

Newspapers In Education and the Washington State Fair present

BIG in The Present: EXPLORING OUR NW OUTDOORS

At The Washington State Fair’s NW Outdoors exhibit, you can visit many displays highlighting the resources and outdoor recreation of the Pacific Northwest, including displays by the Native Plant Society and Washington Council of Trout Unlimited. Let’s take a look at some of the plants and fish native to the Pacific Northwest.

NATIVE PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

A native plant is a plant not introduced to an area by humans. There is a wide range of plants native to the Pacific Northwest, the region defined as Washington, Oregon, most of Idaho and parts of Montana, California, British Columbia and Alaska. What conditions make plants flourish in the Pacific Northwest and what makes our native plants so unique? Our region typically has warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters, so our native plants have evolved and adapted to these conditions. Here are a few of the Pacific Northwest’s most loved native plants.



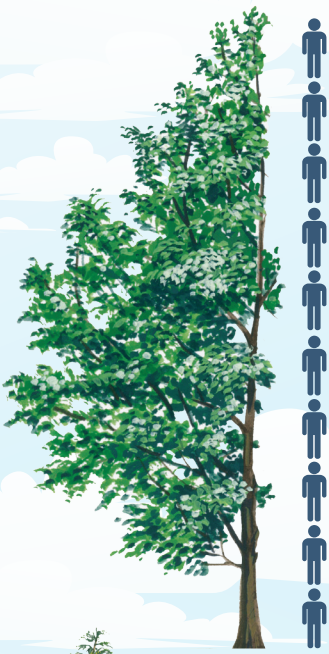
Douglas fir

This is one of the tallest trees and a popular Christmas tree. Douglas firs rank number one in the U.S. for total volume of timber, lumber production and the production of veneer for plywood. Douglas firs are also used by animals. Some rodents and birds eat the seeds inside the Douglas fir cones while white-tailed deer eat the foliage and twigs in the winter.



Beach Strawberry

The word “strawberry” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “streawbridge” referring to the way strawberries strew their runners on the ground. The beach strawberry has white flowers and grows in patches in the spring and summer.



Red Alder

The red alder is also known as the Oregon, Western or Pacific Coast alder and is the most common hardwood in the Pacific Northwest. Red alders reach an average height of 60 feet, or the height of about 10 people! Like the Douglas fir, the Red Alder is popular in lumber production. It is also used for fiber-based products including paper and tissues. In Washington, it’s a popular surface for smoking salmon.

NATIVE TREES AT THE WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

Say hi to our nine-foot-tall carving of Big Washington made of Western red cedar near the fountain at Gold Gate.

Visit the NW Woodworkers Exhibition to view items built from Alaska yellow cedar, Madrona, Douglas fir, Big Leaf maple and Sitka spruce. You’ll also find three large columns wrapped with Douglas fir in the NW Woodworkers Exhibition in the Pavilion. Lastly, don’t miss the woodcarving exhibit in Hobby Hall!



Visit the Washington Native Plant Society at www.wnps.org to learn more.



The Washington state tree is the western hemlock, a type of evergreen tree. You can see our state tree in the NW Outdoors building.

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DON'T MISS THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS AT NW OUTDOORS

- Mt. Rainier National Park
- National Wildlife Federation
- Nisqually Land Trust
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Partners for Parks
- Pierce Conservation District
- Puget Sound Christmas Tree Association
- Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation
- Rainier to Ruston (R 2 R)
- SBK Recycle
- Skookum Archers Club and Range
- Tacoma Water
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Volksports Association
- Washington Council of Trout Unlimited
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Washington State Society of American Foresters
- Washington State Trappers Association, Inc.
- Washingtonian’s for Wildlife Conservation

TROUT OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Food and Habitat

Several types of trout including the bull trout, cutthroat trout and rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Northwest. All trout need clean food and water to survive and most live in streams. The land surrounding the streams is called a watershed. It is important that the watersheds are clean. Picture a mountain from which water flows down a stream into a valley. The mountainsides are the watersheds of the stream.

Trout mostly eat smaller animals such as insects and tiny fish. Some trout even eat small animals such as mice that fall into a stream or lake. Flies are one of the most common foods for trout. Think of the fishing lures you may have seen made to look like flies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trout have an amazing sense of smell that enables them to find their way home and sniff out chemicals in the water. But, their vision is limited. They can see well straight on but not to the sides. No wonder bait looks like blurry flies and minnows to trout! Visit the free kids catch-and-release fishing exhibit and Washington Council of Trout Unlimited to learn more.

MODEL A WATERSHED

You can model a watershed with your hands. If you have a small spray bottle simply cup your hand and spray water in the palm of your hand. How is the shape of your hand and the way the water flows similar to a watershed and streams? What would happen if your hand were dirty? How does that relate to the importance of clean water in a watershed?

