NATIVE PLANTS for
SPOKANE AREA GARDENS

SHRUBS, VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS:

**Birch-leaf Spirea (Spiraea betulifolia)**—small, erect shrub with many fluffy white flowers in flat-topped clusters. No more than 2’ tall, Blooms appear June—August.

**Blue Elderberry (Sambucus coerulea)**—shrub to small tree, with pithy stems. Large flower heads are white and flat-topped. The powdery blue berry clusters Height can range from 4-20 feet. Bloom time is June—August, and berries show up by July.

**Common Snowberry (Symphoricarpus albus)**—slender, erect shrub with interesting leaves. Small, bell-shaped flowers, white to pale pink, in clusters, turning into larger, soft white berries. Height 3-4; bloom June—July; berries last into winter when their sugar-content peaks.

**Douglas Spirea, Steeple Bush (Spiraea douglasii)**—upright shrub with masses of showy, fluffy and long-lasting pink flower plumes. Seed pods attractive in winter. 2-6’ high. Blooms all summer and grows under Ponderosa pine.

**False Box/Mountain Lover (Paxistima myrsinites)**—small, evergreen shrub with small dark-green leaves and clusters of tiny reddish flowers in April. Grows to 2.’

**Golden Currant (Ribes aureum)**—upright shrub with clusters of bright yellow flowers and edible yellow berries that can turn reddish-black. Usually 4-6’ tall. Blooms April—May, and hummingbirds, butterflies and bees like the flowers. Birds eat the fruit mid-to late summer.

**Wax Currant (Ribes cereum)**—a more compact shrub with tubular white, pink tinged flowers and large, red-orange berries. Usually around 4’ tall. Blooms late April-May. Fruit July—August.

**Kinnikinnick/Bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)**—is a 2-4” evergreen ground cover. Flower, are pale pink and bell-shaped, and turn into bright red berries that birds like. Needs well-drained soil, and grows in both sun and shade. Blooms March—June; fruit August—winter.

**Mock Orange (Philadelphus lewisii)**—known for its profuse, fragrant and showy white blossoms that attract butterflies. 3-9’ high, it flowers from late May into July.

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Ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*)—interesting shrub throughout the seasons. Has peeling, cinnamon bark, masses of small, white flowers, and clusters of brown seed husks. Can reach 10-12.’ Blooms in June with seed clusters by August.


Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)—attractive at any season, but especially so in winter when the stems turn a deep red. Showy flat clusters of greenish-white flowers, and bluish-white berries that birds like. 6-18,’ depending on water. Blooms in June; fruits in August.

Shrubby Penstemon (*Penstemon fruticosus*)—low, evergreen shrub, with lavender blue, trumpet-shaped flowers that provide nectar for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Needs good drainage. Only about 12” tall, and flowers May-June.

Tall Oregon Grape (*Berberis/Mahonia aquifolium*)—prickly evergreen foliage and scented yellow and dark blue berries. Generally 3-5 feet tall, but can get taller with more water and shade. Blooms May—June; fruit August—late fall, winter.

Western Blue Clematis (*Clematis columbianum*)—early-blooming climber with nodding, showy blue flowers and fluffy, white seedheads. Grows to about 5-6,’ and can flower as early as late April. Also White Virgin’s Bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)—vigorous climber to 12.’ Numerous clusters of small, white flowers are followed by fleecy silver seed-heads. Blooms June-August.

Western Mountain Ash (*Sorbus scopulina*)—erect shrub, with white flowers in round-topped clusters and orangey-red berries. Grows to 3-12.’ Blooms in June with ripe berries in September.


**WILDFLOWERS:**

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia aristata*)—perennial with a long bloom period and cheery, deep yellow flowers around a russet to burgundy center. Blooms from late spring to frost. 8-30.”

Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)—short-lived perennial that forms an up-right clump of slender, flexible stems topped by sky-blue flowers. Self-seeds, but not invasive. 1-2’. Blooms June-Aug.
Camas (Camassia quamash)—long, narrow, grass-like leaves, slightly taller flower stalk with spike of blue-purple flowers. Edible bulb. Blooms April—June. 1-2.’

Common/Nuttall’s Larkspur (Delphinium nuttallianum)—single-stemmed plant with about a dozen dark blue flowers with long spurs at the back. Blooms May-June. 16.”
Cut-leaf Daisy/Fleabane (Erigeron compositus)—fern-like leaves and white, pink, or blue flower heads with yellow centers. Likes sandy, rocky soil. Blooms June-July. 2-8.”

Thread-leaf Daisy/Fleabane (Erigeron filifolius)—very thin, string-like leaves, and flowers that range in color from white to blue, pink, purple and yellow. Blooms May-June. 4-10.”

False Solomon’s Seal (Maianthemum racemosum/Smilacena racemosum)—long, arching stems with glossy leaves and plumes of creamy flowers at the tip. Blooms May-June. 1-2.’

Star-flowered False Solomon’s Seal (Maianthemum stellata/Smilacena stellata)—arching, upright stem with individual star-shaped white flowers at the top. Blooms April-June. 1-2.’

Glacier Lily/Dogtooth Violet (Erythronium grandiflorum)—one or more backward-curving nodding blossoms sit atop the flower stem with two oval, basal leaves. Blooms soon after snow-melt, March—August. 6-12.”

Grass Widows (Olsynium douglasii/Sisyrinchium douglasii)—grass-like leaves and purplish-pink (occasionally white) flowers on round stems. Blooms early April—June. 6-12.”

Hooker’s Fairybells (Prosartes hookeri/Disporum hookeri)—clusters of 1-3 bell-shaped greenish-white flowers hanging from the tips of branched stems. Blooms May-June. 1-3.’

Rough-fruited Fairybells (Prosartes/Disporum trachycarpum)—similar to Hooker’s Fairybells, but the flowers are slightly larger and more greenish. Berries are redder and fuzzy.

Idaho Blue-eyed Grass (Sisyrinchium idahoensis/angustifolium)—grass-like leaves and a flower stem topped by 3-9 blue-bluish purple flowers. Blooms April-July. 4-16.”

Narrow Leaved Skullcap (Scutellaria angustifolia)—two-lipped, tubular, and paired navy blue to violet flowers grow from the leaf axils. Blooms April-June. 4-12.”

Nodding Onion (Allium cernuum)—hanging, dainty pink flower heads on erect stems. Leaves are grass-like. Butterflies enjoy the nectar. Blooms mid-May through mid-July. 12.’

Prairie Smoke/Old Man’s Whiskers (Geum triflorum)—distinctive perennial with drooping, urn-shaped pink to lavender flowers and white-plumed seed-heads. Blooms May-June. 6-20.”

Rosy Pussytoes (Antennaria microphylla)—mat-forming grayish foliage topped by rosy-and white small flower balls resembling kitten paws. Blooms May-August. 2-6.”

Round-leaved Alumroot (Heuchera cylindrica)—perennial with a basal leaf rosette and long stems of small white flower clusters that attract hummingbirds. 12-20” tall. Blooms May-July.
Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)—purple, pink or white two-lipped flowers in rounded clusters atop a short, sturdy stem. Blooms May-August. 4-12.”

**Shooting Star** (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*)—light green, oval leaves and flowers that look like a small, colorful rocket with pink-magenta leaves that flare backwards. Blooms April-May. 6-20.”

**Sticky Geranium** (*Geranium viscosissimum*)—large pink to fuchsia flowers with deep red or purple veins. Divided leaves feel a bit sticky. Blooms May-August. 1-3.’

**Sulphur Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)—hairy leaves and clumps of sulphur yellow flowers on sturdy stems. Blooms May-July. 4-15.”

**Western Baneberry** (*Actaea rubra*)—perennial with bottlebrush heads of small white flowers that turn into glossy red berry clusters. Berries are toxic. Blooms April-June. Berries in August.

**Western Columbine** (*Aquilegia formosa*)—lovely perennial for shadier areas. Unusual flower shape with nectar glands that only hummingbirds and long-tongued butterflies can reach. Grows to about 2,’ and prefers moisture. Blooms May-August.

**Golden Columbine** (*Aquilegia flavescens*)—a yellow flowered columbine with similar habits.

**Western Trillium** (*Trillium ovatum*)—everything on this shade-loving plant comes in threes. Short-stemmed white flowers age to pinkish-purple. Blooms April-May. 6-24.”

**Wild Ginger** (*Asarum caudatum*)—evergreen, heart-shaped leaves and unusual brownish-maroon flowers. Needs shade. Bloom April-July. 4-6.”

**Wild Hyacinth** (*Brodiae douglasii/Triteleia grandiflora*)—grassy leaves and flower stems topped with 6 or more pale to deep blue tubular flowers with deeper purple mid-veins. Blooms April-June. 12-20.”

**Yellow Penstemon** (*Penstemon confertus*)—small mats of smooth-edged leaves with upright stems bearing taller flower stalks with whorls of creamy, trumpet shaped blowers. Blooms April-July. 20.”

**Hot Rock Penstemon** (*Penstemon deustus*)—similar to Yellow Penstemon, but with whiter flowers and toothed leaves. Blooms May-July. 18-20.”

**Yellowbells** (*Fritillaria pudica*)—one, rarely two, nodding, bell-shaped and fragrant yellow flowers atop a short stem. Blooms April—May. 4-10.”

**GRASSES:**

**Idaho Fescue** (*Festucca idahoensis*)—attractive mound-forming grass with blue leaves for much of the year. Late fall and winter turn the leaves an attractive straw color. New growth starts in late winter to early spring. Flower stalks and heads show up in June. 12-36.”

**June Grass** (*Kohleria cristata*)—grows in dense tufts with blue-green leaves and remains green over the winter. Upright flower stalks and heads appear in June. 8-20.”