



## Native Plant ID Key

**This dichotomous key will help you identify some of the native plants you will see here at SHADOW Lake Nature Preserve. Follow the key as you examine closely a plant in the forest. This key does not include every plant you may see, but it is a good place to start.**

- 1a. The plant has needles or needle-like sprays (is a tree).....go to 2
- 1b. The plant has leaves or fronds.....go to 5
- 2a. Tree has flat sprays that are scaly, and the bark is reddish and stringy.....**Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)**
- 2b. Tree has true needles..... go to 3
- 3a. The needles are arranged in packets and/ or are stiff and sharp to touch.....go to 14
- 3b. The needles are soft to touch and arranged individually.....go to 4
- 4a. The needles are flat on either side of branch.....**Western Hemlock (*tsuga heterophylla*)**
- 4b. The needles are wrapped around the branch like a bottle brush.....**Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)**
- 5a. The plant has leaves.....go to 6
- 5b. The plant has fronds.....go to 13
- 6a. The plant is a tree (branching from one trunk) .....go to 7
- 6b. The plant is a shrub (many stalks and shorter than 6 ft).....go to 10
- 7a. The leaves are elliptical and have a pointed tip..... go to 8
- 7b. They leaves have lobes or are palmate.....go to 9
- 8a. Leaves have smooth edges and the bark is gray with braided pattern....**Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)**
- 8b. Leaves have serrated edges bark is smooth and covered with lichens.....**Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)**
- 9a. Leaves are large with five points, bark is grey-brown and hosts ferns.....**Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)**
- 9b. Leaves are smaller than your hand with 7-9 points, grey/green bark.....**Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)**
- 10a. The shrub has thick, tough, waxy leaves or stalk has spines....go to 11
- 10b. The shrub has soft, delicate leaves.....go to 12
- 11a. Has a spiny stalk and large, tough leaves (greater than 5 inches).....,....**Devils Club (*opoloapanaz horridum*)**
- 11b. Shurb has thick, waxy leaves (evergreen leaves)..... go to 18
- 12a. Shrub is tree-like with small, smooth edged leaves are wiry branches... **Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)**
- 12b. Bush-like shrub with toothed, compound leaves of three..... **Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)**



- 13a. The fern is bushy with dark green fronds that come out of center..... **Sword fern** (*Polystichum munitum*)  
 13b. The fern is triangular with airy, green fronds that extend from a stem.....**Bracken fern** (*Pteridium aquilinum*)  
 14a. Needles in packets of 5 with white stripe..... **Western White Pine** (*Pinus monticola*)  
 14b. Needles are arranged individually around branch and are spiny to touch.....**Sitka Spruce** (*Picea sitchensis*)

**Shadow Lake Nature Preserve: Tree List**

Courtesy of Seattle Urban Nature

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	big-leaf maple
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	red alder
<b><i>Castanea sp.</i></b>	chestnut
<b><i>Crataegus monogyna</i>**</b>	one-seed hawthorn
<i>Frangula purshiana</i>	casacara
<b><i>Ilex aquifolium</i>*</b>	English holly
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce
<i>Pinus monticola</i>	western white pine
<i>trichocarpa</i>	black cottonwood
<b><i>Prunus avium</i>**</b>	sweet cherry
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	bitter cherry
<b><i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>*</b>	cherry laurel
<b><i>Prunus sp.</i></b>	horticultural cherry species
<b><i>Prunus X pugetensis</i></b>	<i>Prunus</i> × <i>pugetensis</i>
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<b><i>Quercus sp.</i></b>	oak
<b><i>Sorbus aucuparia</i></b>	European mountain ash
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	western red cedar
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	western hemlock

**Shadow Lake Nature Preserve: Shrub List**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red-osier dogwood
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	beaked hazelnut
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal
<i>Kalmia microphylla</i>	bog laurel
<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Labrador tea
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	twinberry



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<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	low Oregon grape
<i>Malus fusca</i>	western crabapple
<i>Menziesia ferruginea</i>	rusty menziesia
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Indian plum
<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	devil's club
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Lewis' mock-orange
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i>	wild gooseberry
<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	swamp gooseberry
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka rose
<b><i>Rubus armeniacus</i>*</b>	Himalayan blackberry
<b><i>Rubus laciniatus</i>*</b>	evergreen blackberry
<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	blackcap
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	salmonberry
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	creeping blackberry
<i>Salix geyeriana</i>	Geyer willow
<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	Hooker's willow
<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow
<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Sitka willow
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	red elderberry
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	hardhack
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	small cranberry
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	red huckleberry

### Shadow Lake Nature Preserve: Ferns, Forbs and Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agrostis sp.</i>	bentgrass
<b><i>Agrostis stolonifera</i></b>	creeping bentgrass
<i>Bromus vulgaris</i>	Columbia brome
<i>Carex deweyana</i>	Dewey sedge
<i>Carex hendersonii</i>	Henderson's sedge
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	slough sedge
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	tufted hairgrass



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<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	blue wildrye
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	tall mannagrass
<b><i>Holcus lanatus</i></b>	velvetgrass
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	common woodrush
<i>Luzula parviflora</i>	small-flowered woodrush
<i>Melica subulata</i>	Alaska oniongrass
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	woolgrass
<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	small-seeded bulrush
<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	vanilla leaf
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	baneberry
<b><i>Ajuga reptans</i></b>	common bugle
<i>Angelica genuflexa</i>	kneeling angelica
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goatsbeard
<i>Asarum caudatum</i>	wild ginger
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	ladyfern
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	deer fern
<b><i>Cardamine hirsuta</i></b>	hairy bittercress
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	small enchanter's nightshade
<b><i>Cirsium arvense</i>*</b>	Canada thistle
<b><i>Cirsium vulgare</i>*</b>	bull thistle
<i>Claytonia sibirica</i>	Siberian miner's lettuce
<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	western bleedingheart
<b><i>Digitalis purpurea</i></b>	foxglove
<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>	wood fern
<b><i>Epilobium ciliatum</i></b>	fringed willowherb
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	giant horsetail
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<b><i>Geranium robertianum</i>*</b>	herb Robert
<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>	bigleaved avens
<b><i>Glechoma hederacea</i>**</b>	ground ivy
<i>Goodyera oblongifolia</i>	western rattlesnake plantain
<b><i>Hedera helix</i>*</b>	English ivy
<i>Hydrophyllum tenuipes</i>	Pacific waterleaf
<b><i>Lapsana communis</i></b>	nipplewort
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	twinflower
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	orange honeysuckle



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<b><i>Lunaria annua</i></b>	annual honesty
<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	northern bugleweed
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	skunk cabbage
<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	false lily-of-the-valley
<b><i>Mentha arvensis</i></b>	wild mint
<i>Monesus uniflora</i>	single delight
<b><i>Mycelis muralis</i></b>	wall-lettuce
<b><i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>**</b>	marsh forget-me-not
<i>Nemophila parviflora</i>	smallflower nemophila
<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	water parsley
<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>	sweet cicely
<i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i>	licorice fern
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	sword fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken fern
<b><i>Ranunculus repens</i>**</b>	creeping buttercup
<b><i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i></b>	water cress
<b><i>Rumex crispus</i></b>	curly dock
<b><i>Rumex obtusifolius</i></b>	bitter dock
<i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i>	blue skullcap
<b><i>Senecio jacobaea</i>*</b>	tansy ragwort
<b><i>Solanum dulcamara</i>*</b>	deadly nightshade
<i>Stachys chamissonis</i> var. <i>cooleyae</i>	hedgenettle
<i>Stellaria calycantha</i>	northern starwort
<i>Stellaria crispa</i>	crisp sandwort
<b><i>Stellaria media</i></b>	chickweed
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	clasping twistedstalk
<b><i>Taraxacum officinale</i></b>	dandelion
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	fringecup
<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	foamflower
<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>	piggy-back plant
<i>Trientalis borealis</i> ssp. <i>latifolia</i>	starflower
<i>Trillium ovatum</i>	trillium
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle
<i>Veronica americana</i>	American Speedwell



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<b><i>Veronica officinalis</i></b>	common gypsyweed
<b><i>Vicia sativa</i></b>	garden vetch
<i>Viola sempervirens</i>	evergreen violet
<i>Viola sp.</i>	violet

**BOLD** indicates non-native species