

Recommended Native Plants for Home Gardens in Western Oregon

Trees						
Common Name (1)	Scientific Name (2)	Description (3)	Comments	Drought-Tolerant (4)	Light Requirements (5)	Wildlife Value (6)
alder, red or Oregon	<i>Alnus rubra</i> Bong.	tall to medium-tall deciduous tree, 40-80', small, woody cone-like fruit	beware of power lines overhead, pioneer tree that grows well in poorer or wet soils, fast-growing and short-lived, adds nitrogen to the soil, white bark appearance due to growth of lichens, cultivars available		 	  
casacara, buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> DC.	small deciduous tree or large shrub to 30', silver bark, black berry-like fruit	forest understory tree, prefers moist soil, bark harvested for medicinal use, leaves not as attractive when grown in cultivation as in wild habitats		 	*     
cedar, western red	<i>Thuja plicata</i> D. Don	tall evergreen conifer to 165' or more, yellowish-green to deep green frond-like foliage, soft reddish-brown bark, small cones	beware of power lines overhead, requires good drainage, can be sheared for hedges, sweet odor to crushed foliage, casts a dense shade but graceful and elegant tree, many cultivars available		 	*   
cherry, wild or bitter	<i>Prunus emarginata</i> (Douglas ex Hook.) Walp.	medium deciduous tree to 50', shiny, reddish-brown peeling bark, fragrant, clusters of greenish-white flowers in spring, bright red fall fruits, bright yellow fall color	beware of power lines overhead, fast-growing tree, shrubbier forms native to east of Cascade Mountains also available		 	   
crabapple, western, Pacific, or Oregon	<i>Malus fusca</i> (Raf.) C.K. Schneid.	small deciduous tree or large shrub to 40', fragrant, white to pinkish-white flower clusters in spring, yellow to reddish-purple fruits ripen late summer	tolerates and requires wetter conditions but can survive in most gardens, can form thickets, slow-growing		 	*     
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> (Mirb.) Franco	tall evergreen conifer 75-150' in cultivation, deeply furrowed reddish-brown bark, dark green to blue-green foliage with new growth in lighter shades, 2-4" hanging cones	beware of power lines overhead - suitable for home landscapes in spacious gardens when planted away from homes, cultivars available, tree has become symbolic of the Pacific Northwest		 	*   
madrone, Pacific	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> Pursh	medium broadleaf evergreen tree to 30-75', smooth, thin, reddish-brown peeling bark, clusters of white to pink urn-shape flowers, small bright orange-red berries	beware of power lines overhead, a bold tree but may be difficult to establish, slow-growing and long-lived, tolerates dry soil, requires well-drained soil, drops litter year-round		 	*     

oak, Garry or Oregon white	<i>Quercus garryana</i> Douglas ex Hook.	medium to tall deciduous tree to 100' or more, deeply-lobed, leathery, dark green shiny leaves, acorn fruit	beware of power lines overhead, requires well-drained soil site with little or no summer moisture to prevent root diseases, slow-growing and very long-lived			
pine, ponderosa (yellow pine)	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Douglas ex C. Lawson.	tall evergreen conifer to 100' or more, buff-colored bark textured like jig-saw puzzle pieces, 5" long yellowish-green to dark green needles in bundles of 3, large cones	beware of power lines overhead, look for Willamette Valley or other form from west of Cascades that tolerate soil moisture, plant in well-drained soil, do not plant close to buildings because of large size, fast-growing and long-lived, cultivars available		 	
vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i> Pursh	small deciduous tree or large shrub with graceful arching form to 15-30', bright reddish-green bark, leaves nearly circular in outline, bright yellow-green, some with reddish fall color, fruits are samaras with wide-spread wings	arches nicely (twines) if grown in shade, tiered branches resemble those of Japanese maple, best grown in shaded setting, otherwise needs additional water, slow-growing, cultivars available		 	
Shrubs						
Common Name (1)	Scientific Name (2)	Description (3)	Comments	Drought-Tolerant (4)	Light Requirements (5)	Wildlife Value (6)
azalea, western	<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray	mid-height, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub, 6-8' or more, flowers white to pale rose with yellow spots in summer, fragrant with musky scent	from Oregon's southern coast, selected color forms available, species often used in azalea breeding programs		 	
blueblossom (California lilac, mountain lilac)	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> Eschsch.	large shrub or small tree, evergreen, 6-20', fine lustrous foliage, numerous clusters of pale blue to deep lilac-blue flowers in summer	hadiest of the wild lilacs, cultivars available			
currant, red-flowering (blood currant)	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> Pursh	mid-height deciduous shrub, 8-10' or more, many upright stems from the base, gray-green leaves, pendant, red flower clusters in late winter, black fruit with powdery bloom	selected color forms and varieties available in shades of red, pink and white, blooms emerge before foliage, rapid grower but can be short-lived		 	
dogwood, creek or red-osier	<i>Cornus sericea</i> L. (<i>C. stolonifera</i>)	mid-height, deciduous multi-trunked shrub or small tree, 6-16', reddish bark, flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers, followed by white or bluish berries	great for winter interest, control size by cutting tallest trunks at base every 2-4 yrs, vigorous colonizer, look for native forms of this wide-spread species		 	

elderberry, blue	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> (S. <i>cerulea</i>) C Presl ex DC.	large, deciduous multi-stemmed shrub or small tree to 15' or more, flat-topped flower clusters of yellowish-white followed by gray-blue, waxy berry-like fruit with bloom	tolerates dry sites, will colonize, has edible fruits, fast-growing and short-lived		 	*     
elderberry, red	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> L.	large, deciduous multi-stemmed shrub or small tree to 20', bushier than blue elderberry, compound leaves, pyramid-like elongated clusters of creamy-white flowers followed by bright red berry-like fruit	prefers moist sites, vigorous colonizer		 	*     
huckleberry, evergreen	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> Pursh	mid-height evergreen shrub to 15', glossy, dark green leaves, bronzy new growth, profusely flowering, small pinkish white bell-like flowers in clusters, followed by shiny purplish-black fruit	slow-growing, may require additional moisture during establishment, good foliage for cut flower arranging, edible fruits, cultivars available		 	*   
huckleberry, red (red bilberry, red blueberry)	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i> Sm.	mid-height deciduous shrub, 3-12', thin, light, bluish-green foliage, wispy light green foliage, inconspicuous greenish flowers followed by salmon-egg to bright red berries in early summer	plant in soil rich in organic matter such as composted fir bark, edible berries, in nature is often found rooted in old stumps		 	   
Indian plum (osoberry)	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i> (Torr. & A. Gray ex Hook. & Arn.) J.W. Landon.	small deciduous tree or large multi-branched shrub, 15-20', pendulous clusters of green and white flowers emerging late winter, pendulous purple fruits by early summer	can sucker from the base, best used in informal or woodland garden		 	*    
manzanita, bristly or hairy	<i>Arctostaphylos columbiana</i> Piper	large evergreen shrub 10-15', gray-green hairy leaves, reddish-brown, flaking bark, white, bell-like flowers followed by red fruits in summer	good for south or west-facing sites, best in sandy, well-drained soils, cultivars available		 	*     
mock orange, western	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> Pursh	mid-height, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub to 10' with masses of fragrant bright-white flowers in long clusters in late spring	to control size and keep flowers at lower level, prune oldest individual canes to the base after flowering, highly recommended for the shrub border, considered to be best ornamental mock-orange in US, cultivars available		 	*   

ninebark, Pacific or western	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> (Pursh) Kuntze	mid-height, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub to 8' or more, leaves resemble maple, small white flowers in dense 2-3" clusters in late spring, rose-brown fall color	older stems have shredding bark, best used in moist locations		 	   
oceanspray, creambush	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i> (Pursh) Maxim.	mid-height, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub, 4-15', tiny creamy white flowers in large pendant clusters in June, deeply-lobed pleasing foliage with golden fall color	slow growing when young, can be difficult to establish, to control size, prune largest stems from the base, requires well-drained soil, spent fruit remains on shrub until following season		 	    
Oregon grape, Cascade (longleaf mahonia)	<i>Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa</i> Pursh	very small, spreading, broadleaf evergreen shrub to 2', dull-green compound leaves, bright yellow flowers on long stalks, followed by blue fruit	can be slow to establish, slowly spreads, making an elegant tall groundcover for part to full shade, edible berries		 	   
Oregon grape, tall (grape holly)	<i>Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium</i> Pursh	mid-height, broadleaf evergreen shrub, 8-10' or more, spiny and glossy compound leaves with bronzy-copper new foliage, clusters of golden-yellow urn-shaped flowers, blue fruit with bloom	state flower of Oregon, edible berries, many cultivars available, including dwarf forms		 	   
rhododendron, Pacific or coast	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i> D. Don ex G. Don	large evergreen shrub or small tree to 25', usually shorter in cultivation, reddish-brown scaly bark, showy white to pink flowers, leathery, shiny gray-green foliage	has classic look of rhododendron, may require additional water because of mountain or coastal origin, cultivars available		 	    
rose, Nootka	<i>Rosa nutkana</i> C. Presl.	mid-height, deciduous thorny shrub to 10', large, solitary soft-pink flowers to 2-3", purplish, pear-shaped or round hips	best native wild rose for gardens, vigorous colonizer		 	*    
salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i> Pursh	small evergreen shrub, 3-5', lustrous dark green leaves, pinkish showy flowers, purplish berries	spreads underground to form thick colonies, often used as high groundcover, edible berries, good for dry shade		 	*     
serviceberry, western (serviceberry)	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> (Nutt.) Nutt. Ex M. Roem.	large deciduous shrub or small tree, multi-trunked, 10-25', attractive silver bark, small leaves with yellow to orange fall color, compact clusters of small white flowers, reddish-purple to black fruit	slow growing, can form thickets		 	*    

silk-tassel, wavy-leaved	<i>Garrya elliptica</i> Douglas ex Lindl.	large evergreen shrub or small tree to 20', grayish-green leathery leaves with wavy margins, 6-12" pendulous catkins in late winter	native to southern OR coastal areas, many cultivars available, male plants are considered to be more highly ornamental		 	
spirea, Douglas' (hardback, steeplebush)	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i> Hook.	mid-height, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub to 11' or more, gray-green leaves with silvery white undersides, 3" pyramid-shaped clusters of purplish-pink to deep rose flowers fading to pink, then turning brown after seed production	although will survive in dry areas, looks best in moist soil, vigorous spreader		 	  
spirea, subalpine or mountain	<i>Spiraea splendens</i> (<i>S. densiflora</i>) Baumann ex K. Koch	very small, deciduous multi-stemmed shrub to 2' or more, small dark green leaves, vivid pink to purple flowers in cauliflower-shaped clusters	requires moist cool soil conditions		 	 
Groundcovers						
Common Name (1)	Scientific Name (2)	Description (3)	Comments	Drought-Tolerant (4)	Light Requirements (5)	Wildlife Value (6)
kinnikinnik (bearberry)	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (L.) Spreng.	prostrate, evergreen woody plant with long, trailing branches to 6-8" tall, leathery leaves, white or pink urn-shaped flowers, reddish-brown berries	one of our finest groundcovers for full sun, forming creeping mats, best in well-drained soil, tolerates sterile soils, cultivars available, look for West Coast named cultivars or native wild types of this wide-spread species		 	*    
inside-out flower, white	<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i> (Hook.) C. Morren & Decne.	deciduous herbaceous groundcover to 2', delicate foliage, small, white, star-like flowers on stiff stalks in spring, bright yellow fall color in late fall	spreads underground, somewhat resembles <i>Epimedium</i> , valuable as a groundcover for shade		 	
strawberry, coastal	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> (L.) Duchesne	spreading evergreen groundcover to 9", thick leathery clover-like leaves, white flowers, red fruits	edible berries, vigorous groundcover for sun spreading by short, hairy runners, very easy to grow, edible fruit		 	*    
strawberry, wild	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> Duchesne	spreading deciduous groundcover, 2-5", gray-green or bluish-green clover-like foliage, white flowers, red fruit	freely-spreading by runners, very easy to grow, edible fruit		 	*    
strawberry, woods or woodland	<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L.	herbaceous groundcover to 8", clover-like leaves, white flowers, red fruit	best wild strawberry for shade, spreading by runners, variegated form available, prolific berry producer, edible fruit		 	*     

wood-sorrel, Oregon	<i>Oxalis oregana</i> Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray	rapidly spreading groundcover to 6-8", clover-like leaves, white or pink flowers, depending upon the variety	aggressive groundcover for areas where no other herbaceous plants are present, prefers moist shade			
Herbs & Ferns						
Common Name (1)	Scientific Name (2)	Description (3)	Comments	Drought-Tolerant (4)	Light Requirements (5)	Wildlife Value (6)
alumroot, small-flowered	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> Douglas ex Lindl.	herbaceous perennial 1-2', small white flowers on stalk in late spring, large basal rosette of leaves	grow in moist shade, selected color forms or cultivars available such as 'Palace Purple'		 	
aster, Douglas'	<i>Aster subspicatus</i> Nees	herbaceous perennial to 3', blue to purple flowers in late summer	readily reseeds and spreads underground			
bleedingheart, Pacific or western	<i>Dicentra formosa</i> (Andrews) Walp.	herbaceous perennial to 2', delicate, deeply-cut foliage, pendant jewel-like pale to dark pink flowers in spring, dormant in fall and winter	valuable garden plant, best for moist shade, can be aggressive in a garden setting, selected color forms and varieties available, seed disseminated by ants		 	
blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> S. Watson	herbaceous perennial to 16", grass-like leaves, dainty blue to violet flowers with yellow eye in summer	although resembles a grass, is actually in iris family, reseeds readily, considered to be most ornamental of US blue-eyed grasses		 	
camas	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i> (Baker) Watson <i>C. quamash</i> (Pursh) Greene <i>C. cusickii</i> S. Watson	stately bulb, 1-3', daffodil-like foliage, blue-violet flowers in spring, goes dormant by end of summer	needs site with spring moisture and summer dryness, does well in heavy soils, self-seeds		 	
checker-mallow	<i>Sidalcea</i> species, several are available	herbaceous perennial, 3-5', basal rosette of leaves with tall flowering stems, attractive, 1"-wide, pink hollyhock-like flowers	good for dry areas, re-seeds freely and easy to grow from seed			
columbine, western red, red or Sitka	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i> Fisch. ex DC.	herbaceous perennial to 2-3', strongly resembling garden columbines but with smaller red and yellow nodding flowers in summer	self-seeds		 	
deer-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i> (L.) Sm.	delicate fern, 1-3', finely divided, deep green fronds from basal tuft with spore-bearing fronds in center	"exquisite" ornamental, best in moist shade			
fringe-cup	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i> (Pursh) Douglas ex Lindl.	woodland herbaceous or semi-evergreen perennial to 3', leaves in basal rosette, delicate flowering stalks of small, filigreed pale-cream or pinkish-white flowers, sometimes fragrant	self-seeds prolifically, very easy to grow		 	

goat's beard, sylvan	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> (Walter) Fernald	herbaceous perennial to 5-6', attractive fern-like foliage, plumes of tiny white flowers in summer	resembles <i>Astilbe</i> , spreads slowly underground, male plants have showier flowers, female plants self-seed prolifically		 	  
goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> species, many native kinds available	herbaceous perennial 1-2', bright orange-yellow flowers in plumes	reseeds freely and spreads underground			  
iris, Douglas	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> Herb.	statuesque semi-evergreen perennial, 2', broader leaves than other native iris, cream to deep purple flowers in spring	considered to be one of the best native iris for home gardens, needs spring moisture and summer dryness		 	  
iris, golden	<i>Iris innominata</i> L.F. Hend.	short iris, 8-12", narrow, grass-like, tough, shiny dark green leaves, flower color deep golden yellow to clear yellow or purple	best in rock gardens or other well-drained soils, or grow in pots, needs dry summer soil		 	 
iris, Oregon	<i>Iris tenax</i> Douglas ex Lindl.	herbaceous perennial, 10-14", violet to purple flowers, occasionally white or yellow	requires dry summer soil		 	  
monkeyflower, yellow	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i> DC.	herbaceous perennial to 2-3', rounded smooth leaves, yellow trumpet flowers often with crimson or brownish-red spots	does best in wet or watered areas in sun, spreads rapidly underground			 
Oregon sunshine (wooly sunflower, golden yarrow)	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i> (Pursh) J. Forbes.	low-growing herbaceous perennial to 2', green or silvery foliage and stems, small leaves in rosettes, bright yellow daisy-like flowers, each on single stalk in summer	needs good drainage, growth form variable depending on origin, lowland forms taller and greener than mountain or Columbia Gorge forms, which are shorter and grayer			  
pearly everlasting, common	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> (L.) Benth. & Hook. f.	herbaceous perennial to 2', gray-green leaves, heads of tiny yellow flowers, each with white bracts	slowly spreading, everlasting flowers can be dried for flower arranging, widespread species, cultivars available			  
penstemon, Cascade or coast	<i>Penstemon serrulatus</i> Menzies ex Sm.	herbaceous perennial with woody base to 4', glossy serrated leaves, deep blue to dark purple or violet flowers in early summer	good for perennial borders in full sun, considered best native penstemon for gardens west of Cascades, may be short-lived but self-seeds, although is drought tolerant, looks best in moist spot		 	    
stonecrop, broadleaf or spoonleaf	<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i> Hook.	short, evergreen perennial to 6", thick succulent leaves, flattened or paddle-shaped, in rosettes, leaves bluish with red highlights, short clusters of bright yellow flowers in late spring or early summer	requires good drainage, suitable for containers, easy to propagate by cuttings, sometimes recommended as groundcover for sunny, dry area		 	 

sword-fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i> (Kaulf.) C. Presl.	statuesque, evergreen fern, 3-5', new foliage in March, retaining older foliage through the winter	a favorite fern for landscaping, tolerates dry shade, can be kept smaller by trimming back older foliage each spring, transplants easily		 	
trillium, western white (wake robin)	<i>Trillium ovatum</i> Pursh	herbaceous perennial to 2', large white flowers, fading to pink, perched above a trio of wide leaves in spring	propagated forms relatively expensive, requires moist soil			
violet, stream (yellow wood violet)	<i>Viola glabella</i> Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray	herbaceous, spreading perennial to 3-5", yellow flowers in early spring	delicate, slowly-spreading plant that can be used as a groundcover, providing colorful spots in the shaded garden, largest of native violets			  
yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L.	herbaceous perennial to 3', finely divided fern-like foliage, creamy white or sometimes pinkish flat-topped flower clusters in summer	good for dry areas, sometimes used in herb lawn or ecolawn mixes and kept short by mowing, look for native forms of this wide-spread species			 
Annuals						
Common Name (1)	Scientific Name (2)	Description (3)	Comments	Drought-Tolerant (4)	Light Requirements (5)	Wildlife Value (6)
poppy, California	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> Cham.	annual, sometimes a perennial in our area to 2', grayish foliage, golden-yellow flowers	self-seeds readily			 
farewell-to-spring	<i>Clarkia amoena</i> (Lehm.) A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr.	annual to 3', gracefully nodding buds opening to showy pink to rose-purple flowers, each 4-petaled with dark spotted areas in mid-summer	self-seeds			 
gilia, globe (bluefield gilia)	<i>Gilia capitata</i> Sims	annual to 3', delicate compound leaves, pale lavender, small ball-shaped flower clusters in early summer	has taproot, grows easily from seed			 
1. Common Names are those most used in to Kruckeberg (1996), Link (1999), Pojar (1994), & ODFW Naturescaping (2001)						
2. Scientific names and authors courtesy of Scott Sundberg, Oregon Flora Project, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU (http://www.oregonflora.org/OFP)						
3. Description, characteristics, and comments from Elias (1980), Kruckeberg (1996), Pojar (1994), Cullina (2000, 2002). Size categories for trees (tall to small) according to Elias; categories for shrubs (large to very small) according to Hightshoe (1988) scale.						
4. Drought Tolerance assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), Bell et. al. (2001), Cullina (2000, 2002)						
5. Light requirements assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), and Cullina (2000, 2002)						
 = Sun						



= Part shade/sun



= Shade

6. Wildlife Value assigned according to, Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), ODFW Naturescaping (2001), Cates et. al (2002), Lam and Allen (2002), Lamb et. al ((2002), Olsen and Allen (2002), Neill (2001), and Pyle (2002).



= Nectar source for butterflies



= Food source for native butterfly caterpillars



= Nectar source for hummingbirds



= Food source, shelter, or nesting sites for birds



= Food source for native wildlife or rodents



= Shelter for native amphibians or reptiles



= Among species considered to be the most valuable wildlife plants by ODFW Naturescaping (2001) reference



= Recommended for wildlife meadow garden by ODFW Naturescaping (2001) reference