

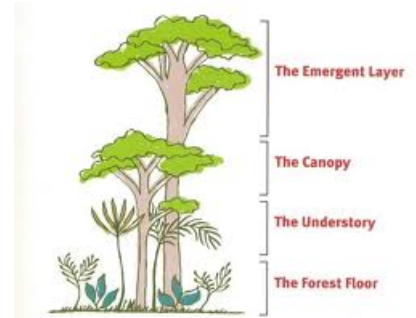
Tips on Gardening for Birds

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Big Three Objectives

1 Develop Structural Diversity

Incorporate both vertical and horizontal elements in your garden design. If you have a small plot to work with, then key off of nearby trees in the alley or along the property line. Avoid large gaps between plants. Think of connectivity between trees to big shrubs to small shrubs to perennials and ground covers. Use dead wood, small snags, brush piles and leaves where you can.



2 Develop Biological Diversity

Use as many species as possible. This diversity provides an array of plant products, especially flowers and fruits over a longer period of time.

Biological diversity also provides opportunities to attract more insects to your garden for birds to hunt.

Diversity doesn't mean just having one of everything. Plant in clusters to help with foraging efficiency.

3 Select Native Plants

Native plants have evolved alongside our native birds and insects. They support greater insect diversity and biomass than non-native species. Most native plants will be better adapted to your garden site than others, and don't need fertilizer or much irrigation once they get established. Consider soil type, shade/sun, slope and irrigation objectives when selecting plants.



Blue elderberry

Resources

Benton SWCD Native Plant Database. www.bentonswcd.org/resources/native-plants-database

Benton SWCD Native Plant Sale. held in September and February. Visit website for details.

Native Plants for Willamette Valley Yards booklet. Download pdf at www.oregonmetro.gov/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet or buy from Benton SWCD.

OSU Extension Publications. extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/results.php?cat=Gardening follow the links for "Flowers, Shrubs and Trees" and "Wildlife."

Native Plants that Birds Love

View BSWCD Plant Sale webpages for more extensive list.

Shade Tolerance		Special Uses			
A Prefers full sun B Can tolerate sun or some shade; partial shade C Prefers shade		1 Attracts insects, bees and butterflies 2a Birds 2b Hummingbirds 3 Wildlife forage, cover and food		4 Bank stabilization 5 Ornamental 6 Deer resistant	
Name	Mature Height	Shade Tolerance	Soil Conditions	Special Uses	Description
CONIFER TREES					
Willamette Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	180'	A	Grows on wet and dry sites	Timber, 3	Native pine to Willamette Valley. Also known as Yellow Pine. Popular for its straight growth habit which exposes scaled colored bark with vanilla fragrance.
BROADLEAF TREES					
Cascara <i>Frangula purshiana</i>	30'	A, B, C	Moist, well-drained soil	1, 2a	Silver gray bark. Black berries attractive to birds. Shiny green leaves that turn orange to yellow in fall. Also known as Chitum.
Choke Cherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	8 - 15'	A, B	Wet to dry	2a, 3	White flowers in late spring. Needs full sun to produce sour red cherries loved by wild animals & birds. Leaves toxic to grazing animals!
Oregon White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	100'	A	Well drained soil	Timber, 1, 2a, 2b, 3	Oregon's hallmark native oak. Forms wide spreading branches and grows to 100 feet. Important wildlife species.
Pacific Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttalli</i>	30 - 40'	B, C	Moist, well drained, acid	1, 2, 3, 5	Attractive multi-branched tree with white flowers in spring, may re-bloom early fall followed by clusters of bright red berries.
Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	90'	A, B	Prefer dry sites	1, 3	Like a giant rhododendron! This fast growing evergreen has beautiful smooth reddish and golden "bark."
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	25'	A, B, C	Moist soil	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 5	Attractive fall color. Suitable for shade ornamental or forest understory plant.
LARGE SHRUBS					
Blue Blossom <i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	6-20'	A, B	Fairly dry, well-drained	1, 2a, 3, 5	Easy-to-establish shrub/small tree, is drought tolerant with attractive clusters of blue flowers and shiny evergreen leaves.
Blue Elderberry <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	12'	A, B, C	Prefers well drained soils	1, 2a, 2b	Fast growing handsome shrub. Excellent food and cover species. White flower clusters, edible berries.
Coyote Bush <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	6 - 10'	A	Moist to well drained soil	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 5	Late blooming, indispensable source of autumn nectar for hundreds of insects. Prune periodically to maintain shape.
Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	16'	A, B, C	Dry to moist soil	1, 2a, 2b	Early spring bloom (Feb/Mar). White flowers yield small purple plums. Highly sought by birds.
Fremont's Silktassel <i>Garrya fremontii</i>	10'	A, B	Well-drained, moist to dry	2a	Evergreen shrub, bark is gray with darker strips. Flowers are long, hanging clusters of yellowish to pinkish flowers. Winter blooming. Drought tolerant.
Pacific Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	10 - 25'	A, B	Dry to moist soils	1, 2a, 3	Attractive foliage and white flowers. This is an important wildlife species. Attracts cedar waxwings.
Pacific Wax Myrtle <i>Myrica californica</i>	10—30'	A, B	Moist to wet, well-drained	2a	Broadleaf evergreen shrub with long narrow leaves. Serves as a great windbreak
Red Elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	20'	A, B, C	Moist soils	1, 2a, 2b, 5	Deciduous shrub with reddish brown bark and clusters of creamy blooms from April to July. Bright red berries in summer.
Red-osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	20'	A, C	Moist soils, wetlands	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 4, 5	Attractive red stems with white flower clusters that produce white berries. Fast growing. Used in riparian reclamation.
SMALL SHRUBS					
Dwarf Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2'	A, B, C	Moist, slightly acidic soil	4, 5	Holly-like shiny, leathery leaflets. Clusters of small yellow flowers from March to May and dark blue berries in summer.
Evergreen Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	6' in valley 12' on coast	B, C	Moist, well-drained acidic soils	2a, 3, 5, 6	An attractive bushy shrub with shiny evergreen leaves that are green with hints of red. Clusters of pink bell-shaped flowers. Deep purple berries.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	4 - 8'	A, B	Best on well drained soils	1, 2a, 2b, 5	Beautiful ornamental shrub with flowers that may be white to deep red, blue berries. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
Tall Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	4 - 6'	A, B, C	Dry to fairly moist	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 5, 6	State flower of Oregon. Holly-like leaves and dark blue edible berries.
GRASSES / GROUNDCOVERS					
Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	2 - 8"	B	Moist, well-drained soils	2a	Petite, slow-growing, rhizomatous groundcover, with leafy whorl atop a short stem and form a carpet-like mat. Remains evergreen in most of Pacific NW.
Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	2 - 3'	B	Dry to moist	1, 3, 5, 6	Dense low groundcover for areas where tall shrubs and weeds not desired! Foliage used in floral arrangements. Edible berries.