Oak Gardeners Handbook” offers tips for 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

Heritage Seedlings website has very good technical information about creating seed mixes, site preparation, and direct seeding prairie and meadow plants. They also sell Oregon native seed. heritageseedlings.com 503-585-9835

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

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

Pollinator Partnership Canada’s “Selecting Plants for Pollinators” series includes a guide for eastern Vancouver Island which is suitable for our region. <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/ecoregional-planting-guides>

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

Satinflower Nurseries 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 a lot more. Located on Vancouver Island, unfortunately they can’t sell seed or plants across the international border. <https://satinflower.ca/>

The Washington Native Plant Society’s website has a wealth of information on selecting, sourcing, and growing native species. <https://www.wnps.org/>

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