

# Native Garden Launch Checklist: British Columbia Edition

## Phase 1: Site Audit & Intelligence

- **Identify your BEC Zone:** Confirm if you are in Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH), Bunchgrass (BG), or another specific sub-zone.
- **Drainage Test:** Dug a 12-inch hole, filled it, and verified a rate of 1–3 inches per hour.
- **Sun Map:** Logged "Full Sun" (6+ hrs) vs "Deep Shade" areas for specific plant grouping.
- **Invasive Audit:** Identified and tagged Himalayan Blackberry, Scotch Broom, or English Ivy for mechanical removal.

## Phase 2: Nursery Selection & Quality Control

- **Source Verification:** Confirming the nursery specializes in BC native ecotypes (e.g., Satinflower, NATS).
- **Root-to-Shoot Audit:** Gently checked that roots are not circling (root-bound) in the pot.
- **Dormancy Check:** Prioritized bare-root stock if purchasing between November and March.
- **Mycorrhizal Check:** Verified that the planting plan includes inoculants or native mulch to support fungal networks.

## Phase 3: The "Zero-Carbon" Installation

- **Sheet Mulching Layer 1:** Laid down non-printed cardboard over existing turfgrass.
- **Sheet Mulching Layer 2:** Applied 3–5 inches of organic compost/mulch over the cardboard.
- **Crown Placement:** Verified that the plant base is exactly level with the soil (no "volcano" mulching).
- **Edge Defense:** Installed an 8-inch deep physical root barrier to protect against lawn encroachment.

## Phase 4: Post-Planting Survival

- **Initial Hydration:** Deep-watered immediately after planting to remove air pockets.
- **Irrigation Schedule:** Set a "July-August only" backup plan for the first two established seasons.
- **Labeling:** Marked slow-to-emerge species (like Western Trillium) to avoid accidental digging during dormancy.