Introduction

The Willamette Valley is known for mild, wet winters, but summer droughts leave the valley as vulnerable to wildfires as drier areas of the state. You can decrease the potential for loss from a wildfire by creating defensible space around your home. To do this:

**Reduce the level of wildfire fuels around your house**

Keep brush areas thinned and clear of excessive dead wood, and use fire-resistant mulches in areas immediately adjacent to your home. Choose decorative rocks and gravel instead of wood-based mulches.

**Use fire-resistant plant materials in your home landscaping**

No plant is fire-proof. However, some plants are considered to be fire-resistant if they:

- Are high in moisture with supple leaves
- Don’t accumulate deadwood within the plant
- Have water-like sap
- Have low resin levels
About this guide
This pocket guide highlights fire-resistant plants that thrive in Willamette Valley growing conditions. It recommends groundcovers, perennials, shrubs, woody vines, and trees. There are too many annual plants available to list them all. In general, annuals are considered fire-resistant if they are kept well irrigated.

The description of each plant listed in this guide includes:

• Common and scientific names
• Some of the plant’s important features
• Description of the plant’s growth (its height and spread at maturity, time of bloom, and flower color)
• The plant’s USDA Hardiness Zone rating. Hardiness refers to the ability of a plant to withstand an average minimum temperature. There are 13 designated zones, with zone 1 being the coldest and zone 13 being the
The Willamette Valley is rated as zone 8. To view the USDA hardiness zone map, visit http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html or check with your local Extension office or garden center. Microclimates (pockets of cooler or warmer areas) will exist depending on landscape characteristics. Take into account your individual growing location when making plant selection decisions.

- Description of the plant’s other key characteristics (light requirements, water use, and whether it attracts pollinators, resists deer, or performs well in rock gardens). These items are indicated with icons (see the key below).

- Prefers full sun (6 or more hours)

- Prefers partial or part shade

- Prefers full shade (6 or more hours); avoid afternoon sun
Low water-use plant; performs well with minimal supplemental irrigation

Moderate water-use plant; performs well with supplemental irrigation

High water-use plant; requires supplemental irrigation

Deer-resistant

Attracts butterflies

Attracts birds

Performs well in rock gardens

Attracts bees
Links to photos
To view the source photograph for any of the plants, click on the word “Photo” in the attribution on the right side of the image.

For more information
If you would like to learn more about creating a fire-resistant home landscape, see Fire-Resistant Plants for Oregon Home Landscapes (PNW 590) (in the OSU Extension Service Catalog at https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/). For more information on creating defensible space around your home, see the “Home and Landscape” category of www.firewise.org. For more detailed plant information, contact your local Extension office.

The availability of the plants described in this guide may vary in your area, so check with your favorite local nursery for the specific plants that interest you.
Bearberry Cotoneaster
*Cotoneaster dammeri*

- Dense, evergreen mat
- Drought tolerant, once established
- Red berries in late summer and fall
- Full sun and some water for best berry production

**Height:** 1' or less  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–7  
**Spread:** 3–6'  
**Bloom:** March–May  
**Flowers:** White
Carpet Bugleweed
Ajuga reptans

- Best as edging or groundcover
- Will grow under walnut trees
- Evergreen

Height: 4–10"  USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–10
Spread: 12–18"  Bloom: May–July
Flowers: Purple, white, blue
Dead Nettle
*Lamium* spp.

- Needs moist, well-drained soil

**Height:** 6"

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–12

**Spread:** 18"

**Bloom:** June–July

**Flowers:** Pink, lavender, purple

Photo: Andrea_44/CC BY 2.0
Evergreen Candytuft
*Iberis sempervirens*

- Needs well-drained soil
- Excellent edging plants
- Cut back ⅓ of the plants after bloom to keep plants compact.

**Height:** 6–12"

**Spread:** 6–18"

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Bloom:** May–August

**Flowers:** White

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Photo: Daniel Jolivet/CC BY 2.0
Fleabane
*Erigeron* hybrids

- Prefers well-drained, moderately fertile soil
- Do not overfertilize.

**Height:** 18–24"  **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8
**Spread:** 24"  **Bloom:** June–August
**Flowers:** White, pink, blue, violet, lavender, rose, purple

Photo: Tim Waters/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Four O’clock
*Mirabilis* spp.

- Mounding growth form
- Showy flowers
- Tuberous roots
- Tolerates drought and rocky soil
- Long-lived, undemanding plant
- Self-sows
- *M. jalapa* tolerates wet soils.

**Height:** 1–4’  **Spread:** 3–5’
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species
**Bloom:** June–August
**Flowers:** White, pink, red, magenta, yellow
Garden Carnation
*Dianthus spp.*

- Mostly evergreen
- Most are low-growing perennials

**Height:** 6–9"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Spread:** 15"  
**Bloom:** June–July  
**Flowers:** Pink
Geranium
*Geranium spp.*

- Long flowering
- Drought tolerant
- Needs good drainage
- Can have a spreading growth form
- Water thoroughly and let soil go dry between watering.

**Geranium**

- **Height:** 4”–4'
- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
- **Spread:** Varies by species
- **Bloom:** May–August
- **Flowers:** White, pink, purple, blue

Photo: Kevin Hays/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Hens and Chicks
*Sempervivum* spp.

- Does best in rocky, well-drained soil
- Will tolerate light shade
- Too much water causes rot

**Height:** 2–6”
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–24
**Spread:** 6–10”
**Bloom:** June–November, varies by species
Japanese Pachysandra

*Pachysandra terminalis*

- Low maintenance
- Forms dense mat that controls weeds and erosion
- Tolerates clay soil and dry soil
- Tolerates heavy shade
- Good under trees
- Spreading growth form

**Height:** 6–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Spread:** Indefinite  
**Bloom:** April

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Carl Lewis/CC BY 2.0
Mahala Mat
*Ceanothus prostratus*

- Grows best at higher elevations for sunny rock gardens

**Height:** 1–3"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8  
**Spread:** 6–8'  
**Bloom:** June–August  
**Flowers:** Blue
Mock Strawberry
*Duchesnea indica*

- Evergreen
- Drought tolerant
- Suitable for low-water landscaping
- **Can be invasive**
- Do not overwater.

**Height:** 6" or less  **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Spread:** 18–24"  **Bloom:** March–September

**Flowers:** Yellow
Purple Iceplant
*Delosperma cooperi*

- Creeping, mat-forming succulent
- Does not do well with foot traffic

**Height:** 1–4”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–10  
**Spread:** 2' to indefinite  
**Bloom:** June–September  
**Flowers:** Magenta
Rock Cress
*Aubrieta deltoidea*

- Mat-forming perennial
- Works well in rock gardens and woodland areas
- Cut back to contain it.
- Do not overwater.

**Height:** 3–8"
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 10–24"
**Bloom:** May–June
**Flowers:** Pink, purple, blue

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Rosy Pussytoes
Antennaria rosea

- Ideal for low-water landscaping
- Self-seeds
- Cold hardy

Photo: Patrick Standish/CC BY 2.0

Height: 4–16"
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–8
Spread: 8–12"
Bloom: May–July
Flowers: Pink, white
Sedum or Stonecrops
*Sedum spp.*

- Drought-tolerant succulent
- Easy to grow
- Good cut flowers
- Spreading growth form
- Does best with good drainage

**Height:** 2–12”

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Spread:** Indefinite

**Bloom:** September–October

**Flowers:** Depends on variety

Photo: John Rusk /CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Snow in Summer
*Cerastium tomentosum*

- Fast growing
- Good to cover large areas
- Mat forming
- Drought tolerant

**Height:** 3–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7  
**Spread:** 2' to indefinite  
**Bloom:** June–July  
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Heron2/CC BY-SA 3.0
Speedwell
*Veronica* spp.

- Needs fertile, well-drained soil
- Different species have different water needs
- Remove dead flowers to extend bloom time.

**Speedwell**

- **Height:** 10–18"
- **Spread:** 18"
- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8
- **Bloom:** May–June
- **Flowers:** Purple

Photo: edgeplot/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Wild Ginger
*Asarum caudatum*

- Good groundcover for wooded areas
- Prefers partial to full shade
- Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil

**Height:** 6–12"
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–6
**Spread:** 6–15"
**Bloom:** April–May
**Flowers:** Purplish brown
Yellow Iceplant  
*Delosperma nubigenum*

- Evergreen  
- Drought and heat tolerant  
- Excellent low-water landscape plant, once established  
- Needs protection from prolonged snow cover

**Height:** 1–3''  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–7  
**Spread:** 3'  
**Bloom:** June–September  
**Flowers:** Orange, yellow

*Photo: Kerry Woods (CC BY NC-ND 2.0)*
Aspen Sunflower
*Helianthella quinquenervis*

- Showy flower, good for cutting
- Good for borders
- Prefers average, well-drained soils
- May self-seed

**Height:** 3–4'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8  
**Spread:** 24–30"  
**Bloom:** June–August  
**Flowers:** Yellow rays with darker yellow center
Aster
*Aster* spp.

- Showy fall display
- Needs good drainage with fertile soil
- Spreading growth form

**Height:** 12–48”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8  
**Spread:** 1–5’, varies by species  
**Bloom:** May–June  
**Flowers:** White, pink, rose, lavender, purple, blue, violet
Barren Strawberry
*Waldsteinia* spp.

- Evergreen used as groundcover
- Strawberry-like plant
- Fruit is not edible
- Tolerates some foot traffic

**Height:** 3–6"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 6–12"  
**Bloom:** April–June  
**Flowers:** Yellow
Basket of Gold

*Aurinia* spp.

- Mat–forming perennial
- Can be used as groundcover
- Thrives in light, well-drained soil between paver stones or in rock walls in a dry, sunny location
- Needs hard pruning

**Height:** 6–15”

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7

**Spread:** 12–18”

**Bloom:** April–May

**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Kjeannette/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Bellflower
*Campanula* spp.

- Erect, trailing, spreading, or clumping growth form
- Best in well-drained soil
- Good for small rock gardens

**Height:** 9–60”

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Spread:** 18” to indefinite, varies by species

**Bloom:** March–November, varies by species

**Flowers:** Blue, white, lavender, purple, red

*Photo: Arthur Chapman/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0*
Bergenia

*Bergenia spp.*

- Evergreen, except in coldest areas
- Best in shade but will tolerate sun in cool climates

**Height:** 12–18"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 18"  
**Bloom:** March–May  
**Flowers:** White, pink, red, peach

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Black-eyed Susan
*Rudbeckia hirta*

- Tolerates drought
- Tolerates a wide range of soils except poorly drained, wet soil
- Self-sows

**Height:** 2–3'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7
**Spread:** 1–2'
**Bloom:** June–September
**Flowers:** Yellow, orange
Blanket Flower
*Gaillardia* spp.

- Bright, showy flowers
- Hardy, drought tolerant

**Height:** 1–4'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–10  
**Spread:** 15–18"  
**Bloom:** May–August  
**Flowers:** Yellow to orange to red

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/lplants
Blue Flax
*Linum perenne*

- Showy, profuse flowers that open with sun
- Prefers light soils ■ Tolerates drought
- Tolerates dry, rocky soil ■ Self-seeds

**Height:** 1–2'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8
**Spread:** 9–18"  
**Bloom:** May–June
**Flowers:** Sky blue
Bluets or Quaker Ladies
*Houstonia caerulea*

- Delicate wildflower
- Forms tufts with roots and slender rhizomes
- Prefers moist, acidic soil

**Height:** 4–16”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies

**Flowers:** Light blue  
**Bloom:** April–July

**Spread:** Up to 1', usually in tufts of multiple plants
Britton’s Skullcap
*Scutellaria brittonii*

- Small wildflower, native to plains, foothills, and mountainous regions

**Height:** 4–8"
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8
**Spread:** 4–8"
**Bloom:** May–July
**Flowers:** Blue

Photo: Jonathan Hover/CC BY-ND 2.0
Broom Groundsel
Senecio spartioides

- Sunflower-like
- Tolerates drought
- Upright growth behavior

Height: 1–6"
Spread: 2–12"
Flowers: Yellow

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–9
Bloom: June–September

Photo: Stan Shebs/CC BY-SA 3.0
California Fuchsia or Hummingbird Flower
*Epilobium canum*

- Good groundcover for sunny slopes
- Bright flowers on gray-green foliage
- Hardy plant
- Tolerates drought
- Spreading growth form
- Do not overfertilize.

**Height:** 1'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–10  
**Spread:** 12–20", varies by cultivar  
**Bloom:** June–August  
**Flowers:** Orange to red

Photo: Neil Hunt/CC BY-NC 2.0
Canadian Violet
Viola canadensis

- Clump growth form
- Mounding violet
- Dark green leaves
- Tolerates heavy shade
- Used as groundcover
- Self-seeds

Height: 12–18”  USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–8
Spread: 12–18”  Bloom: June–October
Flowers: White, tinged purple

Photo: Leo Papandreou/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Chives
Allium schoenoprasum

- Edible herb
- Tubular, grass-like leaves
- Globular flowers
- Onion smell and taste
- Spreading growth form

Height: 10"  
USDA Hardiness Zone: 4–8  
Spread: 12–16"  
Bloom: June  
Flowers: Mauve, pink

Photo: Manuel Martin Vincente/CC BY 2.0
Christmas Fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*

- Clumping growth form  
- Will not naturalize  
- Good winter interest  
- Tolerates rabbits, drought, and heavy shade  
- Tolerates dry, rocky soil

**Height:** 1–2'  
**Spread:** 1–2'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Bloom:** None  
**Flowers:** None

Photo: Tom Potterfield/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Chrysanthemum
*Chrysanthemum* spp.

- Showy, fall flower
- Hardy varieties for outdoor gardens available
- Wide variety of forms and colors

**Height:** Varies by species  
**Spread:** Varies by species  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Bloom:** September–November, varies by species  
**Flowers:** Wide variety

Photo: Andy Mabbett/CC BY-SA 3.0
Columbine
Aquilegia spp.

- Varied colors according to cultivar
- Does well in moist, well-drained soil
- Tolerant of most soils
- Upright growth form

**Height:** 24”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–11

**Spread:** 18–24”, varies by species

**Bloom:** May–June  
**Flowers:** Pink, white, lilac
Coneflower
*Echinacea purpurea*

- Does not need staking
- Good as background in wide borders
- Tolerates dry, rocky soil and clay soil

**Height:** 2–5'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Spread:** 2'  
**Bloom:** June–August

**Flowers:** Rosy purple with orange cone

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/lplants
Coralbells
*Heuchera sanguinea*

- Compact, evergreen clumps with low leaves and long-stemmed flowers
- Used as groundcover

**Height:** 12–18"

**Spread:** 12–24"

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Bloom:** March–August

**Flowers:** Reds

*Photo: Patrick Standish/CC BY 2.0*
Daylily

*Hemerocallis* spp.

- Clumping growth form
- Many hybrids
- Deciduous, evergreen, and semi-evergreen
- May die back in heavy soils

**Height:** 24–48”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Spread:** 12–18”  
**Bloom:** April–August  
**Flowers:** Wide variety of colors

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/idplants
Delphinium
Delphinium spp.

- Showy flower
- Prefers well-drained soil
- All parts of plant are highly toxic if eaten
- Upright growth form

Height: 1–2'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–9
Spread: 18–36", varies by species
Bloom: March–April
Flowers: Blue, pink, purple, white

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/l/ldplants
Dotted Gayfeather
*Liatris punctata*

- Showy flower above foliage of grassy tufts
- Tolerates heat and cold
- Tolerates dry, poor soils
- Doesn't like soggy soil

**Height:** 2–4'  **Spread:** 2'  **Bloom:** June–August
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–12, others
**Flowers:** Rosy-lilac, lavender

![Dotted Gayfeather](Photo: Tom Koerner/USFWS/CC BY 2.0)
Evening Primrose
*Oenothera* spp.

- Prefers dry conditions
- Tolerates poor soil and clay soil
- Drought tolerant
- Can be aggressive

**Height:** 1–4'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Spread:** 1–3' or more

**Bloom:** May–August

**Flowers:** White, pink, yellow, purple, red

Photo: David A. Hofmann/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Fire Pink
*Silene virginica*

- Clumping growth form
- Grows in sandy or clay soils
- Prefers part shade and excellent drainage

**Height:** 12–18"  
**Spread:** 9–18"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Bloom:** April–June  
**Flowers:** Red

Photo: BlueRidgeKitties/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Fireweed
*Epilobium angustifolium*

- Attractive but considered weedy
- Prefers full sun
- Self-seeds

**Height:** 4–6'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 2–9

**Spread:** 18–24"

**Bloom:** June–August

**Flowers:** Pink, rosy-purple

Photo: Alan Vernon/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Hosta
*Hosta spp.*

- Many new varieties
- Grown for dramatic, textural foliage
- Generally shade lovers needing organically enriched soil

**Height:** 3–4" to 5'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9
**Spread:** Up to 3'
**Bloom:** June–August
**Flowers:** White-bluish

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/lplants
Indian Pink
*Spigelia marilandica*

- Clumping growth form
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- Tolerates drought and dry soil
- Used as border in shade and woodland gardens

**Height:** 1–2'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9
**Spread:** 6–18"
**Bloom:** June
**Flowers:** Red and yellow

Photo: Tom Potterfield/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Iris

*Iris* spp.

- 200 to 300 species in three flower categories: bearded, beardless, and crested
- Clumping growth form
- Grows from rhizomes
- Prefers well-drained soil

**Height:** 2–4'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–24

**Bloom:** March–June, varies by species

**Spread:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** Varies by species
Jack in the Pulpit
*Arisaema triphyllum*

- Upright growth form
- Red berries in fall
- Tender tuber that likes a cool, woodland setting

**Height:** 1–3'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9  
**Spread:** 12–18"  
**Bloom:** June–July  
**Flowers:** Green, purple-lavender
Jacob's Ladder
*Polemonium* spp.

- Prefers evenly moist soil and some shade to prevent leaf scorch
- Some species resist rabbits

**Height:** 12–30"  
**Spread:** 12–30"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Bloom:** June  
**Flowers:** Blue
Joe Pye Weed
*Eutrochium fistulosum*

- Upright growth form
- Best in rich soil with ample water
- Tolerant of clay soil and wet soil

**Height:** 3–9'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9

**Spread:** 1–3'

**Bloom:** August–November

**Flowers:** Pale purple, mauve pink
Lady’s Mantle
Alchemilla spp.

- Dense clumps of attractive foliage
- Stems hold flowers above foliage
- Good for clay soil ■ Self-seeds

**Height:** 9–12”  ■ **Spread:** 12”
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species
**Bloom:** June–August
**Flowers:** Greenish–yellow
Lamb's Ear

*Stachys byzantina*

- Grown for blue-gray, fuzzy foliage
- Used as groundcover
- Tolerates rabbits, dry soil, drought, and rocky soil

**Height:** 9–18"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 12–18"  
**Bloom:** May–July  
**Flowers:** Purplish–pink
Lavender, many spp.  
*Lavandula* spp. (evergreen)

- Fragrant herb
- Striking in massed plantings
- Drought tolerant, once established
- Prune annually to maintain plant health and flowering

**Height:** 12"–4'  
**Spread:** 1–4'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** White, pink, blue, lavender, purple

**Bloom:** June–November, varies by species
Leopard's Bane
*Doronicum* spp.

- Showy flower
- Prefers moist (not soggy) soil
- Prefers partial shade in hot locations

**Height:** 1–4’  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8

**Spread:** 1–2’  
**Bloom:** April–June

**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Leonora Enking/CC BY-SA 2.0
Lily-of-the-Valley

Convallaria majalis

- Creeping groundcover
- Poisonous
- Rhizome does well under trees
- Fragrant
- Tolerates heavy shade, clay soil, and rabbits

**Height:** 6–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8  
**Spread:** 12–18"  
**Bloom:** March  
**Flowers:** White
Lupine
*Lupinus* spp.

- Good companion plant in garden for increasing soil nitrogen
- Some species can be toxic to animals and livestock
- Prefers good drainage
- Water need varies by species

**Height:** 1–5'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–6  
**Spread:** 1–5'  
**Bloom:** May–July  
**Flowers:** White, pink, rose, blue, purple
Mariposa Lily
*Calochortus gunnisonii*

- Erect stems hold a single flower
- Grows from edible bulb • Will spread
- Needs moderate water during bloom

**Height:** 12”  **Spread:** 6”  **Bloom:** March–May
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species
**Flowers:** Yellow, purple lavender, red, pink, white

Photo: Russell Taylor
Meadow Rue
*Thalictrum fendleri*

- Delicate-looking but rugged woodland plant
- Fern-like foliage
- Easy to grow with few problems
- Can take some sun
- Dies back in summer in dry sites

**Height:** 2–3'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Spread:** 1–4'  
**Bloom:** May–August  
**Flowers:** White, whitish-green
Missouri Goldenrod
*Solidago missouriensis*

- Low-growing
- Showy flowers
- Grows in sandy, gravelly soils
- Tolerates drought
- Easy to grow

**Height:** 1–2'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 1–3'
**Bloom:** July–September
**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Ms. Sticky/CC BY 2.0
Mistflower
*Eupatorium coelestinum*

- Long bloom period
- Sometimes called hardy ageratum because of flower
- Prefers moist soil in full sun

**Height:** 18–36"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–10  
**Spread:** 18–36"  
**Bloom:** July–October  
**Flowers:** Blue

Photo: Bob Gutowski/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Monkshood
Aconitum spp.

- Upright growth form
- Tuberous roots
- All parts are poisonous
- Dies back in winter
- Needs regular water
- Showy flowers
- Tolerates rabbits

Height: 6''–4'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–7
Spread: 1–2'
Bloom: August–September
Flowers: Purple
Native Beebalm or Wild Bergamot
*Monarda fistulosa*

- Clumping growth form
- Gray-green foliage
- Prefers well-drained, dry to medium moist soil
- Tolerates poor soils
- Needs good air circulation

**Height:** 2–4'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Spread:** 2–3'  
**Bloom:** July–September  
**Flowers:** Pink, lavender
Northern Bedstraw  
*Galium boreale*

- Showy flowers  
- Spreads by creeping roots  
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils  
- Does not tolerate heavy, wet soils  
- Best in wild gardens

**Height:** 1–3'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 12–18"  
**Bloom:** May–August  
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Jerry Oldenettel/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Oriental Poppy
Papaver orientale

- Adds color to garden
- Give 1 inch of water per week while in bloom.
- Do not overwater during dormancy.

Height: 2–3'
Spread: 1–2'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–7
Bloom: June–July
Flowers: White, pink, orange, salmon, red, maroon
Ornamental Strawberry
Fragaria spp.

- Spreading plant with attractive foliage and small flower
- Grows in sandy or well-drained soil and rock gardens

**Height:** 4–8"
**Spread:** 12–18"
**Bloom:** March–May
**Flowers:** White

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

Photo: David A. Hofmann/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Pasque Flower  
*Pulsatilla patens*

- Both flowers and seedheads are ornamental
- Fern-like foliage  ■ Well-drained soils a must
- Prefers gritty, dry to medium moist soil
- Tolerates drought and partial shade

**Height:** 3–12”  ■ **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7
**Spread:** 3–6”  ■ **Bloom:** March–April
**Flowers:** Blue-violet

Photo: Johnida Dockens/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Pearly Everlasting
*Anaphalis margaritacea*

- Upright, clump-forming
- Spreads easily
- Easy to care for
- Prefers full sun
- Tolerates poor soils
- Typically grows to 18 inches

**Height:** 1–3'

**Spread:** 1–2'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Bloom:** July–September

**Flowers:** Whitish

Photo: Kingsbrae Garden/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Penstemon or Beardtongue
*Penstemon spp.*

- Comes in variety of shapes, colors, bloom times
- Tolerates drought, dry soil, and clay soil
- Avoid planting in wet, poorly drained soils.

**Height:** 1–6'  
**Spread:** 1–3'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** May–August, varies by species

**Flowers:** Pink, red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, white

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/idplants
Phlox

*Phlox* spp.

- Creeping phlox is low and spreads
- Tall varieties can be up to 4 feet

**Height:** 6”–4’  **Spread:** 1–3’

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** March–August, varies by species

**Flowers:** White, pink, lavender, orange, red, purple

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Prairie Coneflower or Mexican Hat
*Ratibida columnifera*

- Clumping growth form
- Unusual, showy flower
- Tolerates low fertility and drought
- Easy to grow

**Height:** 12–24"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 1–10  
**Spread:** 18"  
**Bloom:** June–September  
**Flowers:** Yellow, mahogany-red
Prairie Smoke
*Geum* spp.

- Seedheads of some species are showy
- Good in ordinary soil
- Needs good drainage

**Height:** Up to 20”  **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–7
**Spread:** Up to 12”
**Bloom:** March–August, varies by species
**Flowers:** White, yellow, orange, red, maroon

Photo: Dave Gunn/CC BY-NC 2.0
**Rockcress**

*Arabis* spp.

- Forms carpet of gray-green foliage covered in fragrant flowers in spring
- Easily grown in any soil with good drainage in hot, sunny areas

**Height:** 6”  
**Spread:** 18”  
**Bloom:** April–May  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Flowers:** White
Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia

- Shrubby perennial
- Drought tolerant
- Long summer bloom
- Tolerates dry soil, clay soil, and rabbits

**Height:** 3–5'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9
**Spread:** 2–4'
**Bloom:** July–October
**Flowers:** Lavender, blue

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplant
Sage
*Artemisia* spp.

- Aromatic, silvery-green foliage
- Evergreen to semi-evergreen
- Insignificant flower
- Spreading growth form

**Height:** 2–3'  **Spread:** 1–12', varies by species  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Bloom:** July–August  
**Flowers:** Greenish–yellow

Photo: Joel Abroad/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Salvia or Sage
*Salvia* spp.

- Good choice for hot, dry spots
- Tolerates drought
- Blooms for a long period

**Height:** 1–6'  
**Spread:** 1–4'  
**Bloom:** May–June  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Flowers:** Blue, red, pink, lavender

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Sand Lily
*Leucocrinum montanum*

- Fragrant
- Does best in fast-draining, alkaline, sandy, or rocky soils

**Height:** 2–10”  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–9  
**Spread:** 4–8”  
**Bloom:** May  
**Flowers:** White with yellow stamens
Saxifrage
*Saxifraga hirsuta*

- Loose, spreading, evergreen cushions
- Tolerates wide range of soils
- Used as groundcover

**Height:** 6–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8  
**Spread:** 15–18"  
**Bloom:** May–June  
**Flowers:** White, pinkish
Scarlet Gilia
*Ipomopsis aggregata*

- Showy native
- Bright accent for garden
- Prefers sandy or loamy soils

**Height:** 3–4'
**Spread:** 1'
**Flowers:** Red

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–11
**Bloom:** August–October

Photo: Peter Stevens/CC BY 2.0
Sea Thrift
*Armeria maritima*

- Forms a dense cushion of grassy growth
- Great for rock gardens
- Do not overwater.

**Height:** 6–12"

**Spread:** 6–12"

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8

**Bloom:** May–July

**Flowers:** Pink

Photo: Peggy A. Lopipero-Langmo/CC BY 2.0
Sedges
*Carex* spp.

- Grass-like, clumping growth form
- Wide variety of foliage colors
- Tolerates variety of growing conditions
- Water need varies by species

**Height:** Varies by species

**Spread:** Varies by species

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** Grown for foliage

**Flowers:** Insignificant, varies by species
Shasta Daisy
*Leucanthemum x superbum*

- Showy flower
- Tolerates drought and rabbits
- Remove dead flowers to promote more bloom.

**Height:** 2–4'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9
**Spread:** 2–3'
**Bloom:** July–September
**Flowers:** White rays with yellow centers

Photo: Mark Engelbrecht/CC BY 2.0
Small Sunflower  
*Helianthus pumilus*

- Native to dry, rocky, sunny, open sites
- Tough plants
- Spreading growth form
- Give some moisture for best results
- Seeds attract birds.

**Height:** 12–40"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–9  
**Spread:** 12" to indefinite  
**Bloom:** June–November  
**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Harlan B. Herbert, Bugwood.org/CC BY 3.0 US
Small-leaf Pussytoes
Antennaria parvifolia

- Creates a tight, woolly mat and roots as it spreads

Height: 6" or less
Spread: 9–12"
Flowers: Whitish

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4–7
Bloom: May–September
Spreading Golden Banner
*Thermopsis divaricarpa*

- Strongly curved, spreading seed pods
- Tolerates rocky soils and drought
- Member of pea family
- Upright growth form

**Height:** 12–24"

**Spread:** 12–24"

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8

**Bloom:** May–August

**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Jacob W. Frank/CC BY-ND 2.0
Spring Beauty
*Claytonia lanceolata*

- Native woodland plant
- Erect form
- Needs moist soil
- Grows from seed or edible corms
- Upright growth form

**Height:** 2–10"  **Spread:** 6–8"  **Bloom:** April–July
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 1–5 (can grow in alpine conditions)
**Flowers:** White or pink with dark pink veins

Photo: Malcolm Manners/CC BY 2.0
Sulphur Flower
*Erigonum umbellatum*

- Evergreen foliage  
- Colorful, showy flowers  
- Best in gritty, well-drained soil  
- Self-sows

**Height:** 6–12"  
**Spread:** 1–3'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8  
**Bloom:** June–September  
**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org/CC BY 3.0 US
Sun Rose
*Helianthemum nummularium*

- Showy flower
- Good as groundcover
- Drought tolerant
- Prefers dry, alkaline, well-drained soils

**Height:** 6–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–7  
**Spread:** 2–3'  
**Bloom:** May–June  
**Flowers:** Pastel pink, yellow

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Sweet Woodruff
*Galium odoratum*

- Good for shady gardens
- Good for ground-cover and edgings
- Spreads rapidly in rich soil with moisture
- Self-sows

**Height:** 8–12"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** Indefinite  
**Bloom:** May–August  
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Thyme
*Thymus* spp.

- Versatile garden plants, from small bushes to groundcovers
- Fragrant leaves
- Many species edible
- Tolerates many soils

**Height:** 3–18"  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Spread:** 1' or more  
**Bloom:** July–August

**Flowers:** Blue, lavender
Tickseed
Coreopsis spp.

- Sunflower family
- Self-sowing seeds attract birds
- Tolerates average to poor soil with good drainage

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants

**Height:** 6–36”, varies by species

**Spread:** Up to 24”

**Bloom:** March–November

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Flowers:** Yellow, orange, maroon, red
Torch Lily or Red-Hot Poker
*Kniphofia uvaria*

- Fragrant, showy, unusual flowers
- Tolerates drought and rabbits
- Does not tolerate wet, heavy soils

**Height:** 2–4'

**Spread:** 2–3'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Bloom:** June–August

**Flowers:** Yellow to deep coral

Photo: Rod Waddington/CC BY-SA 2.0
Virginia Creeper
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

- Deciduous, woody, tendril-climbing vine
- Needs little or no support
- Tolerates heavy shade, drought, clay soil, and black walnut

**Height:** 30–50'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9
**Spread:** 5–10'
**Bloom:** May–August
**Flowers:** Greenish-white

Photo: Derek Lilly/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Western Spiderwort
*Tradescantia occidentalis*

- Erect, branching stems
- Flowers last one day
- Hybridizes readily
- Tolerates most soils, if well-drained

**Height:** Up to 2'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9

**Spread:** 12–15"

**Bloom:** June–July

**Flowers:** Pink, purple
Western Wallflower
*Erysimum asperum*

- Upright growth form
- Gray seedpods
- Needs regular water
- Do not overwater.

**Height:** 6–12"
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 9–12"
**Bloom:** April–June
**Flowers:** Orange, bright yellow

Photo: photogramma1/CC BY-SA 2.0
Whiplash Daisy or Trailing Fleabane
*Erigeron flagellaris*

- Flowers held above foliage on upright stems
- Spreads by runners
- Good for low-water landscapes
- Good for sandy soil and rock gardens
- Do not overwater.

**Height:** 6" or less  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–5  
**Spread:** 6–12"  
**Bloom:** May–August  
**Flowers:** White, near white

Photo: Patrick Standish/CC BY 2.0
Windflower  
Anemone blanda

- Hardy tuber, daisy-like flower with soft, green, ferny foliage  
- Can be used as ground-cover  
- Provides spring and summer interest

Height: 6–12"  
Spread: 6–12"  
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–8  
Bloom: March–April  
Flowers: Blue, white, pink, purple-red

Photo: Eva the Weaver/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Yarrow
Achillea spp.

- Fern-like foliage in various shades ranging from green to gray
- Drought tolerant
- Makes nice dried or cut flowers
- Can be invasive

Height: 6–36"
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–9
Spread: 12–24"
Bloom: May–September
Flowers: White, yellow, red, orange, pink

Photo: Manuel M. Ramos/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Yellow Monkey Flower
*Mimulus guttatus*

- Can be small and sparse to tall and bushy
- Needs moist soil
- Grows in bogs and wetlands
- Spreading growth form

*Height:* 1–3'  
*Spread:* 20–48"  
*USDA Hardiness Zone:* Wide range  
*Flowers:* Yellow  
*Bloom:* March–August
Yucca

*Yucca spp.*

- Dramatic, bold, structural plant
- Sword-shaped foliage
- Flowers produced on spikes
- Needs well-drained soil
- Very drought tolerant

**Height:** Up to 5'

**Spread:** Up to 3'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** May–June

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Gertrud K./CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Alder Buckthorn
*Rhamnus frangula*

- Deciduous
- Dark, glossy leaf
- Columnar cultivar available
- Can grow in wet soils and bogs
- Prefers acidic soil

**Height:** 5–16'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 2–7

**Spread:** 6–13'

**Bloom:** May–June

**Flowers:** Whitish-green
American Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

- Deciduous
- Showy purple berries give winter interest
- Open growth form
- Tolerates clay soil
- Needs full sun to fruit

Height: 3–6'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 6–10
Spread: 3–6'
Bloom: June–August
Flowers: Lavender, pink
American Hazelnut
*Corylus americana*

- Deciduous
- Edible nut
- Showy flower
- Good fall color
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Tolerates clay soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 10–16'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 8–13'
**Bloom:** March–April
**Flowers:** Brown or red

Photo: Cranbrook Science/CC BY 2.0
Black Elder or Common Elder
*Sambucus nigra*

- Deciduous
- Rugged bark
- Best in full sun
- Tolerates wide range of soils, including clay soil
- Can be used as small tree
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 8–20'
**Spread:** 8–20'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8
**Bloom:** May–June
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Franco Folini/CC BY-SA 2.0
Blackberry and Raspberry
*Rubus* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous
- Prefers acidic, rich, well-drained soil
- Spreading growth form

**Height:** 6'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Spread:** 1' to indefinite

**Bloom:** March–August, depending on species

**Flowers:** White to pink

Photo: Manuel M.V./CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Bluebeard, Blue-mist, or Blue Spirea
*Caryopteris x clandonensis*

- Deciduous
- Low-growing mound
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Tolerates some drought
- Good cut, fragrant flower

**Height:** 2–4'  
**Spread:** 2–4'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9  
**Bloom:** July–September  
**Flowers:** Sky-blue
Buckthorn
*Rhamnus* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous
- Grown for form and foliage
- Inedible black berries can stain pavement
- Some are good hedge and windbreaks
- Reseeds

**Height:** 3–22'
**Spread:** 3–12'
**Bloom:** March–May
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species
**Flowers:** Cream to green

Photo: Mauricio Mercadante/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Buffaloberry
*Shepherdia* spp.

- Deciduous
- Berry is red or orange and is edible but bitter
- Tolerates poorest soils and dry conditions
- Tolerates cold and drought

**Height:** 6–20'  
**Spread:** 3–10'  
**Bloom:** April–May  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Flowers:** White, yellow

Photo: Matt Lavin/CC BY-SA 2.0
Bumald Spirea
*Spiraea x bumalda*

- Deciduous
- Dense, mounded growth form
- Pink-purple new foliage
- Bronzy, autumn foliage
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Tolerates a wide variety of soil types

**Height:** 2–4’

**Spread:** 2–5’

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Bloom:** June–August

**Flowers:** White, pink, mauve, dark lavender, yellow-red

Photo: Patrick Standish/CC BY 2.0
Buttonbush
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*

- Deciduous
- Open, rounded growth form
- Adapts to wide range of soils except dry soil
- Seed pods give winter interest

**Height:** 5–12'

**Spread:** 4–8'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Bloom:** June

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Dan Perkins/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Carolina Silverbell
_Halesia carolina_

- Deciduous
- Good fall color
- Can be grown as multi-stemmed shrub or single-trunk tree with broad, rounded growth form
- Needs acidic soil

**Height:** 30–40'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8
**Spread:** 20–35'
**Bloom:** April
**Flowers:** White

*Photo: JR P/CC BY-NC 2.0*
Chickasaw Plum
*Prunus angustifolia*

- Deciduous
- Multi-stemmed shrub or small tree
- Tart, edible fruit
- Tolerates wide range of growing conditions
- Thicket-forming
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 4–20'

**Spread:** 4–20'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Bloom:** March

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Jeff Wright/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Cholla and Prickly Pear Cactus
*Opuntia* spp.

- Also called paddle cactus
- Over 200 species
- Showy flowers
- Fruit on some species is edible

**Height:** 3–9'  
**Spread:** 3–9'

**Bloom:** March–May, varies by species

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** Vary by species
Cotton Lavender
*Santolina chamaecyparissus*

- Evergreen
- Low, mounding growth form
- Gray-green foliage
- Showy, fragrant flowers
- Tolerates drought and poor soils
- Used as groundcover or edging

**Height:** 1–2'
**Spread:** 1–3'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–9
**Bloom:** July–August
**Flowers:** Yellow
Cranberry Cotoneaster
*Cotoneaster apiculatus*

- Deciduous
- Broad, upright, dense, slightly mounding
- Tolerates rabbits
- Red, showy berries

**Height:** 2–3'

**Spread:** 3–6'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–7

**Bloom:** May–June

**Flowers:** Pink
Creeping Mahonia or Creeping Holly
Berberis (Mahonia) repens

- Evergreen
- Edible berry is best for jams and jellies
- Does best in well-drained, acidic soil
- Used as groundcover

Height: 9–12"
Spread: 9–18"
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–8
Bloom: March–May
Flowers: Yellow

Photo: Don Loarie/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Daphne

*Daphne x burkwoodii*

- Semi-evergreen
- Very fragrant flowers
- Foliage and fruit are poisonous
- Gives excellent drainage
- Needs neutral pH

**Height:** 3–5'

**Spread:** 3–5'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8

**Bloom:** May–June

**Flowers:** White, pale pink
Elderberry or American Elder
*Sambucus canadensis*

- Deciduous
- Stout, strong-growing
- Edible berries are dark purple to black
- Moisture-loving
- Tolerates clay soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 5–12'

**Spread:** 5–12'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Bloom:** June–July

**Flowers:** White
False Indigo or Indigo Bush
*Amorpha fruticosa*

- Deciduous ■ Loose, airy growth form
- Flowers rise above the foliage ■ Will naturalize along creeks and streams
- Fragrant flowers ■ Fast growing

**Height:** 6–10'  ■  **Spread:** 10–20'  ■  **Bloom:** April–June  ■  **USDA Hardiness Zone:** Wide range  ■  **Flowers:** Orange, blue, purple, violet

Photo: M. Fletcher/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Fringe Tree
*Chionanthus virginicus*

- Deciduous
- Spreading, rounded growth form
- Good fall color
- Seldom needs pruning
- Does not tolerate dry conditions
- Blue-black fruit

**Height:** 12–20'

**Spread:** 12–20'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Bloom:** May–June

**Flowers:** Creamy white
Gooseberry and Currant  
*Ribes* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous  
- Many have showy flowers  
- Currant has no spines  
- Gooseberry has spines  
- Berries are green, yellow, red, or black

**Height:** 3–8'  
**Spread:** 3–6'  
**Bloom:** March–May  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species  
**Flowers:** White, pink, red, yellow, purple
Hardy Shrub Rose
*Rosa* spp.

- Deciduous (some evergreen)
- Hips give winter interest
- Some are vigorous climbers
- Very low maintenance
- Deer may browse flowers

**Height:** 1–9' or more  
**Spread:** 1–6'

**Bloom:** March–November, depending on species

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Most zones

**Flowers:** White, pink, red

Photo: Bill Barber/CC BY-NC 2.0
Heather
*Calluna spp.*

- Evergreen
- True Scotch heather
- Foliage can be wide range of colors (varies by species)
- Needs fast-draining, acidic soil
- Needs full sun for best flowering

**Height:** 3”–3’  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 3”–3’  
**Bloom:** July–November, varies by species  
**Flowers:** White, pale pink, dark pink, lavender, purple

Photo: Joan Simon/CC BY-SA 2.0
Highbush Blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum

- Deciduous
- Erect growth form
- Edible berry
- Forms thickets
- Must have acidic, well-drained soil

Height: 6–12'
Spread: 8–12'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–8
Bloom: May
Flowers: White, pinkish

Photo: Alwyn Ladell/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous shrubs and vines
- Needs sun for best bloom
- Sprawling growth form
- Some can be very vigorous, and vines must have substantial support

**Height:** 3–36'  
**Spread:** 3–15', varies by species

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** April–June

**Flowers:** White, yellow, orange, pink, red

Photo: Leonora Enking/CC BY-SA 2.0
Ironwood  
*Carpinus caroliniana*

- Deciduous, globular form
- Slow growing
- Good fall color and winter interest
- Tolerates clay soil

**Height:** 20–35'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Spread:** 20–35'  
**Bloom:** December–February  
**Flowers:** White (female), green (male)
Lilac
*Syringa* spp.

- Deciduous
- Showy, fragrant flowers
- Some species are small trees
- Some species produce suckers
- Best in well-drained soils

**Height:** 4–8'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3b–7a
**Spread:** 4–12'
**Bloom:** March–May
**Flowers:** White, pink, blue, lavender, purple

Photo: mikemennonno/CC BY-NC 2.0
Lowbush Blueberry

*Vaccinium pallidum*

- Deciduous
- Small shrub with arching branches
- Edible berry that ripens midsummer
- Used as groundcover
- Water need depends on sun exposure

**Height:** 1–2'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8

**Spread:** 1–2'

**Bloom:** April–May

**Flowers:** White, red, pink

Photo: Tom Potterfield/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Mock Orange
*Philadelphus* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous
- Very fragrant flowers
- Prefers moderately fertile, well-drained soil
- Some species tolerate drought

**Height:** 4–15′  **Spread:** 4–15′

**Bloom:** May–June

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** White, cream, gold
Mountain Mahogany
*Cercocarpus* spp.

- Evergreen
- Feather-like fruits give distinctive look in fall
- Tolerates drought and most soils
- Good for erosion control and windbreak

**Height:** 9–40’
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Spread:** 4–20’

**Bloom:** March–August, varies by species

**Flowers:** White, cream

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Photo: Matt Lavin/CC BY-SA 2.0
New Jersey Tea
*Ceanothus americanus*

- Deciduous
- Compact, rounded growth form
- Tolerates drought, dry soil, and shallow-rocky soil

**Height:** 3–4'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8
**Spread:** 3–5'
**Bloom:** May–June
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Tom Potterfield/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Oceanspray  
*Mandysprig*  

**Holodiscus discolor**

- Deciduous  
- Attractive  
- Looks similar to spirea  
- Erect to arching growth form  
- Susceptible to few pests or diseases  
- Fragrant  
- Tolerates wide range of soil moisture

**Height:** 10–20'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8  
**Spread:** 10–20'  
**Bloom:** May–July  
**Flowers:** White-cream

Photo: Kathi Leck/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Orchid Rockrose
*Cistus x purpureus*

- Evergreen
- Reddish stems
- Wavy-edged, dark green leaf
- Tolerates drought and heat
- Good for low-water landscapes
- Prefers well-drained soils
- Grows quickly

**Height:** 4–6'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 7–10

**Spread:** 4–6'
**Bloom:** May–August

**Flowers:** Rose-purple
Oregon Boxwood
Paxistima myrtifolia

- Evergreen
- Dense, neat growth form
- Makes good low hedge
- Also used as groundcover
- Best in well-drained, acidic soil

Height: 1–3'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–9
Spread: 1–3'
Bloom: April–July
Flowers: Pink, red, green

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants
Oregon Grape
*Berberis (Mahonia)* *aquifolium*

- Evergreen
- Winter interest
- Plant spreads by stolons
- Edible berries
- Grow more than one plant for good fruit production.

**Height:** 3–6'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8
**Spread:** 3–5'
**Bloom:** March–May
**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: pittigliani2005/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Pacific Rhododendron
*Rhododendron macrophyllum*

- Evergreen
- Showy shrub
- Grows taller in shade and shorter and bushier in sun
- Strong, stout stems
- Prefers well-drained soil
- All parts are toxic

**Height:** 5–26'

**Spread:** 5–15'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–9

**Bloom:** May–July

**Flowers:** Pink, rose-purple

Photo: Richard Drooker/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Painted Buckeye
*Aesculus sylvatica*

- Deciduous shrub or small tree
- Seeds, leaves, sprouts are highly toxic if eaten

**Height:** 5–15'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8

**Spread:** 6–10'

**Bloom:** March–June

**Flowers:** Yellow, yellow-green, pink-green

Photo: Nicholas Turland/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Point Reyes Ceanothus
*Ceanothus gloriosus*

- Evergreen
- Spreading growth form
- Will not tolerate drought
- Good for erosion control
- Prefers afternoon shade
- Used as groundcover

Height: 2–3'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 7–9
Spread: 6'
Bloom: February–March
Flowers: Deep blue to purple

Photo: John Rusk/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Possumhaw
*Ilex decidua*

- Deciduous
- Upright, rounded, spreading growth form
- Toothed leaf
- Orange-red berries give fall and winter interest
- Tolerates clay soil
- Prefers moist, acidic soil

**Height:** 15–30'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9
**Spread:** 5–12'
**Bloom:** March–May
**Flowers:** Dull white
Rabbitbrush
*Chrysothamnus* spp.

- Loosely mounding, shrubby native
- Grows in open, sandy, and gravelly sites
- Tolerates drought

**Height:** 4”–6’  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8  
**Spread:** 1–6’  
**Bloom:** July–September  
**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Matt Lavin/CC BY-SA 2.0
Red Buckeye
*Aesculus pavia*

- Deciduous
- Glossy green leaves
- Showy flower and fruit
- Tolerates clay soil
- Prefers fertile, acidic, moist soils

**Height:** 12–15' or more

**Spread:** 12–15'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–8

**Bloom:** April–May

**Flowers:** Bright red

Photo: Wendy Cutler/CC BY 2.0
Redosier Dogwood  
_Cornus sericea_

- Deciduous  
- Attractive red stems in winter  
- Browsed by deer  
- Berry is green  
- Good autumn foliage

**Height:** 6–12'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 1–9  
**Spread:** 6–12'  
**Bloom:** May–June  
**Flowers:** White

Photo: Superior National Forest/CC BY 2.0
Rocky Mountain Maple

*Acer glabrum*

- Deciduous
- Upright growth form
- Single or multi-stemmed
- Good fall color
- Can be used as substitute for vine maple in sunnier spots

**Height:** 6–30'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–7

**Spread:** 3–15'

**Bloom:** March–May

**Flowers:** Yellowish-green

Photo: Jason Sturmer/CC BY 2.0
Salal
*Gaultheria shallon*

- Evergreen
- Broad, leathery leaf
- Used as understory groundcover
- Can be grown in sun if well-watered
- Blue-black berries used for jelly and jam
- Sprawling growth form

**Height:** 3–6'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–8

**Spread:** Up to 5'

**Bloom:** April–July

**Flowers:** White to pink

*Photo: Calypso Orchid/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0*
Sand Cherry
Prunus besseyi

- Deciduous
- Spreading growth form
- Sweet, edible, purple-black fruit
- Tolerates hot, dry conditions
- Tolerates cold, wind, drought, and rabbits

Height: 4–6'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–6
Spread: 4–6'
Bloom: May
Flowers: White

Photo: Super cyclist

NO
Serviceberry
*Amelanchier* spp.

- Deciduous
- Very hardy
- Showy flowers
- Small, purplish-red, edible fruit
- Prefers moist, acidic soil
- Water need varies by species

**Height:** 15–25'  **Spread:** 10–15'

**Bloom:** March–May, varies by species

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Bryant Olsen/CC BY-NC 2.0
Shrubby Cinquefoil

*Potentilla fruticosa*

- Deciduous
- Small leaves
- Dense growth form
- Tolerates rabbits, drought, clay soil, and poor soil
- Long-blooming shrub

**Height:** 2–4'

**Spread:** 3–5'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7

**Bloom:** June–September

**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Cyril Gros (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)
Smooth Alder
*Alnus serrulata*

- Deciduous
- Long catkins in spring
- Prefers moist conditions
- Tolerates poor soil and dry conditions
- Produces suckers
- Can become a thicket

**Height:** 12–20'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Spread:** 12-20'  
**Bloom:** March–April

**Flowers:** Purple, green, brown catkins

Photo: Aroche/CC BY-SA 3.0
Snowberry
*Symphoricarpos albus*

- Deciduous
- Showy white berries give winter interest
- Tolerates drought, clay soil, poor soil, and dry soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 3–6'
**Spread:** 3–6'
**Bloom:** June–July
**Flowers:** Pink

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7
Strawberry Bush
Euonymous americana

- Deciduous ■ Tolerates most soils ■ Unusual, bright pink-red and orange fruit gives interest in the fall ■ Berries are poisonous ■ Produces suckers

Height: 4–8' ■ USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–10
Spread: 4–8' ■ Bloom: May
Flowers: Yellowish-green with purple blush

Photo: Courtesy of oregonstate.edu/dept/idplants
Sumac
*Rhus* spp.

- Evergreen and deciduous
- Flowering shrubs and trees
- Fruit is reddish drupe
- Provides winter interest
- Tolerates rabbits, drought, and most soils
- Some species produce suckers

**Height:** 3–33'
**Spread:** 3–20'
**Bloom:** June

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** Greenish, cream, red

Photo: John Lillis/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Sweet Pepperbush
*Clethra alnifolia*

- Deciduous
- New growth is bronzy
- Fragrant flowers
- Prefers partial shade
- Prefers moist, acidic soil
- Tolerates heavy shade, clay soil, and wet soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 3–6' or more  
**Spread:** 4–9'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9  
**Bloom:** July–August  
**Flowers:** White, pink
Sweetshrub
*Calycanthus floridus*

- Deciduous
- Dense, rounded growth form
- Dark, glossy, aromatic leaves
- Fragrant flowers
- Tolerates clay soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 6–10'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 6–12'
**Bloom:** April–July
**Flowers:** Reddish brown

Photo: Katja Schulz/CC BY-NC 2.0
Trumpet Vine
*Campsis radicans*

- Deciduous
- Dense, multi-stemmed, clinging vine
- Aerial rootlets
- Showy flowers
- Tolerates drought and clay soils
- Best in average soil

**Height:** 25–40'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 5–10'
**Bloom:** July
**Flowers:** Orange, scarlet

Photo: Hellebardius/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Viburnum and Blackhaw

*Viburnum* spp.

- Large genus of deciduous and evergreen plants
- Some prefer dry soil
- Many have ornamental fruit
- Some can be trained as trees
- Some species are deer resistant

**Height:** 3–20'
**Spread:** 3–20'
**Bloom:** March–May (most species)
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species
**Flowers:** White, cream, pink

Photo: isamiga76/CC BY 2.0
Vine Maple
*Acer circinatum*

- Deciduous
- Circular leaves
- Best fall color with some sun
- Single or multi-trunk
- Prefers part shade and moist soil
- Tolerates dry shade

**Height:** 10–25'  
**Spread:** 25–35'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9  
**Bloom:** April–May  
**Flowers:** Red, white
Virginia Sweetspire
*Itea virginica*

- Deciduous
- Erect branches
- Showy flowers
- Fall foliage
- Prefers moist, acidic, well-drained soil
- Tolerates clay soil
- Tolerates heavy shade

**Height:** 3–6'

**Spread:** 3–5'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Bloom:** April–June

**Flowers:** White

Photo: rachelgreenbelt/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Western Azalea
*Rhododendron occidentale*

- Deciduous
- Glossy, green leaves
- Very fragrant, showy flower
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- All parts are toxic
- Spreading growth form

**Height:** 3–15’

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–10

**Spread:** Up to 10’

**Bloom:** April–August

**Flowers:** White, pale pink, deep pink, yellow-orange
Western Spirea  
*Spiraea douglasii*

- Deciduous
- Needs constant moisture and acidic soil
- Produces suckers and forms thickets

**Height:** 4–10'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–8  
**Spread:** 3–6'  
**Bloom:** June–September  
**Flowers:** Rosy pink

Photo: Sean Munson/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

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**SHRUBS & WOODY VINES**
Wild Hydrangea

*Hydrangea arborescens*

- Deciduous
- Loose, upright, bushy growth form
- Tolerates clay soil, rocky soil, and wet or dry soil
- Tolerates rabbits
- Does not tolerate drought

**Height:** 3–5’

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–21

**Spread:** 3–5’ or more

**Bloom:** June–September

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Tony Rodd/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Wild Plum
*Prunus americana*

- Deciduous
- Small tree with graceful growth form
- Edible fruit
- Can be grown as shrub but tends to sucker
- Has thorns
- Tolerates drought

**Height:** 15–30'  
**Spread:** 15–25'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8  
**Bloom:** February–May  
**Flowers:** White
Winterberry
Ilex verticillata

- Deciduous
- Slow growing
- Upright rounded growth form
- Prefers moist, acidic soil
- Tolerates poor soil and dry soils
- Berries can be toxic

Height: 6–12' or taller
Spread: 3–12'
USDA Hardiness Zone: 3–9
Bloom: April–July
Flowers: White, yellow, green, brown
Witch Hazel
*Hamamelis virginiana*

- Deciduous, with fall color
- Showy, fragrant flowers
- Prefers moist, acidic, well-drained soils but tolerates heavy clay

**Height:** 15–20'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8
**Spread:** 15–20'
**Bloom:** October–December
**Flowers:** Yellow, orange with red blush
American Elm
*Ulmus americana*

- Deciduous shade tree
- Graceful, wide, spreading crown
- Ash-gray bark
- Vigorous
- Tolerates wet and dry soil
- Tolerates drought and black walnut

**Height:** 60–80'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 2–9
**Spread:** 40–70'
**Bloom:** February–April
**Flowers:** Reddish green

Photo: Matt Lavin/CCBY-SA 2.0
American Linden
or American Basswood
*Tilia americana*

- Deciduous
- Oval, rounded crown
- Showy, fragrant flower
- Tolerates some drought and clay soil
- Winter twigs and buds are red
- Grows medium to fast

**Height:** 50–80'

**Spread:** 30–50'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 2–8

**Bloom:** April–July

**Flowers:** Yellow

Photo: Bob Gutowski/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Bald Cypress
*Taxodium distichum*

- Deciduous conifer
- Pyramidal growth form
- Feathery foliage
- Tolerant of most soil except alkaline
- Affected by few pests or diseases
- Used next to ponds, streams

**Height:** 50–70'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 2–10
**Spread:** 20–45'
**Bloom:** None
**Flowers:** None

Photo: F.D. Richards/CC BY-SA 2.0
Black Oak
*Quercus velutina*

- Deciduous
- Globular, spreading crown
- Good fall color
- Prefers moist, acidic, organic soil
- Tolerates poor, dry soils
- Tolerates drought
- Acorns attract wildlife

**Height:** 50–60’  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9

**Spread:** 50–60’  
**Bloom:** March–May

**Flowers:** Yellowish-green, brown

Photo: Jason Sturmer/CC BY 2.0
Eastern Hop Hornbeam or Ironwood
*Ostrya virginiana*

- Deciduous shade tree
- Catkins give winter interest
- Slow growing
- Fruit clusters look hop-like
- Tolerates drought and clay soil

**Height:** 25–40'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–9
**Spread:** 20–30'
**Bloom:** April
**Flowers:** Greenish, reddish-brown

Photo: Phillip Merritt/CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
Mountain Ash
*Sorbus* spp.

- Deciduous
- Large genus (dwarf shrubs to trees)
- Most are hardy
- Good fall color
- Red berries give winter interest
- Needs acidic soil

**Height:** 10–50'

**Spread:** 10–35'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–7

**Bloom:** May

**Flowers:** White

Photo: Matt Lavin/CC BY-SA 2.0
Pawpaw
*Asimina triloba*

- Deciduous
- Good fall color
- Showy, edible, orange to brown fruit
- Tolerates wet soil
- Prefers moist, acidic soil
- Forms colonies by root suckers

**Height:** 15–30'

**Spread:** 15–30'

**Bloom:** April–May

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9

**Flowers:** Purple
Pin Cherry or Fire Cherry
*Prunus pensylvanica*

- Deciduous
- Fast growing
- Bright green, toothed leaf
- Prefers rocky or sandy, well-drained soil
- Fruit is edible
- Other parts of tree are highly toxic

**Height:** 25–50'  
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3–8  
**Spread:** 10–20'  
**Bloom:** April–June  
**Flowers:** White
Post Oak
*Quercus stellata*

- Deciduous
- Rounded crown
- Leathery leaf
- Prefers acidic, rocky, or sandy soil
- Tolerant of dry and wet conditions
- Slow growth but long-lived

*Height: 35–50'  USDA Hardiness Zone: 5–9
Spread: 35–50'  Bloom: March–May
Flowers: Yellowish-green, yellow, brown*
Red Mulberry
Morus rubra

- Deciduous
- Upright, rounded, or spreading
- Prefers full sun
- Sweet berries are edible but messy if tree is near pavement
- Tolerates drought

Height: 35–50'
Spread: 35–40'
Flowers: Green

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4–8
Bloom: March–April
Sassafras
*Sassafras albidum*

- Deciduous
- Broad, conical growth form
- Good fall color
- Showy flowers and fruit
- Tolerates drought and clay soil
- Produces suckers

**Height:** 30–60'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4–9
**Spread:** 25–40'
**Bloom:** April–May
**Flowers:** Greenish-yellow

Photo: Kerry Wixted/CC BY-NC 2.0
Shumard Oak
*Quercus shumardii*

- Deciduous
- Broad, open crown when mature
- Good fall color
- Tolerates drought
- Tolerates wide range of soils but prefers acidic, well-drained soils

**Height:** 40–90'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5–9
**Spread:** 30–50'
**Bloom:** March–April
**Flowers:** White, greenish

Photo: F.D. Richards/CC BY-SA 2.0
Willow  
*Salix* spp.

- Deciduous  
- Fast-growing, shallow-rooted trees and shrubs  
- Difficult to garden under  
- Diverse genus of over 300 species

**Height:** 3–100'  
**Spread:** 3–90'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Varies by species

**Bloom:** Varies by species

**Flowers:** Insignificant; some species grown for catkins
Winged Elm
*Ulmus alata*

- Deciduous shade tree
- Round, open growth form
- Branches have corky wings
- Tolerant of partial shade
- Fast growing

**Height:** 30–50'
**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6–9
**Spread:** 25–40'
**Bloom:** February–April
**Flowers:** Reddish green

Photo: Jason Sturner/CC BY 2.0
Authors:
Brooke Edmunds, Extension community horticulturist and assistant professor of horticulture; and Barb Fick, former Extension horticulturist; both of Oregon State University; and Paula Rogers Lupcho, OSU Extension Master Gardener, Benton County.

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