

Why Naturescape?

Why not is a much better question? By creating a wildlife-friendly yard you spend less time worrying about your lawn, and more time appreciating nature. It's also fun and rewarding to discover the different types of wildlife you can attract or help.

Many threatened and endangered species and ecosystems occur in Saanich, and unlike other areas of the province where most of the land is Crown land, here the reverse is true. This makes private land stewardship vitally important. The efforts of property owners to protect and restore critically-endangered Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir habitats will be necessary for the persistence of these rare species and ecosystems.



Include yourself in your naturescape

Here's a summary of some benefits to you and the environment when you begin to Naturescape:

- **Linking** Naturescaped yards together creates larger areas of wildlife habitat and begins to build a patchwork quilt of natural areas that extends across the entire community.
- **Protect** and enhance local biodiversity
- **Reduce** water use, yard maintenance, greenhouse gases (mowers and weed-eaters), and the use of fertilizers

"If I could add only one naturescape feature to my yard it would be a water feature. I really enjoy watching the wildlife it attracts. Even in the middle of winter"

— Claudia Copley
Victoria Natural History Society

What is Naturescape?

It's about restoring, preserving, and enhancing wildlife habitat in our own yard by providing the basics for all wildlife: Food, Water, and Shelter. It's about mimicking nature using native plants that native wildlife recognize. It's also about learning to know, appreciate, and enjoy nature. Here are the basic principles:

- A commitment to stewardship
- Habitat creation & preservation
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Water conservation



Naturescaping can also be beautiful!

Good Neighbours

By Naturescaping you are being a great neighbour to our natural areas, but please remember your human neighbours as well. In urban neighbourhoods residents have concerns with weeds and tall grasses that can also be a fire hazard. In order to find a balance, the following recommendations are made:

- Use a Naturescape sign to show your intentions. Contact Saanich to get one
- Mow a 1m strip around the perimeter of your yard, plus a .5m strip along the path to the front steps and on top of retaining walls
- Mow or trim all grassy areas where weeds occur before they go to seed
- Create islands of native plant habitat (including grasses) if you wish to practice reduced mowing
- Control and reduce invasive species
- Consider an edge treatment of creeping native vegetation, bark mulch, and low flowering native shrubs at the property frontage

(250) 475-5471

planning@saanich.ca

Visit us on the web: www.saanich.ca/environment

Naturescape Saanich

Gardening with Nature

District of Saanich
Environmental Services
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

February

Put out Blue Orchard Bee tubes/boxes

March

Clean out old bird houses and put up new ones

April

Regularly Clean hummingbird feeders (no food colour!)

May

Regularly clean bird bath and feeders

June

Start watering new plants

July

Keep an eye on weeds & seed heads. Mow late if necessary

August

Don't forget to collect native plant seeds

Sept

Take cuttings to propagate native plants

October

Swan Lake Native Plant Sale

FREE Native Plant Gardening workshops

Provided by CRD at Swan Lake
www.crd.bc.ca

Bat House

Call HAT to see if yard is suitable (995.2428)



Suggested Native Plants

#	Common Name	Wildlife Value
1	Red-flowering Currant	Berries, nectar
2	Nootka Rose	Nectar, pollen
3	Arbutus	berries
4	Oceanspray	Nectar, pollen
5	Tall Oregon Grape	Berries, nectar
6	Common Camas	Nectar, pollen
7	Chocolate Lily	Nectar, pollen
8	Western Trillium	Nectar, pollen
9	Woolly Sunflower	Nectar, pollen
10	Easter Lily	Nectar, pollen
11	Shooting Star	Nectar, pollen
12	Wild Strawberry	Berries, nectar
13	Sitka Columbine	Nectar, pollen
14	Nodding Onion	Nectar, pollen
15	Kinnikinnik	Berries
16	Garry Oak	Structure

- Keep a dead tree standing so birds have a natural cavity to nest in. If it has to come down, leave on ground as a nurse log.
- Build a rock pile area for snakes. Make sure it also goes underground a fair ways. They will help control the invasive garden slugs.
- Water, water, water! Put rocks in bird bath for shallow areas. Also add a bucket above with a hole that drips to make noise (attracts birds). Overflowing is good because mud is important for nesting birds and bugs. Save up for flowing garden pond

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Naturescape Presentation

- Make a real butterfly garden (no butterfly bush-it's invasive!). Use native plants such as Oceanspray or Red Alder to feed larvae
- Sheet mulch the last of the lawn with cardboard (Lasagna gardening)
- Make a brush pile for the birds out of the branch clippings. Wrens love it!
- Be messy, Really, leave some fallen tree branches on the ground and keep an eye out for good nurse logs.
- Provide layers of vegetation. Tall trees down to shrubs, and then ground cover. Gives wildlife a safe route into the yard.
- Plant different species so there is something flowering all season. Think of pollinators and hummingbirds—use Saanich plant list
- Plant berry-producing species.
- Keep some areas of ground bare and sandy for interesting pollinators
- Invite neighbours to see that you are gardening with purpose—just using native plants and considering wildlife

Resource Material

- Garry Oak Gardeners Handbook (for info on native plant propagation, and species to plant) [GOERT.ca](http://www.goert.ca) Also has list of nurseries that sell native plants
- Naturescape Kit for our region: amazing booklets with info on everything about naturescaping as well as nestbox plans, etc. Pick up from Saanich or go to <http://www.naturescapebc.ca/>
- Habitat Acquisition Trust has a great handbook on gardening with native plants. Will also do site visits to help come up with a plan www.hat.bc.ca
- Vict. Natural History Society for help learning local flora and fauna www.naturevictoria.ca

Books

- Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest (Arthur Kruckeberg)
- Native Plants in the Coastal Garden (April Pettinger & Brenda Costanzo)