

**NATIVE PLANTS OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN SUITABLE FOR ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING**

Names	Full Sun	Partial Shade	Shade	Mature Height	Drought Tolerant	Moist soil	Shorelines	Notes
<b>Groundcovers</b>								
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> Kinnickinnick, Bearberry, Mountain Box	x	ok		2-6"	x			Small white or pink bell-shaped flowers in spring, ½" bright red berries remain over winter and are attractive to wildlife. Glossy green leaves turn red in fall. Easily forms a mat up to 15' wide. Best growth in full sun, and poor, sandy, infertile, well-drained soils. Can withstand occasional light foot traffic. Good for areas too steep for lawn. Very adaptable and hardy, aggressive enough to control weeds yet not invasive, but may be slow to start--mulch to keep weeds down. Requires 14" of precipitation. Do not fertilize. Prefers slightly acidic soil.
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i> Western clematis	x	x			x			Can be used as groundcover or climbing vine, will climb to 20' or more. Highly ornamental quarter-sized white blossoms in spring, fluffy seed heads persist through summer. Very fast growing and hardy. Can be invasive if not controlled. Good wildlife cover.
<i>Cornus canadensis</i> Bunchberry		x	x	3-9"		x		Small white flowers in early spring, red berries in late summer. Leaves turn red or yellow in fall. Requires acid soil to establish well but will grow in slightly alkaline soils. Will tolerate slower draining soils. Spreads by rhizomes and forms a carpet. Delicate--will not tolerate foot traffic. Ideal for north and east exposures under shrubs or trees. Requires 16-32" annual precipitation.
<i>Linnaea borealis</i> Twinflower		x	x	2-5"		ok		Evergreen, trailing. Fragrant pink bell-shaped flowers in summer (June-Sept). Fills in bare areas quickly but is not aggressive. Spreads by runners. Likes acidic soil.
<i>Mahonia repens</i> Creeping Oregon grape	x	x		1'-3'	x	ok		One of the toughest and most adaptable native ground covers, easy to grow, tolerates wide range of soil types and ph. Can take a light amount of occasional foot traffic. Spreads by rhizomes and when established forms a 6-12" deep layer of ground cover that will control erosion. Year round interest: yellow flowers in spring, blue berries in summer and fall, shiny green, purple, or bronze leaves through winter. Spreading habit. 12-18" tall in sun, taller in the shade, with equal spread. Good wildlife cover and food; attracts birds. Very difficult to eradicate once established. Requires 12" annual precipitation.
Phlox (see perennials)								

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<b>Shrubs</b>								
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Saskatoon or Western serviceberry, Juneberry	x	x		3'-18'	x	ok		Large shrub or small tree with upright limbs fanning out at crown, very nice yard tree. Very hardy and adaptable to a wide range of conditions and thrives in all soil types. Will grow in dry, rocky areas, may get leggy in shade. Highly ornamental white flowers in early spring, edible blue berries in summer, yellow, red, or purple leaves in fall. Native Americans used berries in pemmican and branches for arrow shafts. Valuable to wildlife. Requires at least 11" of precipitation. Berries best in moist locations.
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> Basin big sage	x			4'-3-12'	x	ok		Semi-evergreen. Important to sage grouse as both cover and food. Easy to grow in any sunny, well-drained spot. Makes a lovely soft-textured hedge if kept dry enough. Requires 10" of precipitation. Root rot if soil is not very well drained.
<i>Atriplex canescens</i> Fourwing saltbrush	x			1-3'-3-6'	x			Small, dense, low spreading shrub to 4-8' across. Silvery-grey foliage. Controls erosion, resistant to fire and deer. Fruits provide good food for wildlife. Requires 8" of precipitation. Do not water. Use for accent or hedge.
<i>Ceratoides (or Eurotia) lanata</i> Winterfat	x			3'	x			Grey-green foliage. Tolerant of alkaline soil and salts. Important wildlife browse and cover. Requires 6" annual precipitation.
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> Mountain mahogany	x	ok		4-12'	x			White or yellow flowers in summer change to long, twisted feathery seed heads that sparkle in sunlight. 4-6' wide. Very drought tolerant. Requires 10" annual precipitation. Evergreen.
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> Rubber rabbitbrush	x			2-5'-7'	x	ok		Highly ornamental yellow blossoms in fall. Good erosion control. Deer resistant. Establishes easily in disturbed sites. Prefers deep sandy soils. Well adapted to alkali soils. Grows readily from seed. Requires 8" annual precipitation. Good cover for small birds and animals.
<i>Cornus sericea (or stolonifera)</i> Redosier dogwood	x	x	x	6'-10'		x	x	Many-stemmed tall shrub. Highly ornamental 1-3" clusters of white blossoms in spring, white berries in August, red leaves in fall. Bright red stems striking in winter. Useful for erosion control, bank stabilization, wet areas, groupings, borders, screens, and hedges. Spreads widely by creeping underground stems and rooting branches. Can be pruned severely without harm. Requires pruning to prevent becoming too large and leggy. Requires 24" annual precipitation.

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<i>Holodiscus discolor</i> Oceanspray, Cream bush	x	x		3-12', up to 20'	x	ok		Arching, many-stemmed shrub. Highly ornamental creamy flower plumes up to 1' long in May to July. Dried husks remain long after flowering, sometimes through winter. May sucker if irrigated. Tolerates wide range of soil types. Excellent for reclaiming disturbed areas. In dry sunny situations, may grow only 3' tall. Very hardy. Requires 9" annual precipitation. Good cover for small birds and animals.
<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i> Shrubby penstemon	x	ok		10"		ok		Very showy mass of purple tubular flowers. Tolerates poor soil. Exceptionally hardy.
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> Mockorange, Syringa	x	ok		3-12'	x	ok		Upright, many-stemmed deciduous shrub. Showy fragrant white flowers in summer are state flower of Idaho. Leaves turn yellow in fall. Tolerates wide range of soils. Sometimes difficult to transplant. Requires 20" annual precipitation. Good food and cover for wildlife.
<i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i> Mallow ninebark	x	ok		2-6'	x	ok		Taller in moist sites. White pompon-type flowers often tinged with rose in spring and early summer. Leaves often turn red in late summer. Cinnamon-colored bark peels off into many flaky layers. Tolerates poor soils. Needs some moisture to look its best.
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> Chokecherry	x	ok		4-12', 20-30'	ok	ok		Fast growing crooked shrub or small tree with irregular, rounded crown. 8" trunk diameter when mature, spread of 18-25'. May form dense stands. Good as a yard tree or as a windbreak or screen. Highly ornamental white cone-shaped flower clusters in May. Edible but sour cherries may be black, purple, red, or yellow, and were used by Native Americans in pemmican. Leaves turn maroon or gold in fall. Prefers well-drained soils. Important for wildlife. Requires 15" annual precipitation. Moderate salinity and drought tolerance, tolerates slightly saline soils. Good soil-binding characteristics.
<i>Prunus virginiana demissa</i> Western Chokecherry	x	ok		3-20'	x			Shiny dark green leaves in spring and summer, large number of showy white flowers in spring, grape-like clusters of dark purple fruit in fall. Fruit makes excellent jam and can be used for wine. Good erosion control plant. Requires 16" annual precipitation. Heat tolerant.
<i>Purshia tridentata</i> Antelope bitterbrush	x			1-3' up to 15'	x			Extensively-branched, often many-stemmed. Similar in appearance to sagebrush. Small yellow flowers in late spring. Semi-evergreen, very drought tolerant. Prefers sandy or rocky well-drained sites. During first 2 years, may need to protect from deer and rabbits. Excellent for revegetating disturbed sites. Good winter forage. Requires 8" annual precipitation.
<i>Rhus glabra</i> Smooth sumac	x			3-20'	x			Large shrub or small tree. Fast growing and colorful. Spreads by underground roots to form large thickets. Prefers sandy soil; very tolerant of drought, heat, and cold. Scarlet cone-like seed heads from fall to winter. Leaves turn brilliant orange, red, and bronze in fall. Fruits provide good food for wildlife. Requires 10" annual precipitation.

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<i>Ribes aureum</i> Golden currant	x	ok		3-6' up to 10'	x	ok	x	Many-stemmed, spreading shrub with highly ornamental fragrant yellow trumpet-shaped blossoms in spring, soft, bright green leaves, yellow, red, or black tasty edible berries in summer (related to gooseberries), interesting branches in winter. Very drought tolerant and hardy, tolerates poor soil. Requires 14" annual precipitation. Taller with water. Some problems with suckering. Good for hummingbirds and as food for wildlife.
<i>Ribes cereum</i> Wax or Squaw currant	x	ok		2-6'	x			Spreading shrub with highly ornamental white or red blossoms and red or orange berries. Requires 12" annual precipitation. Fruits provide good food for wildlife.
<i>Rosa woodsii</i> Woods rose	x	x		2-6'	x		x	Highly ornamental pink to red blossoms in clusters of 3-5. Edible red fruit (hips) remain throughout winter and are eaten by wildlife. Extremely vigorous and hardy. Forms thickets. Good in hedges, fence rows, along roads, and borders for windbreaks. Spreads rapidly by suckers. Excellent wildlife habitat and food. Requires 10" annual precipitation. Prefers moist, well-drained clay loam, sandy loam, or sandy soil.
<i>Salix drummondiana</i> Drummond willow	x	ok		12'			x	Does not reach tree height. Good for stabilizing shorelines.
<i>Salix exigua</i> or <i>sessilifolia</i> Coyote or Sandbar willow	x			10- 20'	x	ok	x	Thicket-forming slender shrub or small tree to 20' in wet areas. Much smaller in dry areas. Establishes quickly. Good for stabilizing shorelines. Often grows partly submerged.
<i>Salix hookeriana</i> Hooker's willow	x			3- 15'	x			Good browse and cover for wildlife. Requires 16" or more annual precipitation. Good erosion control. Sandy, gravelly, or loamy soils.
<i>Salix scouleriana</i> Scouler's willow	x	x		5- 18'	x		x	Good browse and cover for wildlife. Good erosion control. Requires 20" annual precipitation. Moderate salinity tolerance. Prefers gravelly soil. Does not grow in standing water.
<i>Spirea douglasii</i> Western spirea		x	x	1'- 12'		x	x	Clump-forming shrub. Highly ornamental 2-8" rose-colored flower plumes in mid-summer. Useful for wild plantings near shoreline; good shoreline stabilizer. Aggressive. Native to wetter areas of Washington. Prefers loamy soil.
<i>Symphoricarpus albus</i> Common snowberry	x	ok		2-6'	x		x	Upright or spreading fast growing shrub. May form thickets. Small pink or white flowers followed by white berries that persist through winter. Good wildlife cover and food. Berries are eaten by birds but poisonous to humans. Very hardy, tolerates poor soil, neglect, high winds. May have problems with suckers in wet areas. Requires 14" annual precipitation. Excellent soil-binding characteristics. Prefers loamy soil.

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<b>Trees</b>								
<i>Betula occidentalis</i> Water birch, black or red birch	x	x		20-30'	x	x	x	Large shrub or clumping small tree to 12-15', or graceful tree with pendulous branches. Leaves turn yellow in fall. Coppery-brown bark adds winter interest. Likes moisture (16" annual precipitation) but needs good drainage. Fast growing. Seedling need summer shade to become established.
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> Douglas hawthorne, black hawthorne	x	x		3-25'	x	ok	x	Small and compact tree, may form thicket. Highly ornamental white flower clusters in spring. Scarlet berries turn black and persist into winter. Excellent wildlife cover and winter food source for birds, but resistant to beaver and not favored by deer. 1" thorns on branches. May require some pruning. Native Americans ate both fresh and dried berries. Requires 6" annual precipitation. Excellent shoreline stabilizer.
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> Rocky Mountain juniper, Rocky Mountain red cedar	x			15-40', to 80'	x			Evergreen. Upright shrub or small tree to 20'. Grey-green, scale-like foliage, dark blue berries. Very drought tolerant (requires 12" annual precipitation), but will take irrigation if in well-drained site. Use for screens, hedges, or as background plant. Somewhat difficult to transplant. Good cover for wildlife. Do not plant near apple trees: Juniper is an alternate host for apple rust.
<i>Pinus contorta</i> Lodgepole pine				80'+		x		Irregular, open branching pattern. If planted close together, will be tall and slim. Usually low bushy tree in cultivation, so may work in a small garden. Slow growth to 80', sometimes to 150'. Hardy and widely adaptable, except in areas of drought. Tolerates poor soils, prefers moist, well-drained, sandy or gravelly soils. Requires 16" annual precipitation.
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Ponderosa pine	x	ok		75-100'	x			Evergreen. Long-lived, grows 50-60' in 50 years and to 100 feet or more eventually. Needs a lot of space. Grows readily from seeds or transplants. Important wildlife tree. Highly adaptable, tolerant of poor soils, requires 12" annual precipitation. Prefers dry, gravelly soils.
<i>Populus tremuloides</i> Quaking aspen	x	x		20-60'		ok	x	Soft textured appearance. Leaves turn golden yellow in fall. Fast-growing but short-lived. Requires 20" annual precipitation. Best used in groups. Tolerates wide range of soil types. Spreading roots send up new shoots, to create grove which easily invades a lawn. Can invade septic systems and water and sewer lines. Moderate drought and salinity tolerance.
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i> Black cottonwood	x			100' +		x	x	Large tree with open crown, fast growing: 40' in 15 years, 150-180' eventually. Needs ample room. Leaves turn yellow in fall. Red/purple catkin. Requires 20" annual precipitation.
<i>Salix bebbiana</i> Bebb's willow						x	x	

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<i>Salix lasiandra</i> Pacific tree willow, Red willow	x	ok		30-60'		x	x	Medium-sized tree with single or multiple trunks, rounded crown. Fast growing, dense root system provides good erosion control. Excellent for windbreaks, firewood, and wildlife. Mature trunk diameter of 35". Reproduces aggressively through root suckers--plant well away from structures and moist areas you want undisturbed (i.e. water lines, septic systems). Produces a large amount of "cotton" in spring.
<i>Salix mackenziana</i> Mackenzie willow							x	
<i>Sambucus cerulea</i> Blue elderberry	x	x		5-20'	x	ok		Large shrub or tall, shrubby tree with many branches or trunks. At maturity, it can be 4-10' tall with an 8' crown; in optimum conditions can grow into 50' tree. Highly ornamental 5-8" flat white flowerheads in Aug. Masses of small blue berries Aug and Sept, may persist into fall. Birds like berries, which can also be made into jelly, jam, or wine. Tolerates wide range of soil types, including poor soil. Excellent shade plant. Seeds may be toxic. Requires 12" annual precipitation.
<i>Sorbus scopulina</i> Dwarf mountain ash	x	ok		10-15 or 20'				Tree or large shrub. Highly ornamental white flowers in rounded clusters followed by shiny red berries in summer that may persist into winter. Leaves turn brilliant orange and red in fall in sunny areas. Tolerant of cold, wind, heat, and low humidity. Fruit is good for wildlife, but can be messy on pavement.
<b>Grasses</b>								
<i>Agropyron spicatum</i> Bluebunch wheatgrass				1-3'	x			Begins growing in April, remains green well into summer. Can survive on 7" of annual precipitation. May be bunch or sod forming, depending on cultivar. Official state grass of Washington and Montana. Resistant to burning.
<i>Elymus cinereus</i> Basin wildrye	x			2-3' 3-7'	x	ok		Early spring growth with rapid fall recovery. Can survive on 8" of annual precipitation. Tolerates alkaline and salt conditions. Useful as wildlife cover. Magnar and Trailhead are common cultivated varieties.
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> Idaho fescue	x			1-2'+	x	ok		Bunchgrass. Growth occurs primarily in spring. Requires annual precipitation of at least 9". Retains some green color throughout most of the winter. Grows taller in moist sites.
<i>Poa secunda</i> (or <i>sandbergii</i> ) Sandberg bluegrass				8" 12-18"	x			Begins growth in fall, grows rapidly in early spring, goes dormant during hot dry season. Requires 8" annual precipitation. Tolerates saline and alkaline soils. Resistant to fire and trampling.

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<b>Perennials</b>								
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> Western yarrow	x			6" 40"	x			For hot, dry, sunny sites. Highly ornamental white blossoms, 2-4" across on 20-40" stalks, Apr-Oct. Attracts butterflies. Highly adaptable, tolerates wide range of soils. Aggressive. Thrives on disturbed areas. Sow seeds in fall or transplant in early spring. Requires 10" annual precipitation.
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i> Arrowleaf balsamroot	x	ok		8"	x			2-3" yellow daisy-like flowers on 1-2' stalks in spring, may last into July. Leaves are 8" tall. Easily propagated from seeds that require little attention. Does not survive being transplanted. Requires 12" annual precipitation.
<i>Eriogonum</i> spp. Wild buckwheats	x				x			All species tolerant of wind, heat, and drought. Will self-seed.
<i>E. compositum</i> Northern desert buckwheat	x				x			Most spectacular of <i>Eriogonum</i> species. Bright yellow flowers in early summer. Rocky habitats.
<i>E. heracleoides</i> Parsley desert buckwheat, Wyeth wild buckwheat	x			1-2'	x			Ball-like clusters of whitish yellow flowers in early summer, aging to reddish. Gravelly soils. Requires 8-10" annual precipitation. Good food and cover for small animals.
<i>E. ovalifolium</i> Oval-leaf desert buckwheat	x				x			Relatively low plant. White, reddish, or yellow flowers in early to mid summer.
<i>E. sphaerocephalum</i> Round-headed desert buckwheat	x				x			Low, extensively-branched shrub. Bright yellow flowers in early summer.
<i>E. strictum</i> Strict desert buckwheat	x				x			Extensively-branched shrub. Whitish to pale yellow or pink flowers in early summer. Sandy soils.
<i>E. umbellatum</i> Umbrella desert buckwheat, sulfurflower	x	x		4- 12"	x			White, yellow, or pink to red flowers in midsummer or earlier. Stems branch excessively and often form mats. Leaves turn bronze or red in fall and persist through winter. Requires 8-10" annual precipitation. Prefers well-drained soil. Good food and cover for small animals.
<i>Lupinus sulphureus</i> Sulphur lupine	x				x			Highly ornamental yellow blossoms.

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<i>Lupinus wyethii</i> Prairie lupine								Highly ornamental blossoms.
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	x	x			x			Very showy flowers in white, yellow, pale lavender, deep blue, or purple. Likes well-drained soil. May live only 3 or 4 years.
<i>Penstemon acuminatus</i> Sand penstemon				6-24"	x			Bright blue to blue-purple flowers. Prefers sandy soil.
<i>Penstemon deustus</i> Scorched penstemon, Hot rock penstemon	x			2-4"	x			White flower spikes to 2' tall.
<i>Penstemon gairdneri</i> Rock penstemon					x			Bright pink flowers. Rocky habitats.
<i>Penstemon speciosus</i> Showy penstemon				3'	x			Bright blue flowers.
<i>Penstemon strictus</i> Rocky Mountain penstemon	x	x		1-3'	x			Long bluish-purple flower cluster. One of the most competitive of the penstemons. May become aggressive, especially with water. Requires 14" annual precipitation.
<i>Phlox hoodii</i> Cushion phlox	x							Highly ornamental blossoms may be purple, shades of blue or red, or white. Flowers very early in spring.
<i>Phlox longifolia</i> Long-leafed phlox	x							Highly ornamental pink blossoms.
<i>Phlox speciosa</i> Showy phlox	x							Highly ornamental pink or white blossoms.

- Many other species of flowering plants are native to the Columbia Basin shrub-steppe habitat types of Eastern Washington. Those listed above are commonly available through commercial native plant nurseries and/or are especially attractive in bloom.
- A few of the plants, most notably the pine species, are not true natives. However, they are native to the region and are adapted to habitats similar to those found in the Moses Lake area.
- This information was compiled from a variety of sources, including *Sagebrush Country* by Ronald Taylor, *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* by Arthur Kruckeberg, the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* by Michael Dirr, *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines* by Washington State Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program, *Riparian Planting Guide for Lincoln County* by Lincoln County Conservation District, and brochures by Plants of the Wild, a native plant nursery in Tekoa, WA, Moses Lake Conservation District Nursery, and Rainier Seeds, a native seed company based in Davenport and Eltopia, WA.