

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
Partial shade/Sun	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 garryana</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. It is 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 ana 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 as name suggests. Grows in moist meadows, along streams, and in rocky areas. Flowers June-August. Prefers moist to dry soils.
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 oreganum</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; medicinal properties