

# BEST PRACTICES



## Downsizing Your Lawn: Get Ready to Plant!

Once you've smothered, baked or removed your lawn, you are ready to plant! But wait! How will you know what plants to choose? First, you'll need to gain an understanding of the growing conditions of your new bed. Creating a well thought out planting plan will help you reduce plant maintenance, avoid costly mistakes and support plant health.

**Consider the following factors before making plant choices so you can enjoy a beautiful, carefree garden:**

- How many hours of sunlight or shade?
- What soil type is it?
- How well does the soil drain?
- Are there large trees blocking access to water or sunlight?
- Are there walls close by that reflect heat?
- Will the bed be used for screening?
- What colors, sizes and foliage textures compliment your house or surroundings?
- Do you want to include edibles, fragrance or wildlife habitat?
- Have you thought about four seasons of interest in your bed?
- Do you want a mix of evergreen and deciduous plants?
- How much time, effort and money do you want to spend on the bed?
- To avoid the need for fertilizers, pesticides and excess water, think native! Native and water-wise plants are the easiest to care for and provide habitat for our native wildlife.

Below are resources to native and non-native plant suggestions that will help you create a lovely garden bed that harmonizes with nature. Look for plants that are known to thrive in Pacific Northwest gardens, while naturally offering resistance to pests and diseases:

For more information on plant selection visit:

- [www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/nw\\_native/yes](http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/nw_native/yes)
- [www.wnps.org/landscaping/landscaping\\_why.html](http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/landscaping_why.html)
- [http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/hort\\_web\\_sites/plant\\_selection.php](http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/hort_web_sites/plant_selection.php)

**Next page: Plants for Sun, Shade, Part Sun/Shade Mix**

### Plants for Sun



**Coastal Strawberry • Kinnikinnick • Mock Orange • Pacific Ninebark • Red Flowering Currant**

### Plants for Shade



**Bleeding Heart • Low Oregon Grape • Red Huckleberry • Sword Fern • Trillium**

### Plants for Part Sun/Shade Mix



**Evergreen Huckleberry • Rhododendron • Salal • Snowberry • Vine Maple**

*Source: Stream Team News, Spring 2017*