



Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP)

DIY NATIVE LANDSCAPING MATERIALS PURCHASING GUIDE

January 2020

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Purpose

This guide is provided to help HIP participants find and select materials for their native landscaping project that meet HIP requirements.

Purchasing Tips

Bring this guide and the HIP native plant list with you when selecting materials for your HIP project. Here are some general tips for purchasing materials that will help make the reimbursement process go smoothly.

- Purchase materials for your HIP project in separate transactions from non-HIP materials. This makes receipts much easier to process and speeds up your reimbursement.
- Make sure plant names are clearly written on your receipt. Handwritten receipts can be hard to decipher. Ask that the full scientific name (*Genus species*) be used on the receipt or at minimum the common name that matches the HIP native plant list. If possible, save the name tags from your plants.
- Make sure receipts show the number of plants purchased.
- Mulch receipts need to show the supplier name, mulch name/type correlating to approved low-phosphorus list, and number of yards purchased.

DIY Native Landscaping Supplier Directory

The following local businesses joined the HIP Supplier Directory in September 2017 and committed to carrying native plants, low-phosphorus mulch, and rock materials eligible for reimbursement through HIP. Materials in stock may vary. Call to confirm availability.

	Plants	Mulch		Rock Materials			
	Native Plants	Hog Fuel	Low Phosphorus Mulch	Pea Gravel	River Rock	Shoreline Gravel	Washed Drain Rock
Cloud Mountain Farm Center 6906 Goodwin Rd, Everson, WA 98247 www.cloudmountainfarmcenter.org , (360) 966-5859 info@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org Hilary Graham, (360) 966-5859 x1024, hilary@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org	X						
Cowden Gravel & Ready Mix 3462 Cedarville Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226 www.cowdininc.com , (360) 592-4200 Jeff VanBeek, jeff@cowdeninc.com			X	X	X	X	X
Fourth Corner Nurseries 5652 Sand Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226 www.fourthcornernurseries.com , (360) 592-2250 sales@fourthcornernurseries.com Shelley Weisberg, shelley@fourthcornernurseries.com	X						

	Plants	Mulch		Rock Materials			
	Native Plants	Hog Fuel	Low Phosphorus Mulch	Pea Gravel	River Rock	Shoreline Gravel	Washed Drain Rock
GrowSource 2200 Division Street (Corner of Hannegan and Division), Bellingham, WA 98226 www.growsource.com, (360) 318-8554 growsource@msn.com Doug Vander Pol or Todd Beld			X	X			X
North Hill Resources 651 North Hill Blvd, Burlington, WA 98233 www.northhillresources.com, (360) 757-1866 info@northhillresources.com Clint Carpenter, (360) 757-1866, clintc@northhillresources.com		X	X	X			
Northstar Stone and Landscape Supply 4840 Pacific Highway, Bellingham, WA 98226 www.northstarstone.net, (360) 383-9090 info@northstarstone.net Jared Loveness			X	X	X	X	X
Perry Pallet 6940 Delta Line Rd, Ferndale, WA 98248 www.perrypallet.com, (360) 366-5239 solutions@perrypallet.com Jeffrey Balvanz, (360) 366-5239 x101			X				

	Plants	Mulch		Rock Materials			
	Native Plants	Hog Fuel	Low Phosphorus Mulch	Pea Gravel	River Rock	Shoreline Gravel	Washed Drain Rock
Plantas nativa 315 E. Champion Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360-715-9655 17994 State Route 536, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273, 360-416-3399 www.plantasnativa.com, (360) 715-9655, sales@plantasnativa.com Andrew "Bay" Renaud, (360) 303-8915,	X	X	X				
Urban Forest Nursery 15119 McLean Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98274 www.urbanforestnursery.com, (360) 428-5810, sales@urbanforestnursery.com Jim Barborinas, (360) 428-5810, sales@urbanforestnursery.com	X						
Wells Nursery Retail 1201 Blodgett Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98274 http://wellsnurseries.com/retail-main/ , (360) 336-6544, r.ragusa@wellsnurseries.com Madeline DeLia, (360) 336-6544, madeline@wellsnurseries.com	X						

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Mulch

Mulch and compost products are generally good for soil and plants; however, they have the potential to contain excess phosphorus from decomposed organic materials and could leach phosphorus into water leaving your property and entering Lake Whatcom. The City of Bellingham periodically tests the level of phosphorus in locally available woody mulches. Mulches containing less than 1,400 ug/L (alternatively, parts per billion [ppb]) of soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) are approved for use in the Lake Whatcom watershed and for reimbursement as part of your HIP project.

Select mulch for your HIP project from one of the mulches on the following “COB Approved Mulches for HIP & Use in the Lake Whatcom Watershed” list. There is overlap between the approved mulch list and the supplier directory on page 2. Please make sure you are purchasing one of the approved mulches from the low-phosphorus City of Bellingham approved list on pages 8 and 9.

Tips on Selecting Mulch

- Larger, coarser mulch will last longer before breaking down.
- Smaller, finer mulch will break down faster and help improve your soil if it is clay or lacking in organic material.
- Visit a mulch supplier and look at the different mulches on the approved list to help you decide which will work best for your project.
- Save money and the life of your mulch by using a coarser, cheaper mulch as a base layer (~1-3 inches) and using a finer, more attractive mulch on top.

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City of Bellingham Approved Mulches for HIP & Use in the Lake Whatcom Watershed

Updated 1/13/2020

Source	Product Name	Address	Phone	Website
Perry Pallet	Appearance Grade Chip Red Mulch Light Brown Dark Brown Black Mulch Playground Chip Bedding Chip	6940 Delta Line Road, Ferndale	360-366-5239	www.perrypallet.com
Lenz Enterprises	Lenz Mulch Cedar Chips Black Bark Mulch Lenz Medium Bark	Locally Available By Delivery Only	360-629-2933	www.greenblenz.com
GrowSource	Cedar Chips Medium Bark Black Mulch Fine Mulch	2200 Division Street, Bellingham	360-318-8554	www.growsource.com
North Star Stone & Landscape Supply	Medium Bark Fine Bark	4840 Pacific Hwy. Bellingham	360-383-9090	www.northstar-stone.com
Cowden Gravel	Fine Bark	3462 Cedarville Rd. Bellingham	360-592-4200	www.cowdeninc.com

Source	Product Name	Address	Phone	Website
Green Earth Technology	Hog Fuel 4" Minus Medium Wood Mulch	774 Meadowlark Rd. Lynden	360-354-4936	www.greenearthtechnology.com
Salazar's Nursery	Cedar Play Chips Small Nugget Bark	1121 W. Division St. Mt. Vernon.	360-428-2896	www.salazarsnursery.com
Plantas Nativa	Black Mulch Hog Fuel	210 E. Laurel St. Bellingham	360-715-9655	www.plantasnativa.com
Starkenbergs Shavings	Cedar Chips Hog Fuel Medium Fir Mulch	1546 Slater Rd, Ferndale	360-384-5487	
North Hill Resources	Black Mulch Double Grind Hog Fuel	651 N. Hill Blvd. Burlington	360-757-1866	www.northhillresources.com
Lautenbach Recycling	Erosion Control Mulch Screened Erosion Control Mulch Screened+Colored BeautyScape	13084 Ball Road, Mt. Vernon	360-757-4000	www.lautenbachrecycling.com/products
Skagit Soils	Hog Fuel	13260 Ball Road Mt. Vernon	360-424-0199	www.Skagitsoilsinc.com

Native Plants

Plant names

Many plants have similar names and many native plants have been cultivated and hybridized to take advantage of a particular trait. Here are some general tips to understanding plant names.

- **Scientific Names** - Each plant species has a unique two-part scientific name: *Genus species*. This is the most reliable way to know that the plant you are buying is a true native. For example, *Ribes sanguineum* is red flowering current. Genus is like a last name, it refers to many different related plants. Species is like a first name, it refers only to one particular plant. Please note that sometimes nursery staff will only use the Genus name on labels and receipts. When buying plants for your HIP project, use the HIP native plant list to confirm with nursery staff that you have selected a reimbursable native plant, and ask them to write down the full scientific name including species on your receipts.
- **Common Names** - Plants can have one or more common name and frequently the same name is used for different plants. For example, bluebells, goldenrod, bluegrass, and daisy all are common names used for many different unique species. When buying plants for your HIP project, check with nursery staff to confirm the common name they are using matches a native species on the HIP native plant list. Common names on receipts are acceptable if they match the name used on the HIP list.
- **Cultivars** - Cultivars are plant varieties produced in cultivation by selective breeding. For example, cultivars may be bred to be a different size, color, or disease resistant. Native plant cultivars are reimbursable through HIP. Their scientific name will match the native *Genus species* with an additional 'Name' in single quotes. For example, a common native plant cultivar is *Thuja plicata* 'Excelsa', a variety of the native Western Red cedar bred to have a much smaller mature size. Native plant cultivars are HIP reimbursable.
- **Hybrids** - Hybrid plants are grown from seed that has resulted from cross pollinating two different plant varieties. Hybrids are grown to select for specific attributes from each of the initial varieties. Hybrid plant names typically have an "x" in them. For example, *Hebe x lewisii* 'Lewisii'. Hybrids are not reimbursable through HIP with the exception of two dogwood hybrids that are allowed because the true native is not often available (see next section).


Reimbursable Plants

HIP will reimburse for plants native to Washington State and their cultivars plus two native dogwood hybrids: Venus Dogwood and Eddy's White Wonder Dogwood (disease resistant). To confirm that a plant is reimbursable through HIP, check that name matches the name listed on the HIP native plant list. If you are interested in a plant not included on the list, HIP staff use the following standard to determine if a plant is eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible plants must be shown as native to Washington State on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) PLANTS Database, located online at <http://plants.usda.gov>. See the example on the following page for *Ribes sanguineum* (red flowering currant).


***Ribes sanguineum* Pursh**
redflower currant


Show All



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About our new maps





Symbol: RISA

■ Native

■ Native, No County Data

■ Introduced

■ Introduced, No County Data

■ Both

■ Both, No County Data

Absent/Unreported

Native Status:

L48
 AK
 HI
 PR
 VI
 NAV
 CAN
 GL
 SPM
 NA

General Information

Symbol:	RISA
Group:	Dicot
Family:	Grossulariaceae
Duration:	Perennial
Growth Habit:	Shrub
Native Status:	CAN N L48 N
Characteristics	
Fact Sheet (pdf) (doc)	
Data Source and Documentation	

Tips on Selecting Plants

Here are suggestions to help you select plants that will work well for your planting area(s):

- Use the King County planting plans that match the conditions of your planting area (dry/most/wet soils; sunny/part shade/full shade sun exposure).
- Take the HIP plant list and visit local nurseries and demonstration sites (see below) to see what the plants look like and decide which ones you like.
- Ask for help selecting plants from the native plant expert at a site visit.
- Select plants that will provide a variety of heights, shapes, and bloom times that match the soil conditions and sun exposure for that planting area.
- Select groups of plants with similar water needs to avoid over or under watering plants.
- Be sure to include evergreen plants for year-round color and soil protection.
- Consider the mature plant size to ensure your new plant has the room it needs to grow.

Native Plant Demonstration Gardens

Native plant demonstration gardens are a great way to view native plants and get inspired to use native plants in your landscaping. Here are two native plant gardens you can visit to see plants and learn more about what plants are naturally associated together.

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) has a native plant demonstration site at their office and work center. Enter off Bakerview Road and park on your right. The garden is to the left. Continue to the office or call ahead to ask for assistance.

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
3057 E. Bakerview Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 715-0283
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Washington Native Plant Society Salal Chapter Native Plant Garden is located immediately south of the Master Gardener Display Garden at the WSU NW Research Center on Memorial Highway, west of Mount Vernon. The garden is a half-acre of native plants grown together in their natural habitat associations. The native plant garden is but one of many demonstration gardens at this site.

Salal Native Plant Garden
16650 State Route 536
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Open from dawn to dusk 7 days a week

Local Native Plant Sales

Several local organizations host annual native plant sales where inexpensive native plants can be purchased.



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This sale is held late March or early April at the Plant Materials Center in Bow and includes a variety of native trees and shrubs. Contact Skagit Conservation District at (360) 428-4313 or skagitcd@skagitcd.org. Check their website for details:

http://skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales



WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

This sale is held the first or second weekend in May at Fairhaven Village Green in Bellingham. Features native potted plants. Contact Allan Richardson, Koma Kulshan Chapter Chair at (360) 733-5477 or asrichardson5@gmail.com. Check their Facebook page for more details: <https://www.facebook.com/kkchapterwnps/>



WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This sale is held late March at the Whatcom Community College in Bellingham. Over 40 species of native tree and shrub bare-root seedlings and perennial plants. Contact Emily Hirsch, Natural Resource Specialist at (360) 526-2381 x114 or ehirsch@whatcomcd.org. Check their website for updates:

<http://www.whatcomcd.org/plant-sale>



WSU MASTER GARDENERS

This sale is held at Hovander Homestead Park in Ferndale each spring and includes a selection of native trees and shrubs along with a variety of other vegetable, herb, and flower plants. Contact Beth Chisholm at (360) 778-5811 or beth.chisholm@wsu.edu.

Check their Facebook page for sale details:

<https://www.facebook.com/whatcomMG/>

Note: Conservation District Plant Sales - CD plant sales are always held in the spring when conservation grade, bare root plant materials are available from the nurseries. Several other CD sales occur in the spring, including Snohomish and King CD's. All CD's are independent organizations and each holds their sale on different dates, offers their own list of available species, and sets their own prices. These sales are a great way to get low cost, native plant material in the spring.

Rock Materials for Dry Creekbeds

Rock materials may be used instead of mulch for areas defined on your HIP plan as "Dry Creekbed" areas. Rock materials are meant to be used for accent and interest features as described on page 8 of the HIP DIY Native Landscaping Handbook. Gravel patios, walkways, and fire pits are examples of non-reimbursable uses of rock materials.

Rock must conform to one of the following specifications in order to be reimbursable. Check with your rock supplier or ask for HIP Staff help before purchasing rock to ensure that it will qualify. Using non-qualifying rock could result in the need for additional mitigation or reduction in reimbursement available for your project.

Pea Gravel: Clean, well-graded fine aggregate less than 3/8" in diameter and containing less than 2.5% fine material as determined by sieve analysis. Materials shall be washed thoroughly to remove clay, loam, alkali, organic matter, or other deleterious substances. Shall consist of screened sand, gravel, or other inert materials, or combinations thereof, and shall have hard, strong, durable particles free from adherent coatings and deleterious substances. *WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.1(2).*

[See gradation table below.](#)

River Rock (*River Rock Cobble*): Clean, uniformly graded aggregate 3" to 8" in diameter. All fines shall be screened from the aggregate within 1/4" tolerance. Material shall be washed. Shall consist of round rocks that may be varied in color, free of organic and inorganic debris and trash.

Shoreline Gravel (*Streambed Sediment*): Clean, well-graded aggregate less than 2- 1/2" in diameter and containing less than 9% fine material as determined by sieve analysis. Material shall be washed. Shall consist of naturally occurring water rounded aggregates and have hard, strong, sound, durable, fracture free pieces of igneous and metamorphic rock. Aggregate shall be free of weathered materials, seams of soft rock, any wood and other waste, and shall be free of any coating. Aggregates from quarries, ledge rock, and talus slopes are not acceptable. *WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.11(1).*

[See gradation table below.](#)

Washed Drain Rock (*Gravel Backfill for Drains or Gravel Backfill for Drywells*): Clean, well-graded, aggregate at least 3/4" in diameter and containing less than 0.5% fine material as determined by sieve analysis. Material shall be washed. Shall consist of crushed, processed, or naturally occurring granular material. It shall be free from various types of wood waste or other extraneous or objectionable materials. *WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.12(4) Gravel Backfill for Drains or 9-03.12(5) Gravel Backfill for Drywells.*

[See gradation table below.](#)

Material Gradations

Pea Gravel:

Sieve Size	Class 1 Percent Passing		Class 2 Percent Passing	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
3/8"	99	100	99	100
No. 4	95	100	95	100
No. 8	68	86		
No. 16	47	65	45	80
No. 30	27	42		
No. 50	9	20	10	30
No. 100	0	7	2	10
No. 200	0	2.5	0	2.5

WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.1(2)

Shoreline Gravel:

Sieve Size	Percent Passing
2 1/2"	99-100
2"	65-95
1"	50-85
No. 4	26-44
No. 40	16 max.
No. 200	5.0-9.0

All percentages are by weight.

WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.11(1)

Washed Drain Rock:

Sieve Size	Percent Passing
1"	99-100
3/4"	80-100
3/8"	0-40
No. 4	0-4
No. 200	0-2

WSDOT Standard Spec. 9-03.12(4)