

Photo Credit: Nate Miller

Portland Plant List | Overview

Acer circinatum
Native Plants List



Photo Credit: Dominic Maze

Iris pseudacorus
Nuisance Plants List



Photo Credit: Dominic Maze



Ribes sanguineum
Native Plants List



Photo Credit: Dominic Maze

Iris tenax
Native Plants List

The Portland Plant List provides a user-friendly guide to plant species found in Portland and the metropolitan region. The Portland Plant List is comprised of two lists and supporting information: the Native Plants List and the Nuisance Plants List. Both plant lists are integral to the City of Portland’s natural resource protection programs and invasive species management strategy.

- The Native Plants List provide information about associated habitats, flowering seasons, and whether some of these plants pose additional wildfire risk. Only plants from the Native Plants List may be planted in Environmental Overlay Zones and Pleasant Valley Natural Resource Overlay Zone resource areas. Native plants may be required in the Greenway Overlay Zones as well, and are encouraged throughout the city.
- The Nuisance Plants List identifies species that threaten the health and vitality of native plant and animal communities, humans, and the economy. Nuisance plants are ranked to indicate how invasive or widespread the plant is in Portland. Plants on the Nuisance Plant List may not be planted in any of the overlay zones identified above or in any City-required landscaped areas or mitigation sites.
- The Portland Plant List also includes a Required Eradication List of plants that must be removed if discovered anywhere in the city. These plants are not commonly found in Portland at this time, and must be eradicated if discovered to keep them from spreading.

The Portland Plant List was first established in 1991, with a number of updates since. Key updates over that time include the addition of the prohibited plants list in 1994, substantial restructuring of the document in 1997, and a sizeable increase in the number of nuisance and native plants in 2004. In 2005, incorporation of nuisance plants in City-required landscaping was prohibited.

Information included in the Portland Plant List was further expanded in 2010, with the addition of background information on plant species and the application of rankings for each plant on the Nuisance Plants List. At that

time, the Portland Plant List was changed from an ordinance to an administrative rule, providing a more streamlined process for reviewing and updating the Portland Plant List. In addition, the Nuisance Plants List and the Prohibited Plant List were consolidated to provide greater clarity.

The most recent update occurred in 2011. At that time, several species were added to the Native Plants List and an area-specific plant list was developed for the Portland International Airport, to ensure consistency with the adopted Airport Futures Project. A plant index for both Native and Nuisance Species was incorporated into the document, as well as information about native tree growth rates in accordance with the adopted Citywide Tree Project.

Proposed 2016 updates to the Portland Plant List include the following:

- Removal of 16 species from the Native Plants List.
- Addition of eight species and reassessment and update of three species ranks in the Nuisance Plants List.
- Corrections to plant nomenclature to reference current taxonomy.
- Updates to the Portland Plant List Appendix A, History, to incorporate recent modifications.
- Miscellaneous corrections (e.g., removal of duplicative language, addressing unintended omissions) may also be made.

Staff also proposes that the South Waterfront Greenway Native Plant List and Nuisance Plant List be added to the PPL Area-Specific Plant Lists upon City Council's deletion of the South Waterfront plant lists from Title 33, Portland Zoning Code (see 33.510.253, Greenway Overlay Zone in South Waterfront Subdistrict, Subsection E.5.f, Landscaping), and associated direction. Amendments may also include miscellaneous corrections (e.g., removal of duplicative language, addressing unintended omissions).

In developing this update proposal, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability staff, in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Services, collaborated with and considered input from a variety of City bureaus, including Portland Parks and Recreation, the Portland Water Bureau, Portland's Bureau of Development Services, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation. The proposal also reflects review and input from experts from academia, public agencies, and private consultants who are not employed with the City of Portland. While specific comments varied among independent experts, the proposed updates are largely in agreement with input from expert reviewers and have the concurrence of City bureaus.

Read the Portland Plant List 2016 Update Staff Report <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/50493>

And the current Portland Plant List <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/473164>



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