

YYJ Pollinator Garden Guide



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES



The YYJ Pollinator garden is a buzzing center of biodiversity within the cultural landscape of the WSÁNEĆ territory. The garden was established to revitalize biodiversity within the Saanich Peninsula.

The airport constructed the garden in the fall of 2022 to raise awareness on the importance of native plants, native pollinators, and to honour the cultural context of the landscape. This project embodies a collective effort towards ecological stewardship and promoting pollinator conservation efforts.

The project was developed in partnership with non-profits, government, industry business and First Nations to align with the United Nations Aichi Biodiversity targets and the YYJ Sustainability Plan.

The area was historically a thriving Garry Oak meadow that supported a rich abundance of biodiversity, featuring grasslands, woodlands and camas wildflower fields.

Did you know that there are over 450 native bee species in British Columbia? Pollination services are essential for most plant species to reproduce. Native plants and pollinators have co-evolved to their landscape and climate over thousands of years which means they require little care and maintenance to thrive.

Over 2000 plants were planted within the 1200m² pollinator garden. The various species of plants and their flowering seasons provide cycles of nutrition and habitat for the pollinators.

YYJ conducted a pollinator monitoring survey of the garden space in 2023 to measure its impact. Several threatened Western Bumble Bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) were observed. This bumble bee species was once abundant in Western Canada but due to diseases, pesticides and habitat loss their populations have declined. We are delighted that native species are utilizing this pollinator corridor and hope it encourages others in the community to create their own pollinator gardens.



Meadow Flowers

Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Pollinator loving perennial with small white flowers. It has herbal, edible, and medicinal properties.

Flowering season: May-September

Growing conditions: Full sun, some shade tolerant

Benefits: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Woolly sunflower

Eriophyllum lanatum

Small yellow flowers are attractive to native bees.

Flowering season: April - July

Growing conditions: Full sun, well-drained soils, does well on rock walls or raised gardens

Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Western buttercup

Ranunculus occidentalis

A perennial with small, bright yellow flowers that commonly grow in Garry Oak meadows.

Flowering season: March - June

Growing conditions: Full sun - partial shade, well-drained soils

Benefits: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Meadow Flowers

Field chickweed *Cerastium arvense*

A mat-forming perennial with white flowers. Favoured in early spring by small native bees.

Flowering: April - June

Growing conditions: shallow soil, full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Entire-leaved gumweed *Grindelia stricta*

Perennial with yellow flowers that attracts pollinators. Cultural significance: These plants produce a sticky substance that was used as glue or chewing gum.

Flowering: June - November

Growing conditions: Full sun, dry soil

Benefit: Late bloomer, deer resistant, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Large leaved lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus*

A pollinator friendly perennial with purple flowers.

Flowering: March - May

Growing conditions: Prefers wet soils in winter and can tolerate dry soils in summer, full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Meadow Flowers

Self heal

Prunella vulgaris ssp.

Lanceolata

A perennial purple flower found in meadows and woodlands. It attracts many pollinators. This plant possesses many medicinal properties such as anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial.

Flowering: May - June

Growing conditions: Tolerant of full sun to full shade

Benefits: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Slimleaf onion

Allium applectens

The light pink flowering plant grows in specialized habitats that are wet in winter but completely dry in summer. The bulb of this plant was eaten by several indigenous groups, prepared raw or steamed.

Flowering: May - June

Growing conditions: Wet winters and dry summer soils

Benefits: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Sticky cinquefoil

Drymocallis grandulosa

This perennial found in meadows and woodlands. The small light-yellow flowers attract a diverse range of native bees.

Flowering: May - June

Growing conditions: Moist soil with partial shade to full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Meadow Flowers

Great Camas

Camassia leichtlinii ssp. *suksdorfii*

A purple perennial flower known for its star shape that grows in meadows. This plant holds high Indigenous significance as a food source. The bulbs take multiple years to establish strong roots to support the flower. Flowers only after 5-7 years maturity.

Flowering: April - June

Growing condition: Moist soils and full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Graceful cinquefoil

Potentilla gracilis var. *gracilis*

A perennial herb with small yellow flowers.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: Moist soils, along stream banks, thrives in various soil types.

Benefit: Drought resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Few-flowered shootingstar

Primula pauciflora var. *pauciflora*

A perennial pink flower with a pointed yellow tube, resembling a shooting star in flight. It grows in meadows and requires bees for special buzz pollination that can only be done by native bumblebees.

Flowering: April - May

Growing condition: Moist soils, full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Meadow Flowers

California aster *Symphyotrichum chilense*

A purple flowering perennial that blooms from late summer to fall.

Flowering: July - September

Growing condition: Full sun, drained soil

Benefit: Late blooms, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Canada goldenrod *Solidago lepida*

A hardy perennial flower that has tall dense clusters of yellow flowers. It is often found in disturbed areas, roadsides and fields but thrives in various soil types. This is a vital plant for pollinators, providing nectar as the growing season winds down. A long blooming flower and a pollinator favourite. Often confused with hay fever, its pollen is too heavy to be windborne, and the plant is generally non-allergenic.

Flowering: July - September

Growing condition: Mesic to wet soil, full sun

Benefit: Deer resistant, late bloomer, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Blue-eyed grass *Sisyrinchium idahoense*

A perennial wildflower despite its name, it belongs to the iris family. The plant has purple star-shaped flowers and grows in well-drained soils.

Flowering: May - July

Growing condition: Well-drained soil, full sun

Benefit: Late bloomer, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



Meadow Flowers

Fool's onion

Triteleia hyacinthina

A white flower that is not part of the onion family, ideally found in meadows or woodlands.

Flowering: May - July

Growing condition: Suited for sun and shade

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Fireweed

Chamerion angustifolium ssp. angustifolium

A perennial pink flower that is a bee favourite in mid-summer to early fall. Does well in meadows, thickets and woodland areas. Fireweed is known for its ability to quickly establish in cleared areas and recently burned land.

Flowering: June to September

Growing condition: Full sun to part shade

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Farewell-to-spring

Clarkia amoena

A large pink flower that forms low lying patches. It thrives in meadows and roadsides. It is highly attractive for pollinators like bees and butterflies. It gets its name as an indicator species of the seasonal change.

Flowering: May - July

Growing condition: dry, well-drained soils, full sun

Benefit: Early spring bloomer, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Meadow Flowers

Mountain sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale* var. *grandiflorum*

A sun loving perennial large yellow flower found in mountain regions, woodlands and meadows. Late season pollinator attractant.

Flowering: June - September

Growing condition: Full sun and moist soil

Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Shrubs/Bushes

Oceanspray *Holodiscus discolor*

A white flowering shrub that provides habitat for wildlife, pollinators and used in erosion control.

Flowering: June - July

Growing condition: dry, rocky soils, full sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant, erosion control



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Hardhack *Spiraea douglasii*

A shrub that grows in patches. The cylindrical-shaped pink flowers are attractive for bees. Local butterfly species lay their eggs on this plant.

Flowering: June - July

Growing condition: Full sun to partial shade, moist to wet soil

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Scouler's willow *Salix scouleriana*

The most drought-tolerant willow shrub of our region. The willow produces small, inconspicuous catkins that are an important early season food for pollinators. It is valued in restoration for stabilizing soil and providing wildlife habitat.

Flowering: March - April

Growing condition: moist soil, full to partial sun

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



Shrubs/Bushes

Pacific ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus

Large shrub with white clustering flowers that turn pink after flowering and the bark peels throughout the season. It is found moist habitats and helps with erosion control, wildlife habitat and food source for many pollinator species.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: full sun to partial shade, moist soil

Benefit: Erosion control, pollinator attractant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Grasses/Sedges

California oatgrass *Danthonia californica*

Low-growing, perennial bunch grass.
Flowering: May - July
Growing condition: Various conditions from shallow, well drained to wet, clay meadows
Benefit: Deer resistant, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Meadow barley *Hordeum brachyantherum*

A perennial, tufted grass of salt marshes and wetland habitats.
Flowering: June - July
Growing condition: Moist, full sun
Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant, salt tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Blue wildrye *Elymus glaucus*

A tall bunchgrass with blueish-green foliage that does well in meadows and woodlands.
Flowering: May - June
Growing condition: Full sun to partial shade, varying soil types
Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Grasses/Sedges

Tufted hairgrass *Deschampsia cespitosa*

A perennial bunchgrass with deer rigid foliage. It does well in wetlands, estuary and wet meadows.

Flowering: June - July

Growing condition: Full sun, moist to wet soils

Benefit: Salt tolerant, deer resistant, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

California brome *Bromus carinatus*

A tall, native meadow grass that has purple hues.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: Full sun to partial sun, deep soils

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Roemer's fescue *Festuca roemerii*

A medium height semi-evergreen bunchgrass with blueish-green blades. Local butterflies lay their eggs on this plant.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: Full sun, dry soil

Benefit: Butterfly host, deer resistant, drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



Grasses/Sedges

Junegrass

Koeleria macrantha

Medium height perennial bunchgrass with blue-green foliage. The plant does well in full sun and dry soils.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: Full sun, dry soil

Benefit: Drought tolerant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Hare sedge

Carex ovalis

This plant grows best in moist rich clay soils best in meadows. It has green foliage.

Flowering: June - July

Growing condition: Full sun, moist soils

Benefit: Deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery

Green-sheathed sedge

Carex feta

A perennial plant has lime green foliage and do best in sunny, wet meadows.

Flowering: June - July

Growing condition: Full sun, seasonally wet

Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES

Grasses/Sedges

Thick-headed sedge *Carex pachystachya*

This plant grows commonly in meadows and woodlands.

Flowering: May - June

Growing condition: Full sun, partial shade, wet soils

Benefit: Drought tolerant, deer resistant



Image: Satinflower Nursery



YYJ
ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES
ENVIRONNEMENTALES