Native Plants:
If you are landscaping a new yard or just adding some personal touches to an established yard, consider using plants native to Washington. The native plants are acclimated to this climate, therefore are harder and require less maintenance. Once established, most require little if any watering and are more resistant to pests and disease. Contact the Kittitas County Conservation District (509-925-3352) for more information about the Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Plant Sale that happens every spring and features native plants.

Shrubs & Trees:
Mock Orange, Golden Currant, Serviceberry, Oregon grape, Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain maple, Vine maple, Red Osier Dogwood, Douglas Spirea, Quaking Aspen, Willow, Choke Cherry, River Birch and Elderberry.

Herbaceous Perennial Natives
Yarrow, Lewisia, Phlox, Penstemon, Globe Mallow, Yellow Bells, Stonecrop, Aster, Goatsbeard, Evening Primrose, Lady Slipper Orchid, Tiger Lily, Solomon’s Seal, Blanket Flower, Campanula, Bleeding Heart and Bunchberry.

Cornus Canadensis  (Bunchberry)
Plant Zone:
Cle Elum: 5b (-15° to -10°F) [USDA Hardiness Zones and Average Annual Minimum Temperature Range]
Ellensburg: 6a (-10° to -5°F) [USDA Hardiness Zones and Average Annual Minimum Temperature Range]
However, Master Gardeners have experienced extremes of –25°F in Cle Elum and Ellensburg.

Elevation:
Ellensburg: 1,520 feet
Cle Elum: 1,930 feet

Soil:
East of the Cascades soils tend to be more alkaline. However, soils vary widely within Kittitas County. Go to the web soil survey for general information (http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm) For more specific information contact the Extension Office for a list of soil labs.

Average Growing Season:
120 days - Lower County
90-120 days - Upper County

Annual Average Precipitation:
Ellensburg: 9 inches
Cle Elum: 22 inches

Average Last Frost (Spring):
Ellensburg: May 1
Cle Elum: May 24

Average First Frost (Fall):
Ellensburg: September 25
Cle Elum: September 11

Wind:
Out of the west and northwest. The strongest winds come in late spring, decreasing in the summer months. Wind flow should be taken into consideration when planning your planting beds and garden.

Lawn Seed:
Mixes of Kentucky bluegrass, fine-leaf fescues, tall fescues and perennial rye grass make superior quality lawns and are best suited for our area.

Water:
Many areas are served by irrigation districts/companies. Verify your right to any water that runs through your property prior to using it. It is illegal to take water from a creek or irrigation canal unless you have a certified water right. Up to 1/2 acre can be irrigated with well-water, generally speaking.

Noxious Weeds:
Noxious weeds are a problem in our area. Property owners are responsible for their control. For a noxious weed list, contact the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board at 509-962-7007.

Mt Stuart commands the view to the northwest

Mt Stuart commands the view to the northwest

Kittitas county is the geographical center of Washington State.

Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle)