

PLANT LIST: LOW MAINTENANCE, COLORFUL, & WELL-BEHAVED

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This list is based on my experiences from using these plants in clients' and my own garden. There are no absolutes in nature. Rather, these are guidelines and you may discover that these same plants work in slightly different conditions in your garden.

Key

Range of light conditions:

FS = full sun, PS = part shade, S = shade

Can also tolerate these soil conditions:

Dry Shade = DSH or Damp Shade = DMP

| Small Urban Trees | Range of light conditions: | Can also tolerate | Seasonal Interest | Pacific Northwest Native |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Acer circinatum — Vine maple | FS-S | DMP | Fall | ✓ |
| Acer griseum — Paperbark maple | FS-PS | | Fall & Winter | |
| Acer palmatum spp. — Japanese maple | FS | DSH | Fall & Winter | |
| Amelanchier x grandiflora — Serviceberry | FS-PS | | Fall | |
| Arbutus unedo — Strawberry tree | FS-PS | | Summer | |
| Camellia sasanqua | FS-PS | DSH | Winter | |
| Cercis canadensis "Forest Pansy" — Eastern redbud | FS | | Spring & Fall | |
| Cornus mas — Cornelian cherry | FS-PS | | Spring | |
| Magnolia grandiflora "Little gem" — Dwarf magnolia | FS | | Summer | |
| Oxydendrum arboreum — Sourwood | FS | | Spring & Fall | |
| Populus cultivars — Aspen | FS | | Fall | |
| Stewartia pseudocamellia — Japanese stewartia | FS-PS | DMP | Spring & Fall | |
| Styrax japonicus — Japanese snowbell | FS | DSH | Spring | |

| Shrubs | Range of light conditions: | Can also tolerate | Seasonal Interest | Pacific Northwest Native |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Berberis cultivars — Barberry | FS-PS | DMP | Fall | |
| Chamaecyparis spp. — dwarf cypress | FS-PS | DMP | Summer | |
| Cornus spp. — Dogwood | FS-PS | DMP | Winter | ✓ |
| Corylus cultivars — Filbert, hazelnut | FS | | Winter | ✓ |
| Erica and calluna spp. — Heaths and heathers | FS | | Winter | |
| Euonymus cultivars | FS | | Summer | |
| Fothergilla | FS-PS | DMP | Fall | |
| Garrya elliptica — Coast silktassel | FS-PS | DMP | Winter | ✓ |
| Gaultheria shallon — Salal | FS-PS | DSH | Spring & Winter | ✓ |
| Hamamelis cultivars — Witch hazel | FS-PS | DMP | Winter | |
| Hebe cultivars | FS | | Summer | |
| Hydrangea cultivars | FS-PS | DSH | Spring & Fall | |
| Hypericum androsaemum — St. Johnswort | PS | DMP | Spring | |
| Ilex crenata — Japanese holly | FS-PS | DSH | Winter | |
| Juniperus chinensis cultivars — Juniper | FS | | Winter | |
| Kalmia latifolia — Mountain laurel | FS-PS | DMP | Spring | ✓ |
| Leucothoe fontanesiana “Rainbow” | | | | |
| Drooping leucothoe | PS | DMP | Spring | |
| Myrica californica — Pacific wax myrtle | FS | | Winter | ✓ |
| Phygelius cultivars — Cape fuchsia | FS | | Summer | |
| Picea abies nidiformis — Bird’s nest spruce | FS-PS | DSH | Winter | |
| Pieris japonica cultivars — Japanese andromeda | FS-PS | DSH | Spring | |
| Ribes sanguineum — Red-flowering current | FS-PS | DSH | Spring | ✓ |
| Rosmarinus officinalis — Upright rosemary | FS | | Summer | |
| Sarcococca cultivars — Sweet box | PS-S | DMP | Winter | |
| Spiraea cultivars | PS | DSH | Spring | |
| Symphoricarpos — Snowberry | PS | DSH | Winter | ✓ |
| Syringa vulgaris “Variegata” | | | | |
| Golden variegated lilac | FS | | Spring | |
| Vaccinium ovatum — Evergreen huckleberry | PS | DSH | Summer | ✓ |

Shrubs (cont.)

Vaccinium — Blueberry
Viburnum davidii
Weigela

Range of light conditions:

FS
FS-PS
FS-PS

Can also tolerate

DSH
DMP

Seasonal Interest

Summer
Winter
Summer

Pacific Northwest Native

Perennials

Alchemilla mollis — Lady's mantle
Aquilegia spp. — Columbine
Artemisia spp. — Wormwood
Ceanothus spp. — Pacific lilac
Chrysanthemum
Cyclamen
Euphorbia cultivars (Sap can cause blisters)
Geranium macrorrhizum — Hardy geranium
Helleborus spp. — Lenten rose
Heuchera cultivars
Kniphofia uvularia — Torch-lily
Ligularia cultivars
Rudbeckia cultivars — Black-eyed Susan
Salvia cultivars — Sage
Sedum "Autumn Joy"

Range of light conditions:

FS-PS
PS
FS
FS
FS
FS-PS
FS-PS
FS-PS
FS
FS
FS-PS
FS
FS
FS

Can also tolerate

DSH
DSH-DMP
DMP
DSH
DSH
DMP

Seasonal Interest

Summer
Summer
Summer
Summer
Winter
Summer
Summer
Winter
Summer
Summer
Summer
Summer
Summer & Winter

Pacific Northwest Native

✓

✓

Grasses, etc.

Carex cultivars — Sedge
Crocsmia cultivars
Hakonechloa spp. — Hakone grass
Iris cultivars

PS
FS
PS-S
FS

DMP
DMP

Winter
Summer
Summer
Summer

Ferns

| | Range of light conditions: | Can also tolerate | Seasonal Interest | Pacific Northwest Native |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adiantum aleuticum — Maidenhair fern | FS-PS | DMP | Summer | ✓ |
| Blechnum spicant — Deer fern | PS-S | DMP | Winter | ✓ |
| Dryopteris erythrosora — Autumn fern | PS-S | DSH | Winter | |
| Polystichum munitum — Sword fern | FS-S | DSH | Winter | ✓ |
| Acorus gramineus "Ogon" — Golden flag | PS | MP | Winter | |

Ground Covers

| | Range of light conditions: | Can also tolerate | Seasonal Interest | Pacific Northwest Native |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ajuga reptans — Carpet bugle | FS-PS | DMP | Summer | |
| Ceanothus spp.— Pacific lilac | FS | | Summer | |
| Cotula squalida — New Zealand brass buttons | PS | DMP | Summer | |
| Euonymus fortunei cultivars | FS-PS | DSH | Winter | |
| Fragaria chiloensis — Wild strawberry | FS | | Summer | |
| Helianthemum cultivars — Sunrose | FS | | Summer | |
| Juniperus cultivars | FS | | Winter | |
| lysimachia nummularia "Aurea" — Golden creeping jenny | PS-S | DMP | Summer | |
| Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus' — Prostrate rosemary | FS | | Summer | |
| Sagina subulata — Scotch moss | FS-PS | DSH | Summer | |
| Sedum cultivars | FS | | Summer | |
| Thymus praecox arcticus — Creeping thyme | FS | | Summer | |
| Tiarella — Foam flower | S | DMP | Spring-Summer | |