



# Bird-friendly Native Ground Covers and Perennials for the Pacific Northwest




## **Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*)**

Trailing, deciduous vine with pink flowers and red fruits. Grows to 20', sun to shade, drought tolerant. Can climb, or use as groundcover.



Hummingbirds like the flowers. Fruit eaten by grouse, pheasants, flickers, robins, thrushes, bluebirds, waxwings, grosbeaks, finches, and juncos. Twining habit creates nest spots for small birds.



## **Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)**

A favored quick-growing groundcover with ever-green, leathery leaves covering trailing branches. Winter leaves are burgundy. The white to pink, urn-shaped flowers are followed by vibrant red berries. Likes dry sun, good for steep banks.



The berries are consumed by ruffed grouse, band-tailed pigeons, evening grosbeaks, sparrows, and other ground-feeding birds.



## **Alpine strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)**

Deciduous strawberry with small, delicious fruit. Light green, sharply toothed, clover-like leaves. With long runners, it spreads easily to make a nice ground cover for shady areas.



Robins, towhees, pine grosbeaks, waxwings, grouse, and children love the fruit.



## **Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*)**

Delicate, deeply cut leaves and pendant, pink to purple fragrant flowers. Likes shady, moist areas and makes an excellent understory plant and groundcover.



Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds. Foliage hosts aphids, which are eaten by yellow warblers and other birds.



## **Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)**

A graceful woodland perennial that grows 3-6' tall and quickly spreads. Several erect stems support long plumes of tiny white drooping flowers that bloom from May through July. Needs some shade and moisture.



The flowers attract hummingbirds, mourning cloak butterflies, and native wasp and bees. Small birds eat the seeds if left overwinter.



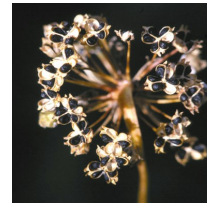
**Western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)**  
Spring/early summer blooming perennial to 3' tall, with showy reddish-orange and yellow flowers. Grows in moist, sunny to partially shaded sites. Easily grown from seed.



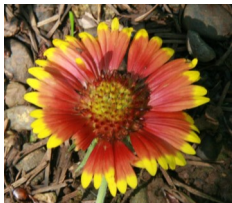
Flowers are often visited by hummingbirds. The seeds are eaten by sparrows, juncos, and finches.



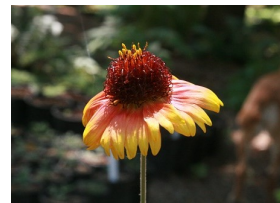
**Nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*)**  
Pink to rose flower clusters nod downward like little lanterns. Blooms July - August. The grassy leaves remain green throughout flowering. The onion odor is strong. Prefers good drainage and full sun. Mature papery seed capsules release hard black seeds.



Source of nectar for hummingbirds. The nodding habit of the flowers favors bees for pollination.



**Blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*)**  
Erect, simple or widely branching stems 4-24" tall with 1-3" showy yellow and orange flowers, followed by firm bristles on the round receptacles. Prefers dry, open, sandy soils.



In areas where goldfinches are present, gardeners should leave some spent flower heads for the birds.



**Penstemon**  
Several species are native to the Pacific Northwest, growing in various habitats with red, purple, blue, pink, or white flowers. They bloom profusely for most or all of the summer.



Attractive to bees, butterflies, and/or birds. Desirable forage for deer and birds either as herbage or seed. Provide cover for small bird species. Hummingbirds love the flowers.



**Fringe cup (*Tellima grandiflora*)**  
A woodlander that likes damp, open ground. From the round, scalloped leaves 2' wands emerge, each bearing 50 or more 1/2" cream or greenish flowers with pale fringe. As the fragrant flowers mature, the fringe turns rosy pink. An excellent ground cover as it spreads easily and looks fabulous en masse.



Supports hummingbirds and various bird species and is beneficial to many insects. Disliked by deer.



More Information is available at  
Audubon Plants for Birds:  
<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>  
Washington Native Plant Society  
<http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/index.html>  
North Cascades Audubon Society  
[northcascadesaudubon.org](http://northcascadesaudubon.org)

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