



Black Twinberry

Lonicera involucrata

A honeysuckle relative, this shrub has paired tubular yellow flowers that develop into paired black berries. The fruits are considered poisonous. They were traditionally used as a black pigment by First Nations.



False Azalea

Rhododendron menziesii

Recently reclassified as a rhododendron, the False Azalea looks similar to huckleberry, but its fruit is a dry capsule. Also called Fool's Huckleberry, this shrub contains poisons and its leaves should never be consumed or used in tea.



Red Huckleberry

Vaccinium parvifolium

This deciduous shrub has angular bright-green shoots. The whitish-green to pink flowers develop into edible red berries that are an important food source for birds and mammals. First Nations traditionally ate the berries fresh or preserved them for winter.



Wild Gooseberry

Ribes divaricatum

This medium-sized shrub, with sharp spines at the leaf nodes, is often found near traditional First Nations' sites. The clusters of hanging flowers develop into edible blue-black berries. The bark was used for medicinal purposes.



Salal

Gaultheria shallon

One of the most plentiful understory bushes in our region, Salal can develop into almost impenetrable thickets. Its pinkish flowers develop into edible dark-purple berries, and its evergreen leaves are often harvested for use in floral arrangements.



Thimbleberry

Rubus parviflorus

A member of the Rubus genus, Thimbleberry has large, hairy leaves and no spines. Its white flowers develop into raspberry-like red fruits. Although the flattish berry has a pleasant flavour, it does not hold its shape and so has not been commercially developed.



Oregon Grape

Mahonia nervosa

This striking evergreen shrub with shiny toothed leaves produces erect clusters of yellow flowers that attract insects in early spring. Its tart purple-blue berries persist into fall and are an important food source for birds and other wildlife.



Red-flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum

The bright pink blossoms of this early-blooming shrub appear just as migrating hummingbirds return to Delta. Its leaves provide food for caterpillars of various moths and butterflies. The berries are edible but insipid and were traditionally only eaten fresh.



Orange Honeysuckle

Lonicera ciliosa

Found in both shade and sun, this climbing vine with showy flowers is frequently visited by butterflies and hummingbirds. The long vines are traditionally used in First Nations' weaving. The berries are considered toxic.



Robert's Geranium

Geranium robertianum

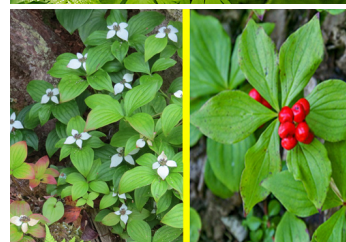
This annual grows from a tap root and is considered an invasive plant locally. Originally found in Eurasia and eastern N. America, it is now common in the woodland understory of Delta.



Bleeding Heart

Dicentra formosa

Often seen in gardens, this perennial of moist woodlands was collected on George Vancouver's 1792 expedition to this area and then introduced to England. Bleeding Heart has medicinal properties and is applied externally for pain relief.



Bunchberry

Cornus-x-unalaschkensis

Although three similar species of Bunchberry occur in BC, the species most common on the coast is believed to be a hybrid of the other two (Dwarf Dogwood and Dwarf Bog Bunchberry). The berries are a traditional food of First Nations.



Clasping Twistedstalk

Streptopus amplexifolius

The Clasping Twistedstalk's leaves completely encircle the kinked stem, giving the plants a twisted appearance. It can be distinguished from False Solomon's Seal by the fact that flowers and fruits grow from the sides of the stem instead of the ends.



Star-flowered False Solomon's-seal

Maianthemum stellatum

This plant is found in every Canadian province and territory except Nunavut. Flowers are set in an unbranched cluster at the tip of the stem. The berries, although edible, are seedy and not sought after.



False Lily of the Valley

Maianthemum canadense

Often found in large patches in the understory of deciduous and coniferous forests, this plant may appear either as a single leaf or as a flowering and fruiting stem with 2-3 leaves. Most plants in a location are identical clones.



Fringecup

Tellima grandiflora

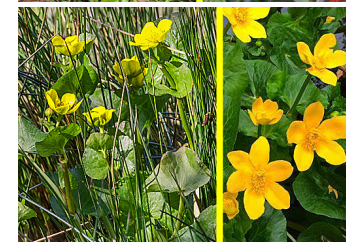
Fringecup is a medium-sized perennial that grows in shady, moist habitats. The plants have heart-shaped bronze or green basal leaves and multiple bell-like flowers on tall stems. The white flowers appear in late spring and turn pink with age.



King Gentian

Gentiana sceptrum

This perennial herb may have either erect or horizontal leafy stems. Common at higher elevations, it is also found in sphagnum bogs at sea level. The flowers are deep blue to purple, and the fruit is a capsule containing seeds with small wings.



Marsh Marigold

Caltha palustris

A member of the buttercup family, Marsh Marigold grows in temperate wetlands. It requires cross-pollination, so the flowers produce both nectar and copious amounts of pollen. Hoverflies are its major pollinator.



Skunk Cabbage

Lysichiton americanus

Skunk Cabbage is one of the first marshland plants to flower in early spring. Its name derives from the odour that attracts pollinating flies and beetles. Bears will eat the roots. The leaves were used by First Nations to wrap food for cooking and storage.



Trailing Blackberry

Rubus ursinus

A small vine with showy white flowers in spring, Trailing Blackberry is a host for caterpillars of several butterfly species. Its berries, which are produced in the second year of growth, are a traditional food of many human cultures and wildlife species.



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Woodland Plants in Delta

Delta's woodlands have historically provided habitat and resources for humans and many species of wildlife. The forests contain a mix of evergreen coniferous trees, which have needles and bear cones, and deciduous trees, which drop their leaves each autumn. Conifers such as Western Redcedar and Douglas-fir are abundant on the heights of North Delta and Tsawwassen, while deciduous cottonwoods and alders flourish beside the Fraser River. The shrubs in the forests' dense understory produce flowers that support pollinators and their berries provide food for birds, other wildlife, and humans. This brochure shows a selection of trees, shrubs, and other woodland plants found in Delta, with a focus on native species.

Use the iNaturalist app on a smart phone to identify plants not shown here.



Bigleaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum

This large tree, native to western N. America, produces the largest leaves of any maple. The bark is often covered in moss, which in turn supports plants. Although its sap can be used to make syrup, it is not as sweet as that of sugar maples.



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

The Vine Maple is a small understory tree related to several East Asian species. It is often used as a landscaping tree because of its striking foliage and fall colours. The two-winged structure used for seed dispersal is known as a key or samara.



Black Cottonwood

Populus trichocarpa

A pioneer species, this large, fragrant tree reaches more than 50m in height and 2m in diameter. It reaches flowering age at around 10 years old. The catkins of the male trees are red, while those of the female are greenish.



Red Elderberry

Sambucus racemosa

Red Elderberry is a tree-like shrub native to temperate regions of the N. Hemisphere. The fragrant white-to-yellow flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies, and by mid-summer develop into clusters of red or purple berries.



Mountain Ash

Sorbus americana

One of about 120 species of ash trees native to mountains and moister regions of the N. Hemisphere, the Mountain Ash has flat-topped, creamy flower clusters that turn into orange-red berries in late summer. The berries attract winter birds.



Oceanspray

Holodiscus discolor

Native to western N. America, Oceanspray is an early colonizer of recently-burned forests. Drooping white flower clusters bloom from May to July and then develop into brown, fuzzy seed tufts that are popular with Bushtits and other small birds.



Red-osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

This shrub or small tree can reach 4m high and spreads by underground stems to form dense thickets. The white springtime flowers develop into white berries by late summer. In winter, the red bark stands out.



Pacific Dogwood

Cornus nuttallii

This beautiful tree produces the official flower of BC, providing a flash of white in our coastal forests. The 4-8 white "petals" are actually bracts surrounding about 20 tiny true flowers that develop into cherry-like drupes.



Pacific Ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus

Ninebark prefers wet environments and is good for stabilizing stream banks. Its flowers attract insects including the Spring Azure butterfly. The name refers to the peeling nature of bark on mature branches.



Hooker's Willow

Salix hookeriana

One of about 400 species of willow found in the temperate N. Hemisphere, this oval-leaved willow often forms bushy thickets up to 8m tall. Male and female catkins occur on separate trees.



Pacific Willow

Salix lucida

This native species with long narrow leaves is common in wetland habitats and along waterways. The young bark is often yellowish. In late spring, after the leaves emerge, long yellow catkins (2-9cm) develop.



Paper Birch

Betula papyrifera

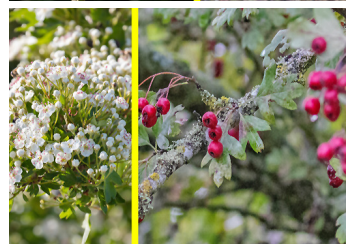
A short-lived tree, Paper Birch may reach 40m in ideal habitat but is normally smaller. The iconic white bark, which has high oil content makes it weather-resistant, only develops in older trees. Female catkins produce winged seeds.



Red Alder

Alnus rubra

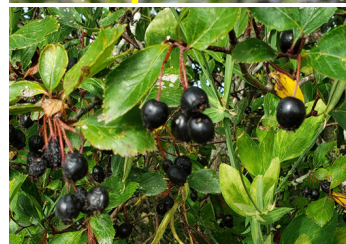
Alder is an important deciduous tree of coastal forests and river bottoms. Female catkins develop into small (1.5-2cm) cone-like brown fruits whose seeds are popular food for many birds in fall.



Red Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

The Red Hawthorn is one of the earliest trees to bloom in spring. The abundant deep red fruits that develop from its white, pink, or red flowers are an important winter food source for wildlife.



Black Hawthorn

Crataegus douglasii

This thorny shrub is abundant in the Pacific Northwest. Its pinkish-white blossoms attract pollinators, and the small purple-black fruit are an important food for birds. First Nations made fish hooks and other items from the thorns.



Wild Apple

Malus spp.

Malus is a genus of about 50 species of small deciduous trees in the Rosaceae family, including the domesticated apple. White-to-pink flowers require cross-pollination by insects. The quality of Wild Apple fruits varies widely.



Pacific Crab Apple

Malus fusca

The Pacific Crab Apple is a small tree with white springtime blossoms that become small clustered apples with long cherry-like stems. The fruits are eaten by many birds and are a traditional food of First Nations.



Saskatoon

Amelanchier alnifolia

As both a shrub and a tree, the Saskatoon or Serviceberry is an important food source for First Nations peoples and wildlife. Sometimes reaching 10m, this shrub produces dark blue berries that are a major ingredient in pemmican.



Bitter Cherry

Prunus emarginata

This small tree (to 15m) spreads by underground stems to produce clumps. The smooth, reddish bark, which has rough horizontal patches of pores called lenticels, is used by First Nations weavers to embellish baskets. It is a larval host for several insect species.



Seed Cones

Conifers

1. Western Hemlock: 14-30mm.
2. Western Redcedar: slender, 10-18mm.
3. Shore Pine: rigid, 30-70mm.
4. Douglas-fir: pendulous, flexible, 80-100mm; three-pointed bracts.
5. Sitka Spruce: pendulous, flexible, 60-100mm.



Western Hemlock

Tsuga heterophylla

Its tolerance of shade makes this tall conifer a key member of climax forests. The innermost bark layer was eaten fresh or dried and pressed into bread by First Nations. The short needles lie flat. Boughs are used to collect herring roe.



Western Redcedar

Thuja plicata

Often called "the Tree of Life", cedar traditionally provided First Nations with many resources, from clothing and ropes to canoes and burial boxes. This 60-70m tall, long-lived tree with tiny seed cones and flat, scale-like leaves is an important habitat for wildlife.



Shore Pine

Pinus contorta

This evergreen conifer is common along the shore but rare in lowland rainforests. The four subspecies vary from twisted coastal trees to the Lodgepole Pines of dry montane forests. The pointed needles grow in pairs and fall off after about 4-6 years.



Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Although called a fir, this second-tallest conifer is a native member of the pine family. The needles are soft, flat, and radially placed. Seed cones, often found beneath the trees, are recognizable by their "mouse-tail-like" three-fingered bracts.



Grand Fir

Abies grandis

At 70m tall, the Coast Grand Fir may be the tallest *Abies* in the world and its timber is economically important. Seed cones disintegrate in the canopy at maturity. The soft needles are aligned flat and smell of grapefruit.



Sitka Spruce

Picea sitchensis

Up to 100m tall and 5m around at breast height, this evergreen conifer has radially placed four-sided, stiff, sharp, needles. First Nations peoples traditionally use its roots to fashion water-tight hats and baskets, while the military used its wood to build fighter planes during WWII.



Bracken Fern

Pteridium aquilinum

The fern's light spores are responsible for its presence on all continents except Antarctica. Single deciduous stems with feathery tops arise from underground rhizomes. It contains a carcinogenic compound but it is still widely eaten in parts of E. Asia.



Deer Fern

Struthiopteris spicant

This relatively small fern produces two leaf types: a sterile, wavy-margined leaflet, and fertile, narrower leaflets bearing two thick rows of spore-producing sporangia called "sori" on their underside. Some First Nations chew young stems to suppress hunger.



Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum

This large evergreen fern is one of the most abundant in Delta forests and is often used in landscaping locally. The rhizomes were eaten in hard times by First Nations, and fronds were used for cooking and stuffing mattresses.



Licorice Fern

Polypodium glycyrrhiza

Licorice fern often grows with moss on the ground, on rocks, or as an epiphyte on trees. The chewy rhizomes are a traditional medicinal plant of First Nations. Their mild sweetness comes from a compound called polypodoside.



Common Horsetail

Equisetum arvense

Equisetum is a "living fossil," the only surviving member of a subclass common in late Paleozoic forests and the only plant family to still reproduce by spores. The rhizomes produce separate greenery and brown spore-bearing shoots in spring.



Scouring Rush

Equisetum hyemale

This reed-like member of the horsetail family forms dense, spreading colonies in seasonally flooded areas. It is easy to identify by its jointed stems; these can be used to scrub pots or construct reeds for clarinets and saxophones.



Western Trillium

Trillium ovatum

There are two local species out of about 50 native trillium species in temperate regions of N. America and Asia. The flower of the Western Trillium starts out white but turns pink or purple as it matures. Ants collect the seeds and are important in seed dispersal.