

Native Plants in the Landscape

Grasses and Forbs (non-woody perennials)

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IDAHO
GARDENER
A UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
EXTENSION PROGRAM

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

NODDING ONION – *Allium cernuum*

- Pink to white flowers in summer
- Onion like leaves
- Drought tolerant
- Bulbs can be divided

WESTERN ASTER – *Aster occidentalis*

- Blooms late in summer
- Spreads easily from seed
 - Good choice for naturalizing
 - Can be weedy in smaller, formal garden
- Fairly drought tolerant but needs late season moisture
- Good fall nectar source for butterflies, bees and birds

ARROWLEAF BALSAMROOT – *Balsamorhiza sagittata*

- Flowers very early in spring
- Drought tolerant, goes dormant during summer after flowering
- Needs full sun and good drainage
- Deep taproot so difficult to relocate

COMMON CAMAS – *Camassia quamash*

- Blooms in early spring
- Easiest to plant bulbs in fall
- Likes spring moisture and then drought tolerant

DEERHORN CLARKIA – *Clarkia pulchella*

- Annual that reseeds easily, but doesn't become weedy
- Drought tolerant
- Disease can be a problem with too much water

BLUE BELLS – *Campanula rotundifolia*

- 6-18" tall with bell-shaped flowers
- Prefers moist soil and partial shade
- Blooms throughout the summer

OREGON SUNSHINE – *Eriophyllum lanatum*

- Small plant with gray foliage
- Prefers dry and full sun

- Disease problems with too much water
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BLANKETFLOWER – *Gaillardia aristata*

- 1-2' tall with yellow to orange flowers
- Flowers throughout the summer and into fall with moisture
- Easy to grow
- Short lived perennial, but reseeds itself
- Deer tolerant

WILD BABY'S BREATH – *Gallium boreale*

- 1-3' tall with white flower clusters in early spring
- Prefers moist, partial shade areas, but will grow in full sun
- Spreads by root and can reseed in moister areas
- Good for naturalizing

STICKY GERANIUM – *Geranium viscosissimum*

- Flower throughout summer with some moisture
- Drought tolerant, but will go dormant during summer heat and re-grow and flower with a moist fall
- Re-seeds itself with ejection of seed, so can spread throughout an area

PRAIRIE SMOKE - *Geum triflorum*

- Flowers early in spring
- Nice foliage
- Interesting seed heads
- Prefers full sun to partial shade and a well drained soil

LITTLE SUNFLOWER – *Helianthella uniflora*

- 2-4' tall with yellow flower late spring to early summer
- Drought tolerant
- Likes full sun to partial shade
- Great pollinator species and birds love the seeds

ROUNDLEAF ALUMROOT – *Heuchera cylindrical*

- 18-24" tall clumping perennial with pale yellow flowers in late spring
- Prefers full sun to partial shade
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils
- Attractive evergreen foliage
- Attracts bees, butterflies and birds

MISSOURI IRIS – *Iris missouriensis*

- Needs a moist site
- Blooms in mid to late May
- Grows from short, thick rhizomes

BLUE FLAX – *Linum lewisii*

- Easy to grow from seed
- Needs open area in full sun
- Flowers open in morning and drop in afternoon, new flowers open the next day

SILKY LUPINE – *Lupinus sericeus*

- Blooms mid-summer
- Short lived perennial, but reseeds
- Drought tolerant

PENSTEMON ATTENUATUS – Taper-Leaf Penstemon

- Found in both pale yellow and blue flowered forms
- Great plant for the garden
- Fairly drought tolerant

SLENDER CINQUEFOIL – *Potentilla gracilis*

- Flowers mid summer
- Nice foliage
- Prefers full sun to partial shade
- Deer tolerant
- Great for butterfly gardens

MISSOURI GOLDENROD – *Solidago canadensis*

- Masses of bright yellow flowers in late summer
- Full sun to partial shade
- Drought tolerant
- Good for naturalizing and erosion control
- Not good for small or formal gardens

BLUE EYED GRASS – *Sisyrinchium idahoense*

- Grows in moist areas and flowers in spring
- Easy to grow
- Nice semi-evergreen foliage
- Deer tolerant

SYNTHYRIS MISSURICA – Mountain Kittenails

- Flowers early in the spring
- Full sun to partial shade
- Leaves add interest into summer
- Deer tolerant

IDAHO FESCUE – *Festuca idahoensis*

- Short bunchgrass 8-12” tall
- Fine textured

- Usually slight bluish tint
- Dry, full sun

BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS – *Pseudoroegneria spicata*

- Bunchgrass 18-24” tall
- Bluish tint
- Wider blade

TUFTED HAIRGRASS – *Deschampsia caespitosa*

- Bunchgrass 18-24” tall
- Course textured fine blade
- Feathery seed heads

BASIN WILDRYE – *Leymus cinereus*

- Large bunchgrass 3-4’ tall
- Drought tolerant, prefers full sun
- Wide blade

BLUE WILD RYE – *Leymus glauca*

- Large bunchgrass 3-4’ tall
- Likes spring moisture, prefers full sun
- Wide blade with bluish hue

INDIAN RICEGRASS – *Achnatherum hymenoides*

- Bunchgrass 1-2’ tall
- Very drought tolerant, full sun
- 2-3” seed depth is crucial for germination

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