

## Guide to Gardening with Native Plants

### Getting started with Native Plants

All plants take 1-2 years to establish. During the first 1-2 years native plants need special care in order to become established. 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).  
(heidi and kate)

#### Watering:

Water all new plants well. Saturate root zone. Mulch- compost and woodchips is highly beneficial to soil and plants. For pollinators, beneficial insects and birds- adequate irrigation enables plants to bloom longer and more profusely.

#### Fall planting:

Fall is the best time for planting, spring works too, but planting can be done anytime with care. Fall planted plants need minimal water the following summer.

#### Spring/summer planting:

1st summer- water all plants once a week. 1 month after planting, water dry-designated plants every 2 weeks if weather is moderate. 1 X a week if a heat wave. Other plants water every 1-2 weeks depending on situation.

2nd year- Water Dry-designated plants 1 X month. Others, once a week or 2 weeks depending on the weather, the plants needs, and situation.

### **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

NO WATER (no watering in summer) + FULL SUN

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

LOW WATER (once every 1-2 weeks during summer) + PART SUN/part shade

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).

Sagebrush – *Artemisia tridentata*  
Qémqem CAM-cam

Serviceberry – *Amelanchier alnifolia*  
Kikéeye key-kæ-yeah

Blue elderberry – *Sambucus nigra*  
Mítip MITT-tip

Chokecherry – *Prunus virginiana*  
Timš TIMSH

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

### Tall plants (shrubs)

- Sagebrush – *Artemisia tridentata*



- Gray rabbitbrush – *Ericameria nauseosus*



- Bitterbrush – *Purshia tridentata*



#### Medium-height plants

- Oregon sunshine – *Eriophyllum lanatum*



- Purple sage - *Salvia dorrii*
- Munro's globemallow – *Sphaeralcea munroana*

#### Low-growing plants

- Arrowleaf balsamroot – *Balsamorhiza sagitata*
- Nodding onion – *Allium cernuum*
- Snow buckwheat – *Eriogonum niveum*
- Strict buckwheat – *Eriogonum strictum*
- Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*
- Biscuit root/desert parsley- *Lomatium* many species
- *aristata*

## **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*

#### Medium-height plants (shrubs)

- Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos albus*
- Ninebark – *Physocarpus malvaceus*

#### Low-growing plants

- Lupines – *Lupinus sericeus*, *L. leucophyllum*
- Wild blue flax – *Linum lewisii*
- Munro's globemallow – *Sphaeralcea munroana*

- Venus penstemon – *Penstemon venustus*
- Bush penstemon - *Penstemon fruticosus*
- Quamash – *Camassia quamash*
- Sticky geranium – *Geranium viscosissimum*
- (entire) Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*
- Evening primrose – *Oenothera caespitosa*, *O. pallida*

### 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*
- Serviceberry – *Amelanchier alnifolia*
- Chokecherry – *Prunus virginiana*
- Black Hawthorn – *Crataegus douglasii*
- Mountain ash – *Sorbus scopulina*

#### Medium-height plants (shrubs)

- Mock-orange – *Philadelphus lewisii*
- Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos albus*
- Ninebark – *Physocarpus malvaceus*
- Oceanspray – *Holodiscus discolor*
- Red osier dogwood – *Cornus sericea*
- Tall Oregon grape – *Mahonia aquifolium*
- Golden currant – *Ribes aureum*

#### Low-growing plants

- Creeping Oregon grape – *Mahonia repens*
- Kinnikinnick – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Sticky geranium – *Geranium viscosissimum*
- Western columbine – *Aquilegia formosa*
- Western giant hyssop/horsemint – *Agastache occidentalis*
- Scarlet gilia – *Ipomopsis aggregata*
- Pacific bleeding heart – *Dicentra formosa*
- Rosy pussytoes – *Antennaria rosea*

Name of plant

Common

Scientific  
Indigenous

Cultural significance  
Picture (different times of the year)  
Care needs