

# RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME GARDENS IN WESTERN OREGON

## NOTES

- Common names are those most used in Kruckeberg (1996), Link (1999), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and ODFW *Naturescaping* (2001).
- Scientific names and authors courtesy of Scott Sundberg, Oregon Flora Project, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU (<http://www.oregonflora.org/OFP>)
- Description, characteristics, and comments from Elias (1980), Kruckeberg (1996), Pojar and Mackinnon (1994), and 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.
- Drought tolerance assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), Bell et al. (2001), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Drought-tolerant

- Light requirements assigned according to Link (1999), Kruckeberg (1996), and Cullina (2000, 2002).



= Sun



= Part shade/sun



= Shade

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



Food source for native butterfly caterpillars



Nectar source for butterflies



Food source, shelter, or nesting sites for birds



Nectar source for hummingbirds



Shelter for native amphibians or reptiles



Food source for native wildlife or rodents



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

# HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND FERNS

## ALUMROOT, SMALL-FLOWERED

*Heuchera micrantha* Douglas ex Lindl.

Herbaceous perennial 1–2'. Small, white flowers on stalk in late spring. Large basal rosette of leaves.

Grows in moist shade. Selected color forms or cultivars available, such as 'Palace Purple.'



*Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple'

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**ASTER, DOUGLAS'**  
*Aster subspicatus* Nees

Herbaceous perennial to 3'. Blue to purple flowers in late summer.

Readily reseeds and spreads underground; can be aggressive.



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**BLEEDING HEART, PACIFIC (WESTERN BLEEDING HEART)**  
*Dicentra formosa* (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. Seed disseminated by ants. Selected color forms and varieties available.



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**BLUE-EYED GRASS**  
*Sisyrinchium bellum* S. Watson

Herbaceous perennial to 16". Grasslike leaves. Dainty blue to violet flowers with yellow eye in summer.

Although resembles a grass, is actually in iris family. Considered to be the most ornamental of U.S. blue-eyed grasses. Reseeds readily; can be weedy in well-watered areas.



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## CAMAS

*Camassia leichtlinii* (Baker) Watson, *C. quamash* (Pursh) Greene, *C. cusickii* 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.



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## CHECKER-MALLOW

*Sidalcea* species, several are available

Herbaceous perennial, 3–5'. Basal rosette of leaves with tall flowering stems. Attractive 1"-wide, pink, hollyhocklike flowers.

Good for dry areas. Reseeds freely, easy to grow from seed.



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## COLUMBINE, WESTERN RED (RED COLUMBINE, SITKA COLUMBINE)

*Aquilegia formosa* Fisch. ex DC.

Herbaceous perennial, 2–3'. Strongly resembling garden columbines, but has smaller red and yellow nodding flowers in summer.

Self-seeds.



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## DEER FERN

*Blechnum spicant* (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.



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## FRINGECUP

*Tellima grandiflora* (Pursh) Douglas ex Lindl.

Woodland herbaceous or semievergreen 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.



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## GOAT'S BEARD, SYLVAN

*Aruncus dioicus* (Walter) Fernald

Herbaceous perennial, 5–6'. Attractive fernlike foliage. Plumes of tiny white flowers in summer.

Resembles astilbe. Spreads slowly underground. Male plants have showier flowers; female plants self-seed prolifically.







## GOLDENROD

*Solidago* species, many native kinds available

Herbaceous perennial, 1–2'. Bright orange-yellow flowers in plumes.

Reseeds freely and spreads underground. Can be too prolific in moist soils; can become weedy.



## IRIS, DOUGLAS

*Iris douglasiana* Herb.

Statuesque semievergreen perennial to 2'. Broader leaves than other native iris. Cream to deep purple flowers in spring.

Considered to be one of the best native irises for home gardens. Needs spring moisture and summer dryness.



## IRIS, GOLDEN

*Iris innominata* L.F. Hend.

Short iris, 8–12". Narrow, grasslike, 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**  
*Iris tenax* Douglas ex Lindl.

Herbaceous perennial, 10–14". Violet to purple flowers, occasionally white or yellow.

Requires dry summer soil.



**MONKEYFLOWER, YELLOW**  
*Mimulus guttatus* DC.

Herbaceous perennial, 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)**  
*Eriophyllum lanatum* (Pursh) J. Forbes

Low-growing herbaceous perennial to 2'. Green or silvery foliage and stems, small leaves in rosettes. Bright yellow, daisylike flowers in summer, each on single stalk.

Needs good drainage. Growth form varies depending on origin; lowland forms taller and greener than mountain or Columbia Gorge forms, which are shorter and grayer.



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**P**EARLY EVERLASTING, COMMON  
*Anaphalis margaritacea* (L.) Benth. & Hook. f.

Herbaceous perennial to 2'. Gray-green leaves. Heads of tiny yellow flowers, each with white bracts.

Slow or rapid spreader. Everlasting flowers can be dried for flower arranging. Widespread species; cultivars available.



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**P**ENSTEMON, CASCADE OR COAST  
*Penstemon serrulatus* 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 drought tolerant, looks best in moist spot.



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**S**TONECROP, BROADLEAF (SPOONLEAF STONECROP)  
*Sedum spathulifolium* Hook.

Short, evergreen perennial to 6". Thick, succulent leaves, flattened or paddle-shape, 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 areas.





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## SWORD FERN

*Polystichum munitum* (Kaulf.) C. Presl.

Statuesque, evergreen fern, 3–5'. New foliage in March; retains 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.



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## TRILLIUM, WESTERN WHITE (WAKE ROBIN)

*Trillium ovatum* 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.



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## VIOLET, STREAM (YELLOW WOOD VIOLET)

*Viola glabella* Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray

Herbaceous, spreading perennial, 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

*Achillea millefolium* L.

Herbaceous perennial to 3'. Finely divided fernlike 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 widespread species.

