



POLLINATOR GARDEN MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Greetings Gardeners,

The following guide was designed for residents of the SW Webster planting project. This project included the planting of over 1,000 shrubs & perennials and 12 street trees by the Dirt Corps team. Whether you were a part of this huge planting or just gardening on your own, this guide is here to help. With maintenance tips, resources, and fun facts about common native plants, it's everything you'll need to keep your PNW plants thriving!

Sincerely,

The Crew at DIRT Corps

Maintenance Intro

- Maintenance is low on these plants as they were selected for low water needs.
- Plants are most fragile in their first 1-2 years after planting. Watering 1-2 times per week is recommended during hot summer months in this period.
- Periodic trimming could be done to maintain preferred plant shape. Trimming in summer could also encourage a second blooms.
- Weeding 2-3 times a year will help keep the garden tidy. Try to pull weeds before they go to seed to help reduce the weed seed bank.

Watering Plan

- Try to water first thing in the morning or in the evening. Water roots directly, soaking soil down 2 inches. Watering deeply can take 15-20 minutes.
- Choose the right watering method for you. Soaker hoses and irrigation systems release water directly to the soil, or use a shower wand for efficient hand watering.
- If a hose can't reach the garden connecting multiple hoses together can add length. Or you can also fill 5-gallon buckets and transport in a wagon or hand truck.
- Consider creating a watering plan or calendar with neighbors so that the watering duties are spread out and covered during summer vacations, with particular care taken to water regularly in July and August.

Weeding & Maintenance Considerations

- Early Spring (February/March), Early Summer (June), and Fall (October/November) are good times of year to tackle weeds, prune plants, and add mulch.
- Most weeds can go into the yard waste bin and any trash goes in the garbage.
- When working in gardens wear bright colors or orange reflective vests to ensure drivers can see you.
- We encourage you to organize weeding work parties with your neighbors a few times each year by selecting dates when most can participate, share tools, and invite others in the area to help out.

Common Plants & Details

SPANISH LAVENDER



Wonderful for cut flowers. It features a long bloom time that begins in April. Trim back spent blossoms as desired. Trim aged branches if leggy.

ENGLISH LAVENDER



Features a long bloom time that begins right after the Spanish lavender starts to fade. Trim back spent blossoms if desired. Trim aged branches if leggy.

KINNIKINNICK



Virtually maintenance free! Low, spreading evergreen native ground cover. Pink bell flowers and bright red fall berries. Trim back if needed. Attracts bees and birds.

PT. REYES CEONOTHUS



Lovely evergreen spreading shrub with profuse blue flowers in spring. A favorite of native pollinators. Trim back if needed, but generally maintenance free.

CREEPING OR GRAPE



A beautiful evergreen foliage ground cover with small, fragrant, yellow flowers. Blooms from January to April. Prune after the blooming season. Never cut branches back by more than $\frac{1}{3}$ their length.

KELSEY DOGWOOD



Low growing dwarf shrub with bright green leaves and masses of white flowers appearing in late Spring. In Fall, the leaves turn to bronze/purple color and the bare stems remain bright red thru winter. Can grow to be 2' tall.

SWORD FERN



Incredibly drought tolerant when established, requires water in first few years. An abundant evergreen that will reproduce on its own. 4-6' when mature. Alternately cut back old fronds in February.

SPIREA BETULIFOLIA



A dwarf deciduous shrub that matures as a dense rounded mound of foliage to 3' tall and as wide. Early summer blooms of flat clusters of tiny white flowers attract butterflies. Colorful Fall foliage. Flowers grow on new wood, so prune in late winter.

Other Plants

Yarrow
Nodding Onion
Camas
Douglas Iris
Coast Penstemon
Snowy Fleabane
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Little Goldstar'
Echinacea
Gaillardia
Geranium Bevens variety'
Geranium rozanne
Monarda 'Jacob Kline'
Salvia (annual)

Tree Details

EASTERN REDBUD



A low maintenance tree. They can be 20-30' tall with a 25-35' spread. Blooms are showy pink flowers from April to March. Leaves turn an orange-red in the Fall. The best time to prune is in the spring after the flowers have finished. Alternatively, you can prune in late winter while it is still dormant. Redbuds frequently have low branches when they are young. Take off one or two of the lowest branches each year as it grows as desired.

Further Resources

King County Conservation District

Offers soil testing, plant sales, and other resources.

Phone: 425-282-1900
Website: Kingcd.org

The Garden Hotline

Answers any questions about at home gardening!

Phone: 206-633-0224
Website: gardenhotline.org

City of Seattle Arborists

Call this line if there is a public safety hazard with your tree.

Phone: 206-684-8733

Contact & Follow Dirt Corps



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