Bear Smart Landscaping

JANUARY 2025

Do your part to keep people and bears safe

Help prevent human-bear conflicts by designing Bear Smart landscapes that reduce wildlife attractants.

Be Bear Smart

Surrounded by parks and green spaces, Coquitlam is a desirable place to live—for both people and wildlife, including bears. As a Bear Smart community, Coquitlam shares a collective responsibility to minimize human-wildlife conflict. One simple step is choosing landscaping for your home or business that does not attract bears.

Bears are drawn to many plants commonly used in landscaping, especially those that produce fruits, berries, or nuts. To help prevent conflicts, consider planting Bear Smart varieties from the recommended list.

coquitlam.ca/BearSmart

Coquitlam

Bear Smart Plant Recommendations

Below is a list of plants that are ideal for Bear Smart landscaping, along with plants to avoid. While not exhaustive, the list is designed to help you choose plants that are less likely to attract bears. Remember that any plants with fruit, berries, or nuts may attract wildlife.

Plant Key

- **Genus:** Group of related plant species (e.g., Roses).
- **Species:** Specific plant within a genus (e.g., Prairie Rose)
- **spp.:** species plural: If spp. is found after a plant's botanical name, it includes all related species in listed genus (e.g. *Rubus* spp.).

- 💧 : Drought-tolerant—needs less water and thrives during water scarcity.
- 🔥 : Fire-resistant—does not catch fire easily, helping improve wildfire resilience.

Bear Smart Recommendations – Native

Trees – Deciduous

- Bigleaf maple, *Acer macrophyllum* 🔥
- Douglas maple, *Acer glabrum* 🔥
- Vine maple, *Acer circinatum* 💧 🔥
- Willow, *Salix* spp. 🔥
- Oregon Ash, *Fraxinus latifolia* 🔥
- Trembling aspen, *Populus tremuloide* 🔥
- Manitoba maple, *Acer negundo* 🔥
- Red alder, *Alnus rubra* 🔥
- Green alder, *Alnus viridis* 🔥
- Mountain alder, *Alnus incana* 🔥
- Paper birch, *Betula papyrifera* 🔥
- Low birch, *Betula pumila* 🔥

Trees – Conifers

- Cypress, *Chamaecyparis* spp.
- Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- Larch, *Larix* spp.
- Pine, *Pinus* spp.
- Spruce, *Picea* spp.
- True cedars, *Cedrus* spp.
- True firs, *Abies* spp.
- Western red cedar, *Thuja plicata*
- Western yew, *Taxus brevifolia*

Shrubs – Evergreen

- Alpine-Azalea, *Loiseleuria procumbens*
- Junipers, *Juniperus* spp.
- Mountain heather, *Phyllodoce* spp.
- Penstemon, *Penstemon* spp. 💧 🔥
- Rhododendron, *Rhododendron* spp. 🔥
- Snowbrush, *Ceanothus velutinous* 💧 🔥
- Oregon boxwood, *Paxistima myrsinites* 💧 🔥

Shrubs - Deciduous

- False azalea, *Mensiesia ferruginea*
- Mock orange, *Philadelphus lewisii* 🔥
- Oceanspray, *Holodiscus discolor* 🔥
- Pacific ninebark, *Physocarpus capitatus*
- Smooth sumac, *Rhus glabra* 💧 🔥
- Spirea, *Spiraea* 💧 🔥
- Cinquefoils, *potentilla* 💧 🔥
- Rabbitbrush, *ericameria nauseosa* 💧 🔥
- Purple clematis, *clematis occidentalis* 💧

Perennials and Ground Cover

- Aster, *Aster* spp. 🔥
- Bracken fern, *Pteridum aquilinum*
- Broadleaf stonecrop, *Sedum spathulifolium* 💧 🔥
- Common harebell/bluebell, *Campanula rotundifolia* 🔥
- Deer fern, *Blechnum spicant* 🔥
- Goat's beard, *Aruncus sylvester/ dioicus* 🔥
- Lupine, *Lupinus* spp. 🔥
- Pearly everlasting, *Anaphalis margaritacea* 💧 🔥
- Piggy-back plant, *Tolmiea menziesii* 🔥
- Red columbine, *Aquilegia Formosa* 🔥
- Redwood sorrel, *Oxalis oregana* 🔥
- Showy daisy, *Erigeron speciosus* 💧 🔥
- Sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*
- Yarrow, *Achillea* 💧 🔥
- Yellow marsh marigold, *Caltha palustris*
- Scarlet gilia, Ipomopsis aggregata 💧 🔥

Bear-Smart Landscaping Tips

- **Avoid Plants That Are Not Recommended:** Choose Bear Smart plants from the recommended list.
- **Replace Fruit Trees:** Consider swapping fruit trees with non-fruit-bearing species.
- **Control Blossoms and Harvest:** Power-wash spring blossoms to reduce fruit production. Remember to harvest fruit trees and vegetable gardens, and ensure fallen fruit is collected.
- **Minimize Shelter and Hiding Spaces:** Design landscaping with clear sightlines around doors, windows, garages, play areas, pathways, and other high-use areas to prevent wildlife from sheltering.
- **Maintain Lawns:** Keep lawns cut and free of dandelions and clover, which can attract bears.
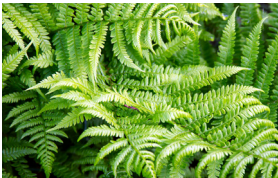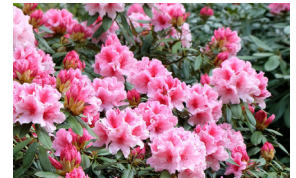
Bracken Fern	Cypress	Hosta	Mock Orange	Rhododendron

Bear Smart Recommendations – Non-Native

Trees – Deciduous

- Bloodgood Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*
- Fernleaf maple, *Acer japonicum*
- Forest Pansy (redbud), *Cercis Canadensis* 🔥
- Ginkgo/Maidenhair, *Ginkgo biloba* 🔥
- Golden raintree, *Koelreuteria paniculata* 💧🔥
- Himalayan birch, *Betula utilis jacquemontii*
- Hornbeam, *Carpinus* spp. 🔥
- Japanese zelkova, *Zelkova serrata*
- Katsura, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
- Paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*
- Saucer magnolia, *Magnolia soulangeana*
- Silk tree, *Albizia julibrissin*
- Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 🔥
- Sycamore/Plane, *Platanus* spp. 🔥
- Tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* 🔥
- Witch hazel, *Hamamelis mollis* 🔥
- Golden chain tree, *Laburnum watereri* 🔥
- Linden, *Tilia* spp. 🔥

Trees – Conifers

- Incense cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*
- Japanese umbrella pine, *Sciadopitys verticillata*
- Monkey-puzzle, *Araucaria araucana*
- Redwood, *Sequoia* spp.

Shrubs – Deciduous

- Buttercup winterhazel, *Corylopsis pauciflora*
- Cushion Spurge, *Euphorbia polychrome* 💧🔥
- Fothergilla, *Fothergilla gardenia*
- Hebe, *Hebe* spp.
- Hydrangea, *Hydrangea* spp. 🔥
- Lilac, *Syringa* spp. 🔥
- Sage, *Salvia* spp. 💧🔥
- Smoke bush, *Cotinus coggygria* 💧🔥

Shrubs – Evergreen

- Camellia sasanqua, *Sasanqua Camellia*
- Holly-leaf osmanthus, *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 💧🔥
- Martin's Spurge, *Euphorbia x martini* 💧
- Winter daphne, *Daphne odora* 🔥

Perennials and Ground Cover

- Beardtongue, *Penstemon barbatus* 💧🔥
- Blazing star, *Liatris spicata* 💧🔥
- Blue flax, *Linum lewisii* 💧🔥
- Bluehead gilia, *Gilia capitate* 💧🔥
- German statice, *Goniolimon tataricum* 💧
- Hardy fuchsia, *Fuchsia magellanica*
- Hosta, *Hosta* 🔥
- Lamb's ear, *Stachys byzantine* 💧🔥
- Larkspur, *Delphinium hybrids* 🔥
- Lungwort, *Pulmonaria officinalis* 🔥
- Monkshood, *Aconitum* spp. 🔥
- Purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* 💧🔥
- Sea lavender, *Limonium latifolium* 💧🔥
- Yellow ice plant, *Delosperma nubigenum* 💧🔥
- Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei* 🔥
- Trumpet vine, *Campsis radicans* 🔥
- Thyme, *Thymus* spp. 💧🔥

Not Recommended Plants

Trees

- Apple / Cherry / Plum, *Prunus* spp.
- Crabapple, *Malus* spp.
- Fig, *Ficus* spp.
- Mountain-ash, *Sorbus* spp.
- Pear, *Pyrus* spp.
- Elderberry, *Sambucus* spp.
- Strawberry tree, *Arbutus unedo*

Shrubs

- Barberry, *Berberis* spp.
- Black twinberry, *Lonicera involucrate*
- Blueberry / Huckleberry, *Vaccinium* spp.
- Chokeberry, *Aronia* spp.
- Common snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*
- Crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum*
- Currant, *Ribes* spp.
- Kinnickinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Devil's club, *Oplopanex horridus*
- Hawthorn, *Crataegus* spp.
- Indian plum, *Oemleria cerasiformis*
- Lady fern, *Athyrium filix-femina*
- Mahonia, *Mahonia* spp.
- Raspberry / Salmonberry / Thimbleberry, *Rubus* spp.
- Dogwood, *Cornus* spp.
- Salal, *Gaultheria shallon*
- Saskatoon / Service berry, *Amelanchier* spp.
- Soapberry / Soopolallie, *Shepherdia canadensis*
- Viburnum, *Viburnum* spp.
- Wild rose, *Rosa pisocarpa*

Ground Cover

- Clover, *Trifolium* spp.
- Horsetail, *Equisetum* spp.
- Sedge, *Carex* spp.

Important City Bylaws

Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw

This bylaw requires the harvest of fruits and vegetables and removal of fallen fruit from private properties to prevent attracting and feeding wildlife. **coquitlam.ca/UrbanWildlife**

Tree Management Bylaw

This bylaw is designed to protect trees, regulate cutting and ensure replacement of trees removed. **coquitlam.ca/trees**

Pesticide Use Control Bylaw

This bylaw bans most conventional pesticides, including products labelled herbicide, insecticide, fungicide or combined fertilizer/herbicides for use on all residential and City-owned land in Coquitlam. **coquitlam.ca/pesticides**
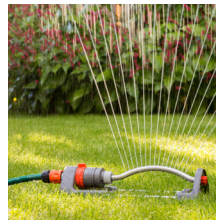

Solid Waste Management Bylaw

This bylaw outlines the City's rules for managing solid waste and recycling. Outside of collection day, garbage should be stored in a secure location such as inside a garage, or secure shed. **coquitlam.ca/CurbsideCollection**
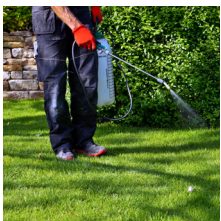

Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw

Between May 1 and October 15 there are restrictions on the times that drinking water can be used for lawn watering, pressure washing and other activities. **coquitlam.ca/H2O**