

100 Cold Hardy Trees, Perennials, and Shrubs for Kittitas County



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



KITTITAS COUNTY EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

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Gardeners in Kittitas County face unique challenges. Cold winters and hot, dry summers, and lots of wind create a tough gardening climate. Additionally, our county contains a wide range of eco-systems, with varying soils, soil pH, rainfall, and plant communities.

At higher elevations such as Cle Elum (1,930 feet), the average growing season is 90 to 120 days with last frosts in late May (approximately May 24th) and first frosts in the middle of September (approximately September 11th). Cle Elum receives about 22” of rain on average. At lower elevations such as Ellensburg, conditions are much drier and frost-free days are longer. The average growing season in Ellensburg is about 120 days with last frosts in early May (May 11th) and first frosts around the end of September (approximately September 25th). Kittitas County is rated at USDA Zone 5 (-20°F. minimum).

Our tough climate with varying conditions can be baffling to first time gardeners, who are new to the area. A frequent question at our Master Gardener plant diagnostic clinic is “What can I grow here in Kittitas County?” This brochure is designed to help answer that question, listing trees, shrubs, and perennials that are suitable for this area.

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10 Hardy Shade Trees for Kittitas County

Gardeners often ask, “What shade trees can I grow in here in Kittitas County?” With our hot, often windy summers, care must be taken in choosing tree varieties that will take our arid summer conditions. Of equal importance, shade trees must also be disease and insect resistant, and beautiful. While no tree is entirely immune to pest and disease problems, some are resistant. Listed below are some of the hardiest and most disease and insect resistant varieties for our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tree Height	Tree Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
American Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	40' to 50' tall	Broad conical tree with five to seven lobed, star-shaped, dark-green leaves, which turn red in the fall.	Sun/part sun.	Poor to average soil, drought-tolerant. Can withstand compacted soil	May develop chlorosis in high pH soils.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	25' to 50' tall	Good substitute for elm but smaller & not susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. Rounded crown. Bright green, oval leaves to 5". Branches spreading & sometimes pendulous.	Full sun to part shade.	Very soil and site adaptable. Will tolerate some aridity.	Deep rooting. Very hardy to wind, heat, alkaline soil, pollution. Watch for aphids.	USDA Zone 2 (-45° F. minimum)
Honey-Locust, Thornless	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>f. inermis</i>	35' to 70' tall	Fast growing with upright trunk and spreading, arching branches. Provides nice, filtered shade. Leaves divided into many oval leaflets to 1-1/2" long.	Full sun.	Prefers moist, rich, alkaline soil, but will tolerate drought, pollution and salt.	Good desert tree. Does best with sharply defined winters and hot summers. Hardy.	USDA Zone 2 (-45° F. minimum)
Idaho Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Idahoensis'	35' to 40' tall	Fast growing with leaves divided into rounded leaflets. Clusters of sweet pea-shaped magenta flowers. Showy. Hardy.	Full sun.	Adaptable to all soil types. Needs no water once established.	Var. 'Purple Robe' has darker flowers and blooms two weeks earlier and for longer period. Drawbacks include brittle wood and aggressive roots.	All zones.
Japanese Zelkova syn. Sawtooth Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	40' to 60' tall	Smooth, gray bark like that of beech. Leaves to 3-1/2" long with saw-tooth margins. Colorful fall foliage.	Full sun.	Prefers deep, moist soil. Water deeply to encourage deep rooting.	Good substitute for insect-plagued elm. Tolerant of wind and drought.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. or slightly colder extremes)

10 Hardy Shade Trees for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tree Height	Tree Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	50' to 60' tall	Good tree for large areas. Leaves to 3' divided into leaflets to 3", pinkish changing to dark green, yellow in fall. Small flowers followed by 6-10' pods. Bold winter display.	Full sun.	Adaptable to wide range of soils. Little water once established.	Hardy to heat, cold and poor soil once established. Some litter created by seedpods and fallen leaves.	USDA Zone 4 (-30°F. minimum)
Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i> <i>T. cordata</i> <i>T. tomentosa</i>	To 60' To 50' To 50'	Dense, compactly crowned. Small, fragrant flowers in drooping clusters, which are produced in midsummer.	Full sun.	Linden will tolerate dry, heavy soils. Linden needs regular watering.	<i>T. cordata</i> best as shade tree and has yellow flowers. <i>T. tomentosa</i> is heat and drought tolerant and has white flowers.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	35' to 50' tall	Narrow to spreading or umbrella shaped. Graceful with broad, fan-shaped leaves resembling the maidenhair fern, which turn gold in fall and practically glow when backlit by the sun.	Full sun.	Water in dry season when tree is new, until established when tree has grown 10' to 20' tall. Prefers sandy, deep, moist soil.	Plant only male trees. Females produce messy, smelly fruit. Maidenhair tree is resistant to insects and root rot fungus.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Mountain Ash (European)	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	20' to 40' tall	Sharply rising branches. Dense, oval to round crown. Leaves have 9-15 leaflets to 2" long. Good autumn color. Clusters of tiny, white flowers in spring followed by red, berrylike fruit.	Full sun or light shade.	Needs good drainage. Moderate water once established.	Moderate to rapid growth. May grow much larger. Hardy to cold, wind, low humidity, and extreme heat.	USDA Zone 2 (-45° F. minimum)
Sycamore (London Plane Tree)	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> syn. <i>P. hispanica</i>	40' to 80' tall	Large tree with maple-like leaves and interesting exfoliating bark. Good winter interest. <i>P. occidentalis</i> (American Sycamore) is very hardy and has whiter bark.	Full sun.	Prefers well-drained soil but will tolerate most soil conditions.	Needs lots of room. Cultivar 'Blood-good' resists anthracnose fungal disease.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

Commonly Used Trees that Pose Landscape Problems

Ellensburg has many large, beautiful shade trees, which we all admire. Many times, home gardeners would like to grow these trees in their own yards and landscapes. Unfortunately many of these trees, although beautiful, aren't good choices because of susceptibility to certain disease and insect problems. A list of these trees and their problems are as follows:

Name of Tree	Insect Problem	Disease Problem	Comments
Birch – <i>Betula species</i>	Bronze Birch Borer, Aphids, Leaf Miners	None	Birch trees like high humidity and lots of water. They are prone to bronze birch borer damage, making them poor landscape choices for our area.
Crabapple – <i>Malus species</i>	Apple Maggot, Aphids, Tent Caterpillars	Scab, Cedar Apple Rust, Fireblight, Powdery Mildew	Plant resistant varieties such as Indian Magic, Professor Sprenger, Prairie Fire, Marry Potter, Molten Lava, or Sugar Tyme.
Elm – Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Elm Bark Beetles, Aphids, Leafhoppers	Dutch Elm Disease, Bacterial Leaf Scorch	Chinese elm (<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>) is much more resistant to insect & disease problems.
Hawthorne – <i>Crataegus species</i>	Aphids, Borers, Scale	Fungal Leaf Spot, Powdery Mildew, Rust, Fireblight, Apple Maggot	Plant resistant variety such as <i>Crataegus x lavalley</i> . Other problems with hawthorne trees are they are twiggy and have thorns.
Horse Chestnut – <i>Aesculus</i>	Gypsy Moth	Leaf Blotch, Powdery Mildew	Horse chestnut is somewhat susceptible to winter injury (frost cracks) and summer leaf scorch, as well as disease and insect damage.
Maple – Silver & Red Acer <i>species</i>	Aphids, Bladder Gall Mites, Box Elder Bugs, Mealy Bugs, Scale	Anthrachnose, Leaf Scorch, Fungal Leaf Spot, Powdery Mildew, Verticillium Wilt	Silver maple grows quickly, which makes weak wood that breaks. Amur maple (<i>Acer circinatum</i>) or paperbark maple (<i>Acer gingriseum</i>) are better choices.
Oak – <i>Quercus species</i>	Borer, Leaf Miner, Caterpillars, Mites	Oak Root Fungus, Powdery Mildew, Anthracnose, Bacterial Leaf Scorch	Most oaks prefer acid soils and will not thrive in the alkaline soils of Eastern WA. Shingle oak (<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>) & Bur Oak (<i>Q. macrocarpa</i>) will tolerate our high pH soils.
Willow – <i>Salix species</i>	Aphids, Borers, Caterpillars, Leaf Beetles, Scales	Blights, Canker, Fungal Leaf Gall, Willow Scab	Willows are prone to insect problems, willow borer damage in particular. They are also very brittle and lose branches easily.

5 Hardy Evergreen Trees for Kittitas County

Many gardeners like using evergreen trees in their home landscapes, because of the year round interest that these trees provide. Evergreen trees can also make good windbreaks or add privacy screening, which might be desirable. Some evergreen trees, especially our native species, are drought tolerant, which is useful for home landscapes with limited water. The best choices for our area, are listed below:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tree Height	Tree Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Douglas Fir	<i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i>	70' to 250' tall	Pyramidal form. Soft, medium green needles. Oval cones to 3" long. Older trunks divided by thick, reddish-brown ridges. Tassels of new growth on tips in spring.	Full sun or part shade in youth.	All but un-drained, swampy soils. Little or no water once established.	Douglas Fir is a beautiful landscape tree that is hardy to wind. Resistant to oak root fungus.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Larch	<i>Larix spp.</i>	70' to 100+' tall	Deciduous conifer with slender, pyramidal habit, with drooping branches. Tufts of bright green, fluffy needles. Woody, rounded cones. Needles pale green in spring, yellow to orange in fall before dropping.	Full sun.	All soil types. Prefers moist conditions.	Notable for color in spring and fall and nice silhouette in winter. Dropped needles can be a mess in the fall. This tree is attractive to birds.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)
Lodge-Pole Pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	80' tall	Tall conical, evergreen tree with needles in bundles of 2.	Sun/part sun.	Poor to average soil, drought-tolerant. Can withstand compacted soil.	Lodgepole pine has attractive, dense foliage. Nice used as a specimen tree.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	50' to 150' tall	Large, open growing conifer. Needles are dark green, 4-6" in bundles of three. Cones to 5" long. Exfoliating bark.	Full sun.	Hardy & tolerant of poor soil. Regular watering.	Signature native tree in Inland Northwest. Can be maintained as a hedge. Susceptible to pine bark beetle in trees under stress. Prevent by keeping trees thinned and well watered. Also susceptible to western gall rust, pine needle scale and pine shoot moth.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)
Spruce	<i>Picea spp</i>	60' to 150' tall	Large, pyramidal, cone-bearing tree. Short, stiff, blue-green needles spreading around branches. Many kinds have dwarf varieties. All attractive to birds.	Full sun to light shade.	Moist, well-drained soil.	Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) is extremely hardy & wind resistant. Good choice for wind breaks. Englemann Spruce (<i>P. engelmannii</i>) has softer needles. Colorado Blue Spruce (<i>P. pungens</i>) tolerates drought. Subject to Cooley spruce gall adelgid. <i>P. pungens</i> 'Glauca' (Colorado Blue Spruce) has blue-green coloring.	USDA Zone 2 (-45° F. minimum)

15 Hardy Shrubs for Kittitas County

Shrubs are an important element in the home garden and landscape, adding visual interest and providing a backdrop for other plants. Additionally shrubs are the backbone to a garden, helping to “anchor” a landscape. Many shrubs provide a beautiful display of flowers and have interesting foliage in a wide range of textures and colors. Listed below are some of the best choices for our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Shrub Height	Shrub Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Blue Arctic Willow or Purple Osier Willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	6' to 10' tall	Woody shrub with purple branches and delicate, narrow, bluish, finely textured 1” to 3” long leaves. Fast growing and showy.	Full sun.	Adaptable to most soil types. Frequent, regular water.	Unique coloring. Variety ‘Gracilis’ (Nana) is a low growing, dwarf willow, good kept 1’ to 3’ as hedge.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Bluebeard or Blue Mist	<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	To 3’ to 4’ tall	Loose, rounded, open shrub with gray-green, 3’ long leaves that are silvery underneath. Dramatic clusters of blue flowers top stems August to frost.	Full sun.	Adaptable to all soil types. Needs infrequent water once established.	May die back to ground in severe winters but will re-grow. Prune to 12” in spring.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Bridal Wreath Spirea or Shoe Button	<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i> ‘Plena’	6’ to 8’ tall	Upright shrub with small, glossy-green leaves in graceful arching form. Leaves turn red in fall. Small, double white flowers like tiny roses line branches April and May. <i>Spiraea. vanhouttei</i> flowers June and July.	Full sun or partial shade.	Prefers regular watering in well-drained soil.	Regular pruning required after flowering to maintain best form.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Burning Bush or Winged Euonymus	<i>Euonymus alata</i>	7’ to 10’ tall See Comments.	Deciduous, mounded, horizontal, spreading shrub. Lance-shaped foliage. Insignificant flowers in May. Dark green leaves turn red in fall.	Full sun to light shade.	Moderate water. Prefers well-drained soil.	Elegant form. Attractive, tidy branching habit. Variety ‘Compacta’ grows 4’-6’.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)
Butterfly Bush or Summer Lilac	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	To 5’ tall	Loose, open, rapid growing deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub. Dark green leaves with white underneath and showy 8”-10” lilac-like fragrant flowers July-Sept. in arching clusters.	Full sun to light shade.	Moderate water. Prefers well-drained soil.	Attractive to butterflies. Can freeze to ground in cold climates but roots are hardy.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

15 Hardy Shrubs for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Shrub Height	Shrub Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	8' to 20' tall	Upright, spreading shrub with heart-shaped leaves, large panicles of fragrant flowers in spring. Flower color varies depending on variety. Subsp. <i>Syringa patula</i> 'Miss Kim' is a hardy, dwarf lilac with lavender-blue flowers, grows to 3' tall.	Sun/part sun.	Fertile, well-drained soil. Will tolerate some drought once established.	Lilacs are extremely hardy and tough. Bacterial blight, black vine weevil, and lilac leaf miner can be problems.	USDA Zone 5 (-20 F°. minimum)
European Cranberry Bush	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	10' to 20' tall	Large, open shrub with lobed, dark green, maple-shaped leaves to 4" that turn red in fall. White flower clusters in May. Large, showy red fruit. <i>Viburnum compactum</i> 4'-5' tall. <i>V. nanum</i> is dwarf form to 2' tall.	Full sun to part shade.	Adaptable to most moist, well-drained soils.	Fruit good winter food for birds. Watch for and control aphids early in season. Susceptible to mildew in very shaded areas.	USDA Zone 3 (-30° F. minimum)
Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	6' to 8' tall	Picturesque, practically indestructible shrub. Shiny, green leaves are red tinged when young. April flowers are white, salmon or red and appear before leaves. Varieties range in form.	Full sun.	Adaptable to all soil types. Regular water during growing season.	Tolerant of cold and heat. May suffer from chlorosis in alkaline soil. Prune to shape or limit growth.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia intermedia</i>	7' to 10' tall	Fountain shaped shrub. Bare branches covered with yellow flowers from February to April. Followed by lush, green, round leaves with pointed tips rest of growing season. <i>Forsythia viridissima</i> 'Bronxensis' (dwarf forsythia) grows to 2' tall.	Full sun.	Adaptable to most soils.	Prune established plants after bloom by cutting to ground, one third of branches that have bloomed. Remove old, weak or dead branches.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Hydrangea - PeeGee	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Grandiflora'	To 10' - 15' tall	Dense, upright shrub with 5" long, dull green leaves that turn bronze in fall. Flowers in upright clusters, white fading to pinky bronze. <i>Hydrangea. anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> (Climbing Hydrangea) 12'-15'.	Partial shade.	Prefers well-drained soil with regular water.	Prune to control size. Cut out stems that have flowered. Climbing hydrangea needs support.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

15 Hardy Shrubs for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Shrub Height	Shrub Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	5' to 10' tall	Fountain-shaped, large, vigorous shrub with oval 1" to 4" long leaves. Fragrant, single, white flowers in June. Cultivar 'Aureus' has bright, golden leaves turning to yellow-green in summer.	Part shade.	Adaptable to most soil types. Moderate water.	An old fashioned favorite. Mock orange is hardy and somewhat drought tolerant. Prune after bloom.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Potentilla or Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2' to 5' tall	Dense, mounded shrub with tiny leaves, divided into 3 to 7 leaflets, green to gray-green. Bloom colors depending on varieties June to October.	Full sun to part shade.	Prefers moderate watering in well-drained soil, but will adapt to poor soil, heat and little water.	Potentilla is fairly drought tolerant, once established. Prune oldest stems frequently to keep from becoming ragged.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia spp.</i>	3' to 5' tall	Semi-woody, multi-stemmed plant with aromatic, gray-green leaves, white underneath, open spires of violet-blue flowers in late summer.	Full sun.	Prefers well-drained soil with little water once established.	Russian Sage is considered to be a sub-shrub. Likes summer heat and winter chill. Dormant in winter. Prune back in spring to live wood.	All zones.
Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>	2' to 7' tall	Rounded shrub with volumes of funnel-shaped flowers in spring. Blooms along previous season's shoots.	Full sun to part shade.	Adaptable to most soil with regular water.	Prune branches that have bloomed to un-flowered side branches. Thin or cut back one-half every other year.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Witch Hazel (vernal witch hazel)	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	15' tall	Erect shrub, which grows to 15' wide. Broad, oval leaves, which turn yellow in the fall. Has small yellow flowers, tinged with red. Flowers appear in late winter and early spring.	Full sun to part shade.	Prefers well-drained, rich, neutral to slightly acidic soil.	Nice plant for adding winter interest to the garden. Give this shrub some protection from the wind.	USDA Zone 4 (-30°F. minimum)

25 Hardy Perennials for Kittitas County

Our tough climate can somewhat limit the range of plants we can use in our home landscapes. Despite these challenges, there are still plenty of attractive, hardy perennials that can be used in our yards and gardens. We just have to be careful to pick plants that can withstand cold and heat. Listed below are some dependable perennials that are well suited to our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Bearded Iris	<i>Iris species</i>	4" to 24" tall.	Upright plant with sword-shaped leaves, large flowers in a wide range of colors (blues, pinks, purples, yellows, and white).	Sun/part sun.	Fertile well-drained soil. Average water.	Keep rhizomes uncovered by soil when planting. Blooms in spring to early summer.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon species</i>	1' to 3' tall.	Narrow pointed leaves with bell-shaped 1½", lipped flowers in red, blue, pink, lilac, purple or white.	Partial shade in hottest climates.	Fertile soil, moderate water.	Needs fast drainage. Good for rock gardens. Hardiness depends on variety.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i>	36" tall.	Stems and leaves are rough and hairy. The 4" wide flowers are gold, orange or yellow with fuzzy brown, cone center.	Full sun.	Average soil, moderate to regular water.	Cutting encourages rebloom. Divide when they become crowded.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Rose Campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	1 ½' to 2½' tall.	Fuzzy gray-white foliage with magenta or white flowers, 1" across.	Full sun/light shade.	Average to fertile soil, moderate water.	Very tolerant of adverse soils. Seeds itself freely.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Cranesbill (or hardy geranium)	<i>Geranium species</i>	6" to 24" tall.	Leaves are lobed or deeply cut. May be upright or trailing. Flowers are clusters in blue, white, purple, magenta, pink or bluish-rose.	Afternoon shade in hottest climates.	Moist, well-drained, fertile soil, regular water	Increase by transplanting rooted portions from a clump's edge. Nice fall foliage. Hardiness depends on variety.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Carnation/ Pinks	<i>Dianthus</i>	6" to 24" tall.	Most kinds form attractive evergreen mats. Flowers are fragrant and come as single or double 1" to 2" blooms, in white, pink, rose, red or yellow.	Light shade in hottest climates.	Neutral, well-drained soil. Regular watering.	Some varieties of carnations or pinks grow in poor soil. Deadhead to encourage new blooms.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i>	6" to 36" tall.	Lacy, bluish-green foliage, with red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, or white nodding, fairy-like flowers.	Sun/light shade.	Fertile, moist soil. Regular watering.	Flowers are often two-toned. Can be prone to powdery mildew.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera</i>	8" to 36" tall.	Branching perennial with lance-shaped leaves, and 4-petaled, silky flowers in yellow, pink or white.	Full sun/partial shade.	Poor to average, well-drained soil. Little to moderate water.	Succeeds in gardens with harsh climates. Drought tolerant.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)

25 Hardy Perennials for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	24" tall.	1" to 1½" daisy-like flowers in lavender or pink similar to Michaelmas Daisies.	Full sun/light shade.	Fertile, well-drained soil. Moderate water.	Cut back after flowering to encourage new bloom.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Flowering Flax	<i>Linum</i>	1' to 2' tall.	Erect, branching stems with small, lance-shaped leaves, and clusters of light blue flowers.	Full sun.	Well-drained, humus soil. Moderate water.	Flowers close in evening. Self sows freely. Long bloom period.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris species</i>	2' to 6' tall, depending on variety.	Tufts of narrow, grass-like leaves, narrow plume, with clusters of fluffy, tubular flowers, in various shades of purple or white.	Full sun.	Fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Regular water.	Tall, striking plant, which is good at the back of a mixed border. Blooms mid to late summer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum) Some varieties are hardier.
Hosta	<i>Hosta</i>	15" to 60" tall.	Clumps of large, heart-shaped, oval or lance-shaped leaves form a mound. Some varieties have yellow or cream margins. Thin spikes of blue or white trumpet-shaped flowers.	Partial to full shade.	Fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Regular water.	Hosta does well in shade gardens or containers. Will sunburn in full sun.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Monks-hood	<i>Aconitum</i>	2' to 5' tall.	Tall spikes of blue-violet, yellow, pink, or white flowers & lacy, fine textured leaves.	Full sun/partial shade.	Moist, rich soil. Regular water.	These plants need winter chill. All parts of this plant are poisonous.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Peach-leaved Bellflower	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	2' to 3' tall.	Upright, erect stems with narrow, lance-shaped leaves, and pink, white, or blue open, cup-shaped flowers.	Full sun/part sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Moderate water.	Easy to grow by seed. Sow in late spring. Looks good in a mixed border.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Peony	<i>Paeonia</i>	2' to 4' tall.	Large, many-petaled, globe-like flowers on graceful stems. Flowers in pink, red and white. Bush-like plant.	Afternoon shade in hot sites.	Moderately fertile soil. Regular water.	Most peonies need winter chill. Planting too deep will prevent flowering	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Perennial Bachelor-button	<i>Centaurea montanas</i>	1½' to 2' tall	Grayish, elongate leaves on woolly stems and blue cornflowers.	Full sun only.	Well-drained soil. Regular water.	Divide every other year. Self sows readily.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)

25 Hardy Perennials for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Poppy - Oriental and Iceland	<i>Papaver</i>	12" to 36" tall.	Oriental poppies grow in large, hairy clumps with large, deeply crinkled flowers in orange, scarlet, pink, red, salmon, or white. Iceland-poppies are smaller plants with 3" cup-shaped flowers in orange, yellow, cream or salmon.	Full sun.	Deep, average to fertile, well-drained soil. Moderate to regular watering.	Oriental and Iceland poppies need winter chill. Blooms from spring to midsummer. Foliage dies back in mid to late summer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Purple Cornflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	To 4' tall.	Sparsely leaved stems carry 4" daisy-type flowers in rosy-purple with a brown cone in the center.	Full sun.	Deep, well-drained soil. Moderate to regular watering.	Good cut flowers. Attracts finches, which love the seeds.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Red - Valerian, Jupiter's Beard	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	To 3' tall.	Tall, clump-like perennial with lance-shaped leaves, and clusters of tiny, fragrant red to light pink or white blossoms.	Sun/partial shade.	Poor to moderate, well-drained soil. Regular watering.	Fairly drought tolerant. Can be invasive. Self sows freely.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Salvia <i>nemorosa</i>	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	18" tall.	Dense, dark green spikes with whorls of tiny, violet-blue flowers.	Full sun.	Light, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Regular water.	Attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Cut spent blooms for new growth.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum). Some salvias are not hardy.
Salvia <i>sclarea</i> (Clary Sage)	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	To 3' tall	Erect plant with ovate to oblong, 8" gray-green, aromatic leaves and pink, lilac, or blue flowers in summer.	Full sun/part shade.	Humus-rich, moderately fertile, well-drained soil.	Attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Cut spent blooms for new growth.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum).
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia x andersoniana</i>	1 ½' tall.	Long, grass-like leaves with 3-petaled flowers in blue, lavender, white and pink.	Sun or shade.	Fertile, moist soil. Regular to ample watering.	Can be invasive. Divide clumps when crowded.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

25 Hardy Perennials for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Tickseed, Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis</i>	1' to 2' tall.	Long slender stems with linear to lance-shaped leaves, and clusters of 1" to 3" pink, yellow, or deep red, daisy-like flowers.	Full sun.	Fertile, well-drained soil. Little to moderate water.	Very drought tolerant. Blooms all summer long. Deadhead for longer bloom.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Veronica	<i>Veronica</i>	4" to 24" tall.	Upright to gracefully drooping spikes of lavender, blue, pink, or white flowers, depending on variety.	Full sun.	Moist, fertile, loamy soil. Moderate water	Good for borders and rock gardens. Blooms in summer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>	18" tall.	Gray-green, fern-like leaves with dense flower-clusters in yellow, white, red, orange, or rose.	Full sun.	Any well-drained soil. Moderate water.	Cut back after blooming for renewed growth. Drought tolerant when established. Can be invasive.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)

10 Ground Covers for Kittitas County

Home gardeners sometimes overlook the importance of using ground covers in a home landscape. Ground covers are most frequently used in areas where foot traffic is infrequent, at the base of taller plants in a border, or in between pavers or stepping-stones. Ground covers come in a wide array of foliage types, foliage color, and plant forms. Some are low growing and spreading, some grow in clumps, and some ground covers grow taller and can be used to provide a barrier, helping to direct foot traffic, or define a planting area. Whatever the use, ground covers add interest to a garden.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Basket of Gold	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	6" to 12" tall.	Gray leaves form a mound. Dense clusters of tiny golden yellow flowers cover the plant in spring to early summer.	Full sun or light shade.	Poor to average, well-drained soil. Moderate watering.	Good for rock gardens. Self-sows freely. Shear lightly to keep tidy.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Bishop's Weed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	12" tall.	Rampant ground cover with lovely, variegated green and white leaves. Flowers are insignificant.	Light shade during hottest part of day.	Will grow in any soil. Moderate water.	Spreads fast. Invasive! Best contained by wood or concrete barriers.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	3" to 8" tall.	Short, trailing plant with oval leaves, white to purplish-white flowers (bracts).	Sun/part sun.	Moist, humus-rich soil. Water regularly.	Blooms in spring followed by red berries in fall.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	4" tall.	A dense mat with bright blue, 6" flowering spikes, blooming in spring and early summer.	Full sun / partial shade.	Moist soil. Needs regular watering.	Needs good drainage. Spreads quickly.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus</i>	3" to 6" tall.	Wooly-gray leaves with tiny pink, red or white flowers.	Light shade in hottest climates.	Light, well-drained neutral to alkaline soil. Moderate water.	Very fragrant. Use in rock crevices and between stepping-stones.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum) Hardiness varies with variety.
Sea Pink	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	6" to 8" tall.	Narrow leaves grow in compact tufts. Flowers form globular heads and come in white, pink or red.	Full sun.	Can grow in poor to average, well-drained soil. Little to moderate water.	Plant forms a tidy mound. Good for borders or rock gardens.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)

10 Ground Covers for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Sedum	<i>Sedum species</i>	2" to 24" tall depending on variety.	Succulent leaves with clusters of tiny star-shaped flowers in yellow, pink or red.	Full sun or partial shade.	Average to fertile, well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil. Little to moderate water.	Useful in rock gardens or grown as a bank cover. Easy to propagate with stem cuttings or broken stems.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum) Hardiness varies with variety.
Snow-In-Summer	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	6" to 8" tall.	Dense mats of silvery-gray foliage, with masses of small, white flowers in early summer.	Light shade in hottest climates.	Any, well-drained soil. Moderate to regular water.	Does well in any soil. Spreads rapidly, especially with regular fertilizing.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium Oderatum</i>	8" tall.	Whorls of narrow leaves, with open clusters of tiny, white flowers.	Partial to full shade.	Moist, humus-rich soil. Regular to ample water.	Spreads rapidly and is attractive to bees. Leaves smell like fresh-mown hay when dried.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Wild Ginger (Canadian Wild Ginger)	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	6" to 12" tall.	Lustrous carpet of kidney-shaped leaves. Purplish-brown, bell-shaped flowers appear in spring.	Partial or full shade.	Fertile, humus-rich, moist soil. Regular to ample watering.	Spreads fast in rich soil. Nice in a woodland planting.	USDA Zone 2 (-50° F. minimum)

10 Bulbs for Kittitas County

Early season flowering bulbs are always a favorite in the garden. Often they are the first harbingers of spring, helping to add bright touches of color to a dormant, early spring landscape. Bulbs are generally hardy and most thrive in a variety of landscapes, being able to take cold or heat, and some drought. Many bulbs work well being naturalized in a woodland garden, or can be grown in a rock garden, or container. Listed below are varieties that are best suited to our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Crocus	<i>Crocus</i>	1" to 4" depending on species.	Grass-like leaves, growing from a basal clump. Cup-shaped to star-shaped flowers in white, various shades of pink, yellow, blue or, purple, depending on variety.	Full sun/part sun.	Gritty to humus-rich, fertile, well-drained soil.	Early spring blooming plant, which works well for naturalizing. Protect from gophers and voles. Some species of crocus are fall blooming.	USDA Zone 3 to 5 (-40° F. to -20°F. minimum) depending on variety.
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus</i>	3" to 6" depending on variety.	Long, thin, strap-like leaves, circle of petals with cup or trumpet type center. Flower color varies from yellow to white, with yellow, pink, orange, or white centers.	Full sun/part shade.	Average to fertile, moist, well-drained soil.	Spring blooming plant that is tough, dependable, and won't be eaten by gophers or voles. Daffodils multiply year after year.	All Zones Very hardy.
Fritillary - Crown Imperial	<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>	3½' to 4' tall.	Whorls of glossy, lanced-shaped leaves on a thick stalk, bearing 6 to 8 bell-shaped, orange, yellow, or red flowers.	Full sun.	Fertile, well-drained soil.	Spring blooming perennial with unpleasant odor. Striking plant, which is beautiful in a garden.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Glory-of-the-Snow	<i>Chionodoxa</i>	4" to 6" tall.	Small perennial with linear, green leaves and star-shaped flowers in pink, white, or various shades of blue.	Full sun/part shade.	Well-drained soil. Can withstand some drought.	Beautiful spring blooming plant. Great for naturalizing.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum) Hardiness depends on variety.
Hyacinth - common	<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	8" to 12" tall.	Bright green, strap-like, basal leaves, and nodding, bell-shaped, highly fragrant flowers in white, pink, red, blue, or purple depending on variety.	Full sun/part sun.	Average to fertile well-drained soil.	Dependable spring flower, which can be used in a mixed flower border. Can also be used for forcing indoors.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

10 Bulbs for Kittitas County -continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Ornamental Onion	<i>Allium species</i>	½' to 5' tall depending on variety.	Medium to dark green, linear leaves, flowers are bell or star-shaped with flowers forming a cluster or a ball. Flower color ranges from white, pink, rose, violet, blue, or yellow, depending on variety.	Full sun/part shade.	Moist, fertile, well-drained, sandy soil.	Early blooming perennial with an onion odor. Nice in a mixed border. Some alliums such as chives or oriental garlic are both decorative and edible.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum) - Most, but not all alliums are hardy for our area.
Snowdrops	<i>Galanthus species</i>	6" to 12" tall.	Slender, pale-green to blue-green leaves (depending on variety). Fragrant, white, nodding, bell-shaped flowers, with green markings. Flowers appear in early spring.	Full sun/part shade.	Moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil.	Snowdrops are vigorous and easy to grow. They can be naturalized in a woodland garden or work well as a border.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Spring Star Flower	<i>Ipheion uniflorum</i>	6" to 8" tall.	Slender, bluish-green, grass-like leaves and star-shaped, fragrant flowers. Flowers are white, blue, or lilac.	Full sun/part shade.	Average to fertile, well-drained soil.	These beautiful spring blooming perennials are a little tender for our area, but can be grown in a sheltered area.	USDA Zone 6 (-10° F. minimum) – Can be grown in USDA Zone 5 with protection.
Tulip	<i>Tulipa species</i>	4" to 16" tall depending on species or variety.	Upright, linear to ovate leaves and upright, cup, bowl or star-shaped flowers. Tulips have a wide range of flower color depending on species or variety. They can be white, blue, purple, red, pink, orange, or yellow.	Full sun.	Fertile, well-drained, neutral to slightly acidic soil.	Tulips bloom early spring to early summer depending on variety. Most tulips decline over time, except for species tulips such as <i>Tulipa clusiana</i> , <i>T. greigii</i> , <i>T. tarda</i> , and <i>T. kaufmanniana</i> . Gophers love to eat tulip bulbs.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Windflower - Grecian	<i>Anemone blanda</i>	2" to 8" tall.	Small perennial with finely divided, palmate leaves. Flowers are daisy-like in shades of blue, pink, magenta or white.	Full sun.	Sandy, well-drained soil.	Low growing, spring blooming plant. Windflowers are great for naturalizing or used in a mixed border.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)

5 Berries for Kittitas County

Home gardeners should consider growing berry crops in their yard and gardens. Harvesting fresh berries is both tasty and rewarding and some berry plants, such as blueberries or currants are useful as ornamentals in the landscape, as well. Additionally, berry plants attract wildlife. The main requirements for growing berry crops are having enough space and full sun. Be sure to always buy certified nursery stock, so that plants will be guaranteed of being insect and disease free. The hardiest berries to grow here are listed below.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria ananassa</i>	12" tall.	Herbaceous, perennial plant, forms low growing mats. Strawberry plants are either once bearing (June bearing) or ever bearing (day neutral). They bloom in spring, followed by juicy, red berries in summer.	Full sun.	Rich, slightly acid soil. Strawberries need regular watering.	No overhead watering during harvest. Birds eating fruit can be a problem. 'Shuskan', 'Quinalt', and 'Tristar' are good varieties to grow in Eastern Washington.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	3' to 5' tall.	Tall, somewhat thorny, semi-woody plants with red to maroon berries, which come in summer-bearing and fall-bearing varieties.	Full sun.	Prepare soil with organic material and well-rotted manure if possible. Give 1" water per week.	Soaker hose irrigation is best. Fertilize in the spring. Mulch to control weeds. Sumner and 'Chilliwack' are hardiest varieties.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium species</i>	3' to 7' tall depending on variety	Medium to tall, deciduous shrub with dark-green, oval leaves, white to pink bell-shaped flowers, followed by small, round, blue berries.	Full sun.	Blueberries need moist, humus-rich, well-drained, acid soil (ph 4.5 to 5.5). Give 1" to 2" water per week.	Mulch. Use acid-based fertilizer. Nice hedging plant. Foliage turns red or yellow in fall. 'Earlieblue', 'Spartan', 'Blueray', and 'Darrow' best choices for area.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum) Depending on variety
Blackberry	<i>Rubus species</i>	5' to 6' tall or 15' long for trailing types.	Long, thorny branches, with white flowers in spring, followed by black berries in summer. Blackberries come in upright and creeping varieties.	Full sun.	Blackberries need deep, well-drained soil. Amend soil with organic matter. Regular watering is required.	Many varieties not hardy for our area. Upright varieties are generally hardier. 'Loch Ness Thornless' and 'Triple Crown Thornless' are hardiest choices. Mulch and protect from afternoon sun and wind.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum) Depending on variety
Currant	<i>Ribes species</i>	3' to 5' tall.	Medium size, spreading, deciduous shrub with yellow or red flowers in spring, followed by clusters of bright red, white, or black, translucent berries, depending on variety.	Sun. Some shade in hottest climates.	Grow in average to fertile, well-drained soil. Give regular water.	Mulch well. Prune during dormant season. Excellent for jelly. The fruit is loved by birds & other wildlife. Choose varieties that are resistant to white pine blister rust.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum) depending on variety.

10 Hardy Fruit Trees for Kittitas County

Apples, plums, pears, peaches, apricots, and cherries can all be grown here in Kittitas County. Some types of fruit trees, such as apples or cherries are more prone to disease and insect problems than other types of fruit trees, although all types are subject to various disease and insect pest problems. Homeowners need to be aware that having a fruit tree or backyard orchard is a real commitment! Trees need to be properly watered, fertilized, pruned, monitored and sprayed for pest and disease problems on a regular basis. Some of the hardiest types of fruit trees are apples. Care should be given to choosing varieties with early to mid-season ripening dates and should be hardy enough for our area. Some good apple, cherry, pear, peach, plum, or apricot varieties are listed below.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tree Height	Tree Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Apple – ‘Dayton’	<i>Malus pumila</i> ‘Dayton’	5’ to 13’ tall depending on root stock.	Short, deciduous, spreading tree, with either an open center or central (single) leader, depending on how tree is pruned.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil, when planting. Deep water regularly.	Tart, red apple with good flavor. Ripens in late September. Resistant to apple scab, mildew, and cedar apple rust. Needs a pollinizer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Apple - ‘Liberty’	<i>Malus pumila</i> ‘Liberty’	6’ to 15’ tall depending on root stock.	Short to medium sized, deciduous, spreading tree, with either an open center or central (single) leader, depending on how tree is pruned.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Yellow apple with red marbeling, sweet, slightly acidic flavor. Ripens in early October. Resistant to scab, cedar apple rust, and fire-blight. Needs a pollinizer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Apple - ‘Pristine’	<i>Malus pumila</i> ‘Pristine’	5’ to 13’ tall depending on root stock.	Short, deciduous, spreading tree, with either an open center or central (single) leader, depending on how tree is pruned.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Yellow apple with good flavor. Ripens in mid to late August. Resistant to scab, powdery mildew, fireblight, and cedar apple rust. Needs a pollinizer.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Apricot ‘Tomcot’	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> ‘Tomcot’	3’ to 15’ tall depending on rootstock.	Deciduous tree with upright, open growth habit, elongate leaves, and showy flowers in spring followed by fruit in late July or August.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	‘Tomcot’ is one of the hardiest apricot varieties available. It bears firm, deep-orange fruits and is self-fertile. ‘Tilton’ and ‘Chinese’ are also good varieties.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Cherry - ‘Stella’ (sweet cherry)	<i>Prunus species</i> ‘Stella’	3’ to 6’ tall when grown on Gisela 5 rootstock.	Deciduous tree with upright, open growth habit. Cherry trees grown on standard rootstock will grow to 30’ to 35’ tall. White flowers in spring.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Productive tree, bearing large, reddish-black cherries in mid-summer. ‘Stella’ is self-fruitful and is moderately resistant to bacterial canker. ‘Bing’ and ‘Rainer’ are also good varieties.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

10 Hardy Fruit Trees for Kittitas County - continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tree Height	Tree Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Cherry - English 'Morello' (sour cherry)	<i>Prunus species</i> 'English Morello'	9' to 10' tall if maintained (pruned) properly.	Deciduous tree with upright, open growth habit. Cherry trees grown on standard rootstock will grow to 20' tall. White flowers in spring.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Productive tree, bearing deep-red fruit. Excellent for pies. All sour cherries are self-fruitful. Ripens in mid-August. 'Montmorency' is also a good variety.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Peach 'Avalon Pride'	<i>Prunus persica</i> 'Avalon Pride'	10' to 15' tall.	Deciduous tree with, upright, open growth habit, elongate leaves, and showy pink flowers in spring, followed by fruit in mid to late July.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Peach trees are very productive once established. Prune hard to keep fruit load from being too heavy. Most need a pollinizer. Pick peach leaf curl on resistant varieties. 'Golden Monarch' and 'New Haven' are also good varieties.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Pear – 'Harrow Delight'	<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Harrow Delight'	15' tall if grown on OH x F rootstock.	Pyramidal shape, with upright growth habit, glossy, green leaves. White flowers in spring.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Medium sized pears with good flavor. Ripens in September. Resistant to fireblight and scab. Needs a pollinizer. 'Warren' and 'Bosc' are also good varieties.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Plum - (European) 'Italian Prune'	<i>Prunus species</i> 'Italian Prune'	12' to 15' tall.	Deciduous tree with upright, open growth habit. White flowers in spring, followed by fruit in fall (September or October).	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments to soil when planting. Deep water regularly.	Productive tree, with big, purple fruit with yellow flesh. Great for canning. Tree is self-fertile.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Plum - (Asian) 'Santa Rosa'	<i>Prunus species</i> 'Santa Rosa'	12' to 15' tall.	Deciduous tree with upright, open growth habit. Showy flowers in spring, followed by fruit in late summer (August).	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained soil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss when planting. Deep water regularly.	Produces flavorful, purplish-red fruit with yellow flesh. Good for canning. Tree is self-fertile. 'Shiro' and 'Elephant Heart' are also good varieties.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

10 Hardy Climbers/Vines for Kittitas County

Vines are versatile, being able to be grown up trellises, arbors, along fence lines, or into trees. Most vines are somewhat flexible, making it fairly simple to guide plant growth where you want it to go. Vines add a vertical dimension to landscapes and can provide privacy and shade, which are of great value when creating a garden. Listed below are vines that are hardy to our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Akebia - five leaf akebia	<i>Akebia quintata</i>	15' to 30' long.	Rounded leaves that are divided into five -1½" to 3" blue-green leaflets, clusters of small, brownish-purple flowers in spring, followed by long, purple fruit.	Sun/part sun.	Moist, well-drained, fertile soil.	Vigorous growing vine that needs good support. Flowers are nice, but not showy. Fruit is edible.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Clematis	<i>Clematis species</i>	6' to 30' long depending on variety.	Leaves and flowers vary widely, depending on which species. Leaves can be opposite or alternate, palmate, simple, or pinnate. Flowers can be bell-shaped, single, double, or star-shaped and come in a wide array of colors – pinks, reds, white, purple, or blue.	Full sun (tops in sun, feet in shade).	Moist, humus-rich, fertile, well-drained soil.	Clematis are early flowering (spring), or late flowering (summer). Be aware that there are 3 pruning groups for clematis - group 1 or A requires no pruning, group 2 or B require light pruning, group 3 or C requires hard pruning. Choose clematis from group 3, which bloom on new wood.	Generally USDA Zone 4 or 5 (-30° F. to -20° F. minimum). Hardiness depends on variety. Some not hardy.
Climbing Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i> syn. <i>anomala</i>	To 50' long.	Semi-woody climber with 2" to 4" heart-shaped, dark-green leaves. Bears corymbs (flat-topped flower cluster) of white flowers.	Sun/part sun.	Acidic, moist, well-drained soil.	Sprawling plant needs good support. Flowers in summer. Good fall color, with leaves turning yellow.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera species</i>	6' to 20' long depending on variety.	Deciduous vine with opposite leaves. Bears tubular to bell-shaped flowers, which appear in late spring or early summer. Flower color (yellow, orange, pink, or white) depends on variety.	Sun/part sun.	Fertile, humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil.	Honeysuckle flowers are very fragrant, which attracts hummingbirds. 'Gold Flame' or 'Dropmore Scarlet' are favorite choices. Honeysuckles are prone to aphids.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum). Hardiness varies with variety.

10 Hardy Climbers/Vines for Kittitas County – continued

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Hops (common)	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	15' to 25' long.	Twining vine, with pale-green, 3 to 5-lobed leaves, and 1" to 2" pinecone shaped, fragrant flowers and bracts.	Sun/part sun.	Fertile, moist, well-drained soil.	Perennial vine that has new shoots in spring & attractive ovoid spikes of flowers, which can be dried for flower arrangements or used for making beer. Aphids can be a problem.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Kiwi - (variegated kiwi)	<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i>	To 15' long.	Deciduous vine with oval to slightly oblong, variegated, leaves. Leaves are green, white, and pink. White flowers in early summer.	Full sun.	Fertile, moist well-drained soil.	Kiwi is vigorous plants, needing good support and shelter from wind. Kiwi produce edible fruit in the fall (produced on female plant), but need a male pollinizer.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Rose – 'John Davis'	<i>Rosa kordesii</i> 'John Davis'	6' to 8' tall.	A climbing rose with dark, glossy-green leaves, and double, bright-pink, fragrant flowers. Has repeat bloom.	Full sun.	Fertile, humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil.	This is a lovely, very hardy rose with small, pink flowers. One of the few dependable climbers in our tough climate.	USDA Zone 3 (-40° F. minimum)
Rose – 'New Dawn'	<i>Rosa floribunda</i> 'New Dawn'	10' tall.	Vigorous rose with glossy, dark green leaves. Ever-blooming with cupped, soft-pink flowers.	Full sun.	Fertile, humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil.	This rose is a tough and dependable rose, which blooms continually and is disease resistant. Can take some shade.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Silver Lace Vine	<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>	20' or longer.	Vigorous vine with medium-green, heart-shaped leaves and small, fragrant, white flowers.	Full sun/part sun.	Average to fertile soil.	This is a fast growing vine, which can cover 50 to 100 square feet in a season. Needs to be cut back to control growth. Is somewhat drought tolerant	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Wisteria - Japanese and Chinese	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (Japanese) <i>Wisteria chinensis</i> syn. <i>sinensis</i> (Chinese)	To 28' long.	Twining, woody vines with pinnate leaves. Pea-like flowers in late spring or early summer, in blue, lilac, pink or white.	Full sun/part shade.	Fertile, moist, well-drained soil.	Wisteria is an elegant plant with striking flowers, are long lived, and do well on most soils. Wisteria may suffer chlorosis on alkaline soils. May take several years after planting before blooms appear.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

5 Ornamental Grasses for Kittitas County

Recently ornamental grasses have been popular additions to home landscapes and gardens. Grasses add texture and color, and make a neutral backdrop for other perennials. Ornamental grasses look fantastic when backlit with sunlight, changing their look, depending on the time of day. Additionally grasses add year round interest, looking attractive in the winter, as well as the rest of the season. They can be grown along an edge of a path, in a mixed border, in containers, or in a natural meadow or woodland setting. A few of the best choices to grow in our area are listed below.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Height	Plant Description	Sun/Shade	Soil/Water Requirements	Comments	USDA Zone
Blue Fescue	<i>Festuca glauca</i>	To 12" tall.	Tight clumps of linear, arching, blue-green leaves, with spikes of bluish-violet flowers (seed heads).	Sun/part sun.	Poor to moderately fertile, well-drained, acid to neutral soil.	Very drought tolerant grass. Looks good in a mixed border, rock garden, or container.	USDA Zone 4 (-30° F. minimum)
Drooping Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	To 4'.	Evergreen, clumping grass with light-green leaves, bearing dark-brown flower spikes in spring.	Sun/part sun.	Fertile, moist soil.	Very graceful plant. Nice at the back of a mixed border. Makes a nice bog plant.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Japanese Bloodgrass 'Rubra'	<i>Imperata cylindrical</i> 'Rubra'	1' to 2' tall.	Erect, clumping perennial grass with linear, flat leaves, with red tips. Has erect spike-like panicles in late summer.	Full sun.	Moist, well-drained, humus rich soil.	Striking perennial grass. Will spread by underground runners. Flowers best in hot summer climates.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Eulia Grass 'Cosmopolitan'	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Cosmopolitan'	To 6' tall.	Deciduous, clumping grass with green and cream to white striped leaves, followed by gray to maroon, spiked panicles in autumn.	Full sun.	Average, well-drained moist soil.	Tall, arching plant that look nice in a mixed border. Should be cut to the ground in spring.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)
Switch Grass 'Heavy Metal'	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Heavy Metal'	3' to 4' tall.	Upright to arching perennial grass with metallic, blue-green leaves that turn yellow in the fall, topped by airy, weeping, silvery to pink panicles in mid to late summer.	Full sun.	Average to fertile, well-drained soil.	Grow in a mixed border. Tolerates a wide range of soils, dry to wet. Panicles can be cut and used in dried flower arrangements.	USDA Zone 5 (-20° F. minimum)

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