

Certain species native to the Pacific Northwest will grow new plants from cut sections of branches planted into moist soil. We find that willows (*Salix* spp.), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) generally have the highest success rates. Cuttings are relatively inexpensive and simple to install—under the right conditions, they are easy and economical to plant. Cuttings root most readily if they are cut and planted in late fall through early spring, when dormant.

Live stakes, brush and fascines are **highly perishable and must be stored in shaded, cool, moist conditions** before planting. They should be covered in burlap and thoroughly wetted daily. We recommend storing them in this manner for **no longer than two weeks**. Sticks stored for longer may have lower success.

Types of material

Live stakes are sections of branches without twigs or leaves that may be pounded directly into very soft soil—pilot holes must be made in harder soils. For installation by hand, we recommend stakes ½–1 ½” diameter (over the entire length) and 3–5’ long.

Brush material means sections of branches with twigs and growing tips still attached. Brush material is used for certain slope bioengineering techniques and is usually 6–12’ long with diameter not specified.

Fascines are bundles of brush material or stakes tied with twine that are planted across a slope in shallow trenches. Fascines are generally 4–8” thick and 6–12’ long.

Ordering live stakes and cuttings

We custom collect live stakes and other cuttings for each order and require at least seven days advance notice to harvest the material. Large orders may require more advance notice and small orders may be done more quickly. Materials are priced by the foot, diameter and species. Please provide complete specifications when placing an order. We would be happy to make recommendations on material specifications to match the needs of your project. We typically provide live stakes with a standard range of ½–1 ½” diameter. Larger material or material that meets tighter specifications is available, and will result in an increase in price. For all confirmed orders, the customer agrees to pay for any and all material harvested. For all changed or cancelled orders, payment is due in full for any and all material already cut. See Terms for live stakes and cuttings (www.soundnativeplants.com/termsandconditions.htm#termslivestakes) for more information.

The following species are commonly used in western Washington:

Species	Common name	Comments
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Sitka willow	Good rooter
<i>Salix lucida (lasiandra)</i>	Pacific willow	Good rooter, brittle hence difficult to pound
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler’s willow	Drier sites, roots more slowly
<i>Salix hookeriana v. piperi</i>	Hooker’s/Piper’s willow	Good rooter, brittle hence difficult to pound
<i>Salix hookeriana</i>	Hooker’s willow	From outer coast, good rooter
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Black cottonwood	Good rooter
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood	Often lower success rate than willows
<i>Salix geyeriana</i>	Geyer willow	Good rooter
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Common snowberry	Dry sites, upper bluffs
Other species available upon request.		

Our cuttings sites are mostly in Thurston County, but we can provide material from other regions in western Washington on request. Availability varies over time.

Where to use live stakes and cuttings

Live stakes and cuttings may be used in a wide variety of habitats and applications: in wetlands, flood plains, marine bluffs, stream banks, lake shores, landslides, road slopes, and storm water detention ponds. Cuttings are a mainstay for bioengineering techniques—techniques that incorporate live plant materials in engineering practices for stabilizing soil: live crib walls, brush mattresses, soil lifts, retaining walls, fascines, rip rap, and gabions. We provide complete consulting services for designing and construction projects using live stakes and cuttings.

Ensuring success

We recommend that you follow these guidelines for using live stakes and cuttings:

- Install your project October 15–March 15 (the earlier the better within this timeframe)
- Choose appropriate species for your site conditions
- Collect cuttings from healthy plants while they are dormant
- Store the cuttings for no more than two weeks and keep moist and shaded
- Plant cuttings so at least half their length is buried in soil (deeper may be better, as long as a few buds at the top are exposed)
- Monitor the cuttings for watering needs during summer drought—most situations will require some irrigation for the first year or two following installation

Stand back and watch the sticks turn into trees!



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SPECIALISTS

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