



In March 2009, in cooperation with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and BC150 Grove, Saanich Parks began the "Trees for Tomorrow" planting Project. Over \$30,000 was received to design and plant demonstration gardens with native trees and shrubs.

Baxter Park was selected because it offered the best opportunity for community involvement and site enhancement. The project also became an outdoor classroom, as two of the surrounding schools took a keen interest in creating and participating with the four demonstration gardens.

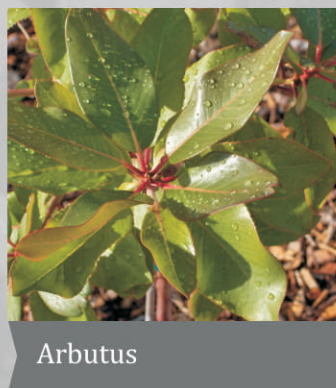
**Habitat Enhancement:** Bring your garden to life by including fragrant, nectar and berry producing plants to attract small animals, birds, butterflies, and other insects.

### 3 Coastal Douglas-fir Forests (Dry Site)

Some Coastal Douglas-fir forests are well adapted to a variety of conditions along our coastline, surviving in soil pockets dispersed around rocky outcrops and bluffs, at lower elevations and south-facing slopes. Because these sites are warmer and drier, and have shallow soil, they support fewer under-storey shrub species than cooler forests.

When Coastal Douglas-fir trees establish in drier soil conditions they grow more slowly, at times taking a more stunted form. The bark is one of its distinguishing features: rough, thick, and dark brown, it protects the tree from low intensity fires. Off its drooping branches hang reddish-brown cones with unique bracts extending out of a smooth scale that are said to look like mouse tails.

The Arbutus is a broadleaf evergreen tree with glossy dark green leaves. The trunk is often twisted and has a satiny, smooth, chartreuse-coloured bark that turns



Arbutus

reddish-brown in fall before peeling away. Bright orange-red berries develop from clusters of fragrant, white flowers that blossom in spring.



Oregon-grape

The shrubs displayed here: Red-flowering Currant, Snowberry and Tall Oregon-grape, are adapted to dry conditions, but will also establish easily in most conditions. Once established, all can be large and fast growing with dense forms.

Whether used as accent plants or hedgerows, they offer food and shelter for wildlife.

The spring blooms of the Red-flowering Currant are a favourite of hummingbirds. Its berries attract other birds as do the plump, white berries of Snowberry. The Tall Oregon-grape has a glossy green, holly-like leaf with a striking reddish tinge that turns a showy bronze in fall. Its yellow spring-scented flower is followed by a tart blue-purple berry that is excellent for jellies and sauces.



Coastal Douglas-fir needles and seed-bearing cone



Snowberry



Red-flowering Currant

