Landscaping with Native Plants

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Most common landscape plants were originally from other parts of the world or are the product of a plant breeding or selection process. Native plants are those that occur naturally in the Northwest. Here are some of the many reasons you may want to choose to include native plants in your landscape:

Easy Maintenance:

Many native plants are easy to grow because they are adapted by evolution to the growing conditions here. Once established, native plants generally do not require a lot of watering, fertilizing, pruning or pesticides. However, like any plant, a native needs to be given the appropriate conditions to thrive. If a plant prefers full sun and well-drained soil, don’t put it in a shady spot with heavy clay soil and expect it to do well.

Attract Wildlife:

Native plants and native wildlife evolved together and rely on each other for survival. Native plants provide food, cover, and nesting sites for many birds, butterflies, insects, small mammals and other wildlife. For more information on attracting wildlife or a list of natives to plant, contact the Native Plant Society.

Ecosystem Restoration:

Clearing land for development eliminates native plants and reduces genetic diversity in local ecosystems. Replanting natives around our homes, businesses, schools and roads allows us to regain a little of this lost natural environment.

Natural Beauty of Natives:

Last, but not least, many native plants are beautiful and can be used to create a good-looking ornamental landscape.