

# LIST OF SELECTED NATIVE PLANTS FOR GARDENS IN WALLA WALLA, WA, organized into three groups based on their water and sun needs

Assembled by Heidi Dobson and Darcy Dauble, March 19, 2025

- I. NO WATER (*no* watering in summer) + FULL SUN
- II. LOW WATER (*only* during water stress in summer, *only* by drip irrigation) + MOSTLY SUN with partial shade/filtered sun
- III. LOW WATER (once every 1-2 weeks during summer) + PART SUN/part shade

## General

All native plants need special care in order to become established during the first 1-2 years. Please see the PLANT CARE recommendations in Kate Frey's handout "Easy native plants for wildlife" that was given out during the course's information session at Reid Center on February 22, 2025. It is important for these plants to develop their deep roots to survive the hot dry summers, which requires that one must give them *deep* watering (by placing hose at base of plant at very low flow for a couple hours) occasionally (such as every 1-2 weeks during summer in July-August-September).

Almost all the species we list here are perennials. It is very important to avoid horticultural/ornamental plant varieties and to only use plants that are grown from wild seed. Bloom period: Sp = spring, Su = summer, F = fall. RG = good species for "rock garden" habitats (gravel/coarse substrate, well-drained; dry areas along walkways). B = plants with berries eaten by birds. C = good caterpillar plants (we did not research this much).

## I. NO WATER (*no* watering in summer) + FULL SUN

### Tall plants (shrubs)

- Sagebrush – *Artemisia tridentata* wind
- Gray rabbitbrush – *Ericameria nauseosus* F
- Bitterbrush – *Purshia tridentata* Sp

### Medium-height plants

- Oregon sunshine – *Eriophyllum lanatum* Su (entire)
- Purple sage - *Salvia dorrii* Su
- Munro's globemallow – *Sphaeralcea munroana* Su (entire)

### Low-growing plants

- Arrowleaf balsamroot – *Balsamorhiza sagitata* Sp
- Nodding onion – *Allium cernuum* Sp (bulb, short-lived above ground)
- Snow buckwheat – *Eriogonum niveum* F; RG; C
- Strict buckwheat – *Eriogonum strictum* Sp; RG; C
- Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium* Su (entire); can be mowed

- Biscuit root/desert parsley- *Lomatium* many species Sp; RG
- Blanket flower – *Gaillardia aristata* Su (entire)

## II. LOW WATER (*only* during water stress in summer, *only* by drip irrigation) + MOSTLY SUN with partial shade/filtered sun

### Tall plants (tree/shrubs)

- Serviceberry – *Amelanchier alnifolia* Sp; B

### Medium-height plants (shrubs)

- Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos albus* Su
- Ninebark – *Physocarpus malvaceus* Sp/Su

### Low-growing plants

- Lupines – *Lupinus sericeus*, *L. leucophyllum* Sp
- Wild blue flax – *Linum lewisii* Sp
- Munro's globemallow – *Sphaeralcea munroana* Su (entire)
- Venus penstemon – *Penstemon venustus* Sp/Su
- Bush penstemon - *Penstemon fruticosus* Sp; RG
- Quamash – *Camassia quamash* Sp (bulb: short lived above-ground)
- Sticky geranium – *Geranium viscosissimum* Su (entire)
- Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium* Su (entire)
- Evening primrose – *Oenothera caespitosa*, *O. pallida* Su; RG

## III. LOW WATER (once every 1-2 weeks during summer) + PART SUN / PART SHADE

**\*watering frequency depends on weather, soil, and exposure**

### Tall plants (tree/shrubs)

- Blue elderberry – *Sambucus nigra* Su; B; C
- Serviceberry – *Amelanchier alnifolia* Sp; B
- Chokecherry – *Prunus virginiana* Sp; B; C
- Black Hawthorn – *Crataegus douglasii* Sp/Su; B
- Mountain ash – *Sorbus scopulina* Sp/Su; B

### Medium-height plants (shrubs)

- Mock-orange – *Philadelphus lewisii* Su
- Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos albus* Su
- Ninebark – *Physocarpus malvaceus* Sp/Su
- Oceanspray – *Holodiscus discolor* Sp
- Red osier dogwood – *Cornus sericea* Sp; B
- Tall Oregon grape – *Mahonia aquifolium* Sp; B

- Golden currant – *Ribes aureum* Sp

#### Low-growing plants

- Creeping Oregon grape – *Mahonia repens* Sp - ground cover
- Kinnikinnick – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Sp - ground cover
- Sticky geranium – *Geranium viscosissimum* Su (entire)
- Western columbine – *Aquilegia formosa* Sp/Su
- Western giant hyssop/horsemint – *Agastache occidentalis* Su
- Scarlet gilia – *Ipomopsis aggregata* Su; RG
- Pacific bleeding heart – *Dicentra formosa* Sp (early)
- Rosy pussytoes – *Antennaria rosea* Su; RG