

WHERE TO GET PLANTS AND SEEDS NATIVE TO SAN JUAN COUNTY – updated December 2018, San Juan County Land Bank

This list attempts to answer the question “where can I buy plants and seed native to San Juan County?”

There are a couple things to consider in selecting native plants. The first consideration is whether the species is actually native to San Juan County. A pretty good reference for determining this is the field guide “Wild Plants of the San Juan Islands” by Atkinson and Sharpe, which includes an appendix listing most native and non-native plants in the islands.

If you truly want to stay local, you’ll also want to find out the provenance of the plants or seed before purchasing. Provenance means the geographical origin. For example, great camas (*Camassia quamash*) is native to the San Juans. This species is also native to Oregon, Nevada, and California, but plants from different areas have different genetic traits, such as color. So if you want to conserve local diversity, sticking with a relatively local provenance is important. Many growers specializing in native plants list provenance on their website, or should be able to tell you.

The list below concentrates on suppliers that have at least some San Juan County or western Washington provenance plants. Let us know if we’ve left off an important supplier! (contact elizah@sjclandbank.org, 360-378-4402)

THE LIST

The Center for Natural Lands Management runs a conservation nursery with seed production for a number of species of San Juan County and the greater Olympic rainshadow area provenance. Contact nursery manager Sierra Smith, ssmith@cnlm.org, 360-480-6105

Fourth Corner Nursery is a well-established, wholesale native plant nursery in Whatcom County. They sell primarily bare-root stock of shrubs, trees, wetland plants, forbs. Much of their material is of western Washington provenance. fourthcornernurseries.com/ 360-592-2250

Heritage Seedlings in Oregon sells native seed wholesale, most of it of Willamette Valley provenance. Their website also has great information about site preparation and seeding. <http://www.heritageseedlings.com/> 503-585-9835

Inside Passage Seeds in Port Townsend sells wild-collected seeds from the Salish Sea region. insidepassageseeds.com 360-385-6114

The Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County holds an annual native plant sale in early spring, specializing in resales of purchased bare root trees and shrubs and as well as some container plants: <https://www.mgfsjc.org/>

Northwest Meadows based on Whidbey Island sells a regional wildflower mix and other native grass and wildflower seed. Some of their offerings are of Whidbey Island provenance. <https://northwestmeadows.com/>

Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center near Carnation grows a wide variety of Western Washington provenance container plants using organic and sustainable practices. <http://www.oxbow.org/> 425-788-1134 ext. 4

Plantas Nativas is a retail native plant nursery in Whatcom County, selling species native to western Washington. <http://www.plantasnativa.com/> 360-715-9655

The Plant Materials Center in Bow, Washington, sells bare-root shrubs and trees, some of western Washington provenance. <http://wacdpmc.org/home.html> 360-757-1094

The Salish Seeds Project is managed by the San Juan County Land Bank, and specializes in grasses and wildflowers of oak, prairie, and coastal habitats of San Juan County provenance. Plants and seed are grown primarily by special order. Contact nursery manager Eliza Habegger: elizah@sjclandbank.org or 360-378-4402