

Trouble-free Landscape Plants

This is a brief list of trouble-free ornamental landscape plants well suited for our Western Washington climate. Having the right plant for the right place costs you less time and money maintaining your garden. Use this list as a starting point for selecting fabulous, trouble-free plants for your garden.

Deciduous Trees & Shrubs	Size	Flower Season	Exposure	Characteristics
Amelanchier grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance' Serviceberry	To 15-20'	Spring	Sun	Showy flowers, fall color, edible fruit enjoyed by birds, drought tolerant
Caryopteris clandonensis Bluebeard	2'	Summer-fall	Sun	Extremely drought tolerant, deep blue flowers
Cercidiphyllum japonicum Katsura	Slow to 40'		Sun	Tidy round leaves give neat appearance
Cornus alba 'Elegantissima' Variegated red twig dogwood	To 10'	Spring	Sun, shade	Green & white leaves on red stems, fall color, fruit attracts birds, tolerates wet/dry soils
Fuchsia magellanica Magellan fuchsia	To 4'	Summer	Sun, part shade	Arching form, purple & red flowers attract hummingbirds
Hydrangea macrophylla Big-leaf hydrangea	5 to 8'	Summer	Sun, part shade	Big clusters of blue, pink or white flowers
Liquidambar styraciflua Sweet Gum	40 to 60'		Sun	Colorful leaves in fall
Oxydendrum arboreum Sourwood	25 to 30'	Summer	Sun	White flowers in drooping clusters, brilliant fall color, needs ample water
Ribes sanguineum Red flowering currant	5 to 10'	Spring	Sun, shade	Magenta flowers, edible powder-blue berries
Spiraea bumalda 'Anthony Waterer' Dwarf red spiraea	3'	Summer-fall	Sun, light shade	Bright pink flowers in flat-topped clusters, fall color
Stewartia spp. Stewartia	Varies 15-50'	Summer	Sun, part shade	Showy white flowers, good fall color, attractive bark, needs summer water
Styrax japonica Japanese snowbell	To 20'	Early summer	Sun, part shade	Hanging, fragrant white flowers, clean foliage, graceful form, needs water
Viburnum bodnantense Viburnum	8 to 10'	Winter	Sun, shade	Fragrant pink flowers, foliage deeply veined
Viburnum plicata tomentosum Doublefile viburnum	To 15' tall & wide	Spring	Sun, shade	White flowers in flat clusters, strong horizontal branch pattern, fall color

Evergreen tree & shrub selections listed on back.

Evergreen Trees & Shrubs	Size	Flower Season	Exposure	Characteristics
Abelia grandiflora 'Edward Goucher' Abelia	4 to 6'	Spring-fall	Sun, part shade	Lilac pink flowers, bronzy-red young leaves, deciduous in cold winters
Arbutus unedo 'Compacta' Strawberry Tree	To 10'	Fall	Sun, part shade	Reddish brown bark; flowers white, attractive, 3/4" red fruit
Berberis darwinii Darwin barberry	5 to 10'	Spring	Sun, part shade	Little holly-like leaves, orange flowers, blue berries attract birds
Cistus spp. Rockrose (many kinds available)	3 to 5'	Spring-summer	Sun	Showy white or pink flowers, quick growth, tolerant of drought & poor soil
Daphne odora 'Marginata' Winter daphne	To 4'	Winter	Shade	Clusters of tiny pink flowers are powerfully fragrant
Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa' Hollywood juniper	To 15'		Sun	Interesting twisted appearance, clear green foliage, blue berry-like cones
Kalmia latifolia Mountain laurel	7 to 10'	Spring	Part shade, sun	Unusual pink flowers
Lavandula angustifolia Lavender	1 to 3'	Spring-fall	Sun	Fragrant, drought tolerant, long flowering season
Nandina domestica Heavenly bamboo	To 8'	Summer	Sun, shade	Cane-like stems, lacy foliage, creamy flowers
Osmanthus delavayii Osmanthus	Slow to 6'	Spring	Sun, shade	Fragrant white flowers, clean foliage, grows in poor soil
Pieris japonica Lily-of-the-valley shrub (many cultivars available with different characteristics)	To 10'	Late winter-spring	Shade, part shade	Red new growth, drooping white flower clusters (may have pink flowers, variegated foliage, compact habit)
Prunus lusitanica Portugal laurel	To 20' plus	Late spring	Sun, shade	Dark green foliage on red stems, makes dense hedge
Sarcococca hookeriana humilis Sweetbox	To 18'	Late winter	Shade, dry shade	Flowers tiny, but very fragrant, black berries

Trouble-prone Plants

Unlike the plants above, those listed below are susceptible to one or more serious pests. Those starred (*) have species or cultivars that are most resistant to the problem, so some research before choosing can save you considerable trouble.

Abies - True firs (silver, noble, etc.)
 Albibizia - Silk tree
 Betula - Birch
 Cornus - Dogwoods *
 Crataegus - Hawthorns *
 Juniperus - Junipers *
 Malus - Crabapples *
 Picea - Spruces

Populus - Cottonwoods & poplars
 Prunus - Flowering cherries & plums
 Rhododendron - Rhododendrons & azaleas *
 Rosa - Roses *
 Salix - Willows
 Skimmia
 Syringa - Lilac