

# **Maple Ridge Heritage Detectives**

## **Plant Life Answer Key**



**MAPLE RIDGE  
MUSEUM**  
& COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

# Answers to discussion questions:

## **Why are native plants important to Maple Ridge's ecosystem?**

- Native plants are crucial to the Maple Ridge ecosystem because they support local wildlife, maintain soil health, and preserve the region's natural biodiversity. They are adapted to the local climate and soil, which helps stabilize the ecosystem and promotes a balanced and resilient environment.

## **How do invasive plants destroy and ecosystem?**

- Invasive plants destroy ecosystems by outcompeting native species for resources like light, water, and nutrients. They often spread rapidly, disrupt local food chains, and alter habitat structures, which can lead to reduced biodiversity and compromised ecosystem functions. Their dominance can also make it difficult for native plants to grow, ultimately leading to a decline in overall ecosystem health.

## **Why do invasive plants often grow faster and larger than native species?**

- Invasive plants often grow faster and larger than native species because they may lack natural predators, pathogens, and competitors that would otherwise control their growth in their native habitats. They can also have highly efficient reproductive strategies, such as rapid seed production or vegetative spread, allowing them to quickly establish and dominate new environments. Additionally, they might be better adapted to exploit the local resources, outcompeting native plants for essential nutrients and space.

## **How do invasive species spread, and what factors contribute to their rapid proliferation?**

- Invasive species spread through human activities, natural dispersal mechanisms, and their ability to grow and reproduce rapidly. They often lack natural predators and adapt well to new environments, allowing them to proliferate quickly.


## **What role do native plants play in supporting local wildlife and pollinators?**


- Native plants provide essential food, shelter, and breeding grounds for local wildlife and pollinators. They offer the specific nectar, pollen, and habitat that native species need to thrive, supporting healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.





# Native or Invasive?


Decide if these plants are native or invasive in Maple Ridge by drawing a line between the plants and their status. Think about the characteristic described above for clues.


**Aster**  
  
**NATIVE**


**Woolly Sunflower**  
  
**NATIVE**


**Salmonberry**  
  
**NATIVE**


**Himalayan Blackberry**  
  
**INVASIVE**


**Sword Fern**  
  
**NATIVE**


**False Azalea**  
  
**NATIVE**


**Japanese Knotweed**  
  
**INVASIVE**


**Common Periwinkle**  
  
**INVASIVE**

**Pacific Bleeding Heart**  
  
**NATIVE**

**Honeysuckle**  
  
**INVASIVE**

**Creeping Buttercup**  
  
**INVASIVE**

**Purple Loosestrife**  
  
**INVASIVE**

**Western Red Cedar**  
  
**NATIVE**

**Invasive**  
Plants that do not occur naturally in Maple Ridge

**Native**  
Plants that occur naturally in Maple Ridge

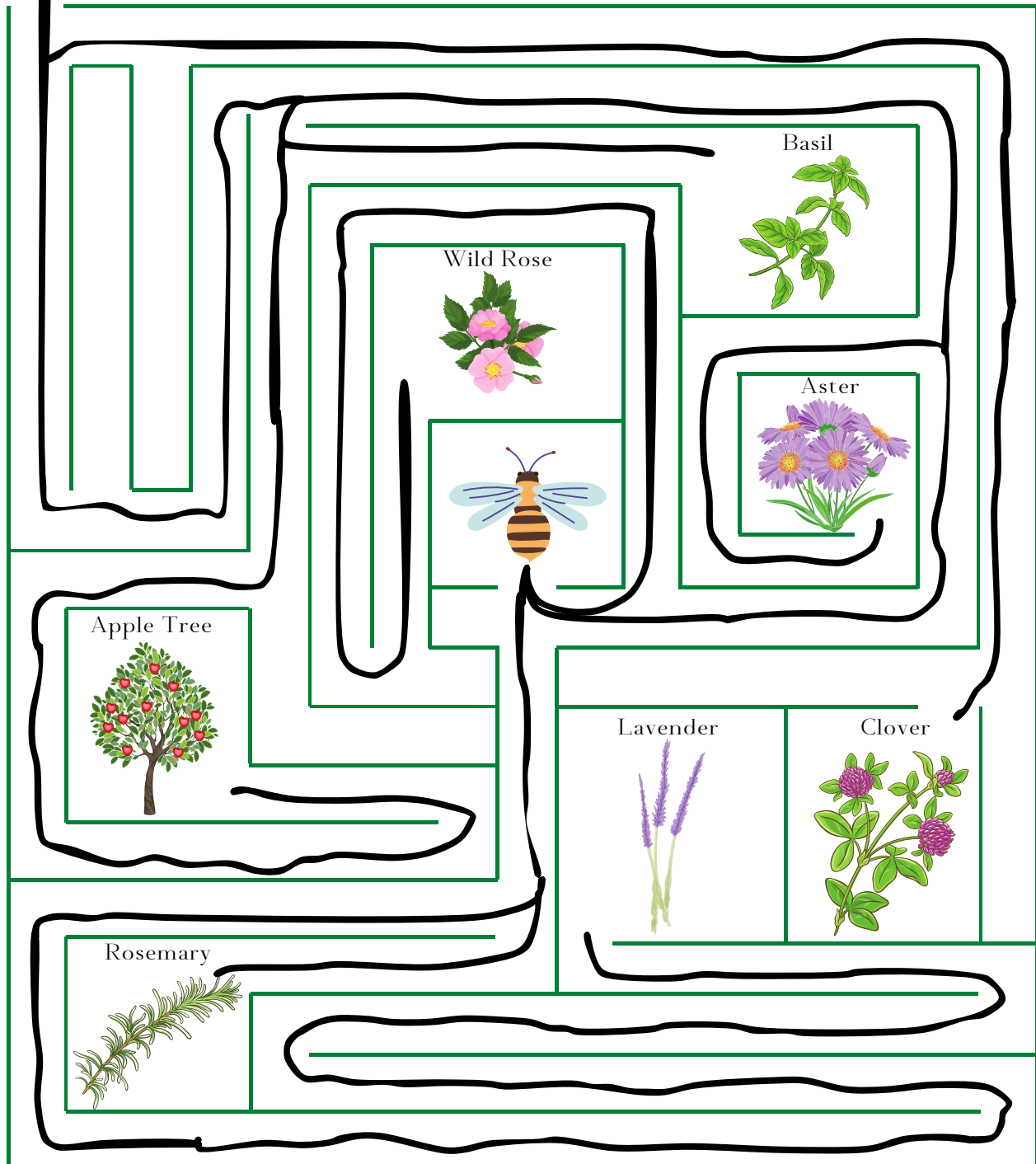
Diagram showing connections between plants and their status:

- Aster (Native) connects to Native.
- Woolly Sunflower (Native) connects to Native.
- Salmonberry (Native) connects to Native.
- Himalayan Blackberry (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Sword Fern (Native) connects to Native.
- False Azalea (Native) connects to Native.
- Japanese Knotweed (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Common Periwinkle (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Pacific Bleeding Heart (Native) connects to Native.
- Honeysuckle (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Creeping Buttercup (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Purple Loosestrife (Invasive) connects to Invasive.
- Western Red Cedar (Native) connects to Native.

# Let's Bee Friends



Can you help Bumble the bee pollinate all these bee friendly plants and return home to his hive?

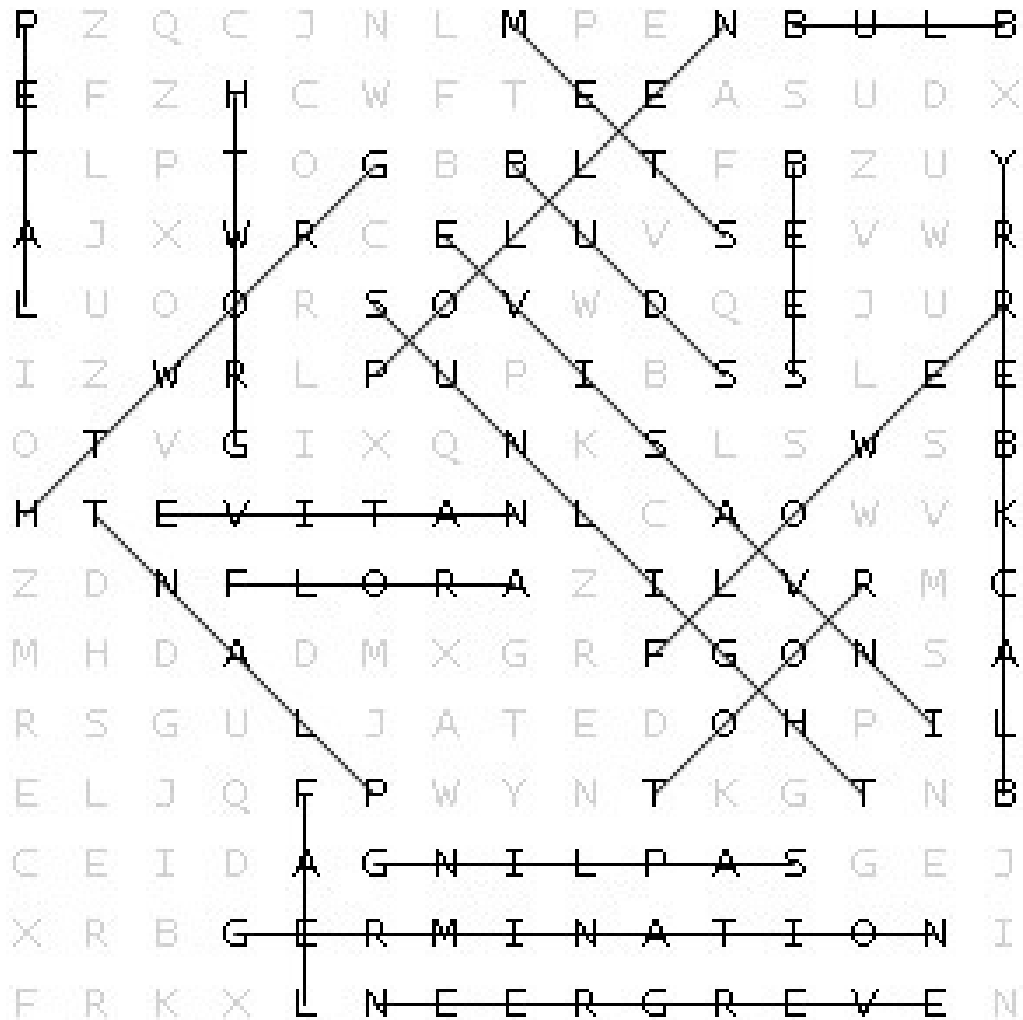




# Plant Life Word Search

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.



bees

bulb

flower

growth

native

pollen

stem

blackberry

evergreen

germination

invasive

petal root

sunlight

buds

flora

growth

leaf

plant

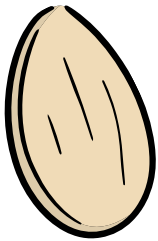
sapling

# Plant Life Cycle:

The six stages of a plant are:

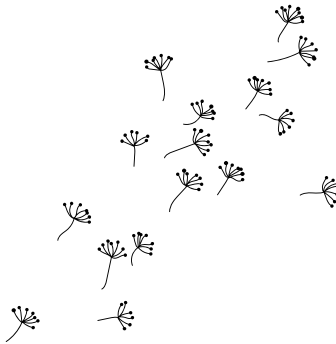
1 - seed, 2 - germination, 3 - growth,  
4 - reproduction, 5 - pollination,  
and 6 - seed spreading stages.

Number these in the correct order.



1

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6

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3

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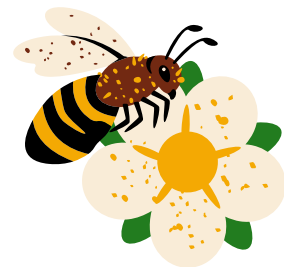
4

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2

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5

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# Planting a Garden

Can you help plant the garden below by cutting out the plants and fitting them into the grid?

