Native or Suitable Plants

City of McCall

The following list of plants is presented to assist the developer, business owner, or homeowner in selecting plants for landscaping. The list is by no means complete, but is a recommended selection of plants which are either native or have been successfully introduced to our area. Successful landscaping, however, requires much more than just the selection of plants. Unless you have some experience, it is suggested than you employ the services of a trained or otherwise experienced landscaper, arborist, or forester.

For best results it is recommended that careful consideration be made in purchasing the plants from the local nurseries (i.e. Cascade, McCall, and New Meadows). Plants brought in from the Treasure Valley may not survive our local weather conditions, microsites, and higher elevations. Timing can also be a serious consideration as the plants may have already broken dormancy and can be damaged by our late frosts.
SELECTED IDAHO NATIVE PLANTS
SUITABLE FOR VALLEY COUNTY GROWING CONDITIONS

Trees & Shrubs


Alnus incana (Mountain Alder). A large shrub, useful for mid to high elevation riparian plantings. Good plant for stream bank shelter and stabilization. Nitrogen fixing root system.


Amelanchier alnifolia (Serviceberry). One of the earlier shrubs to blossom out in the spring. A common, hardy shrub of open woodlands", as well as drier riparian zones. Good bird habitat, juicy edible berries.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Kinnikinnick). A trailing groundcover with rooting branches and shiny evergreen leaves. Bright red berries stay on until early winter, providing food for birds and mammals. Prefers partial shade.

Artemesia frigida (Fringed Sage). Soft silvery mounds of fine textured leaves. Grows 6-1 2" tall. Found on dry open plains and desert foothills. Good winter wildlife forage. One of the most attractive sages for use in xeriscape plantings.

Artemesia ludoviciana (Prairie Sage). A rhizomatous, semi herbaceous plant with the distinctive sage smell. Deep spreading root system and very drought tolerant.

Artemesia tridentata (Big Sage). An evergreen shrub with grey-green foliage. A deep, spreading root system makes this shrub a valuable soil stabilizer from dry mountain slopes to lower elevation rangeland. Important winter wildlife forage. var. vaseyana - a smaller shrub found in mountain ecotypes.


Berberis repens (Creeping Oregon Grape). A low evergreen shrub that bears clusters of fragrant yellow flowers and edible purple berries. Does well in partial shade or full sun.

Appendix B
Betula glandulosa (Bog Birch). A shrubby 3-6' plant found in wet or marshy areas of mid to high-elevation sites. Useful shrub for riparian restoration. Bright red fall foliage.

Betula occidentalis (Water Birch). Attractive, cold hardy tree reaching 30' or more. Reddish brown bark, glossy leaves. Excellent choice for stream bank stabilization or ornamental plantings.

Betula papyrifera (Paper Birch). Reddish bark of young trees turns papery white as the tree matures. Height reaches 70-80'. Tolerant of cold winters.

Ceanothus prostratus (Mahala Mat). A trailing evergreen ground-cover with small holly shaped leaves. Prefers some shade.

Ceanothus sanguineus (Redstem Ceanothus). A Valuable browse species for big game. Tolerant of full sun and dry conditions. May grow up to 10' tall.

Ceanothus velutinus (Snowbrush Ceanothus). Dark evergreen leaves and showy plumes of musky fragrant white flowers. A valuable browse and erosion control species with nitrogen fixing capabilities.

Cercocarpus ledifolius (Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany). A small tree with twisting branches, well adapted to arid slopes. Evergreen leaves and fragrant yellow flowers. Good wildlife browse.

Chrysothamnus nauseosus (Rubber Rabbitbrush). A deep rooting shrub that will establish on harsh sites. Profuse yellow flowers in late summer and early fall.

Clematis ligusticifolia (Western Clematis). A woody vine of dry/open sites. Good cover for birds and small mammals. Showy white flowers.

Cornus stolonifera (Red-osier Dogwood). Grows well on moist stream banks, often in dense clumps. Fruits are attractive to birds. Game animals browse twigs. Bright red stems provide winter color especially striking when intermixed with clumps of willows.

Crataegus douglasii (Black Hawthorn). This large shrub can form dense thickets to provide excellent stream bank protection from livestock trampling. A good choice for any riparian planting. Good wildlife cover, fruits attractive to birds.

Holodiscus discolor (Oceanspray or rock spirea). An adaptable shrub that often pioneers in burned over areas. Grows from 3-10'. Bears large plumes of creamy white flowers in mid-summer. Red to orange fall color excellent landscape potential.

Linnaea borealis (Twin flower). A low creeping ground-cover with small/shiny evergreen leaves. Generally found in moist wooded areas, but will tolerate partial sun. Delicate pairs of pink flowers rise above the leaves.

Appendix B
Lonicera involucrata (Black Twinberry or bracted honeysuckle). A good choice for riparian plantings. Provides shade and soil stabilization to waterways. Bright red bracts subtend glossy black berries. Honeysuckle family.

Lonicera utahensis (Utah Honeysuckle). A widespread upland shrub, found in understory habitats. Slightly blue-green, leaves. Pendulant, trumpet shaped yellow flowers and bright red berries. Does well in shade or full sun.

Malus pumila (Wild Apple). A medium tree/ naturalized throughout Idaho. Hardy adaptable. Apples provide food for bears, pheasants, songbirds and deer.

Penstemon fruiticosus (Shrubby Penstemon). Low growing, evergreen shrub. Sharply toothed leaves, large tubular lavender flowers in mid summer. Survives dry summer conditions in sandy or rocky soil.


Physocarpus malvaceous (Mallow Ninebark). A widely adaptable shrub, covered with perky white flower clusters in early summer. Brilliant orange-red fall color. Good cover and browse for big game.

Populus tremuloides (Quaking Aspen). Cold hardy tree reaching 401. Found from near sea level to sub-alpine zones. Smooth white bark, trembling leaves and brilliant yellow fall color. Good wildlife species.

Populus trichocarpa (Black Cottonwood). A fast growing tree commonly found along stream-banks or in riparian areas. Provides good habitat for many bird species, including great blue herons. Bright yellow fall foliage.

Potentilla fruiticosa (Shrubby Cinquefoil). A versatile shrub that bears yellow flowers throughout the summer. Small pinnately compound leaves. Does well in full, sun.

Prunus emarginata (Bittercherry). Found on hot dry slopes or in partial shade. Good food and cover for birds and mammals. White blossoms, and small bright red cherries.


Purshia tridentata (Antelope Bitterbrush). An important browse species for big game, especially on winter rangeland. Adapted to dry sites. Covered with fragrant yellow flowers in early summer.

Rhamnus alnifolia (Alder Buckthorn). A good 'shrub for riparian plantings. Broad shiny leaves provide good shade cover along streams or in marshy areas.
Rhus trilobata (Oakleaf Sumac). A drought tolerant shrub with fast spreading roots useful in soil stabilization projects. Bears reddish-orange fruit and provides brilliant fall color.


Ribes cereum (Squaw Currant). One of the most widespread and adaptable currants. An early flowering shrub with red-orange berries eaten by grouse and other songbirds. Excellent revegetation species, ranges up to sub alpine zones.

Ribes lacustre (Prickly Currant). An excellent shrub for riparian plantings. 2-4' tall with glossy green leaves and shiny black berries that hang beneath gently arching branches. Good wildlife plant for moist areas. Attractive ornamental.

Ribes setosum (Gooseberry). A rugged yet attractive shrub/quick to establish on disturbed sites. Found along valley watercourses and lower hillsides. 3-6' tall. Edible berries.

Rosa nutkana (Nootka Rose). A hardy wild rose of wooded areas. 2-4": pink roses provide summer color and fragrance. Red-orange rose hips are nutritious food for songbirds and mammals. Red stems provide winter color.

Rosa woodsii (Woods Rose). A good choice for erosion control and revegetating disturbed areas. Tolerates dry conditions and a wide range of soils. Pink roses become red rose hips that stay on into winter; providing an important food source for many birds including ruffed grouse.

Rubus idaeus (Wild Red Raspberry). This drought tolerant shrub establishes well in rocky or sandy soils in full or part sun. Sweet edible berries.

Salix alba var. vitellina (Golden Willow). A tree like willow that is widely naturalized throughout Idaho. It is easily recognized by its long slender yellow branches, particularly colorful during the winter months. Provides good shade in the summer.

Salix geyeriana (Geyer Willow). An 8-12' shrub often found in fine textured soils of the riparian zone. Provides good cover and nutritious wildlife browse.


Salix lemmonii (Lemmons Willow). A 4-6' shrub. Distinct silvery foliage adds contrasting shades to the riparian landscape. Occurs from mid elevations to the sub-alpine zone, often in frosty bottoms.
Salix scouleriana (Scouler Willow). A fast growing shrub or small tree found in riparian areas as well as on dry mountain slopes. Used by deer and elk for antler rubs and forage. Colorful orange stems in the winter landscape.


Sambucus racemosa (Black Elderberry). Found in moister sites than S. cerulea. A good shrub for riparian plantings. Provides food and cover for birds and mammals.

Shepherdia canadensis (Russet Buffalo-berry). These drought tolerant bushes are known for their cast-iron hardiness and nitrogen fixing capabilities. Plants are separate sexes; interplant to get berries. Curiously textured opposite leaves make this shrub an attractive addition to the landscape.

Sorbus scopulina (Mountain Ash). This attractive shrub produces creamy white flowers followed by bright orange berries and colorful red and yellow fall foliage. Berries stay on until late fall, eaten by bears and birds.


Spirea densiflora (Sub-alpine Spirea). A low spreading shrub that is found on rocky mountain slopes and meadows. Dense branching habit. Pink flowers in mid-summer.

Spirea douglasii (western or Pink Spirea). Often seen in riparian zones; this is an excellent plant for stream bank stabilization. It commonly forms dense clumps that produce clusters of pink cone-shaped flowers.


Vaccinium globulare (Globe Huckleberry). Grows on clear cut sites as well as more shaded situations. Known for its dark/ juicy berries, prized by humans and wildlife.

**Conifers**

Abies grandis (Grand Fir). An attractive conifer, popular for Christmas trees and landscape plantings. Will grow up to 100’ tall. Susceptible to insect infestation, especially in concentrated stands.
Larix occidentalis (Western Larch). A fast growing tall deciduous conifer, valuable for straight grained lumber. Cold and fire resistant. Often found on northern exposures. Brilliant yellow fall color.

Picea engelmannii (Englemann Spruce). Densely branching tree with an attractive cone shaped crown; Provides valuable riparian protection.

Pinus albicaulis (Whitebark Pine). A five needled pine of high elevation sites. Will reach 50'. A good restoration species for disturbed high elevation areas. Cones provide nutritious source of food for squirrels and bears.


Psuedotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir). A densely branched conifer, adaptable to a wide range of habitats. Attractive ornamental, excellent reforestation species, and very valuable for strong lumber.

Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar). An aromatic evergreen, typically found along stream courses or on moderate north slopes. An excellent ornamental but susceptible to deer browing.

**Native Grasses** (There are many other grasses that will grow in this area)

Agropyron spicatum (Bluebunch Wheatgrass). A dry site bunchgrass with angular branching leaves. Grows in conjunction with Idaho Fescue. Good forage species.

Calamagrostis rubescens (Pinegrass). A soft textured bunchgrass. Often found in pine forests growing in thick patches. Tolerates dry conditions.

Festuca idahoensis (Idaho Fescue). A drought tolerant blue-green bunchgrass. Likes open sites. A good grass for erosion control.

Carex rostrata (Beaked Sedge). A common, widespread sedge. Its sod forming robust nature makes this plant a good choice for wet site stabilization.

Juncus balticus (Baltic Rush). A widespread rhizomatous rush found in wet meadows, ponds, or along watercourses. Tolerates a wide range of soils. Good stream bank stabilizer.

**Perennial Wildflowers**

Antennaria microphylla (Rosy Pussytoes). Grey-green leaves form an excellent ground cover. Papery pink and white flowers in mid-summer.

Aster spp. (Wild Aster). Bright purple daisies with yellow, centers. Blooms mid-late summer. 8-12" plants.

Castilleja spp. (Indian Paintbrush). Bright red-orange "paintbrushes" on tall slender stems. Blooms mid-late summer.

Eriogonum heracleoides (Wyeth Buckwheat). Grey-green leaves form an evergreen ground cover. 12-14" flower stalks bear umbels of creamy white flowers in late summer. Drought tolerant.

Eriogonum umbellatum (Sulphur Buckwheat). Elliptical shaped leaves form a low mound. Grows on dry rocky slopes. Eye-catching clusters of bright yellow flowers that keep their color when dried.


Geranium viscosissimum (Sticky Geranium). Colorful rosy purple flowers on bushy 1-3" plants. Full or part sun. Blooms early summer.


Mimulus lewisii (Purple Monkey Flower). Moisture loving plant found in mountain meadows and along streams. Cheerful rose red flowers.

Penstemon cyaneus (Dark Blue Penstemon). Large lavender-blue flowers on 2' stalks. Blooms mid-late summer. Prefers moist well-drained soil.


Penstemon eatonii (Firecracker Penstemon). Tall 2-3' flower stalks with scarlet-red trumpet shaped flowers. Prefers cool, rocky, dry slopes.

Penstemon globosus (Globe Penstemon). Brilliant blue heads of flowers rise 10-14" above glossy green basal leaves. Likes some spring moisture.

Penstemon venustus (Lovely Penstemon). Grows on open mountain slopes. Blue flowers on 10-1 2" stalks. Often found basalt soils.
Penstemon palmeri (Palmer's Penstemon). Plants may grow up to 4’ tall. Long stalks of large, fragrant, pink flowers.


Above plant listing courtesy of:
Buffalo-berry Farm
Native Plant Nursery
51 East Lake Fork Rd
P.O. Box749, Lake Fork, ID 83635 (208)634-3062

Other plants that have been successfully grown in the area.

Trees and Shrubs

Acer Amur ginnala ‘flame’
Acer Glabrum (Rocky Mountain Maple)
Acer Pseudosieboldianum  (Korean maple)
Acer Tartaricum  Tartarian
Adenophora liliifolia  (Lady Bells)
Ajuga genevensis
Ajuga reptans metallica crispa, varigata
Alchemilla molles  (Lady’s mantle)
Anaphalis margaritacea neuschnee  (Pearly Everlasting)
Anemone tomentosa ‘Robustissima’
Aquilega  flabellata
Aquilega chrysantha  (columbine)
Artimesia lactiflora  (mugwort)
Astilbe simplicifolia ‘sprite’ pink (false spirea or meadow sweet)
Astilbe thunbergii, arendsii, arensilix, simplicafolia, verinica
Bergenia cordifolia  (heartleaf)
Brunera microphylla (Siberian bugloss)
Campanula poscharskyana (Serbian'Birch hybrid’)
Campanula carpatica (Blue Uniform & ‘Blue Clips’)
Campanula glomerata (Clustered)
Campanula portenschlagiana (Bavaria Blue)
Campanula rotundifolia (Bluebell of Scotland)
Celtis reticulata (western hackberry)
Cerastium tomentosum (Snow-in-Summer)
Cornus canadensis (bunchberry) Ground cover
Daffodil - Many varities Deer proof.
Delphinium grandiflorum (Blue Butterfly)
Delphinium nudicaule (scarlet larkspur)
Dianthus deltoides ‘Flashing Light’
Dicentra spectabilis ‘alba pantaloons’) (Bleeding Heart)
Dichelostemma pulchellum (wild hyacinth)
Erodium chamaedryoides (Alpine geranium)
Fallugia paradoxa (Apache Plume)
Filapendula ulmaria ‘Meadowsweet’
Fragaria ‘Lipstick’ (everbearing pink strawberry)
Fragaria ‘Quinalt’
Fragaria Alpina (everbearing white strawberry) good groundcover
Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)
Gentiana acaulis (Genetian)
Geranium argenteum (Cranesbill ‘Johnson’s blue’)
Geranium cantabrigiense
Geranium sanguineum (Striatum prostrate)
Geum chiloense ‘Mrs. Bradshaw’
Geum triflorum ‘prairie smoke’
Gypsophila paniculata ‘compacta plena’
Gypsophila repens ‘Alba’ (Baby’s breath)
Helianthemum nummularium ‘Wisley Pink’, ‘Raspberry Ripple’
Hemerocallis ‘Chicago petticoats pink’ (Daylily) Many varieties.
Hosta undulata medio
Hostas aureo maculata
Hostas undulata alba marginata
Iris ensata (Japanese)
Iris foetidissima (Gladwin)
Iris missouriensis (wild pale blue)
Iris sibirica
Juniper occidentalis
Juniper scopulorum (Rocky Mountain) Many varieties.
Lamium maculatum ‘beacon silver’ (Spotted nettle)
Lavandula augustifolia (lavender)
Liatris spicata ‘Violet’ (gay feather)
Lonicera fragrantissima (Winter Honeysuckle)
Lonicera periclymenum (Woodbine)
Lupinus argentius (Lupin) Many varieties
Lysimachia nummularia (Moneywort, yellow flower)
Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon grape)
Mahonia repens (creeping mahonia)
Malus ‘prairifire’ (Crabapple) Many varieties
Mentha piperita (Peppermint)
Mertensia virginica  (Virginia Bluebell)
Mertensia ciliat  (Mountain Bluebell)
Myosotis  rosea
Myosotis  scorpioides  (Forget-me-not)
Myosotis sylvatica ‘Victoria Blue’
Nepeta mussini ‘blue wonder’ (Catmint)
Oreganum vulgare (wild marjoram)
Origanum majorana  (sweet marjoram)
Paeonia ‘Nippon Beauty’ (peony) Many varities.
Papaver  (‘Princess Victoria Louise’) salmon
Papaver buseri  (Alpine poppy)
Papaver oriental (‘Beauty of Livermore’) red (oriental poppy)
Parthenocissus inserta  (western Virginia Creeper)
Penstemon barbatus ‘elfin pink’ (beard tongue)
Penstemon fruiticosus (shrubby blue)
Penstemon strictus ‘Scarlet Queen’
Perovskia atriplicifolia  (Russian sage)
Physostegia virginiana ‘Summer snow’ (Obedient Plant)
Polemonium caeruteum  (Jacob’s Ladder)
Polygonum affine ‘superba dimity’ (knotweed)
Potentilla fruiticosa  (shrubby cinquefoil)
Potentilla thurberi
Prunella lacinata  (Self-heal)
Pulmonaria sacaharata  ‘Sissinghurst white’ (Bethlehem sage)
Ranunculus asiaticus  Many varities
Rhubarb (crimson cherry), many varieties
Appendix B
Rhus trilobata  (Oakleaf Sumac)
Rosa  damascena ‘Mme Hardy’,  white climber
Rosa  glauca, red foliage, wild rose
Rosa  Nutkana, wild pink
Rosa  Woodsii, woods rose
Rosa rugosa hybrids ‘Blanc Double de Coubert’
Rubus parviflorus  (Thimbleberry)
Rubus deliciosus  (Rocky Mountain thimbleberry)
Rubus idaeus  (American raspberry)
Rubus spectabilis  (salmonberry)
Sagina subulata  (Irish Moss)
Salvia nemorosa ‘Rose Queen’, blauhugel ‘blue hills’
Salvia officinalis  (Sage)
Sheperdia argentea  (silver buffaloberry)
Spirea douglasii (pink)
Spirea fritschiana (white)
Spirea bumalda fwebelis (red)
Spirea densiflora (pink)
Spirea lucida  (white meadowsweet)
Symphoricarpos albus  (Snowberry)
Syringa hybrid ‘vulgaris white’ ‘Pocohantas’ Lilacs, many varieties
Syringa patula ‘Miss Kim’
Thymus praecox arcticus ‘mauve’
Thymus serpyllum ‘coccineum’ red, ‘pink chintz’
Thymus vulgaris ‘argenteus’  (thyme)
Thymus vulgaris ‘English’
Appendix B
Tradescantia virginizna (spiderwort ‘Little doll’)
Tulipa (tulips – all varieties). Deer love the flowers!
Veronica longifolia ‘Sunny Border Blue’
Veronica Hybrid ‘Giles van Hees’ (rose)
Veronica Liwanensis (speedwell)
Veronica Spicata ‘Minuet’ (pink)
Viburnum dentatum (Arrowwood)
Viburnum trilobum Alfredo (American Cranberry bush)
Viola Tasmanian
Viola cuculiata ‘Freckles’
Viola Labradorica

**Evergreen Trees**
Picea pungens (Colorado spruce) glauca (blue spruce)
Pinus contorta (lodgepole pine)
Pinus Jeffreyi (Jeffrey pine – similar to ponderosa pine)
Pinus flexilis (Limber pine) 20 – 50’ tall

**Following is a selection of plants suited for each category shown.**

**Shrubs used for Erosion Control**
Bitterbrush Rubber Rabbitbrush
Red Stem Ceanothus Wild Rose
Snowbrush Ceanothus Woods Rose
Chokecherry Mountain Big Sage
Golden Currant Prairie Sage
Squaw Currant  
Red-osier Dogwood  
Black Elderberry  
Blue Elderberry  
Black Hawthorn  
Mockorange  
Mallow Ninebark  

Serviceberry  
Snowberry  
Pink Spirea  
White Spirea  
Black Twinberry  
Twinflower  
Willow spp.

**Shrubs Used in Riparian (Streamside) Areas**

Chokecherry  
Western Clematis  
Red-osier Dogwood  
Black Elderberry  
Blue Elderberry  
Black Hawthorn  
Utah Honeysuckle  
Rocky Mountain Maple  

Mountain Ash  
Wild Rose  
Wood Rose  
Serviceberry  
Pink Spirea  
Black twinberry  
Twinflower  
Willow spp.

**Drought Tolerant Shrubs**

Bitterbrush  
Golden Currant  
Squaw Currant  
Kinnikinnick  
Mockorange  

Woods Rose  
Mountain Big Sage  
Prairie Sage  
Serviceberry  
White Spirea
Good Fall Color Shrubs

Chokecherry
Golden Currant
Squaw Currant
Red-osier Dogwood
Creeping Oregon grape
Black Hawthorn
Globe Huckleberry

Rocky Mountain Maple
Mountain Ash
Mallow Ninebark
Oceanspray
Woods Rose
Pink Spirea
Willow spp.

Berry Producing Shrubs for Bird Habitat

Bitter cherry
Buffalo Berry
Chokecherry
Golden Currant
Squaw Currant
Red-osier Dogwood
Black Elderberry
Blue Elderberry
Creeping Oregon Grape
Black Hawthorn

Utah Honeysuckle
Globe Huckleberry
Kinnikinnick
Mountain Ash
Wild Rose
Woods Rose
Serviceberry
Snowberry
Black Twinberry
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