

# Why Naturescape?

Why not? By creating a wildlife-friendly yard you spend less time worrying about your lawn, use less water, and have more opportunities to enjoy nature. It's also fun and rewarding to discover the different types of wildlife you can attract to your yard.

Support biodiversity and rare local ecosystems! Many threatened and endangered species and ecosystems occur in Saanich, a region with a majority of private lands. This makes private land stewardship vitally important. The efforts of property owners to protect and restore critically-endangered Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir habitats will be necessary for the persistence of these rare species and ecosystems.



Include yourself in your naturescape

## Benefits of Naturescaping

- **Reduce** water use, yard maintenance, greenhouse gases (mowers and weed-eaters), and the use of fertilizers
- **Protect** and enhance local biodiversity
- **Linking** Naturescaped yards between natural areas provides wildlife with corridors that are critical for maintaining healthy populations.
- **Protect** and enhance local biodiversity

*"If I could add only one naturescape feature to my yard it would be flowing water. I really enjoy watching the wildlife it attracts. Even in the middle of winter"*

— Claudia Copley  
Victoria Natural History Society

# What is Naturescape?

It's about restoring, preserving, and enhancing wildlife habitat in your own yard by providing the basics for wildlife: food, water, and shelter. Gardening with native plants provides both food and shelter for native wildlife. Naturescaping is also about learning to know, appreciate, and enjoy nature. Here are the basic principles:

- A commitment to stewardship
- Habitat creation and preservation
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Water conservation



Naturescaping: beautiful and beneficial!

## Good Neighbours

By Naturescaping you are being a great neighbour to wildlife and natural areas, but please remember your human neighbours as well! In urban areas, residents have concerns with weeds and tall grasses, which can be unsightly, invasive, and may pose a fire hazard. In order to find a balance, we recommend:

- **Signage:** post a Naturescape sign to show your intentions. (Contact Saanich, below)
- **Maintain a perimeter:** mow a 1m strip around your yard, plus a .5m strip along the path to the front steps and on top of retaining walls
- **Address weeds:** mow/trim all areas of weeds (including grass areas) before they go to seed
- **Create islands:** of native plant habitat (including grasses) to reduce mowing
- **Control invasives:** control or eliminate and stop from spreading beyond your property
- **Edge treatments:** use creeping native vegetation, bark mulch, and low flowering native shrubs at the property frontage

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Visit us on the web: [www.saanich.ca/naturescape](http://www.saanich.ca/naturescape)

# Naturescape Saanich

Gardening with Nature

District of Saanich  
Environmental Services  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

## February

Put out Blue Orchard Bee tubes/boxes

## March

Clean out old bird houses and put up new ones

## April

Swan Lake Native Plant Sale.

## May

Plant and water new native plants

## June

Watch for weeds.

## July

Maintain bird bath/water source

## August

Collect native plant seeds to propagate

## Sept

Take cuttings to propagate native plants

## October

Start native plant seeds in flats to overwinter

### Bat House

Call HAT to see if yard is suitable (995.2428 or hat.bc.ca)

### FREE Native Plant Gardening Workshops

Provided by CRD at Swan Lake  
www.crd.bc.ca

### Suggested Native Plants

		Berries/seeds for birds	nectar for bees or hummingbirds	pollen for native bees
1	Red-flowering Currant	✓	✓	
2	Nootka Rose	✓	✓	✓
3	Arbutus	✓		
4	Oceanspray		✓	✓
5	Dull Oregon Grape	✓	✓	✓
6	Common Camas		✓	✓
7	Chocolate Lily		✓	✓
8	Western Trillium		✓	✓
9	Woolly Sunflower	✓	✓	✓
10	Easter Lily		✓	✓
11	Shooting Star		✓	✓
12	Salmonberry	✓	✓	✓
13	Tiger Lily		✓	✓
14	Nodding Onion		✓	✓
15	Kinnikinnick	✓	✓	✓
16	Garry Oak	✓		

- **Keep a dead tree standing** so birds have a natural cavity to nest in. If it has to come down, leave on ground as habitat
- Build a **rock pile** for **snakes**. They will help control the invasive garden **slugs**.
- **Water, water, water!** Put rocks in bird bath for shallow areas. Add a bucket above with a hole that drips to make noise (attracts birds). Overflow is fine because mud is needed by nesting birds and mason bees. Save up money for a flowing garden pond.

### Naturescape Presentation

- Make a real **butterfly garden** using native plants (no Butterfly Bush—it's invasive!).
- **Sheet mulch** some of the lawn with cardboard (Lasagna gardening).
- Make a **brush pile** for the birds. Wrens Love it!
- **Be a bit "messy."** Leave some fallen branches and add a nurse log.
- **Provide layers of vegetation:** trees, shrubs, and ground cover. Gives wildlife a safe route into yard.
- Plan for **all season flowering**. Think of pollinators and hummingbirds.
- Plant **berry-producing species** for birds.
- **Invite neighbours** to see that you are gardening with purpose—using native plants and considering wildlife

### Resource Material

- **Garry Oak Gardeners Handbook:** native plant propagation, species, nurseries, [goert.ca](http://goert.ca)
- **Naturescape Kit:** booklets with everything about naturescaping [www.naturescapebc.ca/](http://www.naturescapebc.ca/)
- **Habitat Acquisition Trust:** *Gardening With Native Plants* handout. [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca)
- **Victoria Natural History Society** to learn about local flora and fauna [www.naturevictoria.ca](http://www.naturevictoria.ca)

### Books

- **Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest** (Arthur Kruckeberg, 1996)
- **Native Plants in the Coastal Garden** (April Pettinger & Brenda Costanzo, 2002)