

Low Water Use Native Plants for the Willamette Valley



Full Sun	Attracts Pollinators/ Beneficial Insects	Wildlife cover, food
Partial shade/Sun	Attracts Butterflies	Attracts Hummingbirds
Full Shade	Attracts Birds	Bank Stabilization



Watering Tips:

- Water occasionally in summer for the first 2-3 years to help plants get established
- If possible, provide summer water during extended hot and dry periods
- Use mulch to help preserve moisture

CONIFER TREES

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
Cedar, Incense <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	100'		Dry, well drained		Grows in a distinctive conical form; attracts wildlife; commonly used as a windbreak; tolerates extremes of moisture and temperature, but prefers areas with summer drought
Cedar, Western Red <i>Thuja plicata</i>	180'		Moist to poorly drained		Excellent for wildlife cover, restoration projects, and as an ornamental; fragrant wood and foliage; reddish-gray bark; good timber
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	200'+		All but wet soil		Oregon's State tree can live over 1000 years; thick bark enables it to survive moderate fire; young trees grow quickly; good timber
Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	180'		Adaptable – wet and dry sites		Native pine to Willamette Valley also known as Yellow Pine; popular for its straight growth habit which exposes cinnamon colored bark with a vanilla scent; good timber

BROADLEAF TREES

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
Cascara <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	30'		Moist to dry, well drained		Also known as Chitum; shrub/small tree with silver gray bark and black berries that are attractive to birds; bark has medicinal purposes
Hawthorn, Douglas/Black <i>Crateagus douglasii</i>	20'-30'		Moist to dry		A small deciduous tree with clusters of small white flowers turning to red edible berries in fall; beware of alternating 1" spines along the stems; leaves are dark green and serrated, not lobed like its invasive counterpart, English Hawthorn
Madrone, Pacific <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	100'		Moist to dry, well drained		Evergreen; smooth orange/red bark, peeling when older; can be difficult to establish; older trees are drought tolerant; white flower clusters in spring
Oak, Oregon White <i>Quercus garyana</i>	100'		Moist to dry, well drained		Only native oak in the Willamette Valley; forms wide spreading branches; important wildlife species; produces edible acorns; slow growing; long lived

SHRUBS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
Blue Blossom <i>Ceanothus thrysiflorus</i>	18'		Well drained, dry		Evergreen shrub; produces fragrant clusters of blue/purple flowers mid-spring to early summer; attracts insects; drought tolerant once established
Coyote Bush <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	10'		Dry, well drained		Evergreen shrub with thick shiny leaves; produces small white to yellow flowers in August and September, making it highly desirable for insects and pollinators; deer resistant.
Currant, Red Flowering <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-8'		Moist to dry well drained		Beautiful ornamental shrub; flowers may be white, pink, to deep red; blooms from early spring to early summer; attracts hummingbirds and other wildlife
Elderberry, Blue <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	10-30'		Dry to moist		Deciduous shrub that has small white flowers followed by blueberry-like fruits; drought tolerant; attracts birds
Huckleberry, Evergreen <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	10'		Moist, well drained		Small, leathery, glossy leaves; pink flowers followed by showy, edible, dark purple berries which ripen in early autumn; attracts birds and butterflies
Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	6-8"		Moist to dry, well drained		Low spreading shrub; light pink urn-shaped flowers in small clusters near tips of stems; produces small red berries
Mock-orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	6-12'		All but wet soil		Fragrant white flowers; attracts bees & butterflies; blooms late spring to mid summer; drought tolerant; can be propagated from cuttings
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	8-12'		Dry to moist		Multi-stemmed shrub with creamy white flowers; used for riparian restoration and wildlife habitat; drought-tolerant; attracts birds and butterflies
Oregon Grape, Creeping <i>Mahonia repens</i>	12"		Moist to dry, well drained		Evergreen; best as groundcover for dry shade; drought tolerant; provides food and cover for birds

SHRUBS continued

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
Oregon Grape, Tall <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	5-8'		Dry to moist		Oregon's State flower; holly-like leaves and dark blue edible berries; yellow flowers; drought-tolerant
Osoberry/Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	8-15'		Dry to moist		One of the first plants to bloom (Jan/Feb) with white flowers that yield small purple edible plums; highly sought by birds and hummingbirds
Rose, Nootka <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	6'		Dry to moist		Spindly; produces large pink flowers; fruit eaten by birds and small mammals; browse for deer and elk; forms dense thickets; good erosion control if near a stream
Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	2- 10'		Moist, well drained		Dark green leathery leaves and white or pink flowers after establishment; has edible berries; attracts butterflies and wildlife
Serviceberry, Western <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	3-15'		Moist to dry well drained		Also called Saskatoon; showy white flowers in mid spring to early summer; dull red edible fruit that birds eat; Important winter browse for deer/elk
Silktassel, Coast <i>Garrya elliptica</i>	20'		Moist to dry		Evergreen shrub; produces catkins 4-6 inches long that flower mid winter to mid spring. Male catkins are longer, female catkins are followed by dark purple fruits
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	6'		Dry-moist, well drained		An important browse for game animals; many birds feed on the white, waxy berries which persist through winter; drought tolerant; berries not edible to humans
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	20-25'		Moist, well drained		Attractive fall colors; suitable for shade; large shrub or small tree; ornamental or forest under-story plant
Wax Myrtle, Pacific <i>Myrica californica</i>	20'		Moist to dry		Fragrant evergreen shrub or small tree; moderately drought tolerant; elliptical glossy leaves with slightly serrated edges; attracts birds

FLOWERING PLANTS

Name	Mature Height	Sun	Soils	Special Uses	Notes
Aster, Douglas' <i>Symphotrichum subspicatum</i>	1-3'		Moist with organic matter		Deciduous perennial with creeping rhizomes; blue to purple flowers; blooms mid summer to mid fall; good for the butterfly garden or perennial flower bed; attracts insects and butterflies
Blue-eyed Grass <i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i>	16"		Moist, well drained		Grass-like clumps with individual blue-purple flowers 3/4" in diameter; somewhat drought tolerant once established
Camas, Common <i>Camassia quamash</i>	1-2'		Wet winter, dry summer		Herbaceous perennial bulb; lovely blue violet flower that is a nectar source for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds; native to meadows and oak savannas
Camas, Great <i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	1-3'		Wet winter, dry summer		Perennial bulb; flowers range in color from creamy white to dark blue-violet; flowers grow on a long stalk; easy to grow
Columbine, Red <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	1-3'		Moist, well drained		Produces beautiful nodding red and yellow flowers late spring to late summer; prune flower stalks to the ground once a year in early spring; great for hummingbird or butterfly gardens
Fern, Sword <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	3-5'		Dry to moist		An attractive and hardy species for the home landscape; can be kept smaller by trimming back old foliage; easily transplanted; shelter for wildlife and amphibians
Harvest Brodiaea <i>Brodiaea coronaria and elegans</i>	1'		Dry to moist		Perennial bulb; small violet-purple vase shaped flower; narrow grass-like leaves; common in grassy meadows and rocky areas; blooms in late summer
Iris, Oregon <i>Iris tenax</i>	4-20"		Wet to dry		Perennial herb that resembles commercial iris varieties; grows in clumps with purple to blue flowers; blooms from mid-spring to early summer
Oregon (Woolly) Sunshine <i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	6-24"		Dry, well drained		Perennial herb with hairy leaves and stems; bright yellow "daisy-like" flowers on long stalks; blooms from late spring to late summer; tolerant of drought and rocky soil
Pearly Everlasting <i>Anaphalis emarginata</i>	1-3'		Moist to dry		Rhizomatous perennial; clusters of tiny white and yellow flowers bloom from mid summer through early fall; some consider it weedy; spreads rapidly
Penstemon, Cascade <i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	8-30"		Moist to dry		Flowers bright blue to purple-blue up to 3/4 in. long in clusters; leaves have serrated edges; grows in moist meadows, along streams, and in rocky areas, flowers June-August
Redwood Sorrel <i>Oxalis oregana</i>	6-8"		Moist		Rapidly spreading ground cover with heart shaped leaves in groups of 3; white or pink flowers; aggressive ground cover where no other herbaceous plants are present
Stonecrop, Broadleaf <i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	8"		Dry, rocky, well-drained		Succulent, evergreen perennial with fleshy, rounded, greenish-gray leaves that turn red with age; produces bright yellow flowers on taller stems; evergreen; good for rock or butterfly garden; drought tolerant
Stonecrop, Oregon <i>Sedum oregonum</i>	6"		Dry, rocky, well-drained		Succulent, fleshy green leaves that turn bronze to red in the fall; numerous pale yellow flowers that turn pinkish as they dry; evergreen; good for rock or butterfly garden; drought tolerant
Strawberry, Woodland <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	2-4"		Dry to moist		Drought tolerant; has smaller fruit and is often found in more open parts of forests where it sends out runners and provides ground cover; attracts butterflies and wildlife; edible fruit
Strawberry, Beach <i>Fragaria chilloensis</i>	2-4"		Well drained, sandy		Trailing perennial with evergreen leaves that turn red in the winter; produces showy white flowers from mid spring to early summer and tasty strawberries; used as groundcover or in rocky crevices; can spread aggressively
Yarrow, Western <i>Achellia millifolium</i>	1-3'		Dry to moist		Perennial; narrow fern like leaves with an umbel of small white flowers; blooms mid spring to mid fall; drought tolerant; can be used as a lawn substitute if mowed; attracts butterflies