

# Top Ten PNW Keystone Trees & Shrubs

Based on National Wildlife Federation's Gardening for Wildlife.

To read how native keystone plants are critical for birds and to see the source data: [Click Here](#)

Plant Type	Plant Genus	Count: (of beneficial insect species)	Example Species:	Common Name:	Height: (maximum expected)	Comments:	
Trees	Quercus	436	Quercus garryana	<b><u>Oregon White Oak</u></b>	100'	Drought tolerant, Band-tailed Pigeons eat acorns	
	Prunus	340	Prunus emarginata	<b><u>Bitter Cherry*</u></b>	50'	Fruit & flowers, pollinators, caterpillars & birds, i.e. Cedar Waxwings	
	Betula	284	Betula papyrifera	<b><u>Paper Birch</u></b>	90'	Dies due to Bronze Birch Borer, Pileated Woodpecker eats BBB larva	
	Populus	249	Populus trichocarpa	<b><u>Black Cottonwood</u></b>	150'	Too big and brittle for most yards, Bald Eagles often use for nests	
	Acer	238	Acer circinatum	<b><u>Vine Maple*</u></b>	21'	Big-leaf Maple - Larger alternative, > 100', Douglas Maple* - dryer alt.	
	Malus	237	Malus fusca	<b><u>Pacific Crabapple*</u></b>	36'	Fruit & flowers, pollinators, caterpillars & birds.	
	Pinus	200	Pinus contorta	<b><u>Shore Pine*</u></b>	20'-100'	Height depends on conditions	
	Alnus	173	Alnus rubra	<b><u>Red Alder</u></b>	80'	Fixes nitrogen, Pileated Woodpeckers often nest in large, old trees	
	Shrubs	Salix	303	Salix scoulerianna	<b><u>Scouler's Willow</u></b>	65'	Shrub-like in dry locales
		Vaccinium	231	Vaccinium ovatum	<b><u>Evergreen Huckleberry*</u></b>	12'	Fruit & Flowers, Red Huckleberry* is a deciduous shade-tolerant alt.
Perennials	Helianthus	91	Helianthus annuus	<u>Common Sunflower</u>			
	Solidago	91	Solidago canadensis	<u>Canada Goldenrod</u>			
	Symphyotrichum	36	Symphyotrichum chilensis	<u>Pacific Aster</u>		also referred to as Aster chilensis	
	Grindelia	40	Grindelia integrifolia	<u>Willamette Valley Gumweed</u>			
	Rudbeckia	33	Rudbeckia occidentalis	<u>Western Coneflower</u>		The closest native species found, originated in Cascade Mts	

**Danger:** Tend to break, or die-young, and fall. They love to be near water

Can handle drier conditions.

More likely to fit in smaller yards. Note maximum height expectations.

Multiple benefits, Can fit in medium or small yards depending on species.

\* Of the Top Ten Keystone plants and trees these are the most appropriate for use in your backyard. Also learn about the [Homegrown National Park](#).