

Plant Materials Resources for Western OR and WA

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NRCS Plant Materials Program and Plant Materials Centers:

National NRCS Plant Materials Program website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/plantmaterials/home/>

Corvallis Plant Materials Center (service area covers western OR and WA – Pacific Northwest). The publications page of our website contains links to Technical Notes, brochures for our Conservation Plant Releases, Plant Guides and Fact Sheets, propagation protocols, study reports, and our Annual Progress Report of Activities.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/publications/plantmaterials/pmc/west/orpmc/pub/>

Pullman, WA PMC (covers most of eastern Washington and northeastern Oregon – Inland Northwest):

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/publications/plantmaterials/pmc/west/wapmc/pub/>

Aberdeen, ID PMC (covers parts of eastern Oregon – Intermountain West):

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/publications/plantmaterials/pmc/west/idpmc/pub/>

Fallon, NV PMC (covers parts of southeastern Oregon – Great Basin):

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/publications/plantmaterials/pmc/west/nvpmc/pub/>

Oregon NRCS Technical Notes:

Oregon and Washington Guide for Conservation Seedings and Plantings. 2000. USDA-NRCS, Portland, OR. 149 pp. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_042417.pdf

Plant Materials Technical Notes:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs142p2_045951

Biology Technical Notes:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/technical/ecoscience/bio/?cid=nrcs142p2_045877

Forestry Technical Notes:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/technical/landuse/forestry/?cid=nrcs142p2_045922

Range and Pasture Technical Notes:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/technical/landuse/pasture/?cid=nrcs142p2_045920

Plant Identification Resources:

Oregon Flora Project – Searchable database containing the complete flora of Oregon, as well as searchable atlas, photo gallery, and soon a guide to gardening with native plants.

<http://www.oregonflora.org/flora.php>

Plants of Washington Identification Key. University of Washington, Burke Museum Herbarium – Easy to use online searchable key with great photos (overlaps with much of the Oregon flora).

<http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollectionnew/keys.php?Key=1>

The Jepson Online Interchange for California Floristics, University of California, Jepson Herbarium – Searchable database of CA flora (overlaps with flora of southwest Oregon).

<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange/>

Plant Materials Resources for Western OR and WA

USDA PLANTS Database – Contains distribution information and Plant Fact Sheets/Plant Guides for native and introduced plants around the country. Searchable by scientific name and common name. <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/>

Oregon Noxious Weed Profiles – Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/OregonNoxiousWeeds/Pages/AboutOregonWeeds.aspx>

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks – A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication. Searchable handbooks on Weed Management, Insect Management, and Plant Disease Management.
<https://pnwhandbooks.org/>

Field Guide for the Identification and Use of Common Riparian Woody Plants of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest Regions. USDA-NRCS Aberdeen Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, ID. (Limited number of print copies available from the Corvallis PMC)
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_045486.pdf

Forb Seedling Identification Guide for the Inland Northwest: Native, Introduced, Invasive and Noxious Species. USDA-NRCS, Pullman, WA, Latah SWCD, Moscow, ID, and XID Services Inc, Pullman, WA. 150 pp.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmcpu11331.pdf

Winter twig identification key. University of Washington, Burke Museum Herbarium
<http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollectionnew/keys.php?Key=2>

Winter in the Woods: A Winter Guide to Deciduous Native Plants in Western Washington. Washington State University Extension, 1999. <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=14400>

Native Plant Propagation Resources:

Native Plant Network, Propagation Protocol Database – Searchable database of protocols for thousands of species <http://nnp.rngr.net/propagation/protocols>

Seed Production Manual for the Pacific Northwest. 2015. Bartow, A. USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, OR. 192 pp. (Bound print copies available from the PMC)
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcpu12767.pdf

Ability of Pacific Northwest Native Shrubs to Root from Hardwood Cuttings (with Summary of Propagation Methods for 22 Species) by D. Darris. USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Tech Note 30, 2002. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_043464.pdf

Nursery Manual for Native Plants: A Guide for Tribal Nurseries, USDA Forest Service Ag. Handbook 730, <https://rng.net/publications/tribal-nursery-manual>

Raising Native Plants in Nurseries: Basic Concepts. 2012. USDA Forest Service. 92 pp.
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr274.pdf

Woody Plant Seed Manual. 1974. USDA Forest Service Agriculture Handbook No. 727. 1,233 pp.
<http://www.rngr.net/publications/wpsm>

Plant Materials Resources for Western OR and WA

Farm and Backyard Habitat Resources:

Backyard Habitat Certification Program – Audubon Society of Portland and Columbia Land Trust
Website includes plant lists, nurseries, and seed vendors for the Portland Metro area.

<https://backyardhabitats.org/resources/native-plants/>

The Meadowscape Handbook: Designing, Planting and Managing an Urban Meadow. 2016. West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Portland, OR. https://wmswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Meadowscape_Publication_Complete_LR.2.pdf

Native Plants for Willamette Valley Yards Booklet. 2018. Metro. (Paper copies available to order)
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/01/24/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet.pdf>

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Guide. 1996. A.R. Kruckeberg.
University of Washington Press, 2nd Ed.

Grow Your Own Native Landscape: A Guide to Identifying, Propagating and Landscaping with Western Washington Native Plants by Michael Leigh. Washington State University Extension, 1999.
<http://jeffersoncd.org.s13831.gridserver.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Grow-your-own-native-landscape.pdf>

A Guide to Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting in the Willamette Valley: Steps to Success. 2011. B. Withrow-Robinson, M. Bennett, and G. Ahrens. EM 9040. Oregon State University Extension Service. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9040.pdf>

Wetland and Prairie/Oak Restoration Resources:

Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership – CPOP is a community of people and organizations that are involved in prairie-oak conservation and species recovery efforts in western Cascadia. Website has a technical library and other resources. <https://cascadiaprairieoak.org/>

Kincaid's Lupine Transplant Study: First Year Progress Report. 2019. Bartow, A. Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis OR.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcot13428.pdf

Oak Woodland Understory Seeding. 2019. Bartow, A. Corvallis PMC, Corvallis, OR.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcot13425.pdf

Upland Prairie Seeding Rate Study. 2019. Bartow, A. Corvallis PMC, Corvallis OR.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcot13427.pdf

Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitat Resources:

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation – Clearing house for pollinator conservation resources for the PNW region. <https://xerces.org/pollinators-pacific-northwest-region/>

How to Choose a Good Pollinator Seed Mix. 2019. A. Bartow. USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center. 4 pp.
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcbr13465.pdf

Plant Materials Resources for Western OR and WA

Plants for Pollinators in Oregon. Plant Materials Technical Note No. 13. USDA-NRCS, Portland, OR. 2008. 44 pp. Includes tables of cover crops, non-native landscape plants, and native trees, shrubs, and forbs attractive to native pollinators and beneficial insects.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041919.pdf

Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest. Biology Technical Note No. 24. USDA-NRCS, Spokane, WA and Boise, ID. Revised 2013. 62 pp.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn11733.pdf

Enhancements for Native Bees in Western Oregon and Washington Cranberry Production. Plant Materials Technical Note No. 42. USDA-NRCS, Portland, OR. 2017. 20 pp.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmstn13176.pdf

Monarch Butterfly Habitat: Development and Maintenance. Plant Materials Technical Note No. 71. USDA-NRCS, Boise, ID. 2018. 10 pp.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmctn13434.pdf

Hedgerow Planting (422) for Pollinators: Western Oregon & Washington Specification and Implementation Requirements. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, OR. 2013. 16 pp.

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/InstallGuideJobSheet_WORandWA_Hedge.pdf

Conservation Cover (327) for Pollinators: Western Oregon & Washington Specification and Implementation Requirements. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, OR. 2013. 20 pp.

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/InstallGuideJobSheet_WORandWA_CnsrvCvr.pdf

Evaluation of Commercial Pollinator Mixes for Western Oregon: Final Report. 2019. Bartow, A., and A. Young-Mathews. Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, OR. 31 pp.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcsr13455.pdf

Establishing Pollinator Habitat in Vineyard Rows. 2019. Bartow, A. Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis OR.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcot13426.pdf

USDA-NRCS and ARS Cover Crop Resources:

Pacific Northwest Cover Crop Selection Tool. 2016. WNTSC Plant Materials Technical Note No. 2. Microsoft Access database tool that guides growers and conservation planners to select cover crop species adapted to their climate, soils, and intended cover crop purpose.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/plantmaterials/technical/toolsdata/plant/?cid=nrcseprd894840>

Cover Crop Seed Vendors for Western States. 2018. WNTSC Plant Materials Technical Note No. 3. USDA-NRCS West National Technology Support Center, Portland, OR. 18p.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmctn13328.pdf

NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines for Non-irrigated Cropland. Version 3, Sept. 2014.

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WA/340_National_Termination_Guidelines_Ver_3_Sept_2014.pdf

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Cover Crop Chart (aka Periodic Table of Cover Crops) – ARS <https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/mandan-nd/ngprl/docs/cover-crop-chart/>

Crop Nutrient Tool—Calculates the approximate amount of N, P, and K that is removed by the harvest of agricultural crops. <https://plants.usda.gov/npk/main>

PLANTS Database—List of cover crops and Plant Guides for most commonly used species. <https://plants.usda.gov/java/coverCrops>

Adaptation of 59 Cover Crop Cultivars in Western Oregon: Final Study Report. 2019. Young-Mathews, A. USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, OR. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcsr13456.pdf

Irrigated Warm Season Cover Crops for Western Oregon: Final Study Report. 2017. Young-Mathews, A. USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, OR. 13 pp. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/orpmcsr13158.pdf

The Potential for Legume Cover Crops in Washington Apple Orchards. 2014. WA NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 22. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn12149.pdf

National Cover Crop and Soil Health Resources:

SARE – Cover Crops Topic Room—Collection of educational materials developed out of decades of SARE-funded cover crop research. <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crops>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition. 2007. A. Clark, ed., SARE. This comprehensive book explores how and why cover crops work and provides all the information needed to build cover crops into any farming operation. (Free downloadable pdf) <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition>

Building Soils for Better Crops, 3rd Edition. 2010. F. Magdoff and H. Van Es. Another great book from SARE that is a practical guide to ecological soil management, providing step-by-step information on soil-improving practices as well as in-depth background—from what soil is to the importance of organic matter. (Free downloadable pdf) <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition>

ATTRA – National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, a program of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)—Many publications and other resources on cover crops, soil health assessment and improvement, and general sustainable agriculture topics. <https://attra.ncat.org/>

Overview of cover crops and green manures. 2003. P. Sullivan. Publication summarizing the principal uses and benefits of cover crops and green manures. (16 pages, available for purchase) <https://attra.ncat.org/product/overview-of-cover-crops-and-green-manures/>

eXtension – Articles, webinars, videos, and “Ask-an-Expert” for information from Land Grant Universities on agricultural topics, including cover crops. <https://www.extension.org/>

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OSU & WSU Extension Cover Crop Resources:

Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator. N. Andrews, D. Sullivan, J. Julian and K. Pool. This free online tool compares the nutrient value and cost of cover crops, organic and synthetic fertilizers, and compost. Use this Excel Calculator to develop well balanced and cost-effective nutrient management programs for your farm. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/organic-fertilizer-cover-crop-calculators>

Cover Crops as a Floor Management Strategy for Pacific Northwest Vineyards. 2006. M.A. Olmstead. EB2010. <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2010/eb2010.pdf>

Cover Crops for Home Gardens. 1999. R.L. Rackham and R. McNeilan. FS 304. Simple 2-page fact sheet on the basics of cover cropping for home gardeners. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/fs304>

Forage Information System—Comprehensive, searchable database on forage research, educational opportunities, and professional resources worldwide. <http://forages.oregonstate.edu/>

Mustard Green Manures – A collection of publications, resources, on-farm research, and field day materials A. McGuire. <http://csanr.wsu.edu/mustard-green-manures/>

Using Cover Crops in Oregon. 1998. R. Sattell. EM 8704—Information on cover cropping systems and cover crop species for Oregon. <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/24506/EMNO8704.pdf?sequence=1>

Planting Date Guide for Winter Wheat Cover Crops to Control Wind Erosion in the Columbia Basin. 2008. H. Kok et al. EB2030E. <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2030e/eb2030e.pdf>

Reduced Tillage for Green Manure Legumes. 1989. R. Veseth. PNW Conservation Tillage Handbook Series. <http://pnwsteep.wsu.edu/tillagehandbook/chapter2/021489.htm>

Using Green Manures in Potato Cropping Systems. 2003. A. McGuire. EB1951E. <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1951e/EB1951E.pdf>

University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP) Resources:

Cover Crops Database—A searchable database containing information on over 40 crop species that can be used as cover crops. <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/database/covercrops>

UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. 2017. "Cover Crops." What is Sustainable Agriculture? UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. <http://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/sarep/what-is-sustainable-agriculture/practices/cover-crops>

Organic Cover Cropping Resources:

Cover Crop (340) in Organic Systems: Oregon Implementation Guide. 2014. NRCS, NCAT, The Xerces Society, and Oregon Tilth. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/OR/CoverCropinOrganicSystems.pdf>

eOrganic – The organic agriculture community of practice for eXtension—searchable/interactive website and database of articles, webinars, videos, and “Ask-an-Expert”. <http://eorganic.info/>