

Keystone Plants: Nature's VIPs in Your Garden

Discover how a small group of native plants can power your entire garden ecosystem. Learn which Pacific Northwest keystone trees, shrubs, and perennials support pollinators, birds, and beneficial insects—and how choosing the *right* plants can transform your garden into a thriving habitat.

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Resources

Websites:

- National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org “Native Plant Finder”
- Xerces Society www.xerces.org “Pollinator Conservation Resources: Pacific Northwest Region” and “Resource Guides”
- Arboretum Creek www.arboretumcreek.org “Top Ten PNW Keystone Trees & Shrubs”
- King County Native Plant Guide <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/Plant.aspx?Act=list>
- Washington Native Plant Society www.wnps.org “Some Native Washington Caterpillars”
- Arboretum Foundation www.arboretumfoundation.org “Getting to Know Our Native NW Bees”
- Washington Native Bee Society www.wanativebeesociety.org
- Campion, Amy www.amycampion.com The World’s Best Gardening Blog “#1 Top Keystone Plant for NW Gardens”
- Fowler, Jarrod (2020) https://jarrodfowler.com/pollen_specialist.html “Pollen Specialist Bees of the Western United States”

Publications and Podcasts:

- Tallamy, Douglas. (2009) *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press
- Tallamy, Douglas. (2020) *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that starts in your yard*. Timber Press
- Benner, Jennifer. (November December 2024). Keystone Plants for Every Garden. *Fine Gardening*
- Tallamy, Douglas. (2022) *Native Keystone Plants for Wildlife*. National Wildlife podcast

Master Gardener and WSU Publications:

- Stamm, Joan, Skagit County WSU Master Gardener. (2024) *Gardening for Wildlife* Ask A Master Gardener
- Norling, Meg, Piedmont Master Gardener. (2025) “Keystone” *Native Plants* 101

- WSU King County Master Gardeners (2025) *PNW Pollinator Plants*
- Pierce County Master Gardeners (2026) *Keystone Plants Tip Sheet*
- King County Master Gardeners (2026) *Pollinator Friendly Gardening*
- Thurston County Master Gardeners *Bee and Pollinator Directory*
- Hortsense <https://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/fs-category/fact-sheets/pollinators/bees/> *Bees*
- Antonelli, Arthur. (2015) *Some of the Most Common Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest* <https://wpcdn.web.wsu.edu/wp-puyallup/uploads/sites/408/2015/02/PLS-3-Most-Common-Butterflies-in-the-PNW.pdf>