

A PNW EXTENSION PUBLICATION

Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes



**Reduce Wildfire Risk
with Proper Plant Selection
and Placement**



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Cover image: Pineleaf penstemon, Amy Jo Detweiler

Disclaimer

The purpose of this document is to provide homeowners with guidance on ways to landscape their property with fire-resistant plants to help reduce losses from wildfire damage. These suggestions and recommendations are based on professional judgment, experience and research. This publication is intended to serve only as a guide. The authors, contributors and publisher disclaim all warranties and guarantees with respect to the information in the document and assume no liability or responsibility with respect to the information.

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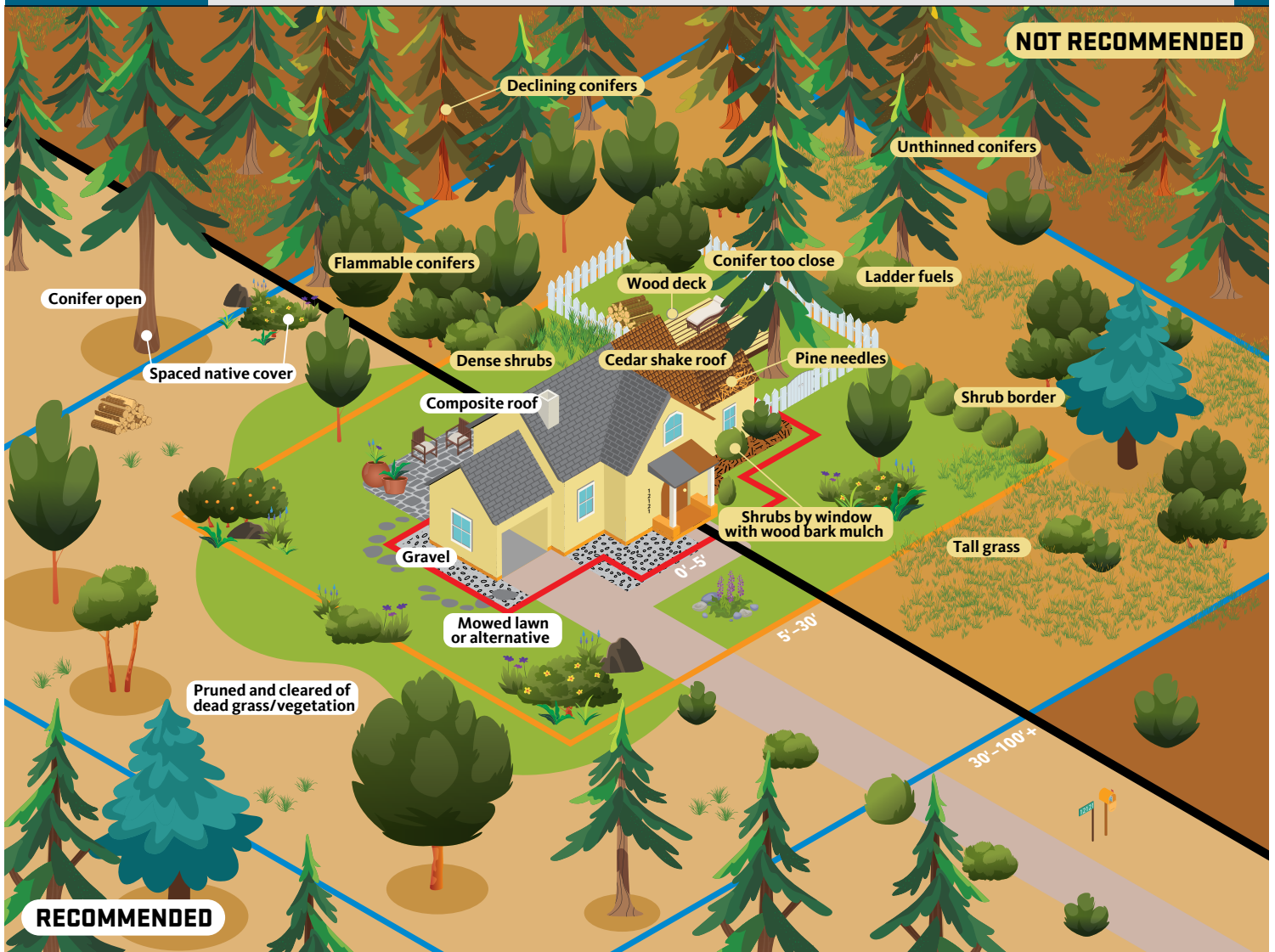


Figure 1. The practices on the left show some of the recommended ways to design and maintain your fire-wise landscape to help protect your home. The practices on the right are not recommended. Zones from 0–5, 5–30, and 30–100 feet from the house are based on the National Fire Protection Association’s Home Ignition Zone. ILLUSTRATION: © Oregon State University

Protecting family, home and community

Fires are a natural part of the Pacific Northwest’s ever-changing ecosystem. As people continue to live and build in fire-prone landscapes, they must take steps to protect their lives, homes, properties and communities. These safeguards are needed in rural, suburban and urban environments, which are all prone to wildfire devastation.

One way to lower fire risk is to create a defensible space around your home. The Home Ignition Zone, or HIZ, is defined as the home itself

3 critical steps to defensible space

- 1 Use fire-resistant building materials.
- 2 Reduce fuels such as weedy vegetation and clean debris from roofs, decks and gutters.
- 3 Use fire-resistant plants in the landscape.

These actions DO NOT ensure that your home or community will survive a wildfire. But they can improve the odds.



Figure 2. This border of Leyland cypress shrubs was completely consumed by wildfire in the 2010 Oak Knoll fire in Ashland, Oregon. This type of shrub has fire-prone characteristics and is not recommended for use in a fire-wise landscape. PHOTO: Ali True

and everything around it out to 100 feet (out to 200 feet on steeper slopes). Reduce potential fuel materials within the HIZ to create gaps and slow the spread of any potential wildfires toward your home.

Defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely. This publication uses National Fire Protection Association standards for HIZ distance (Figure 1). See more detailed information in *The Home Ignition Zone: Protecting Your Property from Wildfire*, EM 9247. HIZ distance guidelines may vary in individual states; check with your local fire department or state authorities on defensible space requirements.

Taking action

Most homeowners want a landscape that:

- Is aesthetically pleasing.
- Creates privacy.
- Complements their home.
- Varies in color, texture, flowers and foliage.

Plant selections should also factor in flammability, since plants contribute to potential fuel. Homeowners should reduce fuel and fire hazards



Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!

Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering, proper pruning, etc.

around their homes and include fire-resistant plants in their landscapes. Equally important are proper plant placement, spacing and ongoing plant maintenance.

These practices, when combined, can help protect your home. They do this by blocking intense radiant heat, reducing direct contact with flames and reducing the chance that embers ignite your home (Figure 1).

Flammable plant material in your landscape can increase the fire risk directly around your home. The 2010 Oak Knoll Fire in Ashland, Oregon, is a prime example of how flammable plant material can act as fuel and contribute to wildfire. In this fire, wood shake roofs, high grass and fire-prone plants such as Leyland cypress all contributed to home loss (Figure 2).

What are fire-resistant plants?

Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire. However, they tend to produce fewer embers, the most common cause for homes burning in wildfires. Their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to fuel and fire intensity. Several other significant factors influence the fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead material and chemical content.

Most healthy deciduous shrubs and trees are fire-resistant. But both native and ornamental plants can be highly flammable. Spreading or upright juniper is one highly flammable shrub often planted in home landscapes (Figure 3). Avoid landscaping with highly flammable plants directly around your home.



Figure 3. The interior of improperly pruned ornamental juniper demonstrates fire-prone traits. PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler



Fire-resistant plants, like this serviceberry, have open branching patterns and moist leaves. PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler

Fire-resistant

- Branching patterns are open and loose.
- Plants have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material.
- Sap is waterlike and does not have a strong odor.
- Sap or resin are minimal.
- Leaves are wide, flat, moist and supple.



This *Arborvitae* has a lot of dry, dead material in its interior, increasing fire risk.

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler

Highly flammable

- Plants contain fine, dry or dead material, such as twigs, needles and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic. (They have a strong odor when crushed.)
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor.
- Bark may be loose or papery.

Selecting fire-resistant plants

How this list was developed

This plant list was developed from existing scientific literature on plant flammability. The research on plant flammability, especially for ornamental plants, is limited. The list includes plants adapted to grow in either irrigated or non-irrigated landscapes. However, most listed plants require some irrigation to survive summer months, particularly in drier regions. Use the above list of plant characteristics to help determine whether to include plants in your landscape that are not listed in this guide.

Landscape environments vary throughout the Pacific Northwest. Always check with your local Extension office or a nursery when selecting fire-resistant plant material. Avoid invasive plants and ensure your choices are suitable for your environment. At the time of this printing, none of the plants listed in this guide were on state noxious weed lists in Oregon, Washington or Idaho.

You may choose from an array of attractive, fire-resistant trees and other plants. This publication lists perennials, groundcovers, trees and shrubs. These plants are adaptable to several regions in the Pacific Northwest and other Western states.

Most people choose plants based on flower color, light requirements (sun or shade), fragrance or overall appearance. These are all valid reasons for selecting plants. But your first priority in a fire-wise landscape should be to select the fire-resistant plants best adapted to your region. Group plants with similar adaptability, water, soil and sunlight requirements. Use drought-tolerant plants in drier locations. When choosing non-native plants, make sure they are non-invasive. Invasive plants can displace native plants, causing both environmental and economic damage.

The mature size of plants is an often overlooked factor to consider.



Figure 4. This conifer touches the roofline, increasing the risk of a wildfire spreading to the home. Remove this tree and the ornamental grasses in the foreground to create a defensible space. PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler

The mature size of plants is an often overlooked factor to consider. This is especially important when planting trees or shrubs near homes. Ensure adequate spacing so that fire cannot spread into the canopy (Figure 4) or touch roof lines as the plants mature. Allow enough space for a plant to fill in without needing to severely prune it or move it as it matures. In the 5- to 30-foot zone, choose low-growing (12 inches or less) perennials or groundcovers over taller ones.

Be sure to choose plants that are adaptable to your area and suitable for your U.S. Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zone. Hardiness zones are meant to serve as guides, not as an absolute for plant selection and survivability. Many other factors

contribute to whether a plant will survive and become more fire-prone. These include soil type, rainfall, heat tolerance, and exposure to wind and sun. Consider the microclimates that exist in your community and your own backyard.

Placing, spacing, mulching and maintenance

While plant selection is important, so are design and plant spacing. Avoid placing any plant material within 5 feet of the home, known as the immediate zone in the HIZ.

The **intermediate zone** (5–30 feet out from the home) can include fire-resistant plants that are well-maintained and adequately spaced. Allow 10 feet or more between group plantings. Increase these distances if your home is on or near slopes. Allow ample space between plantings both vertically and horizontally. Avoid planting in rows, as this can create a continuous path of fuel for fire to spread. Reduce ladder fuels (Figure 5) by removing tall grass, shrubs and small trees beneath larger trees. Keep a minimum of 15 feet between tree branches and your home.

To maintain your fire-wise landscape, follow best practices on pruning, watering, mowing heights and plant placement. For more maintenance tips, see *The Home Ignition Zone: Protecting Your Property from Wildfire*, EM 9247, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9247-home-ignition-zone-protecting-your-property-wildfire>.

Designing for small spaces in urban lots

In more urban environments, houses are closer together with smaller lot sizes. Fire-wise landscape practices still apply to plant selection, spacing and fuel reduction. But the key to protecting urban homes on smaller lots is cooperation within neighborhoods. Take an organized approach to communicating expectations for a fire-wise community. For

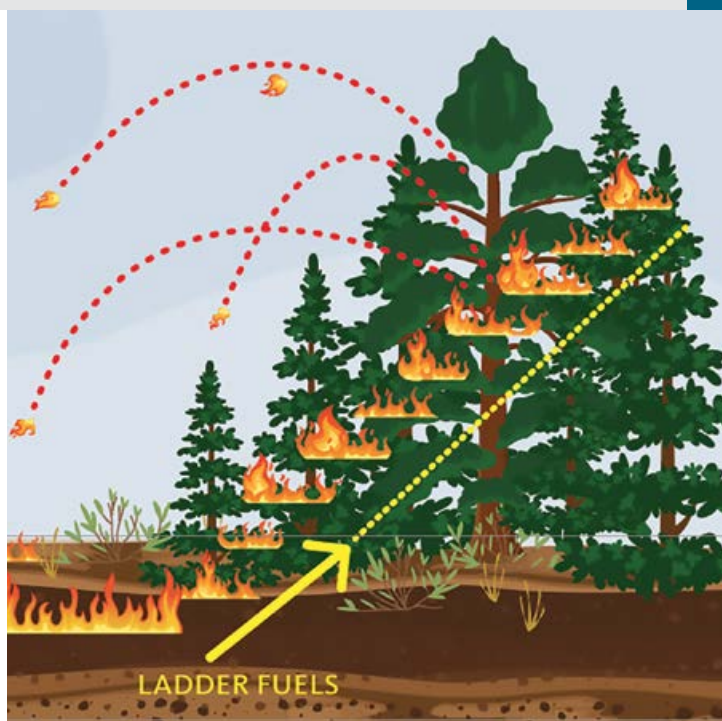


Figure 5. Ladder fuels are flammable materials that allow fire to spread up into the canopy of a tree, which can create windblown embers. ILLUSTRATION: Christina Friehauf

example, fuel reduction — such as removing pine needles or plant debris from gutters and roofs — should be a goal for all homeowners. Use HIZ best practices in the area from the home out to the edge of the property, even if it measures less than 100 feet. See “Resources,” page 10.

Using decorative mulch and hardscapes in your landscape

Mulch can help conserve moisture, minimize erosion and suppress weeds. However, it’s important to use the right type of mulch and in the right locations. Bark mulch, while a popular choice in home landscapes, IS NOT recommended within 5 feet of a home. Bark mulch or chips can easily ignite, especially when dry. Also avoid recycled rubber mulch materials, which are highly flammable. Instead, consider using nonflammable decorative rock or gravel, especially in areas adjacent to your home (Figure 6). See *The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches*, UN Extension SP-11-04, <https://extension.unr.edu/publication.aspx?PubID=2982>.

Hardscaping is the use of pavers, boulders, statues, benches — anything that is not a living plant but adds design features or utility to your outdoor living space. Hardscape features that are noncombustible can add beauty and create a defensible space around the home.

Maintenance

Properly maintain your landscape in the HIZ to keep plants healthy and reduce potential fuel. Follow these practices annually as needed, particularly as the growing season progresses and plant material (fuels) accumulates or dries out.

- Keep plants, including turfgrass, well-watered to maintain plant health, sustain leaf moisture content and reduce drought stress that could lead to dead plant material.
- Remove any dead or dying plant material such as branches. Cut back spent blossoms, leaves and stems throughout the growing season.
- Prune or remove trees and shrubs as needed to reduce ladder fuels and maintain horizontal and vertical spacing between plant clusters. Prune conifers in early to midwinter to avoid attracting insect pests (Figure 7).
- Tune up your irrigation system in spring and monitor it throughout the growing season.
- Keep turf grasses mowed to 3–4 inches and native grasses to 6 inches or less.
- Remove weeds, invasive grasses and overgrown brush such as cheat grass and Himalayan blackberry.

Annuals and bulbs

Annuals and spring-blooming bulbs can be part of a fire-resistant landscape if well-watered and maintained. This publication does not list individual annuals due to the large number of choices available to homeowners.



Figure 6. Decorative rock, a noncombustible mulch, used around the perimeter of the home. PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler



Figure 7. These native conifers have been pruned up and the ground below cleared to reduce fuel load. PHOTO: Stephen Fitzgerald



Figure 8. Annuals such as these in a container can be used in a fire-wise landscape if well maintained. PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler



Figure 9. A well-maintained lawn can be part of a fire-wise landscape. Grass or alternative groundcovers serve as an effective fuel break. PHOTO: Stephen Fitzgerald, © Oregon State University

Turf

You can include a well-maintained lawn in a fire-resistant landscape. (Figure 9). Keep grass mowed to an appropriate height for your grass type. Mow to 3–4 inches. Your lawn should be well-irrigated, thriving and free of dead patches or unkept weedy areas. Some common cool-season grasses include Kentucky bluegrass, turf-type tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, fine fescue and bentgrass. Some types are more drought tolerant than others. For more information on lawn care and maintenance, see the OSU Extension website, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/lawn>.

Not on the list: ornamental grasses, conifers and vines

Ornamental grasses, conifers and vines add design and beauty to a landscape. Unfortunately, they have characteristics not suited for a fire-wise design. Most ornamental grasses grow too tall, and conifers contain flammable oils. Continuous stands of taller grasses can contribute to fire spread. Tall grasses planted beneath trees can spread fire to the branches.

Vines can act as a ladder fuel. If you plant vines, place them in isolated areas away from the home. Only one vine, honeysuckle, is included in this guide. Avoid planting vines under other vegetation.

If you choose to include grasses or conifers, place

them away from the home in isolated areas. Avoid planting beneath trees.

Frequent maintenance of conifers and ornamental grasses is critical to reducing fire risk. Trim dry, dead stalks and prune lower branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground to limit ladder fuels. When pruning branches, avoid removing more than 30% of the original canopy to prevent excessive stress to the tree. Leaving some lower branches for wildlife is acceptable farther away from the home (30- to 100-foot zone) as long as the tree is spaced away from other vegetation.

Don't plant conifers next to a home. If you have established conifers near your home that you cannot bear to remove, consider some mitigating actions. Prune overhanging branches and limbs. Create a minimum of 10 feet of clearance from the roof. Space other plants and shrubs farther away from conifers. Because conifers drop needles on roofs and gutters, annual cleaning is a must.

Invasive plants

For a current list of invasive plants in your area, see the following resources.

- Oregon Invasive Species Council: <http://oregon.gov/OISC/>
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/INDEX.htm>
- Washington Invasive Species Council: https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/find-a-priority-species/?_sft_priority-specie-type=noxious-weeds
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program: <https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/plants>
- Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org>
- USDA Plants Database: <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/home/noxiousInvasiveSearch>
- National Invasive Species Information Center: www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants

Resources

- *The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches*, SP-11-04, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, <https://extension.unr.edu/publication.aspx?PubID=2982>
- Fire Resistance of Plants Master Database and Placement of Species within Firewise Landscape Zones for Southern Idaho, <https://idahofirewise.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/FireXResistanceXofXPlantsXMasterXDatabase.pdf>
- *Fire-resistant Plants for Eastern Washington*, https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fire_resistant_plants_guide_easternwa.pdf
- Firewise USA, <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>
- *The Home Ignition Zone: Protecting Your Property from Wildfire*, EM 9247. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9247>
- *Keeping Your Home and Property Safe from Wildfire: A Defensible Space and Fuel Reduction Guide for Homeowners and Landowners*, EM 9184. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9184>
- Oregon Defensible Space, <https://oregondefensiblespace.org/>
- *Water-wise Gardening in Central Oregon*, <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9136>
- Fire publications and resources from OSU Extension, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire>
- *Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest*, Woodland Fish and Wildlife, <https://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/publications/eastside-dry-habitats/wildlife-friendly-fuels-reduction-in-dry-forests-of-the-pacific-northwest/>
- Oregon Flora, <https://oregonflora.org>
- Oregon State University landscape plants, <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/>

Key to plants

Each plant description includes one or more symbols to help you select the best plants for your landscape. Each symbol defined below designates adaptability, plant use and other notes of interest.



Performs well with minimal supplemental irrigation (low water use).



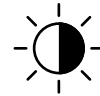
Performs well with supplemental irrigation (moderate water use).



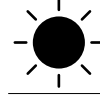
Needs supplemental irrigation (high water use).



Prefers full sun (six or more hours)



Prefers full sun to partial shade. Morning sun is best.



Prefers full shade (six or more hours). Avoid afternoon sun.



Attracts pollinators



Attracts birds



Attracts butterflies



Deer-resistant (seldom damaged by deer but not deer-proof)



Native species or cultivars available.

Groundcovers

Groundcovers are low-growing perennials that often provide excellent coverage on slopes, aid in erosion control, and provide interesting foliage and beautiful flowers. The plants in this section are generally 12 inches high or less. Be careful not to allow groundcovers to run together. Allow for space in between plants to create natural fuel breaks.



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Pussytoes or cat's ears

Antennaria species

A mat-forming groundcover with silvery-gray foliage and tiny flowers. Works well between paving stones and in rock gardens. Native and cultivated varieties available. Attracts painted lady butterflies.



HEIGHT: 4–12 inches

SPREAD: 8–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FLOWERS: pink, white or rose

BLOOM TIME: May–July



Rockcress

Arabis species

Low-growing perennial with dark green or variegated foliage. Produces masses of tiny flowers in spring. Native and cultivated varieties available. Good for rock gardens.



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

HEIGHT: 6–12 inches

SPREAD: 12–20 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: White, pink

BLOOM TIME: April–May



False rock cress

Aubrieta deltoidea

Mat-forming, spreading perennial with grayish-green foliage. Attractive masses of flowers in spring. Good for rock gardens.



HEIGHT: 3–8 inches

SPREAD: 10–15 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: purple, pink

BLOOM TIME: May–June



Basket-of-gold *Aurinia saxatilis*

Provides spring color with blooms in shades of gold to light yellow and gray-green foliage. Prune after flowering to maintain shape. Excellent in rock gardens or mass plantings.

HEIGHT: 8–18 inches / **SPREAD:** 1–2 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: gold to yellow

BLOOM TIME: April–May



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Andrey Zharkikh, CC BY 2.0



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Miniature mat daisy

Bellium minus

Robust evergreen groundcover for shade. Tolerates low water but will be more vigorous with regular watering. Forms mat of small, spoon-shaped leaves and covers itself in small white daisies, spring through summer. Great for rock gardens with an extended bloom time of three to four weeks.



- HEIGHT:** 2 inches
- SPREAD:** 15 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 5–9
- FLOWERS:** white
- BLOOM TIME:** May–September



Poppy mallow

Callirhoe involucrata

Fine, green-leaved foliage with trailing stems; blooms for several months. Unique, cuplike blossoms.



- HEIGHT:** 6–8 inches
- SPREAD:** 24–36 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–9
- FLOWERS:** magenta
- BLOOM TIME:** June–August



Mahala mat

Ceanothus prostratus

A low-growing groundcover native to higher elevations (above 4,000 feet). Not adaptable to lower elevations. Has an attractive leathery, evergreen leaf with blue flowers.



PHOTO: Gerald D. Carr, Oregon Flora

- HEIGHT:** 1–3 inches
- SPREAD:** 6–8 feet
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–8
- FLOWERS:** blue
- BLOOM TIME:** June–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Snow-in-summer

Cerastium tomentosum

This fast-growing groundcover provides nice contrast in the landscape with silvery-gray, woolly foliage. White flowers in summer. Good for rock gardens. May be invasive in areas of Washington and Idaho. Check the Invasive Plant Atlas (see “Resources”) and avoid planting in areas noted.

- HEIGHT:** 6–12 inches / **SPREAD:** 2–3 feet
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 3–7
- FLOWERS:** white
- BLOOM TIME:** June–July





Photo: Liz West, CC 2.0

Lily of the valley

Convallaria majalis

A shade plant, good for naturalizing in woodland gardens. Likes rich, moist soil but tolerates dry and clay soils. Has long, attractive green leaves and produces fragrant, white, bell-shaped flowers in spring. Orange-red berries follow the flowers, appearing in fall. All parts of this plant are poisonous. May be invasive in areas of Washington and Oregon. Check the Invasive Plant Atlas (see “Resources”) and avoid planting in areas noted.

- HEIGHT:** 6–12 inches
- SPREAD:** 8–12 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 3–8
- FLOWERS:** white
- BLOOM TIME:** April–May



‘Red Mountain’

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Iceplant

Delosperma species

Not to be confused with *Carpobrotus edulis* (also called Iceplant), which is known to be invasive. Low growing with succulent, green foliage that changes to reddish-bronze in winter. Not suitable for areas with long-term snow cover. Yellow ice plant is one of the most cold-hardy ice plants. Cultivars and varieties include *D. cooperi* (Purple iceplant), ‘Lavender Ice’ and ‘Mesa Verde’, among many others. Great for rock gardens.



‘Mesa Verde’

- HEIGHT:** 1–3 inches
- SPREAD:** 24–30 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–10
- FLOWERS:** multiple colors
- BLOOM TIME:** June–September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sulphur buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum



This low-maintenance groundcover is one of the more popular native buckwheat plants in the Western U.S. Works well in a rock garden and on slopes with green-leafed, mat-forming foliage. Provides nectar for native bees and butterflies.

- HEIGHT:** 4–12 inches
- SPREAD:** 20–24 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONE:** 3
- FLOWERS:** Yellow
- BLOOM TIME:** June–August



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Wild strawberry *Fragaria* species

A fast-growing groundcover with green foliage and white or pink flowers followed by red, edible fruit. Can be used for erosion control on slopes. Native species is *F. vesca*. Avoid planting invasive species *F. chiloensis* (beach strawberry).

- HEIGHT:** 8–10 inches / **SPREAD:** 24–36 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 5–9
- FLOWERS:** white or pink
- BLOOM TIME:** May–July





PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sweet woodruff

Galium odoratum

A mat-forming groundcover, good for shady areas and rock gardens. Spreads by creeping roots and has lance-shaped green leaves. Small, white flowers appear in spring and early summer — they're rich in nectar and pollen. Great for rock gardens. May be invasive in areas of Washington and Oregon. Check the Invasive Plant Atlas (see "Resources") and avoid planting in areas noted.

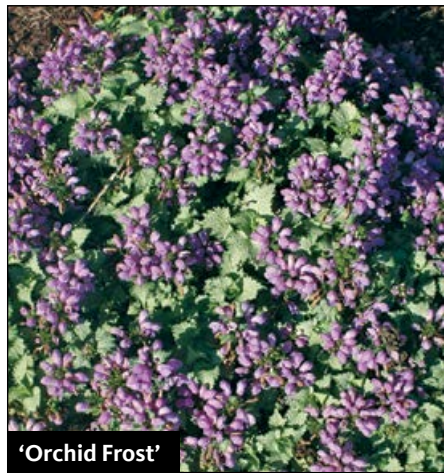
HEIGHT: 6–12 inches

SPREAD: 8–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–10

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: April–June



'Orchid Frost'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Dead nettle

Lamium species

Variegated foliage and colorful blooms throughout the season. Prefers a north- or east-facing location. Cultivars include 'Orchid Frost' and 'White Nancy'. May be invasive in areas of Washington and Oregon. Check the Invasive Plant Atlas (see "Resources") and avoid planting in areas noted. Avoid planting the invasive species *Lamiastrum galeobdolan* (yellow archangel).

HEIGHT: 4–6 inches

SPREAD: 15–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: pink, white or purple

BLOOM TIME: April–June



LANDSCAPE PHOTO: Andrey Zharkikh, K, CC BY 2.0 |

Silver-edged horehound

Marrubium rotundifolium

A vigorous, mat-forming plant that works well in dry rock gardens. Interesting, soft fuzzy leaves have a silver underside that curl upward, creating the effect of a silver edge.

HEIGHT: 10 inches

SPREAD: 18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: silver-white

BLOOM TIME: June

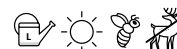


PHOTO: Krzysztof Kenraiz, CC BY-SA 4.0



PHOTOS: Neil Bell (landscape) and Patrick Breen (inset), © Oregon State University

Japanese pachysandra

Pachysandra terminalis

A spreading semi-evergreen with shiny, dark-green leaves and white, spiky flowers. Grows well in shady areas. More compact varieties available.

HEIGHT: 6–8 inches / **SPREAD:** 10+ inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: June





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Creeping phlox

Phlox subulata

A popular, profuse spring bloomer. Linear, green leaves form a low-growing mat. Lots of cultivars are available. *P. diffusa* is one of the native varieties with pink blooms. Good in rock gardens.

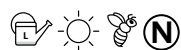
HEIGHT: 4–6 inches

SPREAD: 18–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: white, blue, pink

BLOOM TIME: April–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Soapwort

Saponaria ocymoides

An attractive groundcover with profuse, fragrant, bright pink flowers in late spring. Good in rock gardens. Has a long bloom time. Avoid planting invasive species *S. officinalis* (Bouncingbet).

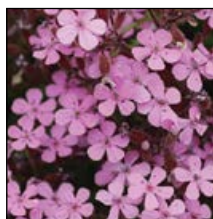
HEIGHT: 4–5 inches

SPREAD: 15–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-7

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sedum or stonecrop

Sedum species

One of the best choices for fire resistance. Groundcover with succulent foliage in shades of green to blue. Many varieties thrive in hot, dry conditions. Great for rock gardens. Some are an important source of nectar for butterflies and bees. Not all varieties are deer-resistant. *S. divergens* (Pacific stonecrop) is native with a yellow bloom.

HEIGHT: 2–12 inches

SPREAD: 6–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: white, yellow, pinkish-red

BLOOM TIME: May–September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Hens and chicks *Sempervivum* species

A unique groundcover with green, succulent, rosette-shaped foliage. The parent plant produces star-shaped flowers that rise up on a stalk and also produces smaller plants or “chicks.” Excellent in rock walls.

HEIGHT: 2–6 inches / **SPREAD:** 6–10 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–10

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: June–August





'Bressingham'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Creeping thyme

Thymus praecox

A low-growing groundcover with fragrant leaves in shades of light to dark green, yellow or variegated. You can use several low-growing species. Works well between pavers and in rock walls.



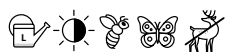
HEIGHT: 1–3 inches

SPREAD: 12–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink, white or purple

BLOOM TIME: May–August



'Royal Candles'

Speedwell

Veronica species

A low-growing groundcover with glossy green or woolly leaves. Showy in full bloom. Good for use in rock gardens. Taller species *V. spicata* attracts butterflies and bees. *V. liwanensis* (Turkish speedwell), *V. pectinata* (blue woolly speedwell) are popular non-invasive species.

HEIGHT: 1–6 inches

SPREAD: 12–18 inches

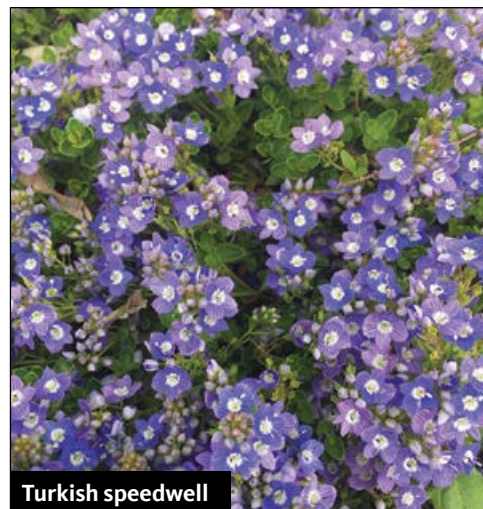
USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: blue, pink or white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



Turkish speedwell



Congratulations on your fire-wise landscape!

Why not take a few photos of your landscape and share them on social media?

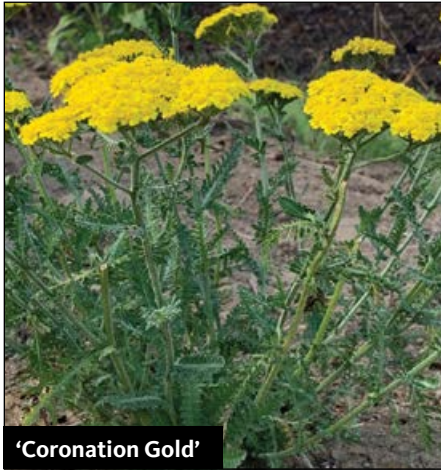
Use the hashtags:

#FirewiseLandscape

#OSUExtension

Perennials

Perennials survive two or more years in your landscape. They often die back in the winter, only to emerge again in spring. They provide a variety of colors, textures, shapes and sizes. Remove dieback on plants in fall to reduce fuel load, and design with breaks between clusters of plants.



'Coronation Gold'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Gerald D. Carr, Oregon Flora

Yarrow

Achillea species

Fernlike foliage in shades of green to gray. Long blooming and drought tolerant. Make nice cut or dried flowers. Native variety is *A. millefolium*



Common yarrow

(common yarrow), but this variety will spread, so it's not recommended in the home ignition zone. Seed-propagated varieties will reseed easily and can become invasive. Cultivars that will not reseed include 'Coronation Gold', 'Moonshine' and 'Red Velvet'.

HEIGHT: 6–36 inches

SPREAD: 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: white, red, yellow or pink

BLOOM TIME: May–September



Hummingbird mint

Agastache species

A tall border perennial with grayish-green, mint-scented leaves. Produces beautiful, fragrant, tubular flowers. Blooms later in summer.



Several varieties available; some are more cold hardy than others. Attracts hummingbirds. Dwarf varieties available.

HEIGHT: 24–30 inches / **SPREAD:** 15–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: Orange, pink, rose, blue

BLOOM TIME: June–August



PHOTO: Aaron Liston, Oregon Flora

Nodding onion

Allium cernuum

Native to North America. Easily grown, spreads by seeds and bulbets. Soil must be well drained, as this onion naturally grows in rocky soils. All parts of the plant are edible.

HEIGHT: 12–18 inches

SPREAD: 3–6 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink/purple, white

BLOOM TIME: June–August





PHOTO: Niall McAuley, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

'Star of Persia' allium

Allium cristophii

Ornamental onion with 10-inch-diameter globe-shaped flowers in late spring to early summer. Foliage is small compared to other allium varieties. Plant bulbs in well-drained soil in fall. Can be used for dried or cut flowers. Remove spent blooms after they fade to prevent reseeding.

HEIGHT: 12–24 inches

SPREAD: 6–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FLOWERS: pink, purple

BLOOM TIME: May–June



Ornamental onion

Allium
'Globemaster'

A tall, showy perennial bulb featuring a 10-inch-round violet flowerhead. Remove spent flower when it fades. Can be used for both dried and cut flowers. Plant bulbs in late fall. This is a sterile variety that will not self-seed.

HEIGHT: 15–20 inches

SPREAD: 10–15 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: purple

BLOOM TIME: June–August



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



'Ivory Queen' allium

Allium karataviense
'Ivory Queen'

A short ornamental onion variety with ivory flowers. Plant bulbs in well-drained soil in fall. Works well in container gardens or rock gardens. Easy to grow. Remove spent blooms. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 7–10 inches

SPREAD: 8–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FLOWERS: white/light pink

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Chives

Allium schoenoprasum

A popular culinary herb with grasslike foliage and showy, globe-shaped, pink or purple flowers. Cut flowers back when done blooming to prevent spread.

HEIGHT: 12–24 inches

SPREAD: 20–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink, purple

BLOOM TIME: June–August





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Columbine

Aquilegia species

Dainty perennial with a spurred, trumpet-shaped flower. Foliage

is grayish-green and shaped like a shamrock. Deadhead to encourage prolonged blooming. Partial shade for improved drought tolerance. Short lived but will reseed. *A. formosa* (western columbine) has a red and yellow bloom. Many cultivated varieties available. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 10–36 inches

SPREAD: 10–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: multiple colors

BLOOM TIME: May–July



Western columbine



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sea thrift

Armeria maritima

Clump-forming perennial with grasslike foliage. Flowers rise up above the mound with pink or white pom-pom-type flowers. Good for use in rock gardens.

HEIGHT: 6–10 inches

SPREAD: 8–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: bright pink or white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Orange butterfly weed

Asclepias tuberosa

A showy, fragrant orange blooming perennially that tolerates dry, rocky soil. Pollinator-friendly plant that is a food source for monarch butterfly larvae. Attracts hummingbirds. Late to emerge in spring.

HEIGHT: 1–2.5 feet

SPREAD: 1–1.5 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: yellow/orange

BLOOM TIME: June–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler (left), Neil Bell (right), © Oregon State University

False indigo *Baptisia* hybrid

Not to be confused with *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo bush), which is known to be invasive. A long-lived perennial with pealike flowers, a rounded growth habit (more shrublike) and interesting foliage. Used to make dye. Do not overwater. Host plant for the larvae of some butterfly species. Cultivars with blue, white or yellow flowers.

HEIGHT: 3–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: dark blue, yellow, white

BLOOM TIME: May–June





PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Heartleaf bergenia

Bergenia cordifolia

Large, glossy, green leaves in summer that change to burgundy in fall. Bell-shaped flowers rise up on a spike.

HEIGHT: 12–14 inches

SPREAD: 12–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: pink, white, bell-shaped

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Mariposa lily

Calochortus species

A delicate, tuliplike bulb native to the Western U.S. “Mariposa” is the Spanish word for butterfly and there are many species. Has a slender stem and narrow, bladelike, sparse foliage. One of the more popular species is *C. nuttallii* (Sego lily).

HEIGHT: 4–20 inches

SPREAD: 1–3 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FLOWERS: Purple, lavender, white

BLOOM TIME: July–August



‘Evergold’

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sedge

Carex species

These tidy, clump-forming, grasslike plants are semi-evergreen and work well in rock gardens or as edging. Foliage is flat in shades of green or variegated. Also does well in shade. Flowers are not showy. Avoid planting invasive species *C. pendula* (hanging sedge) and *C. divulsa* (grassland sedge).

HEIGHT: 12–18 inches

SPREAD: 10–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9



Coreopsis or tickseed

Coreopsis species

Either a short-lived or long-lived perennial, depending upon variety. Produces single and double daisylike flowers in various colors. Green foliage and wiry stems. Popular varieties include ‘Moonbeam’, ‘Zagreb’ and ‘Sunburst’.

HEIGHT: 10–24 inches / **SPREAD:** 12–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: golden yellow, light yellow, pink or red

BLOOM TIME: June–October



‘Zagreb’



‘Moonbeam’

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Delphinium

Delphinium varieties

Popular for tall, upright growth habit and beautiful spiked flowers in various shades. Works well in a perennial border.

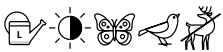
HEIGHT: 1–7 feet

SPREAD: 1–3 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: blue, purple, white or pink

BLOOM TIME: June–September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Dianthus, garden carnation or pinks

Dianthus species

Green or grayish-green foliage covered with blooms. Clump-forming growth habit. Some varieties are fragrant. Cultivars include ‘Firewitch’ and ‘Tiny Rubies’. Nice addition to rock gardens.

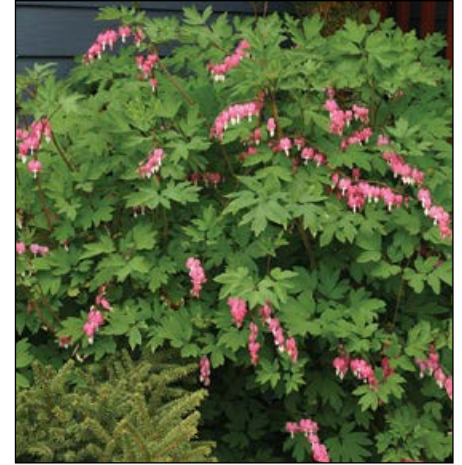
HEIGHT: 2–12 inches

SPREAD: 6–16 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: pink, white, red or yellow

BLOOM TIME: May–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Bleeding heart, Western or Pacific

Dicentra formosa

A great shade-loving, native perennial with fernlike or showy foliage and spectacular, heart-shaped flowers. Attracts hummingbirds. *D. spectabilis* (bleeding heart) and *D. eximia* ‘Alba’ (fringed bleeding heart, white flowers) are also popular in gardens. Remove brown spent foliage once done blooming.

HEIGHT: 6–12 inches

SPREAD: 12–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: March–May



Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

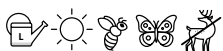
A popular perennial herb with large, daisylike flowers in various colors. Late blooming. Makes a good cut or dried flower. Provides color in late season. Some varieties are more cold-hardy than others.

HEIGHT: 2–3 feet / **SPREAD:** 1.5–2 feet

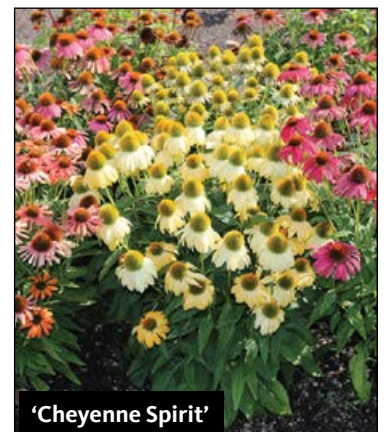
USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: purple, pink or white

BLOOM TIME: July–September



‘Pow Wow® Wild Berry’



‘Cheyenne Spirit’

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Gerald D. Carr, Oregon Flora



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

California fuchsia



Epilobium canum
(syn. *Zauschneria*)

A showy, scarlet-blooming perennial with silvery gray foliage also known as Hummingbird flower. Provides mid- to late-summer color in the landscape. May self-seed. Less hardy in colder climates.

HEIGHT: 4–18 inches

SPREAD: 2–3 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 8-10

FLOWERS: red

BLOOM TIME: July–September



Desert yellow fleabane



Erigeron linearis

A native of several Western states, this low-growing perennial has narrow leaves and golden, daisylike flowers in summer. Works well in dry areas and rock gardens.

HEIGHT: 2-12 inches

SPREAD: 24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FLOWERS: white, yellow

BLOOM TIME: May–July



Blanket flower



Gaillardia
varieties

Grayish-green foliage and daisylike flowers in various colors. Very drought tolerant. May be short-lived. Long-blooming perennial; keep deadheaded for continuous bloom. Fuzzy, round seedheads follow flowering.

HEIGHT: 8–36 inches

SPREAD: 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–10

FLOWERS: red petals tipped in gold, all gold or burgundy, with reddish-brown centers

BLOOM TIME: June–September



Grayleaf cranesbill or bloody cranesbill

Geranium cinereum or *Geranium striatum*

Dwarf, semi-evergreen with gray-green foliage, a mounding growth habit and attractive blooms in summer. Works well as a groundcover or in rock gardens. Avoid planting invasive species *G. lucidum* (shiny leaf geranium), *G. robertianum* (herb Robert), *G. dissectum* (cutleaf geranium), *G. columbinum* (longstalk cranesbill) and *G. molle* (dovefoot geranium).

HEIGHT: 4–6 inches / **SPREAD:** 10–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: pinks, white, magenta; saucer shape / **BLOOM TIME:** June–July



'Rozanne'

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Gerald D. Carr, Oregon Flora



'Henfield Brilliant'

PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Prairie smoke

Geum triflorum

This low-maintenance prairie wildflower blooms with spring, nodding pink flowers, feathery green leaves and unique pink feathery seedheads. Works well as a ground cover.

HEIGHT: 3-4 inches

SPREAD: 6-12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-6

FLOWERS: pink, bell-shaped

BLOOM TIME: May-June



Sun rose

Helianthemum nummularium

A moundlike growth habit with gray-green foliage and delicate flowers. Prefers dry, more alkaline soils. Works well in rock gardens.

HEIGHT: 8-12 inches

SPREAD: 12-16 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-7

FLOWERS: red, pink, yellow, orange or multicolored

BLOOM TIME: June-August



'Belgravia Rose'

Daylily

Hemerocallis species

A popular perennial that works well in borders or mass plantings. Long, wide, grasslike foliage with mounding growth habit. Large flowers bloom for one day, die and are replaced by new blooms the following day. Many flower colors available. Better flower presentation with additional moisture. Blossoms are edible.

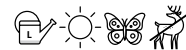
HEIGHT: 1-4 feet

SPREAD: 1-3 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-9

FLOWERS: white, yellow, pink, red, gold or mixed colors

BLOOM TIME: July-August



Coral bells *Heuchera sanguinea*

A showy perennial with dark green, maroon, reddish or gold foliage with scalloped edges. Flower stalks rise above the foliage and produce delicate blooms. Performs best in light shade. Best with east-facing exposure. Several native and many cultivated varieties available. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 12-20 inches / **SPREAD:** 12-15 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-8

FLOWERS: red, white or pink

BLOOM TIME: June-September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Hosta lily

Hosta species

A shade perennial with attractive foliage in various shades of green to bluish-green. Flower stalk rises above the leaves with a fragrant, bell-shaped flower. Many cultivars available. Attracts hummingbirds.



HEIGHT: 6–36 inches

SPREAD: 20–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: purple, lavender or white

BLOOM TIME: July–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

'Autumn Joy' sedum

Hylotelephium herbstfreude

Previously known as *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy'. One of the easiest, more drought-tolerant perennials to grow in a garden. Fleshy, gray-green foliage and rounded, tall growth habit. Provides winter interest.



HEIGHT: 18–24 inches

SPREAD: 18–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–10

FLOWER COLOR: pink

BLOOM TIME: August–September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Candytuft

Iberis sempervirens

Spreading, mounding growth habit with dark green foliage. Produces a profusion of white flowers in early spring. Several varieties available, including the more cold-tolerant cultivar 'Whiteout'. Prune lightly after flowering.



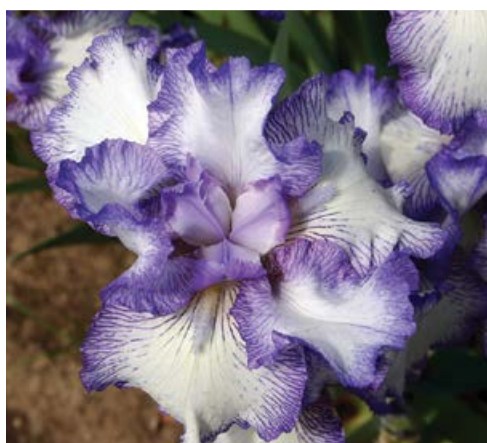
HEIGHT: 6–12 inches

SPREAD: 10–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Tall bearded iris *Iris* hybrids

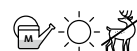
Bluish-green, swordlike leaves. Large, sophisticated, fragrant flowers in every shade (often bicolor). Lift and divide individual clumps every three to four years to keep maintained. Makes a nice cut flower. Requires less water after bloom.

HEIGHT: 16–30 inches / **SPREAD:** 14–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–10

FLOWERS: multi-colored

BLOOM TIME: May–June





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Torch lily or red-hot poker

Kniphofia uvaria

Stiff, bluish-green, tufted, grasslike foliage. Unique flower clusters rise on spikes above the foliage. Attracts hummingbirds. Avoid planting west of the Cascades in Oregon.

HEIGHT: 12–48 inches

SPREAD: 24–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: orange, yellow, white or green; often multicolored

BLOOM TIME: June–August



Lavender

Lavandula species

Known for its attractive purple bloom, popular fragrance and dried flowers. Although it contains scented oils, this plant is slow to ignite if kept sufficiently watered and well-maintained. Has gray-green foliage. English and French lavender more hardy than Spanish varieties.

HEIGHT: 12–24 inches

SPREAD: 24–28 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: purple, white, lavender; spikelike

BLOOM TIME: July–August



Shasta daisy

Leucanthemum x superbum

Not to be confused with *L. vulgare* (oxeye daisy), which can be invasive. This is a nice late-summer-blooming perennial that requires little care and is drought tolerant. Makes a nice cut flower.

HEIGHT: 12–36 inches

SPREAD: 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: July–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Lewisia species *L. x longipetala* or *L. cotyledon*

Western native with dark-green-leaved rosettes. Flower clusters rise above foliage. Easy to grow and drought tolerant. Good choice for rock gardens. Needs good drainage around crown and prefers some light shade. Native and cultivated varieties available.

L. x longipetala (long-petaled lewisia) is more cold-hardy than *L. cotyledon* (Siskiyew lewisia).

HEIGHT: 6–12 inches / **SPREAD:** 6–10 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: pink, magenta, peach

BLOOM TIME: April–June





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Blazing star

Liatriis sp.

A tall border perennial with spikelike blooms atop leafy, grasslike foliage. Cultivars include ‘Kobold’. Makes good cut flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 12–36 inches

SPREAD: 8–15 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: purple, pink, white

BLOOM TIME: July–September



Martagon lily

PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Asiatic lilies

Lilium spp.

A showy fragrant flowering bulb in a variety of colors. Makes for good cut flowers. Prefer to have some shade at their base. ‘Stargazer’ is a popular variety.

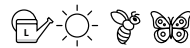
HEIGHT: 28–36 inches

SPREAD: 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: multi-colored

BLOOM TIME: June–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Blue flax

Linum perenne

A native, self-sowing wildflower with delicate leaves and stems. Excellent in mass plantings or meadows. Remove spent blossoms to promote longer blooming, prevent reseeding and keep tidy.

HEIGHT: 12–20 inches

SPREAD: 12–14 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–8

FLOWERS: light blue or white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



‘Dropmore Scarlet’



‘Gold Flame’

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Honeysuckle *Lonicera* species

Use a metal trellis and isolate plant from others. Attractive, fast-growing vines with fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers. Can be used for covering a fence or trellis in the intermediate zone. Attracts hummingbirds. Popular varieties include ‘Goldflame’, ‘Dropmore’ and ‘Major Wheeler’. Avoid planting invasive *L. japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle) west of the Cascades in Oregon.

SPREAD: 10+ feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: white, red, orange or yellow

BLOOM TIME: July–September





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Lupine

Lupinus varieties

A tall, border perennial with dark green foliage and showy flowers. May need staking. May need to manage for aphids and powdery mildew. Native species in the Pacific Northwest.



HEIGHT: 18–48 inches

SPREAD: 24–26 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–6

FLOWERS: multiple colors including blue, yellow, pink

BLOOM TIME: May–July



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Evening primrose

Oenothera species

A long-blooming perennial with a low-growing, trailing or more upright growth habit. Cup-shaped flowers in shades of yellow, white or pink. Good in rock gardens. Avoid planting potentially invasive species *O. glazioviana* (Redsepal evening primrose).



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

HEIGHT: 6–12 inches / **SPREAD:** 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: lemon yellow, white or pink

BLOOM TIME: June–October



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Prickly pear cactus

Opuntia spp.

A large group of succulent plants in many shapes and sizes, often covered with spines. Winter-hardy cactus. Good for use in rock gardens. Select more cold-hardy varieties for the Pacific Northwest.

HEIGHT: 3–48 inches

SPREAD: 3–48 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: Purple, pink, red, yellow, white

BLOOM TIME: May–July



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Oriental poppy *Papaver orientale*

An ornamental perennial with large, papery, cup-shaped flowers. Interesting capsule-type seedpods follow flowering.

HEIGHT: 24–36 inches / **SPREAD:** 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: orange, white, red, pink or purple with dark centers

BLOOM TIME: June–July





Pineleaf

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Penstemon or beardtongue

Penstemon species

Excellent perennial for a dry garden.

Available in several varieties and flower colors. Great specimen plant. There are large numbers of native and cultivated species. Attracts hummingbirds. Some are deer-resistant but not all.

HEIGHT: 4–48 inches

SPREAD: 6–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: pink, purple, blue, red or white

BLOOM TIME: June–August



Rocky Mountain



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Tall garden phlox

Phlox paniculata varieties

Tall, upright-blooming

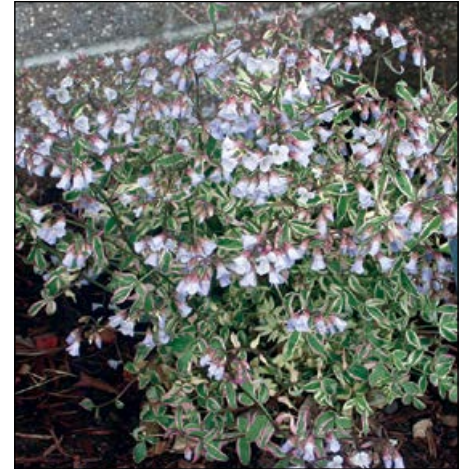
perennial in various flower colors and dark green foliage. Flowers are fragrant and make good cut flowers. Select powdery mildew resistant varieties such as ‘David’ (white blossoms). Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 24–36 inches / **SPREAD:** 12–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-8

FLOWERS: multiple colors

BLOOM TIME: July–August



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Jacob's ladder

Polemonium spp.

Fragrant, cobalt blue flowers in late spring/early summer. This perennial thrives in part shade and prefers morning sun. Rapidly spreading groundcover in some parts of the country but not invasive in the Pacific Northwest.

HEIGHT: 12-18 inches

SPREAD: 16–18 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-8

FLOWERS: blue

BLOOM TIME: April–June



PHOTO: James St. John, CC-BY 4.0



PHOTO: wplynn, CC-BY-NC-ND

Solomon's seal *Polygonatum commutatum*

Grown primarily for its attractive architectural form and foliage. Produces white hanging bell-shaped flowers that provide nectar and pollen for bees. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 36–42 inches

SPREAD: 24–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May to June





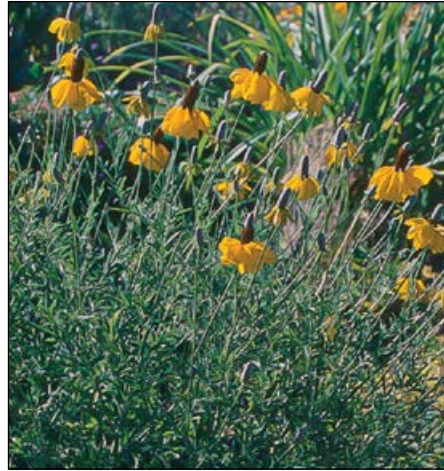
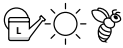
PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Pasque flower

Pulsatilla patens

The leaves and stems are unique in that they are covered with long silky hairs. One of the earliest spring-blooming flowers with a purple bloom and unique fluffy seed head. Some varieties of pasque flower are deer-resistant but not all.

- HEIGHT:** 8–12 inches
- SPREAD:** 6–10 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 3–7
- FLOWERS:** purple
- BLOOM TIME:** March–April



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Prairie coneflower

Ratibida columnifera

Tall, upright flowers with lacy, green foliage. Petals grow downward away from the tall center flower disk. Biennial. Remove spent flowers to prolong blooming. Seeds are a food source for some songbirds.

- HEIGHT:** 18–24 inches
- SPREAD:** 12–18 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–8
- FLOWERS:** yellow or red, with distinct tall center
- BLOOM TIME:** July–October



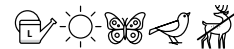
PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida or *Rudbeckia hirta*

This attractive late-season perennial is low maintenance, easy to grow, and makes for good cut flowers. *R. fulgida* is perennial and *R. hirta* is biennial.

- HEIGHT:** 18–24 inches
- SPREAD:** 24 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–9
- FLOWERS:** golden yellow, with a black center
- BLOOM TIME:** June–September



'East Friesland'

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Salvia *Salvia sylvestris*

Formal, spiky perennial. Deadhead to encourage a second bloom. 'Caradonna' has dark purple stems. Cultivars that should not reseed include 'East Friesland', 'May Night', 'Marcus' and 'Blue Hill'. Native *S. dorrii* (purple sage) has a more shrublike form and attracts hummingbirds. Avoid planting invasive species *S. aethiopsis* (Mediterranean sage), *S. sclarea* (clary sage) and *S. pratensis* (meadow sage).

- HEIGHT:** 18–28 inches / **SPREAD:** 20–24 inches
- USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 4–8
- FLOWERS:** purple
- BLOOM TIME:** June–August





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Missouri Botanical Garden

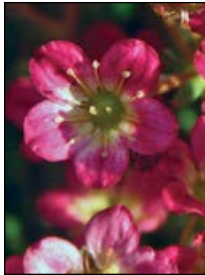


PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Mossy saxifrage

Saxifraga x arendsii

Also called mossy rockfoil. Unique, finely dissected, bright-green foliage with dainty flowers rising above the tufts. Nice addition in a rock or alpine garden. Foliage is semi-evergreen. Several cultivars available.



HEIGHT: 3-8 inches

SPREAD: 3-12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-7

FLOWERS: pink, red, white

BLOOM TIME: May-June



Skullcap

Scutellaria species

Low-growing groundcover with a nice, mounding growth habit. Works well in a rock garden and in containers. Has a long bloom time. Varieties include 'Dark Violet', and 'Smoky Hills'. There are some native varieties. Some are deer-resistant.



HEIGHT: 6-10 inches / **SPREAD:** 10-15 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5-8

FLOWERS: purple, yellow, pink

BLOOM TIME: May-September



Goldenrod

Solidago spp.

Showy blossoms in late summer. Food source for bees and butterflies. A note of interest: *Solidago* species do not cause allergies, as some may think, and are likely confused with ragweed. Select lower-growing species for a fire-wise landscape such as 'Little Lemon' (10-12 inches). Other nice selections include 'Golden Fleece' and 'Fireworks'. Some native varieties include *S. canadensis* (Canadian goldenrod) and *S. multiradiata* (Rocky Mountain goldenrod).



HEIGHT: 28-32 inches

SPREAD: 18-24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-8

FLOWERS: Yellow

BLOOM TIME: July-September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



Orange globe mallow *Sphaeralcea munroana*

A Western native with unique orange blossoms and silver-green foliage. Often will bloom twice in one season. Low maintenance and grows in most soil types.

HEIGHT: 36-42 inches / **SPREAD:** 20-24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-9

FLOWERS: orange

BLOOM TIME: June-August





'Helen Von Stein'

PHOTO: Patrick Standish, CC BY 2.0

Lamb's ear

Stachys byzantina

Grown for its soft, silvery-gray leaves and spikes of lavender-pink flowers. Foliage provides contrast in the landscape.

Varieties include 'Helen Von Stein', which has a big leaf, and 'Silver Carpet', which has a low growth habit and is nonblooming, so it will not reseed.

HEIGHT: 12–15 inches

SPREAD: 12–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: Lavender-pink

BLOOM TIME: May–July



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Aster

Symphyotrichum species

A tall perennial with ray-type flowers in shades of blue, purple, red, pink and white. Adds color to the late summer garden. New England varieties are popular. Native species is Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*), which may self-seed.

HEIGHT: 2–3 feet

SPREAD: 1–2 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 3–8

FLOWERS: multiple colors

BLOOM TIME: August–October



PHOTO: Dylan M. Neubauer

Fendler's meadowrue

Thalictrum fendleri

A Western native (at 5,000 feet or above) with delicate, bluish-green, fernlike foliage related to columbine. Performs best in morning sun and afternoon shade. Low maintenance. Unique, pendantlike flowers with green, white or purplish sepals.

HEIGHT: 12–24 inches

SPREAD: 20–24 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: white, green, purple

BLOOM TIME: March–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Western spiderwort *Tradescantia occidentalis*

A unique perennial with continuous bloom and grasslike foliage. Allow leaves to die back to the ground after it is done blooming, then remove them. Plant may self-sow. Can look unkempt midseason.

HEIGHT: 12–24 inches / **SPREAD:** 10–12 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: blue to purplish

BLOOM TIME: June–July



Broadleaf evergreens

This group of plants retains their leaves throughout the winter months. Their foliage may take on a winter color and then green up again in spring. Winter watering is recommended, especially during dry winters.



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Kinnikinnick

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

A native mat-forming groundcover with glossy-green leaves. Pinkish-white flowers in spring are followed by red berries in the fall. Reddish fall color. Native and other selections available.

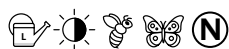
HEIGHT: 4–8 inches

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–6

FLOWERS: pinkish-white

BLOOM TIME: June–September



Oregon grape

Berberis aquifolium (syn. *Mahonia*)

An upright evergreen with shiny, dark-green leaves in summer, changing to purplish-red in fall. Fragrant, yellow flowers in the spring followed by bluish-black berries. Does best in morning sun to full shade. Plant two or more to improve berry production. Native and Oregon state flower.

HEIGHT: 5–6 feet / **SPREAD:** 5–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FLOWERS: yellow

BLOOM TIME: April–May



Creeping holly

Berberis repens (syn. *Mahonia*)

Similar to Oregon grape but smaller in size. Spreading green leaves turn purplish-red in fall. Fragrant, yellow flowers followed by bluish-black berries. Does best in morning sun to full shade.

HEIGHT: 12–18 inches

SPREAD: 30–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: yellow

BLOOM TIME: April–May





PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Point Reyes ceanothus

Ceanothus gloriosus

Small, wide-spreading shrub with dark-green, leathery foliage and fragrant, blue-purple flowers in spring. Useful on steep coastal banks. Needs protection from wind and afternoon sun. Short-lived plant (five to 10 years). Varieties available.

HEIGHT: 12–36 inches

SPREAD: 5–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 7–9

FLOWERS: blue-purple

BLOOM TIME: April



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Orchid rockrose

Cistus purpureus

An evergreen with a compact growth habit, green-gray leaves and showy, reddish-purple flowers. Tolerates wind and salt spray. One of the more hardy species of rockrose.

HEIGHT: 3–4 feet

SPREAD: 3–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 7–10

FLOWERS: reddish-purple

BLOOM TIME: May–August

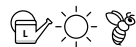


PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Cranberry cotoneaster

Cotoneaster apiculatus

This species is not invasive in the Pacific Northwest. A broadleaf semi-evergreen. Dark, shiny, green leaves change to burgundy in fall. Interesting mounding habit. Produces tiny pink flowers followed by a red cranberrylike fruit that persists into winter. Eastern exposure is best. May need to clean out debris that collects under branches. Avoid planting potentially invasive species *C. lacteus* (Parney's cotoneaster), *C. franchetti* (gray cotoneaster), *C. horizontalis* (rockspray cotoneaster).

HEIGHT: 12–36 inches

SPREAD: 3–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: May–June



'Carol Mackie' daphne

Daphne x burkwoodii var. 'Carol Mackie'

An attractive, semi-evergreen shrub with variegated leaves and fragrant, pinkish flowers in spring. Provides winter interest. One of the more cold-hardy daphne varieties. Prefers morning light and afternoon shade and protection from high winds. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 2–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 2–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: May



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Salal

Gaultheria shallon

A low-growing, broadleaf evergreen with attractive white to pink flowers, followed by edible black fruit. Shrub grows larger in shady conditions and stays small in full-sun conditions. Fruit is a food source for wildlife. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 1–10 feet

SPREAD: 3–12 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 6–8

FLOWERS: white, pink

BLOOM TIME: April–July



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Pacific rhododendron

Rhododendron macrophyllum

A Pacific Northwest native rhododendron with pale pink to purplish flowers in spring and dark-green leaves. Prefers acidic soils. Not adaptable in colder, drier regions such as Eastern Washington and Central and Eastern Oregon. Washington state flower.

HEIGHT: 6–12 feet

SPREAD: 10–12 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 6–9

FLOWERS: pink to purple

BLOOM TIME: April–May



PHOTOS: jmeeter (form), CC BY-SA 2.0, Eric Barbier (flower), CC BY-NC SA 2.0

Texas red yucca

Hesperaloe parviflora

An interesting succulent with arching, swordlike blue-green leaves. Showy red flower stalks bloom for an extended period of time in mid- to late summer. Cold-tolerant. Grows well in dry, sandy, well-draining soils. A favorite of hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 30–36 inches

SPREAD: 4–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–10

FLOWERS: Red to pink

BLOOM TIME: May–July



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Oregon boxwood

Paxistima myrtifolia

A low-growing shrub with leathery, light-green leaves. Stays more compact in full-sun areas.

HEIGHT: 1–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 1–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FLOWERS: red

BLOOM TIME: June–August



Yucca

Yucca species

Recognized by swordlike leaves in various shade of green, gray-green, or variegated green and yellow. Produces stalks of white flowers during the growing season. Several varieties available.

HEIGHT: 2–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 2–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–10

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: June–July

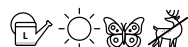


PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Shrubs

Shrubs are woody plants that produce branches from the base and do not have a treelike growth habit. Shrubs can often serve as ladder fuels, which should be avoided in a fire-wise landscape. Consider placement and spacing for effective fire-wise design.



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

White forsythia

Abeliophyllum distichum

A showy, fragrant spring-blooming shrub with profuse white flowers in March or April. Hardy to the west side of the Cascade Mountains. Low maintenance and can be used as a hedge. Multi-stemmed, unkept appearance. Not real showy in the landscape after bloom.

HEIGHT: 3–5 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FLOWERS: white to pinkish

BLOOM TIME: March–April



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Vine maple

Acer circinatum

A Pacific Northwest native with an open, irregular growth habit. Can be considered a tree or shrub. Does not perform well in full sun; east-facing location is ideal. Nice green stems when young; medium green leaves in summer. Healthy plants can have red, orange or yellow fall color. Flowers are not showy.



HEIGHT: 10–15 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

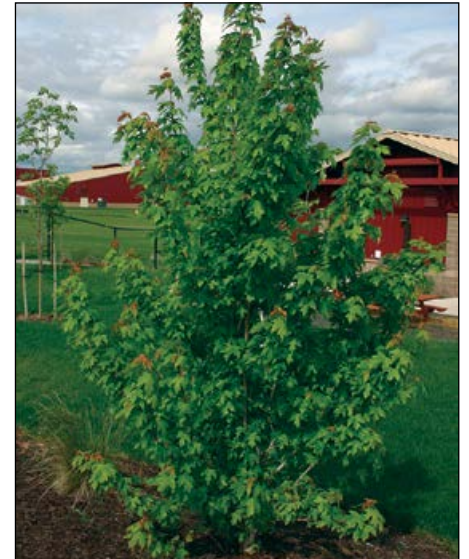


PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Rocky Mountain maple

Acer glabrum

Small tree or large multi-stem shrub with attractive dark green foliage and red twigs. The “helicopter” seeds will turn reddish in summer. Attractive red to yellow fall color. Several subspecies and varieties available. Would do best with morning sun and afternoon shade.

HEIGHT: 20–30 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FALL COLOR: yellow to red



Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!

Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Keep landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering and proper pruning.



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Serviceberry

Amelanchier species

A multi-stemmed shrub or tree that bears white flowers in spring followed by edible, purplish-black fruit that can be used in jams or wine. Excellent fall colors of red-orange. *A. alnifolia* (Saskatoon serviceberry) is the native species. Cultivated species include ‘Regent’, which is more compact.

HEIGHT: 6–10 feet / **SPREAD:** 5–12 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–10

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: March–April



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Black chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa

An upright, multi-stem shrub with glossy, green leaves and white flowers in spring. Blackish fruit is edible and can be used to make juices, jellies and jams. Plant has high wildlife value and reddish-purple fall color. Varieties include ‘Autumn Magic’ and ‘Viking’. Both red and green chokeberry could also be used.

HEIGHT: 3–6 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: April–May



‘Crimson Ruby’

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Barberry

Berberis species

A commonly used small- or medium-sized shrub with a dense, rounded growth habit. Branches have spines and small leaves in colors ranging from purplish red to gold. Red fruit persists into winter. More popular varieties include *B. thunbergii* var. *atropurpurea* ‘Crimson Pygmy’ (dwarf), ‘Rose Glow’, *B. thunbergii* ‘Helmond Pillar’ (upright), ‘Admiration’, ‘Concorde’ (sterile). Other sterile varieties include ‘Crimson Cutie®’ and ‘Lemon Glow®’. Barberry is considered invasive in several states (Midwest and eastern U.S.). Avoid planting invasive species *B. vulgaris* (common barberry).

HEIGHT: 4-6 feet / **SPREAD:** 4–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: yellow

BLOOM TIME: April–May



Buddleia (sterile varieties) *Buddleia*

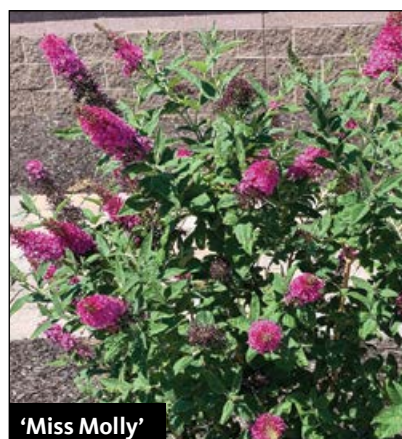
Known for its beautiful, nectar-rich, fragrant blooms in late summer. Can be difficult to establish in some regions. May need to be cut back each season to 12 inches above the ground. Select sterile varieties approved for sale such as ‘Asian Moon’, ‘Blue Chip’, ‘Miss Molly’, ‘Miss Ruby’ and several of the Flutterby Grande™ cultivars. Attracts hummingbirds. Avoid planting invasive species *B. davidii* (butterfly bush). The common name butterfly bush is no longer used with the sterile varieties.

HEIGHT: 4-6 feet / **SPREAD:** 4–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FLOWERS: purple, pink, white, blue

BLOOM TIME: July–September



‘Miss Molly’



‘Blue Chip’

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Blue-mist spirea

Caryopteris x clandonensis

Dense, rounded shrub with grayish-green leaves. Produces lavender-blue flowers in late summer. Foliage has a sagelike scent. Nice color for late season. Attracts pollinators. Can die back in winter and be cut back like a perennial in early spring. Prefers additional moisture. Will reseed. Cultivars include 'Blue Mist', 'Dark Knight' and 'Beyond Midnight'.

HEIGHT: 3–5 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–5 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–10

FLOWERS: lavender-blue

BLOOM TIME: July–September



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

California lilac

Ceanothus x pallidus 'Marie Simon'

A semi-deciduous to evergreen shrub with large, loose clusters of fragrant, soft pink flowers and interesting maroon-colored stems. Adaptable west of the Cascades. Prune in early spring to rejuvenate and shape.

HEIGHT: 3–6 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 6–10

FLOWERS: light pink

BLOOM TIME: June–July



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Kelsey dogwood

Cornus sericea 'Kelseyi'

This dwarf dogwood has a compact, rounded growth habit with white flowers in spring. Red stems provide winter interest. Prefers morning sun and afternoon shade.

HEIGHT: 24–36 inches / **SPREAD:** 24–36 inches

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–8

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



Red-osier dogwood *Cornus sericea*

A fast-growing shrub often found in riparian areas. White flowers followed by white fruits. Attractive red stems offer winter color to the landscape. Many cultivars available with different-colored stems and leaves and in various sizes. Can be pruned heavily down to 12 inches every four to five years.

HEIGHT: 7–10 feet / **SPREAD:** 8–10 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–8

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Shrubby cinquefoil

Dasiphora fruticosa

Formerly known as *Potentilla fruticosa*,

this hardy, bushy shrub with small grayish-green leaves produces flowers all summer long in shades of yellow, gold, white, pink, red and orange. Cultivars include ‘Abbotswood’, ‘Gold Drop’, ‘Goldfinger’, ‘Tangerine’ and many others.

HEIGHT: 2–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 2–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 2–7

FLOWERS: multi

BLOOM TIME: June–September

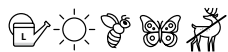


PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Forsythia hybrids

Forsythia x intermedia

Forsythia come in a variety of sizes from dwarf to large shrubs. Known for its abundance of yellow flowers covering the entire branch in early spring. Prune following flowering, removing oldest stems all the way to the ground. Common varieties include ‘Lynwood Gold’, ‘Northern Gold’, ‘Meadowlark’ and the dwarf compact variety ‘Courtasol’ (Gold Tide).

HEIGHT: 3+ feet / **SPREAD:** 6+ feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: Yellow-gold

BLOOM TIME: March–April

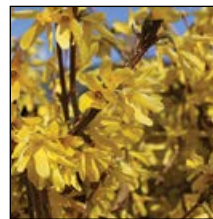


PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Oceanspray

Holodiscus discolor

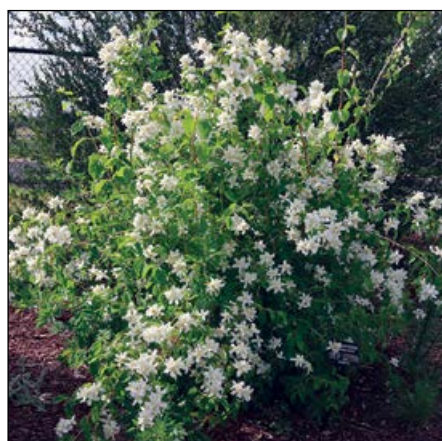
An attractive, large shrub with a graceful growth habit and fragrant, pendulous, creamy white flowers in summer. Attracts hummingbirds. Best in morning light and afternoon shade.

HEIGHT: 6–9 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: June–July



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Mockorange *Philadelphus* species

Known for its sweet-smelling white flowers and bright-green foliage. Flowers can be single or double. Vase-shape growth habit. Many cultivars available, including golden-leaved ones. Attracts hummingbirds. *P. lewisii* (Lewis’ mockorange) is the native variety and the Idaho state flower.

HEIGHT: 6–8 feet / **SPREAD:** 6–8 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June





'Diablo®'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Proven Winners

Ninebark

Physocarpus species

Very adaptable shrubby plant with dense, green, purple or golden foliage. Produces white flowers in summer. Distinct peeling bark. Varieties include 'Diablo®' (purple foliage), 'Dart's Gold', 'Summer Wine™' (smaller) and 'Little Devil™' (smaller). Pacific ninebark is native with green leaves in summer.

HEIGHT: 6-8 feet / **SPREAD:** 6-8 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-7

FLOWERS: white to pinkish

BLOOM TIME: May-June



'Nana'

Western sandcherry

Prunus besseyi

A medium-sized shrub with an open, irregular growth habit. Produces fragrant, white flowers in spring followed by edible, red (changing to black) fruit. Leaves are grayish-green, changing to a coppery-red in fall. Prefers additional moisture but can sucker if overwatered. 'Pawnee Buttes®' selection is 12-18 inches tall.

HEIGHT: 4-6 feet / **SPREAD:** 4-6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3-7

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: April-May



'Fine Line® Improved' buckthorn

Rhamnus frangula 'SMNRFBT'

This variety is NOT invasive. Produces little fruit, and of those, only 2% are viable. Dense, upright shrub ideal for a hedge or shrub border with unique feathery appearance. Very adaptable. Glossy-green leaves turn yellow in fall. Flowers are not showy.

HEIGHT: 5-7 feet

SPREAD: 2-3 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2-7



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Western azalea *Rhododendron occidentale*

A deciduous, upright shrub with, fragrant, white to salmon-pink flowers in spring. It is the only native azalea west of the Rocky Mountains found on the western side of the Cascade Mountains. Attracts hummingbirds. All parts of the plants are poisonous.

HEIGHT: 5-10 feet / **SPREAD:** 5-10 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 6-9

FLOWERS: white to pink

BLOOM TIME: April-May





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

'Gro-Low' fragrant sumac



Rhus aromatica
'Gro-Low'

Mounding shrub with dark green leaves. Fall color is orange to red to purple. Tiny yellow flowers change to fuzzy red fruit. Prefers additional moisture. *R. trilobata* 'Autumn Amber' grows 10-14 inches high and is a nice selection of the native *R. trilobata* (Three-leaf sumac), which grows 5-7 feet high. Flowers are not showy. Can spread by suckers and often used to stabilize slopes.

HEIGHT: 1-3 feet / **SPREAD:** 5-7 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-9



Golden currant

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Flowering currant

Ribes species



Small to medium-size shrubs with attractive bright to dark-green leaves and fragrant flowers in a variety of colors. Some species produce edible fruit. *R. aureum* (golden currant) is widely native and *R. sanguineum* (red-flowering currant) is native west of the Cascades.

HEIGHT: 3-6' / **SPREAD:** 3-6'

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2-7

FLOWERS: pink or yellow

BLOOM TIME: April - May



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Hardy shrub rose

Rosa species



'Stanwell Perpetual'

PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Low-maintenance shrubs with attractive, sometimes scented flowers in a wide variety of colors. Blooms continuously or once during the season, depending on variety. Excellent fall color and ornamental rose hips for winter interest. 'Nearly Wild' is a popular selection, easy to grow and disease-resistant. Avoid planting invasive listed *R. eglanteria* (sweetbriar rose) and *R. multiflora* (multiflora rose).

HEIGHT: 2-6 feet / **SPREAD:** 2-6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2-9

FLOWERS: various

BLOOM TIME: May-July



PHOTO: ME Hart, Bugwood.org



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler

Wood's rose *Rosa woodsii*

A native wild rose in the Pacific Northwest with a spreading growth habit. Produces single pink flowers in summer followed by ornamental, red hips. *R. nutkana* (Nootka rose) and *R. gymnocarpa* (bald-hip rose) are two other native species.

HEIGHT: 3-6 feet / **SPREAD:** 3-6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-8

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: May-July





'Hakuro-nishiki'



'Arctic Blue'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Willow

Salix species

Fast-growing shrubs with narrow leaves, dense branches and yellow fall color. Several native and cultivated species are available. Prefers additional moisture. Can be susceptible to insect and disease. Large, tree-form willows generally are not recommended for home landscapes due to invasive roots and weak wood. Prune out the dead wood and remove debris in willow to reduce a potential fuel source. A popular selection includes *S. integra* 'Hakuro-nishiki' (dappled willow), grown for its attractive foliage. *S. lucida* (shining willow), *S. scouleriana* (Scouler's willow) and *S. lutea* (yellow willow) are native. Flowers are not showy. Avoid planting potentially invasive species *S. alba* (white or crack willow).

HEIGHT: 6–30 feet

SPREAD: 5–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–9



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Russian sage

Salvia yangii

Formerly known as *Perovskia atriplicifolia*.

Fine, feathery-textured shrub with silvery-gray leaves and a sagelike aroma. Produces beautiful, long-lasting, lavender-blue flowers in late summer. Do not overwater. May reseed or spread by rhizomes. May die back in colder areas and can be cut back to 12 inches in spring. The seedheads provide fall/winter food for some birds. Attracts hummingbirds and yellow finch. Best cultivars include 'Blue Spires' (sterile, so will not reseed), 'Lacey Blue' (dwarf) and 'Little Spires' (dwarf).

HEIGHT: 3–5 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

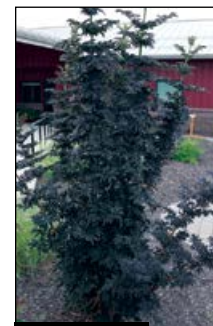
FLOWERS: lavender-blue

BLOOM TIME: June–August



'Black Lace'

PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



'Laced Up'

PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



Blue elderberry

PHOTO: Barbara L. Wilson, Oregon Flora

Elderberry

Sambucus species

A multi-stemmed shrub with arching, spreading branches. The purple leaf varieties are particularly showy. Has large white-pink blooms in summer followed by edible, purple-black fruit that can be used for jellies, jams and wine. Native varieties are *S. cerulea* (blue elderberry) and *S. canadensis* (red elderberry). One of the more spectacular varieties is *S. nigra* 'Black Lace™' which has finely dissected purplish-black leaves, pink flowers, and purple fruit.

HEIGHT: 6–8 feet

SPREAD: 6–8 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: Creamy white, pink

BLOOM TIME: May–July





'Gold Mound'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Spiraea

Spiraea species

This popular, easy-care, clump-forming shrub produces white or pink bowl-shaped flowers. Leaves are generally green but can be tinted in shades of red or yellow. Many species and selections available, including 'Anthony Waterer', 'Gold Mound', 'Gold Flame', 'Little Princess' and 'Neon Flash'. Some varieties attract hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 2–4 feet / **SPREAD:** 2–4 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: white, pink

BLOOM TIME: May–June



Western spiraea

Spiraea douglasii

A medium-size shrub that produces fuzzy pink to purplish flowers in mid- to late summer. Often found along waterways. Useful in plantings near streams. Remove spent flowers. Yellow fall color.

HEIGHT: 3–6 feet / **SPREAD:** 3–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: pink, purple

BLOOM TIME: June–September



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

Upright, arching shrub with bluish-green leaves.

Pink flowers in summer, followed by white, rounded fruit, which persist through the winter. Attracts hummingbirds. All parts of the plants are poisonous to humans and pets.

HEIGHT: 4–6 feet

SPREAD: 4–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: pinkish white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



Compact American cranberrybush viburnum

Viburnum trilobum 'Compactum'

An excellent rounded shrub. Green, maplelike foliage in summer changing to orange-red in fall. Produces white flowers followed by minimal red fruit in fall. Eastside exposure is best. Prune when flowers are spent.

HEIGHT: 4–6 feet / **SPREAD:** 4–6 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–7

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June



'President Grevy'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Lilac

Syringa species

Large shrubs known for their beautiful, fragrant blossoms in spring.

Prefers additional water to get established, then becomes more drought tolerant. Tough, adaptable plant. Many dwarf hybrids available; these may be better choices in a fire-wise landscape.

HEIGHT: 5–15 feet / **SPREAD:** 6–12 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–7

FLOWERS: purple, pink, white, lavender

BLOOM TIME: May–June



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



Trees

Ornamental trees are usually smaller than shade trees and add variety to the landscape. Some deciduous species, which sheds leaves in fall, can reduce heat, slow the spread of fire and block embers. These trees can provide showy flowers, decorative fruit, attractive fall color and winter texture. They are good single specimen trees. Shade trees provide excellent fall color and cool your home in summer.

A note about *Acer* species (maples): Some maples are considered invasive in certain areas of the country. Most notably, avoid planting *A. platanoides* (Norway maple) and *A. pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple) in the Pacific Northwest.



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Amur maple

Acer ginnala

Small tree or large shrub with irregular growth habit and excellent

red fall color. Good choice for a small area. A subspecies of Tatarian maple. Varieties include 'Beethoven', 'Flame', 'Red November' and 'Mozart'.

HEIGHT: 15–20 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–8

FALL COLOR: red



PHOTO: Ali Eminov, WSC Arboretum, CC BY-NC 2.0

Bigtooth maple

Acer grandidentatum

A small, multi-stemmed tree or large shrub.

Found at elevations 4,000–7,000 feet in the Intermountain West. Adapted to both moist and dry sites. *A. grandidentatum* 'Schmidt' and 'Hipzam' are popular selections.

HEIGHT: 20–30 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, red



PHOTO: Peter Howe, CC-BY-NC-SA 2.0



PHOTO: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Bigleaf maple

Acer macrophyllum

A large shade tree with large, glossy, green leaves changing to yellow in the fall. Often found near streambanks and prefers a cool, moist environment. Adaptable west of the Cascades.

HEIGHT: 30–75 feet

SPREAD: 30–50 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FALL COLOR: yellow



PHOTO: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Red maple

Acer rubrum or
Acer x freemanii
(red maple hybrids)



Nice pyramidal to oval growth habit, depending on variety. Provide excellent red fall color. Need sufficient water to become established or can die back. Once established, red maples are an excellent addition to the landscape. Popular cultivars include 'Armstrong', 'Bowhall' Red Sunset® and October Glory®. Freeman maple types include Celebration® and Autumn Blaze®.

HEIGHT: 30–50 feet

SPREAD: 20–30 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FALL COLOR: red



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Sugar maple

Acer saccharum

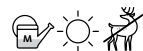
Upright-oval to rounded growth habit. May not be as adaptable in the Pacific Northwest as other maples. Fall color, although not as showy as in the northeastern U.S., can be beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow. Varieties include 'Commemoration' (more upright growth habit) and 'Green Mountain' (more broad growth habit).

HEIGHT: 30–45 feet

SPREAD: 20–30 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FALL COLOR: red, orange, yellow



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Red horsechestnut

Aesculus x carnea

A non-invasive hybrid between *A. hippocastanum* (common horsechestnut) and *A. pavia* (red buckeye). A large shade tree with a dense, rounded growth habit, attractive pink flowers and spiny fruits poisonous to horses, dogs and cats. Selections include 'Briotii' and 'Fort McNair'. Attracts hummingbirds. Avoid planting invasive species *A. hippocastanum* (common horsechestnut).

HEIGHT: 30–40 feet

SPREAD: 25–35 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: red to pink

BLOOM TIME: May

FALL COLOR: gold to brown





PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Red alder

Alnus rubra

Red alder is also known as Oregon alder. Alder is a deciduous tree with an open, conical growth habit and spreading branches. Often found in wet areas. Dark-green foliage and smooth, light-gray bark. Adaptable west of the Cascades.

HEIGHT: 45–50 feet

SPREAD: 20–30 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FALL COLOR: yellow



Mountain alder

Alnus tenuifolia

Grown as a small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Dull green foliage and very cold-hardy. Often found near water and can work well in difficult wet sites. This species is more fire-resistant than other *Alnus*.

HEIGHT: 20–25 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–8

FALL COLOR: yellow



Serviceberry or juneberry

Amelanchier species

A multi-stemmed shrub or tree that bears white flowers in spring followed by edible, purplish-black fruit. Excellent fall colors of red-orange. Tree form varieties include 'Autumn Brilliance', 'Princess Diana', 'Robin Hill' and 'Spring Flurry'®. *A. laevis* (Allegheny serviceberry) can also be used. See shrub section for list of native shrub forms.

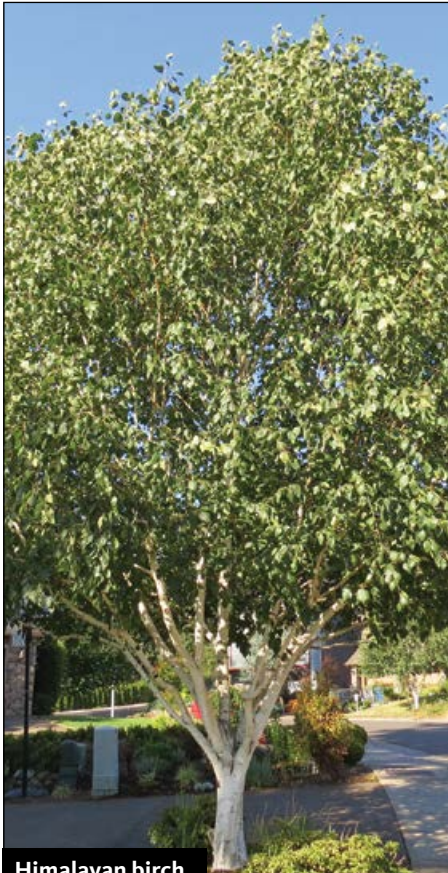
HEIGHT: 20–25 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FALL COLOR: red–orange





Himalayan birch

PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler (top and below), Neil Bell (above)



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Birch

Betula species

An ornamental tree with bright-green foliage that changes to yellow in fall.

Several varieties have interesting bark texture and are known for their distinct white bark. Some species are highly susceptible to an insect called the bronze birch borer, especially in drier regions. Bronze birch borer-resistant varieties include *B. nigra* (river birch), 'Heritage' and 'Whitespire Senior'. Avoid planting invasive species *B. pendula* (European birch).

HEIGHT: 30–40 feet

SPREAD: 20–30 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–9

FALL COLOR: yellow



River birch

Western catalpa

Catalpa speciosa

A large shade tree with green, heart-shaped leaves and attractive, creamy-white, orchidlike flowers followed by long, thin seed pods. May be on watch list in areas of Idaho. Check the Invasive Plant Atlas in "Resources" and avoid planting in areas noted.

HEIGHT: 40–50 feet

SPREAD: 20–25 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: May–June

FALL COLOR: yellow to brown



Common hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

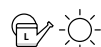
A large shade tree with light-green leaves and interesting corky bark. Drought tolerant and adaptable to a wide array of growing conditions. Flowers are not showy.

HEIGHT: 40–50 feet

SPREAD: 35–40 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–9

FALL COLOR: yellow





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis

An attractive, small ornamental tree with showy, pink, pealike blooms in early spring. Green, heart-shaped leaves change to yellow in fall. California or Western redbud (*C. occidentalis*) is also fire-resistant but less hardy. Varieties include 'Covey', 'Forest Pansy', 'The Rising Sun' and many others. Attracts hummingbirds.

HEIGHT: 20–30 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FLOWERS: pink

BLOOM TIME: March–April

FALL COLOR: yellow



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida

A small, ornamental shrub with showy pink, reddish or white “flower” bracts and an open, low-branching, irregular growth habit. Several varieties available, including 'Rubra', 'Cherokee Chief' and Cherokee Brave™. Native species *C. nuttallii* (Pacific dogwood) is adaptable west of the Cascades but can be difficult to grow in urban landscapes.

HEIGHT: 20–30 feet

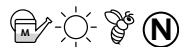
SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FLOWERS: pink, red, white

BLOOM TIME: April–June

FALL COLOR: red, orange, yellow



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Common smoketree

Cotinus coggygria

A large shrub or small tree that has unique foliage. Hairy flowers produce showy “plumes of smoke” late in the season. The purple leaf varieties are particularly striking. Cultivars include 'Royal Purple' and 'Ancot' (Golden Spirit®), which has lime-green leaves.

HEIGHT: 10–15 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: yellow or pink

BLOOM TIME: June–August

FALL COLOR: yellow, red, purple





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Hawthorn

Crataegus species

Small ornamental tree with single or multiple stems, white or red flowers, and showy fruit that attracts birds. Some varieties are thornless. Species and cultivars include *C. douglasii* (black hawthorn, native), *C. lavalleyi* (Lavalle hawthorn) and *C. laevigata* (English hawthorn) ‘Crimson Cloud’ and ‘Paul’s Scarlet’. Avoid planting invasive species *C. monogyna* (one-seed hawthorn) and *C. phaenopyrum* (Washington hawthorn).

HEIGHT: 15–20 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FLOWERS: white, red

BLOOM TIME: May–June

FALL COLOR: bronze, gold



'Tricolor'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

European beech

Fagus sylvatica

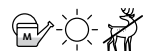
A large, slow-growing shade tree with a densely pyramidal to rounded growth habit. Lustrous, dark-green leaves in summer. Can have a broad, wide growth habit or weeping form. Flowers are not showy. Cultivars include ‘Purple Fountain’, ‘Tricolor’ and ‘Riversii’.

HEIGHT: 25–60 feet

SPREAD: 15–45 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FALL COLOR: golden bronze



PHOTOS: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University

Cascara

Frangula purshiana

Grows as a small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Has unique ribbed leaves and smooth gray bark with chalky white patches. Flowers are insignificant.

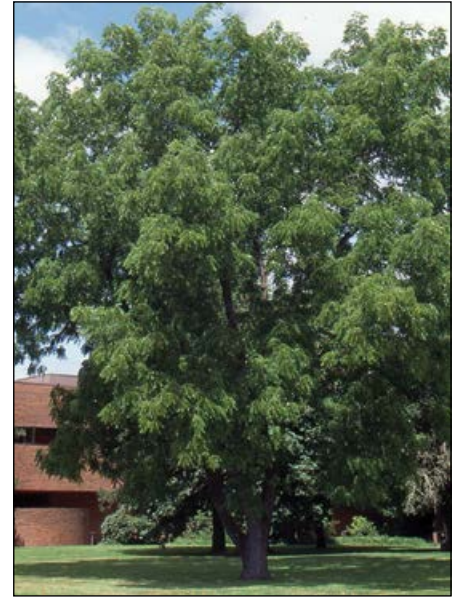
HEIGHT: 15–30 feet

SPREAD: 10–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, red





'Sunburst'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Thornless honeylocust

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*. cvs

The fine leaves provide a filtered shade environment. Many thornless and seedless cultivars are available in various sizes and growth habits. Keep healthy to avoid insects and disease. Flowers not showy. Cultivars include Skyline®, 'Shademaster', Imperial® and Sunburst®.

HEIGHT: 35–40 feet

SPREAD: 30–50 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–9

FALL COLOR: yellow



Kentucky coffee tree

Gymnocladus dioica

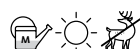
A large shade tree for large areas. Leaves are dark green in summer. Female trees produce large seed pods that have toxic properties, so male trees are more commonly sold. Adapted to a wide range of soils and climate. Flowers are not showy. Male cultivars include Espresso™.

HEIGHT: 40–50 feet

SPREAD: 30–40 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FALL COLOR: yellow



Walnut

Juglans species

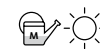
A large tree with spreading growth habit. The leaves are divided, giving a featherlike appearance. Some species provide edible nuts. *J. nigra* (black walnut) is a prime timber tree. Flowers are not showy.

HEIGHT: 40–60+ feet

SPREAD: 30–50 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–9

FALL COLOR: yellow



Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!

Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Keep landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering and proper pruning.



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



'Spring Snow'



'Royal Raindrops'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

American sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua



A large shade tree with a unique green leaf and yellow, red or purple fall color. Seedpods are spiked and may be a nuisance in the landscape. Remove fallen seed pods annually. 'Rotundiloba' and Happidaze™ are fruitless varieties. 'Worplesdon' and 'Slender Silhouette' are popular varieties. Flowers are not showy.

HEIGHT: 60–75 feet

SPREAD: 20–25 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 5–9

FALL COLOR: red, yellow, purple



Crabapple *Malus* species

Restrictions on planting crabapples may apply in fruit-tree growing regions of the Pacific Northwest. These trees have beautiful spring flowers in rose, pink, red and white. They offer different growth habits and can feature green or purplish foliage. They also provide ornamental fruit and fall color. Some are fruitless. Varieties include 'Adirondack', Golden Raindrops®, Lollipop™, Prairiefire, 'Profusion' 'Red Baron', Royal Raindrops®, Sargent, Show Time™, 'Snowdrift' and 'Spring Snow' (fruitless). Avoid planting potentially invasive *M. floribunda* (Japanese crabapple).

HEIGHT: 15–20 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FLOWERS: rose, pink, red, white

BLOOM TIME: April–May

FALL COLOR: several



Western or California sycamore

Platanus racemosa

A large, fast-growing tree with large, dark-green leaves and flaking bark in shades of white, brown and gray. Typically has a multi-stem trunk. Best used in areas that allow for mature size. Flowers are not showy. Native to wet areas. Round fruit can be a nuisance.

HEIGHT: 40–80 feet

SPREAD: 50–70 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 7–9

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, brown

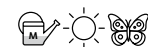




PHOTO: Ric Ergenbright/Danita Delimont, stock.adobe.com

Quaking aspen

Populus tremuloides

Attractive light-colored bark and trembling green leaves make this a popular tree. This tree will sucker and produce groves near where they are planted. Suckers will come up in beds and turfgrass, so plan accordingly. Yellow-orange fall color. Adaptable to both wet and dry soils. Susceptible to disease and insects in an urban environment. Cultivars include 'Erecta', which has an upright, columnar growth habit and orange-yellow fall color. Flowers are not showy. Native stands provide habitat for native bees.

HEIGHT: 30–40 feet

SPREAD: 12–15 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 1–8

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange



PHOTO: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University



'Schubert'

PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana

A medium-sized tree to large shrub with green leaves and white flowers, followed by edible purple fruits that can be used for jams, jellies and wines. Will produce some suckers at the base of the tree. A popular cultivar in landscapes is 'Schubert' grown for its maroon summer foliage.

HEIGHT: 20–30 feet

SPREAD: 15–20 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 2–6

FLOWERS: white

BLOOM TIME: April–May

FALL COLOR: yellow



PHOTO: Neil Bell, © Oregon State University



PHOTOS: Patrick Breen, © Oregon State University

Oregon white oak

Quercus garryana

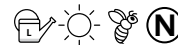
Known for its twisting limbs, this large shade tree has dark, glossy, green leaves that change to reddish brown in fall. Adapted west of the Cascades. Flowers are not showy.

HEIGHT: 40–90 feet

SPREAD: 30–60 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 6–9

FALL COLOR: Yellow-brown





PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Pin oak

Quercus palustris

A fast-growing oak with dark-green, bristly leaves and lower, pendulous branches. Young trees have a pyramidal growth habit, but form becomes more open and rounded as trees mature. Prefers acidic soils. Flowers not showy.

HEIGHT: 50–70 feet

SPREAD: 25–40 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FALL COLOR: Red to brown



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Red oak

Quercus rubra

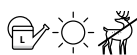
One of the faster growing oaks, good for a large area. Dark-green summer leaves have pointed lobes. Nice fall colors of red, orange and brown. Flowers not showy.

HEIGHT: 60–75 feet

SPREAD: 40–50 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–8

FALL COLOR: red



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

'Purple Robe' locust

Robinia pseudoacacia
'Purple Robe'

An upright tree with attractive, fragrant, purple flowers. Yellow fall color. Very adaptable tree in tough environments. Branches may break in high winds due to branch angles. Sold as thornless but may develop some thorns over time. Avoid planting invasive species *R. pseudoacacia* (black locust).

HEIGHT: 30–40 feet

SPREAD: 20–30 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 3–8

FLOWERS: purple

BLOOM TIME: May–June

FALL COLOR: yellow



Plant availability

If you are unable to find the plants you want locally, visit the Oregon Association of Nurseries website for plant availability, https://nurseryguide.com/Find_Plants



PHOTOS: Amy Jo Detweiler, © Oregon State University

Japanese tree lilac

Syringa reticulata

Bears fragrant creamy-white flowers in early summer. 'Ivory Silk' has a compact oval growth habit and is a good choice for a fire-wise landscape. Other varieties include 'Chantilly Lace', 'Regent', and 'Summer Snow'.

HEIGHT: 15–20 feet

SPREAD: 10–12 feet

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4–7

FLOWERS: creamy white

BLOOM TIME: June–July

FALL COLOR: yellow



Most conifers have resin and other characteristics that make them more flammable. Avoid planting conifers near the home. PHOTO: stock.adobe.com

Evergreen trees and shrubs

Evergreens keep their needles throughout the year, providing winter color in your landscape. However, most evergreens have fire-prone characteristics, such as resin, that do not lend themselves to a fire-wise landscape. Few evergreens are fire-wise plants.

If you choose to use a specialty conifer, plant it as far away from the home as possible, with few fire-wise plants near it. You can plant conifers in the extended zone (30–100 feet) outwards, with no other plant material around them. Remove lower limbs and make sure no limbs touch roofs, siding or other structures. Rake and remove needles from the first two zones to reduce fuels around the home.

Ponderosa pine and western larch are among the most fire-resistant conifers due to their thick bark, which protects them from fire, and the high moisture content of their foliage. As conifers mature, their bark thickens, increasing their fire-resistance.



Alternative mulch such as gravel provides an effective firebreak around this home, but conifers and ornamental grasses are not fire-wise plants and should be used sparingly, away from homes. PHOTO: stock.adobe.com

Groundcovers

Antennaria, pussytoes or cat's ears 11
Arabis, rockcress 11
Aubrieta deltoidea, false rock cress 11
Aurinia saxatilis, basket-of-gold 11
Bellium minus, miniature mat daisy 12
Callirhoe involucrata, poppy mallow 12
Ceanothus prostratus, mahala mat 12
Cerastium tomentosum, snow-in-summer 12
Convallaria majalis, Lily of the valley 13
Delosperma, iceplant 13
Eriogonum umbellatum, sulphur
 buckwheat 13
Fragaria, wild strawberry 13
Galium odoratum, sweet woodruff 14
Lamium, dead nettle 14
Marrubium rotundifolium, silver-edged
 horehound 14
Pachysandra terminalis, Japanese
 pachysandra 15
Phlox subulata, creeping phlox 15
Saponaria ocymoides, coarwort 15

Sedum, stonecrop 15
Sempervivum, hens and chicks 16
Thymus praecox 'Minus', creeping thyme 16
Veronica, speedwell 16

Perennials

Achillea, yarrow 17
Agastache, hummingbird mint 17
Allium cernuum, nodding onion 17
Allium cristophii, 'Star of Persia' 18
Allium 'Globemaster' 18
Allium karataviense 'Ivory Queen' 18
Allium schoenoprasum, chives 18
Aquilegia, columbine 19
Armeria maritima, sea thrift 19
Asclepias tuberosa, orange butterfly
 weed 19
Baptisia, false indigo 19
Bergenia cordifolia, heartleaf bergenia 20
Calochortus, mariposa lily 20
Carex, sedge 20
Coreopsis, tickseed 20

Delphinium 21
Dianthus, garden carnation or pinks 21
Dicentra formosa, western or Pacific
 bleeding heart 21
Echinacea purpurea, coneflower 21
Epilobium canum, California fuchsia 22
Erigeron linearis, desert yellow fleabane 22
Gaillardia, blanket flower 22
Geranium cinereum or *Geranium striatum*,
 grayleaf cranesbill or bloody cranesbill 22
Geum triflorum, prairie smoke 23
Helianthemum nummularium, sun rose 23
Hemerocallis, daylily 23
Heuchera sanguinea, coral bells 23
Hosta, hosta lily 24
Hyloteophium herbstfreude, 'Autumn Joy'
 sedum 24
Iberis sempervirens, candytuft 24
Iris, tall bearded 24
Kniphofia uvaria, torch lily or red-hot
 poker 25
Leucanthemum x superbum, Shasta daisy 25
Lavandula, lavender 25

Lewisia x longipetala or *L. cotyledon* 25
Liatris, blazing star 26
Lilium, Asiatic lilies 26
Linum perenne, blue flax 26
Lonicera, honeysuckle 26
Lupinus, lupine 27
Oenothera, evening primrose 27
Opuntia, prickly pear cactus 27
Papaver orientale, Oriental poppy 27
Penstemon, beardtongue 28
Phlox paniculata, tall garden phlox 28
Polemonium, Jacob's ladder 28
Polygonatum commutatum, Solomon's seal 28
Pulsatilla patens, pasque flower 29
Ratibida columnifera, prairie coneflower 29
Rudbeckia fulgida or *Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan 29
Salvia sylvestris 29
Saxifraga x arendsii, mossy saxifrage 30
Scutellaria, skullcap 30
Solidago, goldenrod 30
Sphaeralcea munroana, orange globe mallow 30
Stachys byzantina, lamb's ear 31
Symphotrichum, aster 31
Thalictrum fendleri, Fendler's meadowrue 31
Tradescantia occidentalis, western spiderwort 31
Zauschneria (see *Epilobium canum*) 22

Broadleaf evergreens

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, kinnickinnick 32
Berberis aquifolium, Oregon grape 32
Berberis repens, Creeping holly 31
Ceanothus gloriosus, Point Reyes ceanothus 33
Cistus purpureus, orchid rockrose 33
Cotoneaster apiculatus, cranberry cotoneaster 33
Daphne burkwoodii var. 'Carol Mackie' 33
Gaultheria shallon, salal 34
Hesperaloe parviflora, Texas red yucca 34
Paxistima myrtifolia, Oregon boxwood 34
Rhododendron macrophyllum, Pacific rhododendron 34

Shrubs

Abeliophyllum distichum, white forsythia 35
Acer circinatum, Vine maple 35
Acer glabrum, Rocky Mountain maple 35
Aronia melanocarpa, black chokeberry 36
Berberis, Barberry 35
Buddleia (sterile varieties) 35
Caryopteris x clandonensis, blue-mist spirea 37
Ceanothus x pallidus 'Marie Simon', California lilac 37
Cornus sericea 'Kelseyi', Kelsey dogwood 37
Cornus sericea, red-osier dogwood 37
Dasiphora fruticosa, shrubby cinquefoil 38
Forsythia x intermedia 38
Holodiscus discolor, oceanspray 38
Mahonia, Oregon grape or creeping holly (see *Berberis*) 32
Philadelphus, mockorange 38
Physocarpus, ninebark 39
Prunus besseyi, western sandcherry 39
Rhamnus frangula 'SMNRFBT', Fine Line® Improved buckthorn 39
Rhododendron occidentale, western azalea 39
Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low', Gro-Low fragrant sumac 40
Ribes, flowering currant 40
Rosa, hardy shrub rose 40
Rosa woodsii, Wood's rose 40
Salvia yangii, Russian sage 41
Sambucus nigra ssp. *cerulea*, blue elderberry 41
Spiraea, spirea and western spirea 41
Symphoricarpos albus, snowberry 42
Syringa, lilac 42
Viburnum trilobum 'Compactum', compact American cranberry viburnum 42

Trees

Acer ginnala, Amur maple 43
Acer grandidentatum, bigtooth maple 43
Acer macrophyllum, bigleaf maple 43
Acer rubrum or *Acer x freemanii*, red maple 44
Aesculus x carnea, red horsechestnut 44
Alnus rubra, red alder 45
Alnus tenuifolia, mountain alder 45
Amelanchier, serviceberry or juneberry 36, 45
Betula, birch 46
Catalpa, western catalpa 46
Celtis occidentalis, common hackberry 46
Cercis canadensis, Eastern redbed 47
Cornus florida, flowering dogwood 47
Cotinus coggygria, common smoketree 47
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Fagus sylvatica, European beech 48
Frangula purshiana, cascara 48
Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*. cvs, thornless honeylocust 49
Gymnocladus dioicus, Kentucky coffee tree 49
Juglans, walnut 49
Liquidambar styraciflua, American sweetgum 50
Malus, crabapple 50
Platanus racemosa, Western or California sycamore 50
Populus tremuloides, quaking aspen 51
Prunus virginiana, chokecherry 51
Quercus garryana, Oregon white oak 51
Quercus palustris, pin oak 52
Quercus rubra, red oak 52
Robinia pseudoacacia 'Purple Robe', Purple Robe locust 52
Salix, willow 41



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