

Oregon Native Plants: Beaches, Dunes, & Estuaries

A comprehensive reference list of native vegetation adapted to the dynamic coastal ecosystems of Oregon. These species are resilient against extreme salt spray, shifting sands, high winds, and tidal inundation. Compiled using ecological data from the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) and the OSU Extension Service.

1. Pioneer Dunes & Beach Strand (Foredunes)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Function & Characteristics
American Sea Rocket	<i>Cakile edentula</i>	Succulent annual that anchors upper beach sand.
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Low-creeping vine with deep roots to stabilize sand.
Seaside Sandplant	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Forms dense mats that trap blowing sand.
Silver Burweed	<i>Ambrosia chamissonis</i>	Highly salt-tolerant perennial with silver foliage.

2. Stabilized Backdunes & Hummocks

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Function & Characteristics
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Evergreen groundcover that forms tight, carpeted mats.
Seaside Daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	Heavy bloomer that handles intense ocean winds and salt spray.
Oregon Sunshine	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Drought-tolerant perennial bringing vibrant yellow color.
Coastal Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Low-growing runner that thrives in pure sand.
Hooker's Willow	<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	Critical dune-hollow shrub providing windbreaks and wildlife cover.

3. Estuary & Salt Marsh (Intertidal Zones)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Function & Characteristics
Lyngbye's Sedge	<i>Carex lyngbyei</i>	The primary soil-binding sedge of brackish coastal marshes.
Pickleweed	<i>Salicornia pacifica</i>	Highly salt-tolerant succulent found in lower tidal flats.
Seaside Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Clumping perennial common along muddy estuary edges.
Pacific Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica</i>	Creeping marsh perennial with bright yellow flowers.