

ISLAND COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

Helpful Drainfield Tips

- ◇ Don't pave, build, or park over your drainfield.
- ◇ Don't plant large plants or trees over the drainfield.
- ◇ Inspection ports and end sweeps allow septic professionals to monitor the health of your drainfield.
- ◇ Have an undisturbed reserve area available if a replacement should be necessary.

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Landscaping Your Drainfield



While Island County strongly recommends against planting anything other than grass or ground cover over your drainfield.

The following suggestions are best practices for landscaping around your drainfield and septic components. Some systems can have components as little as 6 inches below the surface.

For this reason it is best to select shallow-rooted, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants. Choosing these plants avoids root intrusion with drainfield lines, adding additional water to the soil, and disturbing the soil. Large trees and shrubs generally have extensive root systems and are riskier to plant near your drainfield or other septic components. Vegetable gardens are strongly discouraged as edible crops could be cross-contaminated from the wastewater below. Some of the following are a few of our favorite suggestions.

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Blue Oat Grass
(*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)



Rockcress
(*Arabis caucasica*)



Bitter Root
(*Lewisa* ssp.)



Blanket Flower
(*Gaillardia grandiflora*)



Blue Oat Grass
(*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)



Rockcress

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