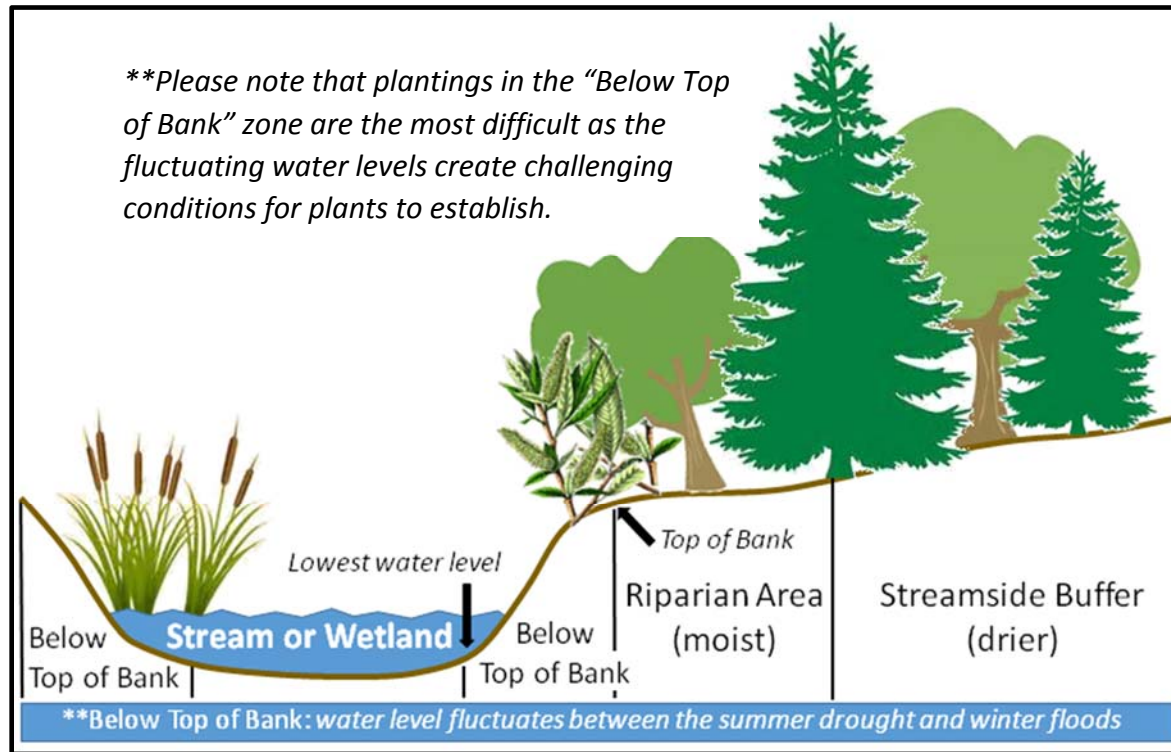


Recommended Native Plants for Restoring a Riparian Area in Saanich

Use this drawing and the following table for choosing the correct plant for your location.



The symbols below provide additional information for you to consider when choosing your plants.



Easy to grow or propagate



Bird-friendly fruits



Flowers attract insect pollinators or hummingbirds

Helpful Resources

- **E-Flora BC (linnet.geog.ubc.ca):** a biogeographic atlas of the **vascular plants**, bryophytes, lichens, algae, fungi and slime molds of British Columbia. Includes a photo gallery of over 26,000 **images** to browse through and see what these plants look like.
- **Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (goert.ca):** a great local resource with information on restoration Garry Oak ecosystems. Includes a handbook on gardening with native plants, plus a section on local native plants and how to propagate them.
- **Habitat Acquisition Trust (hat.bc.ca):** a regional land trust that conserves nature on south Vancouver Island. Includes a section on backyard nature plus a great brochure on gardening with native plants.
- **The Living by Water Project (bcnature.ca/projects/completed-projects/living-by-water):** focusses on shorelines along all types of waterbodies and provides programs, services, and materials to promote the value of keeping these shorelines healthy.
- **The Stewardship Centre for BC (stewardshipcentrebc.ca):** promotes the advancement of stewardship education and champions science-based best stewardship practices for land and water in BC. Provides a diverse and comprehensive set of resources for the stewardship community of BC.

Where to Buy Native Plants

- Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (goert.ca/gardeners_restoration/buying_native_plants.php)













Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Riparian Area in Saanich

Stream or Wetland
Below top of bank
Moist riparian area
Streamside buffer












Common Name | Scientific Name | Growth Characteristics

Coniferous Trees							
Grand Fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	To 80m; tolerates full sun to full shade on dry to moist sites; grows best on fresh to moist, nutrient-rich sites.				✓	
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	To 70m; full sun to part shade; prefers drier sites; roots provide stability in eroding areas and help create valuable fish habitat.				✓	👍
Western Yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	2-15m; tolerates partial sun to full shade on moist sites; grows best in productive old-growth forests.				✓	
Western Redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	To 60m; tolerates full sun to full shade on moist to wet sites; grows best on seepage or floodplain sites, common along streamsides.	✓	✓	✓		
Deciduous Trees							
Douglas Maple	<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Small tree or shrub to 10m tall; usually an understorey tree in moist areas; showy fall colour; good for shore stabilization.			✓	✓	👍
Bigleaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Large deciduous tree to 35m tall; dry to moist sites; deep wide root system provides good erosion control on slopes			✓	✓	👍 🐝
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Fast growing hardy deciduous tree to 25m; nitrogen fixer that grows well and seeds prolifically on bare soil; typical 40-50 year lifespan; provides food for birds			✓	✓	👍
Western Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Medium deciduous tree to 20m tall; moist, well-drained sites; grows best along streams or gullies in mixed forest.			✓	✓	🐝
Black Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Small tree to 10m; full sun to partial shade in moist open areas, deep roots and high resistance to beaver damage, good choice for streamside areas; provides good wildlife habitat and food; long sharp spines have a human buffering value.			✓	✓	🐦 🐝
Pacific Crab Apple	<i>Malus fusca</i>	Shrub or small tree 2-10m tall; prefers moist areas near standing or flowing water; small apples are edible but tart.			✓	✓	🐦 🐝
Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp <i>trichocarpa</i>	Fast growing deciduous tree to 60m; prefers moist to saturated soils including floodplains; good for streambank stabilization; propagates from cuttings	✓	✓	✓	✓	👍
Trembling Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Tall deciduous tree up to 25m tall; moist to moderate soils including moist ravines, depressions and some floodplains; full sun; pioneer species increasing soil nutrients; propagates from root cuttings.			✓	✓	
Bitter Cherry	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Shrub or small tree 2-15m tall; prefers moist areas and along streams; bright red cherries are great for attracting wildlife.			✓	✓	🐦 🐝


Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Riparian Area in Saanich

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Characteristics	Stream or Wetland	Below top of bank	Moist riparian area	Streamside buffer	
Cascara	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Deciduous tree to 12m tall; good for slope stabilizing and erosion control; sun to partial shade; tolerates variety of moisture regimes; fruits are good food source for birds; bark is a powerful laxative which deters beavers, making this a valuable tree for riparian planting			✓	✓	
Shrubs							
Saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	1-5m tall; clusters of white flowers become small fruit; good for shore stabilization on drier sites. Not shade tolerant			✓	✓	
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Freely spreading red-stemmed deciduous shrub to 6m tall; sun/shade tolerant; prefers moist soils; propagates from cuttings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	 
Beaked Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Many-stemmed shrub to 4m tall; prefers moist well-drained sites in sun to shade conditions; spreads via suckers; edible nuts provide good wildlife forage			✓	✓	
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Most common forest understorey shrub in our region. Leathery evergreen leaves grows to 5m tall (usually less than 1m in our region). Dark juicy berries provide food for wildlife.			✓	✓	
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Several main stems to 4m tall; lilac-like clusters of white flowers become brown and remain through winter.			✓	✓	
Black Twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Several upright stems to 3m; prefers sun; good for moist forest, thicket and streamside habitats; stems and root systems grow quickly, making this a valuable riparian species; also provides excellent wildlife forage and cover.		✓	✓		
Indian Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Deciduous shrub to 5m tall; early clusters of white flowers, edible plum-like fruits are bluish-black; prefers dry to moist sites in open areas				✓	
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Very showy deciduous shrub to 3m tall; clusters of fragrant white flowers attract butterflies; Lives in a variety of habitats from moist to dry slopes to streambanks and open forests.			✓	✓	
Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Deciduous shrub, 1-3m tall; glossy dark leaves; terminal clusters of small white flowers; sun to shade in moist humus-rich soil			✓	✓	
Black Gooseberry	<i>Ribes laclustre</i>	Deciduous shrub 0.5 to 2m tall with slender, sharp prickles; heart shaped leaves; pink clustered flowers; dark purple hairy fruit; moist, nutrient rich soils in semi-forested areas and stream banks. Good for wildlife and deterring humans.			✓	✓	






Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Riparian Area in Saanich

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Characteristics						
			Stream or Wetland	Below top of bank	Moist riparian area	Streamside buffer		
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	1-3m deciduous shrub; showy pink flowers attract hummingbirds, while berries provide food for other birds; good choice for dry sites but will also tolerate moist forests.				✓		
Baldhip Rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	To 1.5m tall; spindly deciduous shrub with small pink flowers; red hips persist through winter; spreads readily by underground runners;				✓		
Nootka Rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	To 3m tall; deciduous with broad pink flowers; red hips persist through winter; spreads readily by underground runners; forms thickets that create a formidable human barrier			✓	✓		
Clustered Rose	<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	To 2m tall; deciduous with clusters of pink flowers; red hips persist through winter; found in moist to wet thickets, streambanks, and swamps.		✓	✓	✓		
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Deciduous shrub to 3m; full sun to light shade; forms dense thickets via extensive network of underground stems; open sites, roadsides, exposed stream areas; invasive habit useful for stabilizing drier slopes and streambanks.				✓	✓	
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Deciduous shrub to 4m tall; early showy pink flowers, tasty orange or red berries; tolerates full sun to full shade in moist sites, stream banks, swamps; early colonizer of wet areas; spreads rapidly; valuable riparian species.		✓	✓			
Hooker's Willow	<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	Shrub or tree 0.6 to 8 m tall; lance to egg shaped leaves; full sun to part shade; propagates readily from cuttings, valuable restoration species for slope and streambank stabilization.		✓	✓			
Pacific Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>	Shrub or tree 1 to 11 m tall; elliptic to lance-shaped leaves; full sun to part shade; river banks, wet meadows, even standing water; valuable restoration species for stabilization, easily propagated from cuttings.		✓	✓			
Scouler's Willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Fast-growing shrubby tree to 12m; common in streamside areas, clearings, forest edges; drought tolerant; propagates readily from cuttings, making it a valuable species for slope and streambank stabilization and bio-engineering.		✓	✓			
Sitka Willow	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Deciduous shrubby tree 2-12m; grows quickly in moist to saturated soils; excellent choice for streambank stabilization.		✓	✓			
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Fast growing erect shrub to 6m; tolerates full sun to full shade along stream banks, swampy thickets, and moist clearings; root system develops rapidly, making this a good choice for streambank stabilization; provides excellent food and cover for wildlife.				✓		

Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Riparian Area in Saanich

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Characteristics					
			Stream or Wetland	Below top of bank	Moist riparian area	Streamside buffer	
Hardhack	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Multi-branched shrub to 2m tall; dense terminal clusters of deep pink flowers; sun to semi-shade in moist to wet soils; Spreads quickly & aggressively in most sites	✓	✓	✓		
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpus albus</i>	0.5 – 2m tall shrub, drought tolerant; excellent soil-binding characteristics				✓	 
Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	To 4m tall shrub with pink lantern-type flowers. Evergreen and prefers moist, open coniferous forests; edible berries.			✓	✓	 
Perennials, Groundcovers, and Ferns							
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Trailing evergreen with woody stem; dark green leaves; red berries persist through winter; good ground cover				✓	 
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Clustered fronds grow to 2m tall; fast-growing fern prefers moist to wet sites; prefers more shade and moisture than sword fern		✓	✓		
Woodland Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Low-growing perennial herb with white flowers, and small 1cm edible fruits. Prefers open forests, sandy fields and meadows.			✓	✓	 
Cow Parsnip	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Very large, broad compound-leaved perennial with flower stalks 1-3m tall. Prefers wet to moist areas and is tolerant of shade.		✓	✓	✓	 
Alumroot	<i>Heuchera</i> spp	Low-growing rosette of leaves with flower stalks to 60cm tall; perennial, spreads via rhizomes; common on streambanks, rocky meadows, forest edges		✓	✓	✓	
Skunk Cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanum</i>	Large lantern-shaped yellow flower grows first in early spring, followed by cluster of large elliptical leaves; prefers moist to wet soils	✓				
Tall Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Evergreen to 4.5m tall; leaves resemble holly; clusters of yellow flowers, edible blue berries; good ground cover in sun to shade, well-drained soil				✓	 
Dull Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Evergreen to 60cm tall; leaves resemble holly; clusters of yellow flowers, edible blue berries; good ground cover in sun to shade, well-drained soil				✓	 
False Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	Perennial from creeping rhizome, 10-40cm tall; heart-shaped leaves, cluster of tiny white flowers on single tall stalk; good ground cover in shade to semi-shade, in moist humus-rich soil		✓	✓		
Yellow Monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	This annual yellow snapdragon-looking flower prefers open areas near moist streams and wetlands; Grows to 80cm.	✓	✓	✓		
Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Large ornamental evergreen fern to 1.5m tall; grows in sun to shade; drought tolerant; easy to grow			✓	✓	

Recommended Native Plants for Restoring the Riparian Area in Saanich

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Characteristics	Stream or Wetland	Below top of bank	Moist riparian area	Streamside buffer	
Hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys chamissonis</i>	Perennial with erect stem from creeping rhizome, 70-150cm tall; many purple flowers on end of stalk are a favourite for hummingbirds; wetlands to moist open woods.	✓	✓			 
Tall Fringecup	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Perennial herb 40-80cm tall; lobed basal leaves, small fragrant flowers on tall stalks; good ground cover in shade to semi-shade			✓	✓	
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	Basal rosette of toothed leaves surround a slender spike of tiny white florets to 60cm tall; prefers moist forest areas or seepages.		✓	✓		
Stream Violet	<i>Viola glabella</i>	Evergreen perennial from vigourous rhizome, to 30cm tall; yellow flowers on single stalks		✓	✓		
Grasses, Sedges And Rushes							
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Perennial tufted rush with stout rhizomes, round stems to 25-130cm tall; prefers moist to wet fields, clearings and wetland areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Perennial 1-3m tall; long flat leaves; distinctive brown club-shaped female flower spike 15-20cm long; does well in semi-aquatic or wet marsh habitats	✓	✓			
Small-flowered Bulrush	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Perennial from creeping rhizomes to 1.5m tall; numerous spikes hold clusters of small flowers; marshes, swamps and moist meadows.	✓				
Soft-stemmed Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Perennial from creeping rhizomes to 2m tall; stems nearly round with terminal spikes hold clusters of small brown clusters of flowers; marshes, lakeshores and streams.	✓				
Slough Sedge	<i>Carex obnupta</i>	Densely tufted purplish sedge 60-150cm tall; spreads by long stout rhizomes; prefers marshy areas, streambanks and wet forest openings	✓	✓	✓		