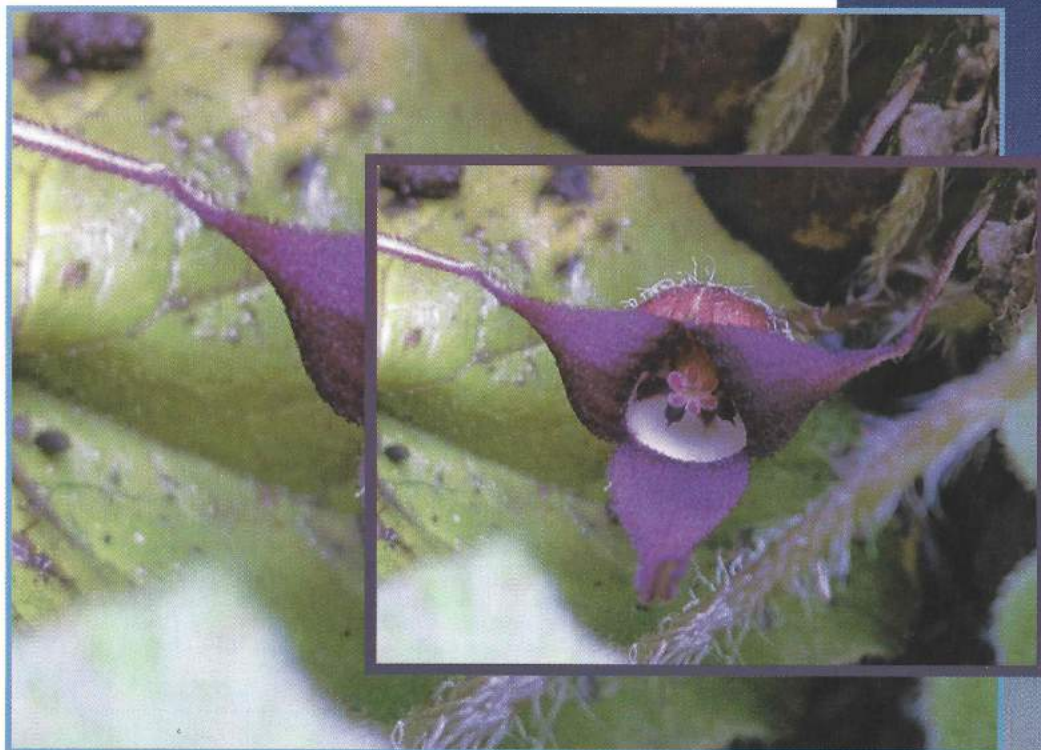


GO NATIVE!

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS



Asarum caudatum

**A Landowner's Guide for
Using Native Plants in the
McKenzie River Watershed**

Native plants provide many benefits and are an important contributor to healthy streamside areas. Native plants help to control erosion, provide flood relief, wildlife food and habitat, species diversity, and beauty. For the gardener, home and property owner, native plants are well adapted to the local climate and soils. They require less maintenance, watering, fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides. Many native plants are beautiful throughout the year with attractive bark, leaves, flowers, and berries.

Along the McKenzie River, trees and shrubs contribute nutrients to the river through leaf litter. Large trees hold the banks during flooding, and ultimately provide large wood (an important component for fish habitat). Planting trees and shrubs along riparian areas can dissipate stream energy during flooding.

WHERE AND HOW TO PLANT NATIVE

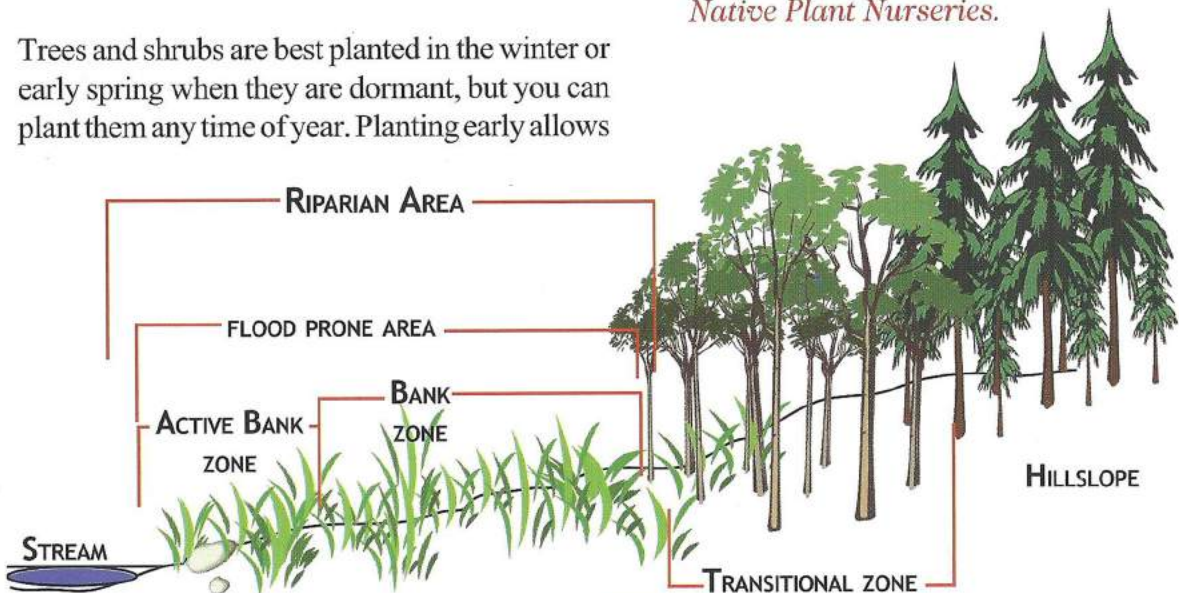
The best thing is to choose a plant suited to the site. How many hours of sun does it get during the summer? Is it dry, wet or seasonally wet? Is it a hot or cool site? Use the picture below to decide if the planting spot is on the active bank, bank, transition zone, or hillslope.

Next, decide whether you want a tree or a shrub. Do you want flowers and berries to attract birds and wildlife? How tall do you want it? Check the plant list for information.

Trees and shrubs are best planted in the winter or early spring when they are dormant, but you can plant them any time of year. Planting early allows

them to become established before the hot weather sets in, requiring less care through the summer. All new trees and shrubs will need to be watered throughout the first summer they are planted.

A Friendly Reminder: Please do not remove native plants from their natural habitats. The plants highlighted in this brochure can be purchased at most Native Plant Nurseries.



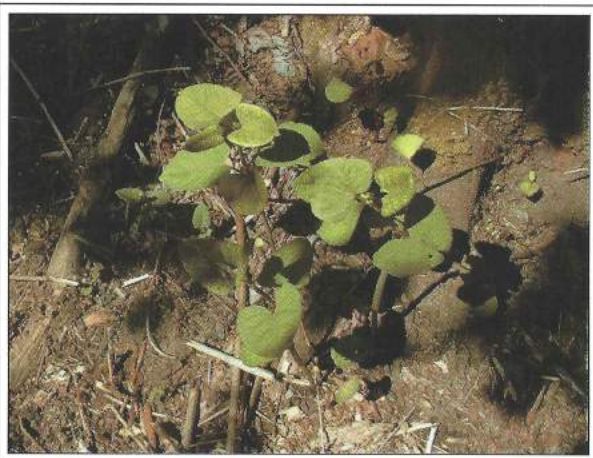
WHERE DO NATIVE PLANTS LIKE TO GROW?

Now that you're ready to landscape your property with native plants, how will you determine where the plants will thrive? Use the

following guide, as well as the graphic on the previous page, to help you determine which areas the plants are best suited for.

SHRUBS	PREFERRED PLANTING AREAS
VINE MAPLE	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
SERVICEBERRY	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
OREGON GRAPE	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
SALAL	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
OCEANSPRAY	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
OSOBERRY	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
MOCK ORANGE	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
NINEBARK	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
RHODODENDRON	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
RED-FLOWERING CURRANT	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
BALDHIP ROSE	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
WILLOW	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
SNOWBERRY	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
RED ELDERBERRY	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
BLUE ELDERBERRY	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
SPIREA	BANK, TRANSITION

TREES	PREFERRED PLANTING AREAS
BIGLEAF MAPLE	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
WHITE ALDER	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
PACIFIC DOGWOOD	TRANSITION, BANK, HILLSLOPE
WESTERN RED CEDAR	BANK, TRANSITION
DOUGLAS-FIR	BANK, TRANSITION
OREGON ASH	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
RED ALDER	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
BLACK COTTONWOOD	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
WESTERN HEMLOCK	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
GROUND COVER	PREFERRED PLANTING AREAS
WILD GINGER	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
TWIN FLOWER	TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
BLEEDING HEART	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
ASTER	ACTIVE BANK, BANK, TRANSITION
SWORDFERN	BANK, TRANSITION, HILLSLOPE
SLOUGH SEDGE	ACTIVE BANK, BANK



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Polygonum cuspidatum Seib. & Zucc.

WHAT NOT TO PLANT

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

ENGLISH IVY

BUTTERFLY BUSH

SCOTCH BROOM

These plants spread quickly and are very vigorous. They will out-compete and kill native plants and trees.

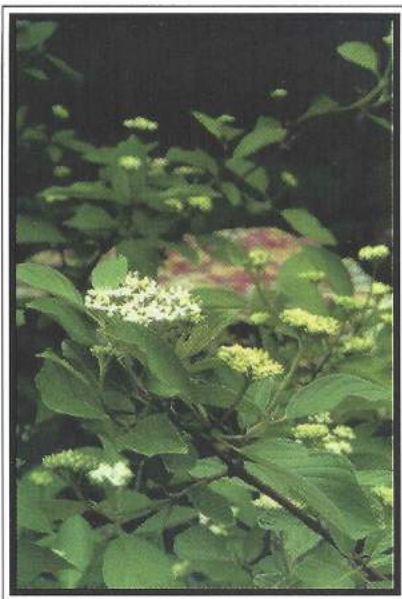
VINE MAPLE *Acer circinatum*

This colorful shrub is most brilliant in the fall when its 9-lobed leaves turn bright red. Vine maple is a handsome native substitute for Japanese maple, with the ability to grow up to 20 feet tall. It does best in full shade (it can be susceptible to heat) and moist, well-drained soils. Plant this shrub if you wish to attract songbirds, small mammals, bumblebees and other native bees.



RED-OSIER DOGWOOD *Cornus sericea* or *C. stolonifera*

Red-osier dogwood is a deciduous shrub that is most brilliant in the winter when its beautiful red stems can provide contrast on a colorless landscape. But it's no slouch during the warmer seasons, as its long elliptical leaves are accompanied by clusters of small white flowers during the spring, which turn into white berries in the summer. This is a fast growing shrub to about 12 feet in height. It will thrive in all types of sites, but it prefers wet sites and is usually found along streams. Avoid overly dry or hot planting areas. Red-osier dogwood is favorable winter browse and forage material for a variety of wildlife. The fruit is eaten by songbirds, and the twigs and foliage are browsed by deer and other mammals.



OSOBERRY *Oemleria cerasiformis*

Osoberry is a deciduous shrub that has the distinction of being the first shrub to leaf out and bloom during the spring. Another distinctive quality of this shrub is that the leaves smell like cucumber. Don't plant this shrub next to the house because the clusters of hanging green flowers may have an unpleasant fragrance. From a distance, however, this shrub is very beautiful. Osoberry produces bunches of small fruit that start out yellow and turn black. The fruit is eaten by small birds. It thrives in full sun to partial shade and can grow to 15 feet.





SALAL *Gaultheria shallon*

Salal is a dense growing native groundcover best known for its large, evergreen leaves and red stems used in flower arrangements. However, it also has beautiful small, pink flowers and attractive purplish-black berries. The fruit attracts small mammals, deer and birds. It can grow between 2-3 feet tall, but be patient because it is slow to establish. Salal does well when planted in deep layers of organic matter, such as leaf litter or bark. This plant does not require large amounts of sunlight.

DWARF OREGONGRAPE *Berberis nervosa*

Dwarf Oregongrape provides excellent ground cover. It has evergreen, spikey, leathery leaflets that protude from stiff spreading branches. If planted in sunny spots, the leaves can retain a red-purplish hue. However, its natural habitat is in moist, shady areas where its leaflets remain a deep, dark green. This shrub produces a large, dark blue, berry-like fruit that is a food source for deer, small mammals and small birds. This shrub grows to 2 feet in height.



© 1998 California Academy of Sciences Charles Webber

PACIFIC NINEBARK *Physocarpus capitatus*

Pacific ninebark is a deciduous shrub with distinctive, round clusters of white flowers which bloom in May. In the winter, ninebark begins to shed its "skin" when the reddish bark of this shrub begins to peel or shred to reveal its "nine" layers. This shrub grows to 8 feet tall when planted in the sun, and 15 feet tall when planted in the shade. Although ninebark is native to moist sites, it is drought tolerant and can be planted on drier sites. Its dense foliage provides wildlife habitat.

SERVICEBERRY *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Serviceberry can be a large shrub or a small tree, reaching heights up to 40 feet. In May, the blossoms are small, white flowers that accent the delicate leaves. Jelly and syrup can be made from its small, purplish-black fruit. Serviceberry thrives in any soil that is not too wet or dry. It will also grow well in sun or part shade. Deer will browse the twigs and foliage, and songbirds will consume the fruits of this attractive shrub.



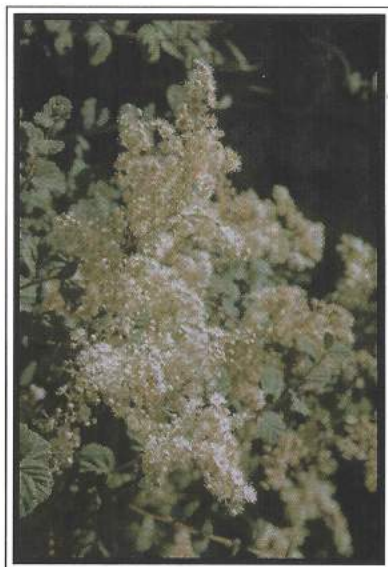
© 2000 George W. Hartwell

SNOWBERRY *Symphoricarpos albus*

Snowberry is a low-growing, twiggy, deciduous shrub. The attractive, round leaves have a soft texture. In May and June it produces tiny pink flowers followed by round white berries. These white berries can last through most of the winter contributing to the name "snowberry." This shrub can have fast initial growth up to 5 feet. It grows in sun or shade, wet or dry soils. This plant is particularly effective for erosion control and is drought tolerant. The berries are eaten by gamebirds, such as grouse and quail, for food and its foliage is used for shelter.

OCEANSPRAY *Holodiscus discolor*

Oceanspray derives its name from the arching, large clusters of creamy-white flowers which resemble the spray of a breaking wave. It blooms from May to July. The foliage also has a pleasing texture. It can grow between 3 and 10 feet in height, and will thrive in sun or shade. However, it will not flower in full shade. Oceanspray tolerates all but the wettest soils. For butterfly lovers, this shrub is an excellent caterpillar host plant.



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William R. Hewlett



WESTERN MOCK ORANGE

Philadelphus lewisii

Western mock orange is a deciduous native that is considered a prized garden shrub. In June, this plant is covered with fragrant white blossoms. Remember to plant this shrub near doors or walkways to enjoy its pleasing fragrance. Mock orange can grow up to 12 feet tall, but can be pruned to a smaller size. This shrub thrives in sun or part shade. Do not plant in wet soils. It provides a nectar source for bumblebees and butterflies.

PACIFIC RHODODENDRON

Rhododendron macrophyllum

Pacific rhododendron is the native version of cultivated rhododendron. It is leggier than the other versions but still quite nice. This shrub is ideal for low-water landscaping. Although it needs a well-drained site, it can be planted on mounds near water. It thrives in sun or part shade and can grow up to 12 feet tall. Pacific rhododendron provides cover for large and small mammals.



Photo courtesy of Robert Potts California Academy of Sciences.



RED ELDERBERRY

Sambucus racemosa

Red elderberry is a deciduous shrub that is best known for its vibrant clusters of red fruit. When cooked, the fruit produces a tangy jelly. However, the raw fruit is unpalatable and may cause nausea. It is fast growing and can reach a height of 15 feet. Red elderberry grows on dry to moist, well-drained sites and thrives in partial shade. The fruits are an important food source for small mammals and many species of birds. Red elderberry also provides important nesting and perching habitat for birds.

RED-FLOWERING CURRANT *Ribes sanguineum*

Red-flowering currant is a deciduous shrub that produces beautiful pink flowers in March and April. These flowers are an important nectar source for hummingbirds. In sun, it will flower densely and grow to 6 feet. It will also grow in shade, but will generally be a smaller, more open shrub. Gardeners might also appreciate the soft texture of its leaves. Red-flowering currant produces a small bluish fruit that is eaten by birds and small mammals. This shrub is extremely drought tolerant.



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WILLOW *SALIX SPP.*

In the McKenzie watershed there are several varieties of native tree or shrub willows. A good native plant nursery will be able to determine the species best suited for your property. Willows are deciduous with a variety of leaf shapes. What is characteristic of most is the soft, fuzzy catkins, which is the reason willows are sometimes called “pussy willows” in the spring. These plants require full sun and thrive in wet soil or standing water. They are useful for stabilizing streamside areas. Birds and small animals use the willow for cover, and butterflies use willows as a caterpillar host plant.

BALDHIP ROSE *Rosa gymnocarpa*

Baldhip rose is a slim, prickly stemmed deciduous shrub. Delicate pink flowers bloom in May, and are followed by red-orange, berry-like hips. These hips are eaten by songbirds and small mammals and the flowers provide butterflies with a nectar source. This shrub is quite prolific and grows naturally in a variety of habitats. Its size and growth habits are also very variable. It is drought tolerant and requires well-drained soils.





Photo courtesy of, Beatrice F. Howitt California Academy of Sciences

BIGLEAF MAPLE *Acer macrophyllum*

Bigleaf maple is a long-lived, large deciduous tree that can reach a height of 90 feet. Its leaves are large with 5-pointed lobes and are an attractive yellow-green color. The fruit resembles an angled helicopter propeller. When they drop, they softly whirl down to the ground. Bigleaf maple is flood tolerant and can be planted in floodprone zones. This tree requires full sun to thrive. It is used by songbirds and small mammals.

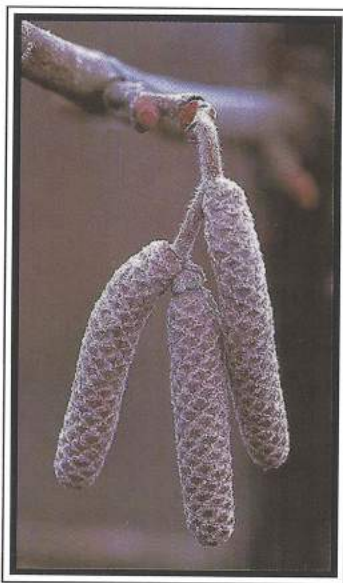
PACIFIC DOGWOOD *Cornus nuttallii*

Pacific dogwood is a deciduous tree that usually grows no higher than 30 feet. It is a popular tree due to its beautiful white flowers that bloom in the spring. The tree's distinctive veined leaves also put on a show, turning brilliant red in the fall. It has clusters of red berry-like fruits that are a staple for many birds. Pacific dogwood requires part shade and does well in wet, but well-drained soils. It is highly flood tolerant so it is an effective tree for streamside stabilization.



RED ALDER *Alnus rubra*

Red alder is a deciduous tree that can grow up to 120 feet in height. This makes it the largest of the American alders. Red alder has thin, smooth, gray-whitish mottled bark, which is often covered with green moss. The leaves have double saw-like edges. In late summer, the tree produces clusters of catkins and woody cones that hide the tree's tiny seeds. Red alder is a good nitrogen fixer and is often one of the first species to grow in a site after it has been disturbed. This tree grows in moist soils and does particularly well along streams. It is used by songbirds, gamebirds, and mammals.



WILD GINGER *Asarum caudatum*

Wild ginger is a lovely ground cover plant forming carpets of heart-shaped, deep green leaves and scented roots. Perhaps it is best known for its unique purplish, thimble-like flowers. Wild ginger is easily grown in moist, shady areas with a lot of organic matter. Its roots may be eaten, fresh or dried, as a ginger substitute.



Photo courtesy of Randy Wogen

TWINFLOWER *Linnaea borealis*

Twinflower is a low, creeping, evergreen native. Its lanky stems bear oval-shaped leaves with wavy margins. This plant is aptly named for its small, funnel-shaped flowers borne in pairs. Twinflower thrives in partial shade and moist soil. However, it will grow in full sun. This plant was used by Native Americans to brew tea.



BLEEDING HEART *Dicentra formosa*

Bleeding heart is a wonderful perennial with heart-shaped pink to purple flowers. Also unique are its fleshy textured and deeply cut leaves. This plant thrives in shade, and prefers moist, well-drained areas. Bleeding heart is not palatable to deer and is a host plant for caterpillars. This plant does well in gardens and can make an attractive carpet among rhododendrons.



Photo courtesy of Randy Wogen



Photo courtesy of Randy Wogen

ASTER

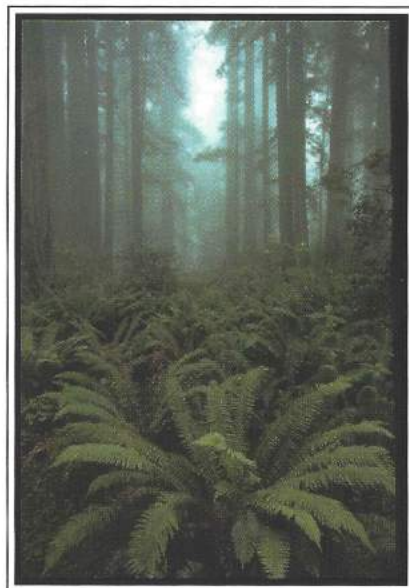
Aster modestus

Aster with its daisy-like purple flowers will liven up any garden or landscape. Butterflies will be attracted to Aster when it flowers in summer and fall. This plant will grow between 1-3 feet in height. Aster grows well in full sun to part shade. Be sure to plant in moist areas.

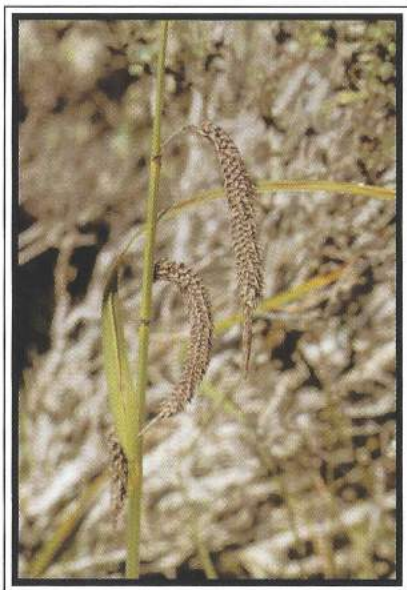
SWORDFERN

Polystichum munitum

Ferns are among the oldest living land plants. Swordfern is an evergreen that grows to around 2 feet. It looks best when planted in groups and can provide a thick and lush understory for taller shrubs and trees. Swordfern does best in partial shade. Prefers well-drained sites, but can also tolerate moist sites.



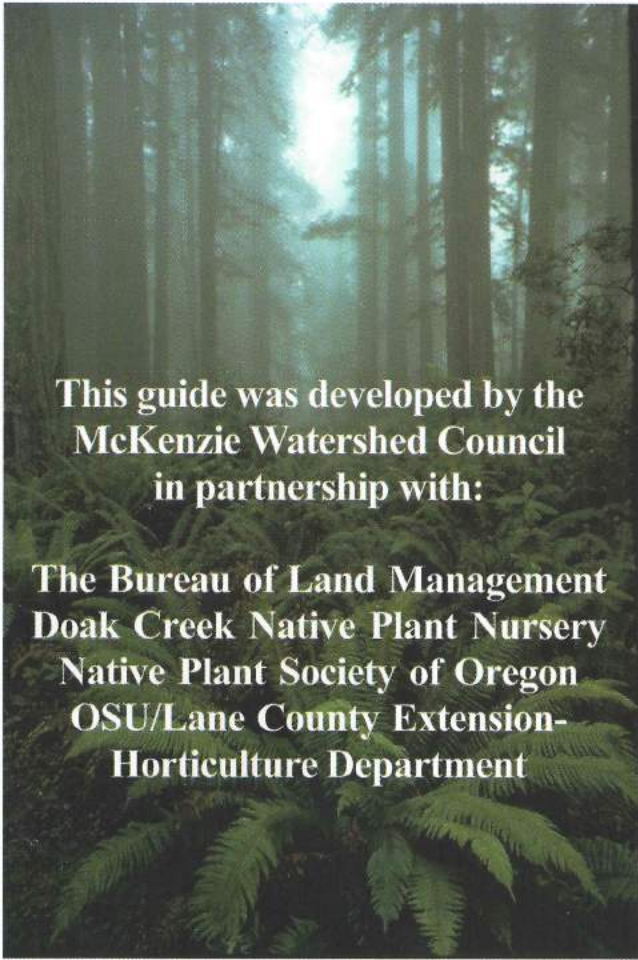
© 1999 California Academy of Sciences Gerald and Buff Corsi



SLOUGH SEDGE

Carex obnupta

Slough sedge is the most common and perhaps most robust of the native sedges. This grass-like perennial grows from between 6 inches to 3 feet in height. It has sharp, evergreen leaves approximately a half inch in width. Slough sedge is an important wetland restoration species. It provides streambank stabilization and erosion control. It thrives in a variety of places, from full sun, shallow water to full shade and moist sites. Slough sedge provides food and cover for ducks and upland game birds. Although this plant is a native, it is also a very aggressive ground cover, so a lot of attention may be needed to prevent it from out-competing other native plants.



**This guide was developed by the
McKenzie Watershed Council
in partnership with:**

**The Bureau of Land Management
Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery
Native Plant Society of Oregon
OSU/Lane County Extension-
Horticulture Department**

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that is drained by a distinct stream or river system, and is separated from other watersheds by ridgetop boundaries. The McKenzie Watershed comprises about 1300 square miles in Lane and Linn counties. Bounded on the east by the crest of the Cascade Mountains, the McKenzie Watershed drains westward, following the path of the McKenzie River as it flows from Clear Lake to its confluence with the Willamette River just north of Eugene, Oregon.

Other contributors to this guide include:

McKenzie River Trust
Oregon Division of State Lands
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Forest Service, Willamette NF
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



What is the McKenzie Watershed Council?

The McKenzie Watershed Council, established in 1993, brings together residents, organizations, industry, and government agencies to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources through voluntary partnerships and cooperation.

If you'd like to find out more about your favorite native plants, please visit these websites:

The Native Plant Society of Oregon

<http://www.npsoregon.org>

Calflora Plants Database

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/calflora/>