Native Plants in the Landscape -

Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees

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IDAHO MASTER GARDENER
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

By Kathy Hutton, Plants of the Wild, Tekoa, WA. www.plantsofthewild.com

KINNICKINNICK – Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

- Evergreen groundcover forming a dense mat
- Leathery tear shaped leaves with pink flowers and red berries
- Needs well drained soil
    - PROS – very hardy and drought tolerant
        - Provides year-round interest
    - CONS – susceptible to root rot
        - can be slow to establish

WILD GINGER – Asarum caudatum

- Ground cover with heart shaped leaves and purplish-brown flowers
- Likes moist acidic soils
    - PROS – nice texture in landscape
        - foliage smells like ginger

WESTERN CLEMATIS – Clematis ligusticifolia

- Climbing vine or ground cover
- Whitish-yellow quarter sized flowers followed by white fuzzy seed clusters
    - PROS – very adaptable and hardy
        - Provides good cover for wildlife
    - CONS – can be invasive if not controlled

BUNCHBERRY – Cornus canadensis

- Groundcover dogwood less than 6" high
- White dogwood flowers and clusters of red berries
- Semi-evergreen with red fall color
    - PROS – extremely beautiful plant
    - CONS – needs shade and acid soil
        - fairly slow to establish

WILD STRAWBERRY – Fragaria virginiana

- Semi evergreen, fast spreading ground cover
- White flowers and small strawberry fruit
    - PROS – nice year-round interest
    - CONS –can be aggressive

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CREEPING OREGON GRAPE – Mahonia repens

- Evergreen ground cover Oregon Grape to 1' tall
- Yellow flowers and purple, edible berries
    - PROS – nice year round interest
    - CONS –can winter burn in our area

----------SHRUBS----------

SNOWBRUSH CEANOTHUS – Ceanothus velutinus

- 2-4' evergreen shrub
- dark green leathery leaves and white flowers
    - PROS – beautiful year-round in the landscape
    - CONS – susceptible to winter burn without snow cover
      - hard to establish

COMMON SNOWBERRY – Symphoricarpos albus

- 4' shrub with pink flowers and white berries
    - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
    - CONS – problems with suckers, especially in wet areas

THIMBLEBERRY – Rubus parviflorus

- Fast growing shrub to 4-5'
- Pink raspberry-like fruit after 1" white flowers
    - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
    - CONS – problems with suckers, especially in wet areas

GOLDEN CURRANT – Ribes aureum

- 4-6' shrub with yellow trumpet flowers and red berries
    - PROS – good for hummingbirds and wildlife food
      - drought tolerant
    - CONS – some problems with suckers

RED FLOWERING CURRANT – Ribes sanguineum

- 4-6' shrub with bright red flowers in early spring
    - PROS – good for hummingbirds and butterflies
    - CONS – not very hardy, need protection

OCEANSPRAY – Holodiscus discolor

- 6-8' shrub with creamy white flower clusters
- tolerant of poor soils and drought
    - PROS – nice growth habit and flowering
    - CONS – some people do not like persistent seed heads

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MOCKORANGE or SYRINGA – Philadelphus lewisii

- 6' shrub with beautiful white fragrant flowers
- tolerant of poor soils and drought
    - PROS – flowering
    - CONS – not attractive when not in flower

REDOSIER DOGWOOD – Cornus sericea

- 6-12' shrub with white flower clusters and white berries
- bright red twigs are nice contrast in winter
    - PROS – can be pruned
    - CONS – requires pruning to keep in small spaces

MALLOW NINEBARK – Physocarpus malvaceous

- 6' shrub with white pom-pom like flower clusters of flowers and peeling bark
    - PROS – tolerates poor soils and partial shade of full sun
    - CONS – needs moisture to look good in a landscape

WOODS ROSE – Rosa woodsii

- Pink flowered wild rose 3-4' high with persistent rose hips
    - PROS – good wildlife cover and food
    - CONS – spreads rapidly by suckers

SERVICEBERRY – Amelanchier alnifolia

- 6-12' shrub with white flowers and blue berries
    - PROS – superb wildlife cover and food, very adaptable to wide range of conditions

----------TREES----------

WATER BIRCH – Betula occidentalis

- Fast growing, multi-stemmed tree to 30'
- Bronze bark
    - PROS – nice soft textured tree
    - CONS – susceptible to birch borer

PAPER BIRCH – Betula papyrifera

- Similar to Water Birch but get larger (40'+) and has white pealing bark
    - PROS – nice soft textured tree
    - CONS – susceptible to birch borer

SITKA ALDER – Alnus sinuata

- Fast growing, multi-stemmed tree to 30' in wetter areas
    - PROS – good for screen tree, very little disease problems

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- CONS – need water

DOUGLAS HAWTHORNE – Crateagus douglasii

- 10-15' tree with white flowers and small crabapple type fruit
  - PROS – great wildlife cover and food
  - CONS – large thorns

ROCKY MT. MAPLE – Acer glabrum

- Multi-stem tree
- New twigs bright red, and nice red fall color
  - PROS – fast growing tree
  - CONS – short lived tree

ROCKY MT. JUNIPER – Juniperus scopulorum

- Upright blue-green juniper to 20' high
  - PROS - Good for screens and hedges, very drought tolerant
  - CONS – somewhat difficult to transplant, susceptible to root rot

QUAKING ASPEN – Populus tremuloides

- Fast growing tree usually 20-30' with soft textured appearance
  - PROS – tolerates wide variety of soil conditions
  - CONS – suckers readily

CHOKECHERRY – Prunus virginiana

- Multistem tree or large shrub with white flowers and red berries
  - PROS – adaptable to a wide range of conditions
    - good wildlife habitat
  - CONS – can sucker if to wet

BLUE ELDERBERRY – Sambucus cerulea

- Small tree or large shrub with large flat topped flower clusters followed by purple berries
  - PROS – excellent bird feeder
  - CONS – old growth dies back

DWARF MT. ASH -Sorbus scopulina

- Small tree or large shrub with white flower clusters followed by red berries
  - PROS – beautiful year round interest
    - good wildlife food and cover
  - CONS – can be messy

Plants can be ordered online and shipped from their nursery in Tekoa, WA.

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