

Oregon Mixed Conifer Forest Plant List

A comprehensive reference guide for native species within Oregon's mixed conifer temperate forest habitats, compiled from data provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the OSU Extension Service.

Canopy & Understory Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Role & Character
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Dominant canopy species; critical for structural habitat and high timber value.
Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Highly drought and fire-tolerant; thrives in well-drained soils and sun.
Incense Cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Extremely adaptable; excels on dry, rocky slopes and provides dense thermal cover.
Grand Fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	Highly shade-tolerant understory tree; thrives in deeper, moisture-retentive forest soils.
Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Vibrant autumn understory indicator; multi-stemmed structure creates excellent wildlife nesting cover.

Shrubs & Understory Layers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Role & Character
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Robust, evergreen ground stabilizer; tolerates deep shade and produces edible berries.
Cascade Barberry	<i>Berberis nervosa</i>	Low-growing, shade-tolerant evergreen; structural protection for small forest mammals.
Western Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Classic, highly resilient forest floor coverage; provides excellent year-round erosion control.
Red Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Nurse-log specialist; thrives on decaying wood and provides rich forage for birds.
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Highly adaptable to dry forest edges; features cascading white blooms attracting native pollinators.

Wildflowers & Groundcovers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Role & Character
Inside-out Flower	<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i>	Excellent shade-loving groundcover; forms delicate duckfoot-shaped foliage mats.
Western Trillium	<i>Trillium ovatum</i>	Iconic early spring bloomer; reliable indicator of healthy, undisturbed rich forest soils.
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Delicate, creeping evergreen mat; excellent choice for stabilizing shaded mossy banks.
Pacific Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	Long-blooming, delicate perennial; highly attractive to hummingbirds and forest pollinators.