Woody Landscape Plants:  
More Fog-zone Favorites 
(In no particular order; all are for sun unless otherwise noted.)

Shrubs:

**Hebe** species and hybrids - wonderful plants for exposed coastal landscapes, with beautiful foliage and showy flowers. There is a Hebe for any purpose from groundcovers to tall shrubs; some naturally resemble boxwood topiary globes and others have scale-like leaves and resemble conifers. Many Hebes are somewhat tender and may be killed in our once-a-decade severe freezes, but more hardy varieties are increasingly available, thanks to trials at the Oregon Garden. Most propagate easily from cuttings and grow quickly, so replacing winter-killed shrubs is easy.

**Eleagnus pungens** - sometimes called silverberry. Large evergreen shrub 6-15’, rather sprawling habit. Can be sheared, but best for a barrier or windbreak plant where it can grow as it pleases. Has inconspicuous but very fragrant flowers in fall followed by scattered brownish berries (may not bloom in the fog zone). Leaves and young twigs have a silvery-rusty sheen so overall color is olive-green. Several variegated-leaf Eleagnus cultivars are commonly available: *E. pungens* 'Maculata' has smaller gold-centered leaves and *Eleagnus x ebbingei* 'Gilt Edge' is a lower growing plant (to 6’) with dark green leaves margined in gold. All will grow in full or half sun.

**Cotoneaster sp.** - many possibilities depending on whether you want tall, short, or flat and spreading. Flowers are not especially showy, but most have long-lasting red berries for winter interest. The valuable thing about them is that they are bomb-proof plants for difficult sites, withstanding wind, salt spray, and drought. *C. lacteus* is one of the prettiest upright cotoneasters, widely used in municipal landscaping around Newport and impossible to find in local nurseries (try Garland's in Corvallis). Arching vase-shaped habit to 8’, dark evergreen leaves 2” long, and clusters of pinkish flowers that produce a heavy crop of orange-red berries that last all winter.

Several shrubby honeysuckles are good seashore plants. **Box Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera nitida*) - evergreen shrub to 6’, dense growth with small shiny leaves. that turn bronze to plum in winter. Good replacement for boxwoods in sea wind exposures. Privet honeysuckle (*L. pileata*) has a low, horizontal branching habit and 2” evergreen leaves; alternative to horizontal junipers (similar shape). Native twinberry honeysuckle (*L. involucrata*) is a large deciduous shrub that is extremely salt tolerant and takes well to shearing - good choice for a coastal windbreak and a valuable wildlife plant.

**Gooseberry** - thorny bushes with pretty lobed leaves make nice barrier plants. Very good fruit production in the fog zone; if you don’t want the berries, the birds will. Deciduous, grows 4-5’, tolerates wind and some salt.

**Burning Bush** (*Euonymus alata*) - deciduous shrub with rich rose-red fall color. Variety ‘compacta’ grows 4-6’ high and as wide. Will grow fairly close to the shore if given a little shelter from summer winds and some summer water.

**Red Flowering Currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*) - native to Coast Range, deciduous 4-12’ tall. Covered with deep pink to rosy red flowers in late winter/early spring, just in time for hummingbird migration. Black berries in late summer for birds. This plant grows on the cliffs at Cape Perpetua, so it will take a lot of salty wind. Pink- and white-flowered cultivars are available.

**Hardy Fuchsia** (*Fuchsia magellanica*) - takes a surprising amount of summer wind and little extra water once established. Flowers all summer and fall; small, dangling red-and-purple flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds. Will freeze to ground in hard winters but regrows rapidly from roots. Will grow to 8’ or more in a sheltered location. Several hardy hybrids are available with different flower colors. Likes bright shade; can take mostly sun in fog zone.

**Rock Rose** (*Cistus and Halimiocistus* species and hybrids) - bushy evergreen shrubs grow 1-4’ depending on variety, most are wider than tall. Showy flowers look like single roses in white, shades of pink, bright purplish rose. Needs well-drained site; great for dry banks. Little or no water in fog zone once established. All grow well in the fog zone, but some cultivars need more heat to bloom well. Best bloomers for fog zone are *Cistus x purpureus* (bright pink with dark red blotch on base of each petal), *C. creticus* (purplish pink), *C. salviifolius* (white flowers on prostrate plant), *Cistus* ‘Elma’ (large white flower with yellow center…think fried egg or Matilija poppy)

**Flowering Quince** (*Chaenomeles*) - among the first plants to bloom in spring. Many selections to choose from, low and spreading to tall and upright. Flowers are single or double in shades from white to pinks to reds. Deciduous; plants are angular and picturesque in winter outline. Best in full sun but will perform reasonably well in half sun.
Tree Mallow *(Lavatera)* - quick-growing semi-evergreen shrub to 6', summer-long show of 2-3" silky blooms in shades of pink. Cut back hard in spring to keep growth compact. May be killed in severe winters, but new plants grow so quickly that replacement is not painful.

Roses - *Rosa rugosa* and its hybrids are the best roses for the coast. Salty wind and sandy soil is no problem; in fact this rose is widely naturalized in ocean dune areas. The species is disease-free. Rugosa hybrids vary but most are very resistant to blackspot and mildew. Hybrids want a little better soil and a bit of summer water but offer rebloom all summer; most are very fragrant and many have showy hips in fall. Hybrid Musk Roses are also good; these are large shrubs or small climbers and very resistant to foliage disease. Rose breeders are now releasing many new disease-resistant shrub roses (also called "landscape roses") and many will prove to be useful for our area. Don't be afraid to try new ones, and don't hesitate to pull them out of the way if they don't perform. One caution - in wet weather (fog or rain), very double flowers may "ball" and fail to open properly; single and semi-double flowers avoid this problem.

Spiraeas - deciduous shrubs; many cultivars to choose from, all wind resistant and somewhat salt tolerant. In general, spring bloomers have white flowers and summer bloomers have pink flowers. In addition, many summer blooming spiraeas have bright colored foliage, and all have attractive fall color and winter interest from dried flower clusters.

Lavenders *(Lavandula spp.)* *(L. angustifolia, L. X intermedia)* - these lavenders do well here; provide good drainage year-round, sun, and a more neutral pH. Repeatedly successful cultivars of *L. angustifolia* are 'Hidcote' and 'Munstead'. *L. X intermedia* cultivars of note are 'Grosso' and 'Provence'. (Zones 5-8)

Spanish lavender *(Lavandula stoechas)* - gray-leaves, bushy growth 2-3'. Flower spikes topped with showy purple bracts like rabbit ears. 'Willow Vale' and 'Otto Quast' are heavy blooming cultivars in full sun. This species is more tender than *L. angustifolia* and *L. X intermedia*. (Zones 8-9)

Heaths *(Erica sp.)* and Heathers *(Calluna sp.)* - there are not enough superlatives for these plants! They are perfectly adapted to our coastal conditions, almost carefree once established and offering long seasons of bloom. Most need acid soil; most are spreading low bushes 1.5-2.5' tall. Dozens of cultivars offer bloom times in any season and colors in white, pinks, purple, and purplish red. Many cultivars also have brightly colored new growth or winter foliage. With careful selection you can have year-round color.

Irish Bell Heather *(Daboecia cantabrica)* - a companion plant to heaths and heathers; needs acid soil. Bushy, upright growth 1.5-2', with dark green needle-like leaves and spikes of rosy-purple flowers like little bells. Snip faded spikes to encourage rebloom - will bloom April-October!

Barberries *(Berberis* species and cultivars) - many selections, all tough and drought-resistant. The evergreen types are better for salt-wind conditions, but the deciduous selections will also do well with just a little shelter. Barberries come in all sizes from rock garden plants to large shrubs. Many deciduous selections have colorful foliage, but the evergreen types have showy golden-orange spring flowers. Barberries are spiny plants, so are good for barrier plantings.

Shrubby *Euonymus* selections - evergreen; low mounding shrubs to tall upright growers. Most valuable are types with variegated foliage; a good choice to brighten the garden in winter.

*Ceanothus* (sometimes called California lilac or blue blossom) - medium to tall shrubs and prostrate forms grown for showy flowers. Many cultivars available; most are evergreens with flowers in some shade of blue, but there are deciduous species and white-flowered types. May be damaged in very harsh winters and will not tolerate direct salt spray, but extremely drought resistant; in fact, they require excellent winter drainage and summer irrigation may shorten their lives. Great pollinator plant for bees.

Escallonia - evergreen shrubs with showy summer flowers in shades of light to deep pink and white; completely tolerant of salt winds and summer drought. Many cultivars in all sizes from 2' dwarfs to small trees. Take shearing well, so useful for hedges and windbreaks. May be killed to ground in occasional harsh winters, but established plants regrow quickly.

Cultivar 'Apple Blossom' is the most winter hardy here and has a graceful arching habit; also looks great pruned as a tree with drapey branches covered in apple blossom-like flowers.

*Viburnum tinus* *(Larustinus)* - dense evergreen leaves with clusters of tiny pinkish flowers in late winter to early spring. In warmer areas, the flowers are followed by metallic blue berries. The species eventually grows huge, but the selection 'Spring Bouquet' stops at a more manageable 6' tall. Also available as a variegated leaf form.
Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) - evergreen leaves, reddish twigs, hanging racemes of white to pinkish flowers in fall followed (if pollinated) by 1” round red fruits. Species grows into a large (60’) spreading tree; selections ‘Compacta’, ‘Marina’, and ‘Elf King’ grow to a more manageable 10’.

Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla* and *H. paniculata*) - surprisingly wind and salt tolerant; the leaves may turn purplish in response to cold wind but the plant keeps growing and blooming. Many different cultivars available in different mature heights and bloom colors, one for every garden. Flower color can be affected by soil pH.

Skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*) - a great plant for those difficult dark, windy spots on the north side of the house, because Skimmia wants shade or morning sun only, even on the coast. Leaf margins bleach and burn in midday and afternoon sun. In shade it is very tolerant of wind and some salt, keeping glossy dark green leaves all year, with a minor show of whitish flowers in spring followed by big red berry clusters in winter. Only female plants have berries, and need a male nearby for pollination. New varieties have both male and female flowers on the same plant.

Cape Fuchsia (*Physelus*) - resembles a hardy fuchsia and equally tough, but this plant wants full sun and also spreads by underground runners if not contained. Has short spikes of drooping tubular flowers in yellow, salmon or rosy pink, very attractive to hummingbirds.

Gold-dust plant (*Aucuba japonica*) - another workhorse for those dark, windy spots where nothing will grow. *Aucuba* has large, glossy leaves; the usual selections are speckles and splashed with yellow variegations, so they lighten the shady areas. The plant accepts damp soil or dry, cold or warm locations, and deep shade to half shade. Insignificant spring flowers produce a crop of large red berries on female plants, if there is a male nearby.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - wonderful plant for dry, windy locations in full sun. Soil need not be fertile, but good drainage is essential. Upright and prostrate selections (uprights are generally more cold hardy than prostrate ones) with winter-spring flowers usually some shade of blue, but there are white and pinkish-rose selections. Rosemary ‘Arp’ is especially winter hardy.

Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*) - the source of bay leaves for the kitchen. Mediterranean native grows slowly to 12+ feet tall and wide, but takes well to clipping into hedges or topiary. A classic plant for large containers. Not particular as to soil, except it must have good drainage.

Native shrubs - Coast Silk Tassel (*Garrya elliptica*), Pacific wax myrtle, salal, evergreen huckleberry, coastal willows, twin berry honeysuckle grow naturally in the coastal dunes and make superb landscape plants for windbreak hedges. All are easy to establish and need little care beyond watering for the first summer.

Woody Ground Covers:

‘Emerald Carpet’ Creeping Bramble (*Rubus pentalobus*) - densely packed, richly textured evergreen leaves on creeping stems. Plant makes a handsome mat that will spread 1’ per year. Will take half shade.

Lavender Cotton (*Santolina sp.*) - low, spreading evergreen shrubs with gray or bright green foliage and profuse yellow button flowers in late summer. Good for ground covers, bank covers, or low clipped hedges. Shear to remove spent flowers and keep plant bushy.

Kinnikinnick, Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) - native, great bank cover or ground cover. Prostrate plant, spreading to 10’ wide, small leathery bright green leaves, small white or pinkish flowers in spring followed by red berries in fall. More compact selections are available.

Perennial Vines:

Dutch Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) - several selections are available; the common one ‘Serotina’ has flowers that are pink outside, creamy yellow inside. Fragrant summer flowers, attractive to hummingbirds. Tolerates cold winds and blooms anyway.

Clematis - the numerous spectacular summer- and fall- blooming hybrids give a lackluster account of themselves in the fog zone; perhaps not enough winter chill or summer heat to induce flowering. More reliable bloomers for the immediate coast are the spring-blooming species *Clematis montana* (anemone clematis) and *C. armandii* (evergreen clematis). Both of these are rampant growers that need space and/or hard pruning after flowering plus some shelter from summer winds.
Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and its western relative *P. inserta* - big vines with leaves divided into 5 leaflets. Will scramble over fences, trees, arbors. Foliage turns bright red or burgundy in fall.

*Billardiera longiflora* (Climbing blueberry, Purple apple berry) - a slender wiry stemmed evergreen climber with linear lance-shaped deep green leaves. Pendant bell-shaped pale green/lavender tinged flowers in summer, followed by deep purple blue ovoid shaped berries. Prefers some winter protection (under eaves, corner of house, etc.)

**Trees:**

These will grow close to the beach, though all will need some protection to get them started:
- Shore pine (*Pinus contorta*)
- Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)
- Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*)
- Monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*)
- Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)
- Others worth trying include hardy Eucalyptus and Acacia species, tree manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*), and madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)